

SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP - DRAFT TRAVELLER'S POLICY

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To update members on the progress on the Scrutiny Review of the Council's Travellers' Policy.

Financial Implications

2. None

Background

3. At the Environment Scrutiny Committee of the 4th December 2006 it was agreed that the finalised draft policy be issued for consultation before being submitted to the Cabinet Member (Environment) for final approval.
4. Following early consultation and issues arising from one of the Travellers' Sites during January it has become apparent that there are issues relating to the tenure of Travellers' on Herefordshire Council sites that require addressing as part of the Policy. This work is approaching completion but has not yet been finalised.
5. More importantly, since the last meeting a Review of Traveller Site need across the West Midlands Region has been undertaken. Whilst under the original timetable it would have been possible to include this in the final document in July it is clear that there is not agreement over the final document. This means there is likely to be a delay in our ability to incorporate this into the final report. The first draft report had started to apply figures to the number of extra pitches required in the West Midlands and this document will clearly have an impact on the final Policy Document for Herefordshire.
6. Since the meeting of the 31st March 2007 there has been a change in the Membership of the Environment Scrutiny Committee and it is therefore recommended that four Members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee be nominated to form the Scrutiny Review Group to consider the issues and evidence and draft the Scrutiny Review Report for the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing). The Review should determine and make representations to the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) on the:
 - a. Acceptability of the Draft Policy for the Council.
 - b. Identifies any areas that require amendment, addition or deletion.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Andy Tector, Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards.

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- c. Identifies any further areas of work that need to be undertaken on the Draft Policy
7. This Committee will consider the Scrutiny Review report prior to submission to the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT; Four Members of Environment Scrutiny Committee be nominated to form a Review Group for the Draft Herefordshire Travellers' Policy as detailed in paragraph 6 above.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Draft Herefordshire Council Traveller's Policy - November 2006