

REVIEW OF THE TRAVELLERS' POLICY

Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

Wards Affected

1. County-wide.

Purpose

2. To nominate a small team from this Committee to review the Draft Travellers' Policy before it is passed to the Cabinet Member for approval.

Financial Implications

3. There are no financial implications.

Background

4. The Herefordshire Travellers' Policy was agreed by Cabinet on 28th November 2002 and was to be subject to review. A new Draft Policy has now been produced, following a review of the existing Policy, by an Officer team led by the Environmental Services Manager. This report outlines proposals for a small team of Members from the Environment Scrutiny Committee to review the Draft Policy before it is passed to the Cabinet Member for approval.
5. A Draft Policy has now been completed by an Officer Team and has involved an input from the Travellers' Service, Planning, the Police, the Primary Care Trust and Children's and Young Peoples Services.
6. Having largely completed the review it is proposed that four Members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee are nominated to undertake a further review of the Draft Policy before it is passed to the Cabinet Member for Environment for adoption by the Council.
7. In undertaking this review Members will need to take account of a number of issues:
 - a. Some of the Policy Statements are those of external organisations and may reflect organisational policies of those organisations and therefore cannot be altered.
 - b. The Policy review has taken into account the latest legal position for Travellers. The law around Travellers is frequently established in Case Law and is therefore prone to change fairly quickly.
 - c. The area in the Draft Policy dealing with Housing Needs Assessment is currently being developed by Central Government and it is felt that at this stage it cannot be too prescriptive.
8. It is suggested that the Review of the Draft Policy by the Members of the Review Team determines and makes representations to the Cabinet Member (Environment) on the:
 - a. Acceptability of the Draft Policy for the Council.

- b. Identifies any areas that require amendment, addition or deletion.
- c. Identifies any further areas of work that need to be undertaken on the Draft Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT four Members of Environment Scrutiny Committee be nominated to form a Review Team for the Draft Herefordshire Travellers' Policy as detailed in paragraph 7.