

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
7 MARCH 2017	Public Report

Report of the Adult and Communities Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group		
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REVIEW OF EMERGENCY STOPPING PLACE PROVISION FOR TRAVELLERS WITHIN PETERBOROUGH

1. PURPOSE

1.1 This report is submitted to the Committee following a review of emergency stopping place provision for Gypsies and Travellers in Peterborough. The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's approval for submission of the recommendations contained within the report to Cabinet.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on the Task and Finish Group Report attached at Appendix 1, and
2. Endorse the report and recommendations for submission to Cabinet.

3. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND RELEVANT CABINET PORTFOLIO

3.1 This report links into the following corporate priorities:

- Keeping our communities safe, cohesive and healthy
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

3.2 This subject falls within the Cabinet portfolio of Cllr Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 At its meeting on 20 July 2016, the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee (now called the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee) recommended that a Task and Finish Group be established to review emergency stopping place provision for Gypsies and Travellers in Peterborough.

4.2 The Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee received a report at its meeting on 14 September 2016 to agree the Terms of Reference and membership of the Task and Finish Group to undertake the review.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 The Task and Finish Group investigated the current provision and future needs of either transit or temporary stopping places across Peterborough. The group reviewed key documents from the last Task and Finish Group review in 2014 as well as information from other local authorities and

key witnesses.

- 5.2 During the review the Task and Finish group identified the need for additional Temporary Stopping Places in Peterborough and investment into the current Emergency Stopping Place adjacent to the Dogsthorpe Triangle. After discussions it was agreed that a permanent transit site was not the best option for Peterborough, but instead a number of well-managed, properly planned, controlled and time-limited stopping places that would provide the best solution to help with the management of unauthorised encampments limiting the current impact on local communities and providing a more appropriate temporary stopping place for Travellers.
- 5.3 The group also noted that land which would be suitable for these sites owned by the local authority is very limited. The Task and Finish Group's recommendations therefore include investigating all options available in terms of converting, purchasing or leasing land.
- 5.4 Full details of the Task and Finish group's work and their recommendations are contained in the full report attached at appendix 1.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The recommendations in the Task and Finish Group's report would have some financial implications for the council. If land is identified as being suitable for either purchase or lease as a Temporary Stopping Place funding would need to be identified. Additionally, the work to identify suitable land and any associated Planning work would need to be commissioned as a bespoke piece of work at additional cost.
- 6.2 The recommendations at the current stage would not have implications for a specific ward, the land search in the early stages would be citywide.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Task and Finish Group spoke with key witnesses and received information from other local authorities.
- 7.2 No formal public consultations have taken place at this time.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 That the Committee approves the report and the recommendations contained within it for submission to Cabinet.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 Documents used to prepare the final report includes:

Review of documents produced from the 2014 Task and Finish Group

Peterborough Local Plan

Dealing with Illegal Encampments: A Summary of Available Powers, *Department for Communities and Local government*

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – The Final Report from the Task and Finish Group