

Scrutiny briefing note

The Economy Scrutiny Panel has asked for an update on the following issues. This briefing contains the latest position as at August 2020.

Subject: Gypsy and Traveller Designated Stopping Place Update

At a meeting of 6th November 2019 Cabinet received a paper outlining a number of recommendations in order to make progress with the Council's duty to assess the needs of gypsies and travellers in the area, and towards meeting the requirements of the Local Plan. Analysis of data has revealed that 15 pitches (up to 30 caravans) would be required to accommodate the Gypsy and Traveller community.

At the meeting Cabinet resolved to:

- a) *Instruct the Director of Resources and Governance to undertake technical assessments of the following sites and refresh those where technical assessments have already been carried out:*
 - *Land of Former Nunsthorpe Youth Centre (demolished)*
 - *Land at Winchester Avenue / Torksey Drive and Toynton*
 - *Land under Cleethorpes Road Flyover Wesst*
 - *Wellington Street Car Park*
 - *Garibaldi Street Car Park*
- b) *Upon receipt of technical assessments delegate authority to the Director of Resources and Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing, to commence a Public Consultation exercise on the said sites, subject to such assessments.*
- c) *Instruct the Director for Resources and Governance to update Cabinet by way of a further report on the results on the consultation exercise.*

This briefing note provides an update on the latest position on each section of the Cabinet mandate (above) following recent progress.

- a) *Instruct the Director of Resources and Governance to undertake technical assessments of the five sites and refresh those where technical assessments have already been carried out.*

Technical Consultation ran for 5 weeks and closed on 28th July 2020. The results of Technical Consultation are under review and an addendum will be issued to the panel by Thu 3 Sept outlining the next steps.

- b) *Upon receipt of technical assessments delegate authority to the Director of Resources and Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing, to commence a Public Consultation exercise on the said sites, subject to such assessments.*

Technical Assessment results on the 5 sites are now being reviewed for commencement of Public Consultation, informing the second part of the Cabinet mandate. This is being done in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

- c) *Instruct the Director for Resources and Governance to update Cabinet by way of a further report on the results on the consultation exercise.*

A report to update Cabinet will be provided once Public Consultation has been completed. This report can be considered by scrutiny as part of the work programme.

Other considerations since the Cabinet mandate have fed into the progress of identifying a suitable Designated Stopover Place. This briefing note provides an update on those considerations.

- i) *A member of the Gypsy and Traveller community voiced an interest in providing a site for Gypsies and Travellers.*

The interested party has been approached in order to understand what the interest is and whether this will support the Council's requirements. The third party has explained that members of the community have been engaged and voiced that they would not want to mix a permanent site with a stopover site, therefore the proposal is to provide only a permanent site. The current assessment states the area requires a transient stop over site therefore this would not fulfil the requirement.

- ii) *At the meeting of 10th June 2020 Cabinet agreed to conduct a review of the Local Plan. It is estimated that this will take at least 2 years. However there is the possibility to update to the Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment in a shorter timeframe.*

An update to the Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment will be conducted ahead of the Local Plan review. Commissioning the study and completing within the next 6-12 month would allow the results of the assessment to be evidenced within the Local Plan. Understanding the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community would inform the type of site that is required, allowing the Council to provide an evidence-based response using the most up to date information.

Contact Officer: Wendy Fisher, Capital and Assets Programme Manager – Tel: 01472 323132

If you require any further information please contact the named officer or alternatively,

**Anne Campbell
Scrutiny & Committee Advisor
Tel: 32-6132**

If you would like to find out more about scrutiny you can contact us:

by email scrutiny@nelincs.gov.uk

or call on the scrutiny hotline Grimsby (01472) 326134

or by post (no stamp required)

NELC Scrutiny Team,
Municipal Offices,
Town Hall Square,
GRIMSBY DN31 1HU.
Business Reply Licence Number RLZE-TTGE-SGRY.

Or go to: www.nelc.gov.uk/council/councillors-democracy-elections-scrutiny/