

Report of the Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services

Cabinet – 21 July 2016

CABINET MEMBERS RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY OF GYPSY TRAVELLER SITE SEARCH PROCESS – FINAL REPORT

Purpose:	To outline a response to the scrutiny recommendations and to present an action plan for agreement.
Policy Framework:	None.
Reason for Decision:	To comply with the requirements of the Council Constitution.
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1. The response as outlined in the report and related action plan be agreed.
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Finance Officer:	Paul Roach.
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith.
Access to Services Officer:	Phil Couch.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The scrutiny report into the Gypsy Traveller Site Search Process was submitted to Cabinet on the 18th February 2016. The report presented a number of learning points/recommendations in relation to future work to identify appropriate site provision. The scrutiny report is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.2 An interim report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services to Cabinet on the 21st April confirming that the recommendations were being considered and a full response would be presented to the next available meeting of Cabinet.
- 1.3 Having now fully considered the contents of the scrutiny report, and specific learning points/recommendations made, advice to Cabinet on whether it should agree, or not agree, with each recommendation is detailed in this report.
- 1.4 Cabinet is also asked to consider, for each of the responses, any relevant policy commitments and any other relevant activity.

2.0 Response to Scrutiny Recommendations

Recommendation 1
The process must be clear about the implications of previous policies/decisions and relevant policy framework.
Relevant Policy Commitments: <i>none</i>
Action already being undertaken: All decisions by Cabinet should give due regard to existing policies, decisions and applicable policy frameworks.
New actions following from the recommendation: No further action required over and above existing procedures.
Cabinet Member comments: Contained within above response.
Recommendation is AGREED .

Recommendation 2
There must be clarity about leadership, and the respective roles and responsibilities of those involved in any future search process and relationship, whether Member or officer led. This is vital for future accountability, and it is very important that there is transparency about who does what and clear terms of reference so that the purpose of any work is understood.
Relevant Policy Commitments:
Action already being undertaken: Whilst there would be no immediate actions arising out of the recommendation, as Cabinet had previously taken the decision on the 19 th November 2015 to provide appropriate Gypsy and Traveller provision through the current LDP process, the recommendation will be noted and taken into account for future site search.
New actions following from the recommendation: To be considered as part of initial terms of reference if or when any future groups are constituted.
Cabinet Member comments: Contained within above response.
Recommendation is Agreed

Recommendation 3
There must be clarity about the establishment and status of future Member Task & Finish Groups, and their appropriateness to assist executive decision-making. The terms of reference of any Member (or indeed officer-led group) need to be clear, conveyed without ambiguity, and understood by all parties from the outset. It should be clear from the outset whether such method of working is confidential or otherwise, and implications for participating Councillors in relation to interests and conduct.

Relevant Policy Commitments: <i>none</i>
Action already being undertaken: No specific actions
New actions following from the recommendation: To be considered as part of initial terms of reference if or when any future groups are constituted.
Cabinet Member comments: Contained within above response.
Recommendation is AGREED .

Recommendation 4
Gypsy Traveller families should be involved, and views considered more significantly, at the earliest stage rather than at the end of shortlisting. In addition, the status of any meeting with the Gypsy Traveller community must be clear within the overall process.
Relevant Policy Commitments: <i>(list briefly)</i> <i>none</i>
Action already being undertaken: Consultation has taken place with Gypsy Traveller families as a requirement of the housing needs assessment process
New actions following from the recommendation: The views of the Gypsy Traveller families to be sought at the earliest stage, as part of the delivery of the Council's LDP and any future subsequent site search.
Cabinet Member comments: Contained within above response.
Recommendation is AGREED .

Recommendation 5
It is important that the Authority does everything in its power to maintain positive relationships and ensure community cohesion as it moves forward. More work needed to be done to ensure awareness and understanding to counter any discrimination.
Relevant Policy Commitments: <i>(list briefly)</i> <i>Policy commitment 83 "Value Swansea's various communities by celebrating diversity and 'each other's festivals' to create a positive and cohesive sense of community and emphasising social justice and respect."</i> Previous action arising out of the commitment include "The Leadership Group has been re-established to ensure the 7 key outcomes of the Community Cohesion National Delivery Plan is mainstreamed, these include; Hate Crime, Modern Slavery, engagement of Gypsy and Traveller Communities, increased awareness of immigration, embedding within Communities First Programme, embedding in key policies and ensuring we are responsive to changes in communities
Action already being undertaken: The Council already has clear policies in relation to Community cohesion and building sustainable communities in line with its corporate priorities.

<p>New actions following from the recommendation: Nothing specific at this stage although further actions may emerge out of the LDP process as referred to above.</p>
<p>Cabinet Member comments: Contained within above response.</p>
<p>Recommendation is AGREED.</p>

2.1 An action plan for the agreed recommendations is attached at Appendix B.

3.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

3.1 An EIA screening form has been completed which, when analysing this report, has identified that a full impact assessment is not required. However, it is clear that if the Council needs to embark on a further process, then a more detailed assessment of the actual circumstances will be required at that time. These will therefore be involved in any subsequent Cabinet reports, prior to any decisions being made.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 No legal implications.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 No financial implications.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Scrutiny Review – Final Report 17th February 2016

Appendix B: Action Plan

