

22 March 2012

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Report: Traveller Strategy

Date of Meeting: 22 March 2012

Report of: Strategic Director, Resources

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution requires that the findings of Scrutiny Panels, along with the executive response, be reported to Full Council for information.
- 1.2 This report presents to Council the findings of the Scrutiny Panel review into the development of a Traveller Strategy (**Appendix 1**) and the Executive response (**Appendix 2**).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Members note **Appendices 1** and **2**.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Panel was set up by the Environment and Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC) following separate requests for scrutiny from Cllrs G Theobald and Wakefield. The panel, independently chaired by Dr Aidan McGarry of Brighton University, shadowed and supported the development, by the council's Housing Strategy team, of a Traveller Commissioning Strategy.
- 3.2 The Panel held two capacity-building sessions and three evidence-gathering meetings, receiving testimony from city MPs, the Brighton & Hove Argus, third sector groups, other local authorities, the police, the NHS, council officers, and representatives both of Travellers and of various city communities.
- 3.1 The Panel made 15 recommendations, the majority of which have been accepted in principle by the Executive. These can be found in the summary report in **Appendix 1**. The panel also submitted

recommendations directly to the consultation exercise being run by Housing Strategy as part of the development of a Traveller Strategy. Details of how these recommendations informed later iterations of the Strategy are also included in **Appendix 1**.

- 3.2 The full Scrutiny Panel report along with the evidence base is available in Members' Rooms and on the Overview and Scrutiny webpages.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report. The Scrutiny Review undertook extensive consultation.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 As indicated in paragraphs 1.1 and 2.1 above, and in accordance with the council's procedure rules on overview and scrutiny, this report is purely for Council to note. There are no further legal implications arising directly from the report.

Lawyer consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 10 March 2012

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Summary of the Traveller Scrutiny Panel report.
2. Executive response to the scrutiny recommendations.

Documents in Members' Rooms:

1. Full Scrutiny Panel report and evidence base

