

REPORT TO:	Cabinet 12 December 2016
AGENDA ITEM NO:	13
SUBJECT:	STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM: SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING ON 1 NOVEMBER 2016
LEAD OFFICERS:	Richard Simpson, Executive Director ‘Resources’ and S151 Officer Stephen Rowan – Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Sean Fitzsimons Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	The constitutional requirement that Cabinet receives recommendations from scrutiny committees and to respond to the recommendations within two months of the receipt of the recommendations.

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations contained within this report:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1.1 Receive the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee (1 November 2016), and to provide a substantive response within two months (ie. at the next available Cabinet meeting on **20 February 2017**)

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 1 November 2016, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee considered an item on a Gypsy and Traveller Welfare mini-review and a question time item with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport. At the meeting the Committee made recommendations to Cabinet and these are contained in Section 3 of this report.

The constitution requires that an interim or full response is provided within 2 months of this Cabinet meeting.

3. SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting on 1 November 2016 resolved to ask Cabinet that:

Question Time with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

- 1 the Council's Bylaws relating to Parks and Open Spaces to be reviewed to ensure they remain relevant and enforceable.
- 2 Council IT systems supporting services in parks and open spaces are improved to provide greater integration between the different performance management software systems and the council's resident reporting platforms.
- 3 the Scrutiny & Overview Committee be invited to participate in pre-decision discussions on the re-commissioning of contracts relating to leisure services and grounds maintenance, specifically with regard to the outcomes to be delivered by new contracts

Gypsy and Traveller Welfare Mini-Review

On accommodating Gypsies and Travellers, the Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1 Ensure that Cabinet Members with individual portfolio responsibilities for services affecting Gypsies and Travellers work together in conjunction with a named lead officer in order to co-ordinate the collective Cabinet response to the needs of this community, help unblock any problems they have in accessing services, advocate best practice within the Council and its partners and support bids for funding.
- 2 Establish a Gypsy and Travellers Working Group with a membership drawn from the council (eg. community safety and enforcement, parks, planning, health, tenancy, housing and education departments), partners (eg. the Police, Public Health, CCG, Octavo, relevant schools) and elected Members.
- 3 Ask the Gateway service to establish a tailored approach to respond to Gypsy and Traveller needs, specifically in relation to cultural aspects of housing allocation and provision.

- 4 Urge the Mayor of London to take a pan-London approach to the provision of transit sites across London to cater to Gypsies and Travellers passing through as this would result in fewer unauthorised encampments on both public and private land across the capital.
- 5 Actively work with neighbouring boroughs to investigate whether the provision of pan-borough transit site(s) is viable to help provide accommodation for travellers passing through the area as working with other boroughs is likely to reduce the amount of time the site(s) would be left empty.
- 6 Investigate whether the development of pan-borough transit site(s) would allow the strategic use of S62a powers (under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994).
- 7 Monitor the new combined transit and permanent site operated by Brighton & Hove council in order to assess its viability and whether it achieves its desired outcomes including reducing the number of unauthorised encampments within the city while providing a self-funded site.
- 8 Explore the option of making an application to the Mayor of London for funding from the Affordable Homes Fund for the development and refurbishment of sites and funding for a Gypsy and Traveller liaison officer.
- 9 Understand that it is vital that Pitch Allocation Policies for any new permanent site(s) are carefully drawn up and include clear and transparent procedures for allocating pitches and that they are developed in conjunction with Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- 10 Make sure the council is at the cutting edge of design so any site can be future proof and successfully house both English Gypsies and Irish Travellers. Additionally even though it is not relevant today but other groups such as New Travellers should be considered at the design stage.
- 11 Investigate the possibility of some Lathams Way residents moving to the new permanent site to make renovation of Latham's Way easier and cheaper, produce two mixed English/Irish camps and give Lathams Way a fresh start so the council can manage and take "ownership" of the site. In addition if a mixed permanent/transit site was to be considered Lathams Way would be then be a candidate as it would have space and is located on a major arterial road.
- 12 Consider the immediate use of negotiated stopping places and the use of 'social contracts' (as exemplified by Leeds GATE) for Gypsy and Traveller families known to have connections to the borough.
- 13 Undertake early engagement with Traveller family groups that are at risk of repeated evictions and allow creative and tailored approaches to provision of permanent sites in order to stop repeated evictions for the family and reduce costs to the council and Police.

- 14 Provide Biffa bins, waste services and portaloos to Gypsies and Travellers at unauthorised encampments and negotiated stopping places to help reduce waste and clean-up costs.
- 15 Establish Member learning and development sessions to increase knowledge and understanding of Gypsy and Traveller issues (see point 5.20, page 35, GTANA 2013).
- 16 Continue the good work already achieved in educating residents about unlicensed waste removal operators and encourage the Gypsy and Traveller community to get involved with “Don’t Mess With Croydon”.
- 17 Instruct the council’s press office to make sure good news stories about Gypsies and Travellers are promoted and help the Traveller community build a good relationship with the local press and, therefore, the wider community.

On Social Exclusion of Gypsies and Travellers, the Cabinet is recommended to:

- 18 Work with Health partners to ensure that the social isolation and exclusion needs of Gypsies and Travellers are considered within the joint commissioning and volunteering priorities identified by the Fairness Commission, particularly in relation to ‘Leaving No Child Behind’.
- 19 Consider using existing resources to develop an outreach service to cover the healthcare and mental health needs of families possibly using peer Health and Education mentors drawn from Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- 20 Explore the potential for role models and mentors to be identified to support, guide and encourage other young people from Gypsy and Traveller communities stay in education and/or training from Key Stage 3 and beyond (as highlighted in the 2010 DfE report Improving the outcomes for Gypsy Roma and Traveller Pupils).
- 21 Encourage all schools and academies to share best practice on the particular cultural needs of Gypsy and Traveller pupils particularly from Key Stage 3, including those needing special education needs support.
- 22 Explore the opportunity for vocational courses to be offered in Croydon for young people aged 14+ including Gypsy and Traveller young people.
- 23 Consider the schools admissions process and in particular undertake targeted work to prevent late applications, provide support for online applications and to take into account ‘home to school’ distance during the school admissions process in order to help drive up attendance at school.
- 24 Review its funding for Croydon’s TES to ensure that this valuable service, which supports pupils, parents and schools and increases the likelihood of Gypsy and Traveller pupils accessing and staying in education, is protected from further cuts.

25 Encourage schools and academies to promote Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month so that Gypsy and Traveller culture, language and history receive greater recognition.

These recommendations and a timetable for response are attached at **Appendix A**.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

7. COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

The recommendations are in accordance with the constitution.

This requires that the Scrutiny report is received and registered at this Cabinet Meeting and that a substantive response is provided within 2 months (ie. **Cabinet, 20 February 2017** is the next available meeting).

8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

CONTACT OFFICER:

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and Scrutiny
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Email: stephen.rowan@croydon.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Background document 1: Reports to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 1 November 2016.

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kab14.pl?operation=SUBMIT&meet=17&cmte=SOC&grpId=public&arc=1>

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	DEPARTMENT AND CABINET MEMBER RESPONDING	ACCEPT/ REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS (inc. reasons for rejection)	IDENTIFIED OFFICER	ANY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IF ACCEPTED (ie Action Plan)	DATE OF SCRUTINY MEETING TO REPORT BACK
Question time with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport (A65/16) - At its meeting on 1 November 2016, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee RESOLVED that::						
1. the Council's Bylaws relating to Parks and Open Spaces to be reviewed to ensure they remain relevant and enforceable.						SOC 7 March 2017
2. Council IT systems supporting services in parks and open spaces are improved to provide greater integration between the different performance management software systems and the council's resident reporting platforms						SOC 7 March 2017
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<p><i>On accommodating Gypsies and Travellers, the Cabinet is recommended to:</i></p> <p>1 Ensure that Cabinet Members with individual portfolio responsibilities for services affecting Gypsies and Travellers work together in conjunction with a named lead officer in order to co-ordinate the collective Cabinet response to the needs of this community, help unblock any problems they have in accessing services, advocate best practice within the Council and its partners and support bids for funding.</p>						SOC 7 March 2017
<p>2 Ask the Gateway service to establish a tailored approach to respond to Gypsy and Traveller needs, specifically in relation to cultural aspects of housing allocation and provision.</p>						SOC 7 March 2017
<p>3 Urge the Mayor of London to take a pan-London approach to the provision of transit sites across London to cater to Gypsies and Travellers passing through as this would result in fewer unauthorised encampments on both public and private land across the capital.</p>						SOC 7 March 2017

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6 Monitor the new combined transit and permanent site operated by Brighton & Hove council in order to assess its viability and whether it achieves its desired outcomes including reducing the number of unauthorised encampments within the city while providing a self-funded site.						SOC 7 March 2017
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