

## Report of the Chair

### Special Scrutiny Programme Committee - 8 July 2014

#### GYPSY & TRAVELLER SITE SEARCH PROCESS – EVIDENCE SESSION

<b>Purpose</b>	The sixth evidence session will focus on evidence from Councillor Chris Holley, who has requested to appear before the committee.
<b>Content</b>	Councillor Chris Holley will attend to give oral evidence to the committee in relation to the gypsy & traveller site search process.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	Consider the information presented as part of the committee's review of the process, and ask questions.
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Robert Smith, Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee.
<b>Lead Officer &amp; Report Author</b>	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Coordinator Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A series of special meetings of the Scrutiny Programme Committee are taking place to review the process adopted to date in the search for a second gypsy and traveller site so that the committee can consider whether the process, leading up to the report to Council on 21 October 2013, was robust. The committee is looking at the quality of that process, and may identify any learning points about the process, and recommend any changes for the future as appropriate.
- 1.2 The committee is gathering evidence for this work. Initial meetings have enabled the committee to hear from officers involved in the process who have provided an overview of the process and legal framework and information on the criteria and method of site selection, the consultation process / outcomes, and the role of officers.
- 1.3 The committee was also keen to ensure that members of the public and other councillors not involved in the committee were provided with opportunity to engage with this work and over the course of the last 2 meetings a range of evidence has been received in response to the committee's 'call for evidence'.

## **2. Evidence Session – 8 July**

- 2.1 The committee's evidence session will focus on evidence from Councillor Chris Holley, who has requested to appear before the committee.
- 2.2 Councillor Chris Holley will attend to give oral evidence to the committee in relation to the gypsy & traveller site search process, based on his knowledge and experience as a councillor and key previous role as Leader of the Council during the process.
- 2.3 He will outline his views and matters which he wishes to bring to the committee's attention, and respond to any questions from the committee.
- 2.4 Councillor Holley has been asked to indicate whether there are any specific documents which he will be referring to so that consideration can be given to making copies available to committee members at the meeting.
- 2.5 The purpose of the session is for the committee to listen to the evidence that is presented and ask questions in order to clarify anything that is said. It may also guide the future work of the committee.

## **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1 As agreed previously the committee will take the opportunity to reflect on the evidence gathered to date, and consider the need for further evidence. It is expected that the committee will invite officers to come back to the committee in response to the evidence that has since been submitted by members of the public and other councillors.
- 3.2 Appropriate arrangements will be made for committee members to discuss the evidence gathered, and agree next steps that will in due course lead to the committee drawing conclusions from this work.

## **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Date: 27 June 2014

Legal Officer: Nigel Havard  
Finance Officer: Carl Billingsley

**Background Papers:** None