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Cambridge City Council

EQUALITIES PANEL

To: Councillors Brown, Marchant-Daisley, Shah, Walker,

Staff and Public Members: Ainley (Chair), Al-Ani, Lewis, Niangane, Wrigley, Dali, Hanson, Keady and Leonard

Despatched: Friday, 4 June 2010

Date: Monday, 14 June 2010

Time: 3.30 pm

Venue: Brown's Meeting Room - Brown's Field Community Centre

Contact: James Goddard

Direct Dial: 01223 457015

AGENDA

5 ACCOMMODATION FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS - THE CITY'S APPROACH *(Pages 1 - 14)*

(Helen Reed 01223 457842)

(Pages 1 - 14)

Information for the public

Public attendance

You are welcome to attend this meeting as an observer, although it will be necessary to ask you to leave the room during the discussion of matters which are described as confidential.

Public Speaking

You can ask questions on an issue included on either agenda above, or on an issue which is within this committee's powers. Questions can only be asked during the slot on the agenda for this at the beginning of the meeting, not later on when an issue is under discussion by the committee.

If you wish to ask a question related to an agenda item contact the committee officer (listed above under 'contact') **before the meeting starts**. If you wish to ask a question on a matter not included on this agenda, please contact the committee officer by 10.00am the working day before the meeting. Further details concerning the right to speak at committee can be obtained from the committee section.

Housing Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridge

Presentation to the Equalities
Panel

14th June 2010



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Some Statistics

- English Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as ethnic minorities under the Race Relations Act 1989
- Around 6,500 - 7,000 Gypsies and Travellers live in Cambridgeshire - many have historic links with the county
- Over 50% of Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridgeshire live in houses



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Issues for Gypsies and Travellers

- Lower life expectancy than the settled community
- Higher child mortality
- Higher levels of mental health problems - stress and anxiety
- Lower educational achievement at all Key Stages
- Discrimination and harassment
- Importance of good quality settled accommodation



Existing Accommodation

- Some sites in South Cambridgeshire
- No sites in the City
- Have some Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar



Housing Need & Local Plan

Cambridge Sub-Regional Traveller Needs Assessment 2005/2006:

- 15 pitches required in the City - Emergency Stopping Place

Local Plan 2006:

- Permits the development of a temporary stopping place where there is demonstrable need for it (plus other conditions)



East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy)

- 15 permanent pitches required by 2011, and 28 by 2021
- Transit provision shared with South Cambs
- But RSS and Targets being abolished



Work to Date

- Traveller Steering Group
- Prior to the RSS we were seeking Transit provision
- Have then been looking at how we might meet regional targets for permanent site provision



Work to Date (contd...)

- Ethnic monitoring of tenants, and applicants on Home-Link register
- Draft Site Assessment and Design Guide as part of evidence base for Local Development Framework
- Joint discussion with South Cambs officers on site requirements and provision, as appropriate, in urban extensions
- Communications plan



County-Wide

- Land search
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Review of Traveller Needs Assessment (also looking at needs of Travelling Show People)
- County-Wide Strategy



What Next Nationally ?

Coalition Government Programme:

- Planning reform, with local authorities and public to have more say on development in their communities
- But: Funding cuts

Conservative Green Paper 'Open Source Planning':

- LAs will still have a role to ensure provision of sites to meet needs in their areas
- Where Councils have made appropriate provision, they will be provided with stronger enforcement powers to tackle unauthorised development and illegal trespass



What Next for Cambridge?

- Progress on county-wide work
- Review of Traveller Needs Assessment (desktop)
- Lead required from Traveller Steering Group



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Any Questions?

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