

Report of the Chair

Special Scrutiny Programme Committee – 9 July 2015

PLAN FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE REVIEW

Purpose	To discuss the plan for the conclusion of the Review of the Gypsy & Traveller Site Search Process.
Content	A summary of the evidence gathering undertaken to date is attached.
Councillors are being asked to	Agree the plan for the conclusion of the review
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Robert Smith, Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee.
Lead Officer & Report Author	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Coordinator Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Since February 2014 a series of special meetings of the Scrutiny Programme Committee have been held to review the process adopted to date in the search for further gypsy and traveller site provision.
- 1.2 Having undertaken a range of evidence gathering to consider perspectives on the process, the committee is asked to discuss a plan for the conclusion of the review and necessary steps, in order to report findings and possible recommendations.

2. Purpose of the Review

- 2.1 The key question that the committee is exploring is:

Was the process, leading up to the report to Council on 21 October 2013, robust?

- 2.2 The committee agreed that it would:

- review the process adopted to date and seek assurance on quality
- identify any learning points as appropriate and recommend any changes for the future

3. Progress

- 3.1 The initial meetings (between February and April 2014) involved relevant officers attending to provide information and answer questions, covering:
- overview of gypsy traveller site search - report giving chronology of process and legal framework
 - criteria for site selection / explanation of site sieve process
 - consultation process and outcomes
- 3.2 During the initial meetings the committee had requests from councillors and members of the public to give evidence, and agreed to deal with these. This took place between April and July 2014. In September 2014 the committee decided that further evidence gathering was necessary and has continued to meet. At the last meeting on 2 April 2015 it was agreed that a session with Councillor David Phillips should be held before the conclusion of evidence gathering.
- 3.3 A summary of the evidence gathering sessions held to date is attached as **Appendix 1**.

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.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

- 1 – Timetable of Work: Review of Gypsy & Traveller Site Search Process

Legal Officer: Debbie Smith

Finance Officer: Carl Billingsley