

REVIEW OF THE TRAVELLERS' POLICY - UPDATE

Report By: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

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

Financial Implications

2. None.

Background

3. Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 25th September 2006 nominated a Review Group for the draft Travellers' Policy, which met and produced a finalized draft policy. At the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 4th December 2006 it was agreed that this draft should be issued for consultation.
4. The Director for the Environment reported to the Scrutiny Committee on the 19th June 2007 that following early consultation issues had arisen concerning one of the Council's Traveller sites, it had become apparent that issues relating to tenure of Council owned sites had to be addressed. Also work on Traveller Housing needs on a Sub-regional level (Shropshire, Herefordshire, Telford & Wrekin, and Powys) was being undertaken and that this could have an impact on the final policy.
5. Due to the outstanding Travellers' Housing Needs assessment (which is outside the control of Herefordshire Council), a position had not been reached where it was appropriate to have another meeting of the Review Group. However work has now progressed to a point where it would be appropriate to call a meeting in the near future of the Review Group the membership of which was appointed on the 19th June 2007. It is expected that a report on the housing needs will be presented to the Review Group in December 2007.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT;

- (a) **The report be noted and the Review Group complete the review of the Traveller Policy in accordance with the Director of Environment's report of the 25th September 2006.**

- (b) The Review Group report their findings to the Committee in March 2008 for approval and forwarding to the Cabinet Member (Environment & Strategic Housing) consideration.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Herefordshire Council Traveller Policy 2002.