

NOTICE OF MOTION**RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS TRAVELLING COMMUNITIES**

“This council shares the concerns expressed by residents about the behaviour of some members of the Gypsy and Traveller groups visiting the city, and it condemns anti-social or criminal behaviour by anyone. Where such behaviour is evidenced and substantiated, the Police should take appropriate and proportionate action.

The council should continue to adopt a fair but firm approach to the issues raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments. Working in partnership with the Police, it should use:

- Government guidance introduced by the previous Government and new guidance in “Planning for Traveller Sites”, once adopted
- Brighton and Hove City Council’s Traveller Strategy, which the previous administration introduced in June 2008.

This council recognises Gypsy and Traveller communities’ heritage and the right to continue their nomadic lifestyle, as enshrined in law. It will continue to work with Friends and Families of Travellers and other organisations to address the problems faced by travelling communities and with residents’ groups, local action teams etc. to address the problems faced by the local residents.

It also acknowledges the excellent work of the council’s Traveller Liaison Team and urges all Council Members to behave in a mature, respectful and tolerant way when debating the presence of Gypsy and Traveller groups in the city, in accordance with relevant codes of conduct.

Therefore

1. This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet:
 - (a) To continue the search for another permanent Traveller site in the city taking into account the thorough work of previous Conservative and Labour Administrations;
 - (b) To continue to work with other local authorities to seek a regional solution to the provision of Traveller sites;
 - (c) To follow the firm but fair approach adopted by the previous Administration to the issues raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments, working in partnership with the Police on special initiatives like Operation Monza, where necessary;

- (d) To establish a cross-party review of the Traveller Strategy as soon as possible to relieve the pressures created by unauthorized Traveller encampments; and
- (2) The Council welcomes government proposals to ‘raise awareness amongst councillors of their leadership role in relation to traveller site provision; [1].”

[1] ‘Planning for Traveller sites’ Consultation, Department for Communities and Local Government, April 2011.