

Appendix 1

Traveller Strategy Scrutiny Panel – Report Summary for Council

1: About this panel

Terms of Reference

- 1.1 Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC) agreed on 5th September 2011 to establish a Scrutiny Panel to shadow the development of the Traveller Strategy. The panel consisted of Dr Aidan McGarry of the University of Brighton (Chair), Councillor Dee Simson, Councillor Leo Littman and Councillor Alan Robins.
- 1.2 The Head of Housing and Social Inclusion for Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) informed the panel that the city's Traveller Strategy was being reviewed due to:
 - A change of government and the passing of the Localism Act
 - A change of political administration in the Council
 - A heightened awareness of Travellers locally and nationally¹
- 1.3 The issue of Travellers has a very high profile in the city, and the decision to scrutinise the topic was triggered by a range of events including:
 - Two requests from councillors, Cllr Geoffrey Theobald and Cllr Liz Wakefield, to scrutinise this topic²
 - A petition signed by 2,039 people which was heard at Council on 21st July 2011
 - A Notice Of Motion regarding Travellers
- 1.4 This panel also represented the opportunity to be involved in the development of a new strategy in the pre-decision stage. The progress of this panel has been characterised by a constructive dialogue and close working between the Scrutiny Team and the Housing Strategy department. A joint timetable was agreed to ensure that the panel could provide the best possible input into the development of the Strategy. When the report on a new Traveller Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 14th July 2011, the Leader of the Council stated that '*...the Cabinet welcomed the involvement of Overview & Scrutiny throughout the*

¹ Nick Hibberd, Evidence to the Panel, 23.11.11

² Letter from Cllr Theobald dated 02.06.11 and Scrutiny Request form from Cllr Wakefield dated July 2011

*revision of the Traveller Strategy and actively seek their support during the process.*³

1.5 The terms of reference (TOR) for the Panel were agreed as:

To add value to the development of the new Traveller Strategy for the city, in the following ways:

- To shadow the Cabinet review of the 2008 Traveller Strategy
- To provide an independent cross-party challenge to the work of this review
- To review current policies and strategies for the city which relate to Travellers with the aim of improving outcomes for the Traveller community. To consider this issue in relation to the strategic priorities for the council & city
- To review good practice in other regions and organisations
- Where needed, to consult stakeholders and partners
- Where needed, to undertake original research e.g. to use to make recommendations to Cabinet
- If needed, to engage with both the Traveller and settled communities and other stakeholders about this issue
- If needed, gathering evidence
- If needed, finding out best practice from other local authorities⁴

What are Travellers?

1.6 While there is no fixed definition for Travellers, the most appropriate definition is:

*'...persons of nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin.'*⁵

1.7 In the draft Traveller Strategy for Brighton & Hove 2012 (which is subsequently referred to in this report as the Strategy), the term has been used to cover the following groups:

- Romany Gypsies, Irish, Welsh and Scottish Travellers who are recognised in law as ethnic groups and are identified as having a shared culture, language and beliefs
- Groups which are not currently recognised as an ethnic group, including New Travellers who are non-traditional Travellers (most of whom originate from the settled community), Bargees and Travelling Showpeople⁶

³ Minutes of Cabinet meeting on 14.07.11 <http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=3223&Ver=4>

⁴ Scoping paper of the scrutiny panel

⁵ See the Caravan Site and Control of Development Act 1960 and in addition the Caravan Sites Act 1968 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/8-9/62> and http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/52/pdfs/ukpga_19680052_en.pdf

⁶ For further information on which different groups constitute Travellers and whether they are legally recognised as specific ethnic groups see 2.1 of Consultation Paper 1

- 1.8 It is also important to note that the term ‘Traveller’ is a broad term. Some ethnic Travellers have now moved into settled accommodation for various reasons, it should be noted that you can move to and from ‘Traveller status’. If you stop travelling for the statutorily defined reasons; ill health, children or old age, you do not lose your Traveller status. Although the main focus of the Strategy and of this report is on meeting the needs of nomadic Travellers and balancing these needs with those of settled communities, it should not be forgotten that many Travellers live within settled communities. According to the Strategy, Traveller groups estimate that:

‘...two thirds of [Travellers are] living in bricks and mortar housing.’⁷

Travellers – nationally and in the region

- 1.9 According to the Strategy:

‘There is no definitive data for the number of Gypsies and Travellers in the UK.’⁸

- 1.10 In the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan count for January 2011, which is carried out twice a year on behalf of the Government, the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans was 18,383 caravans which represents a very marginal increase from 2010. The count indicated that 17% of Traveller caravans in England were on unauthorised land and 83% were on authorised land.⁹

- 1.11 The Traveller Strategy has extrapolated from the Caravan Count, to estimate the following predicted population figures for Travellers living in caravans:

- South East (SE): Around 9,000 Travellers in 2,995 households
- Sussex: Around 976 Travellers in 326 households
- Brighton & Hove: Around 146 Travellers in 46 households¹⁰

- 1.12 A 2009 study which assessed the progress of local authorities’ progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Travellers in England concluded that:

‘Progress has been made towards the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches since 2006. However, this progress is slow in the majority of local authorities. The rate of progress would need to double in order to meet the identified national need, or quadruple if permanent planning permissions are to be achieved.’¹¹

⁷ Draft Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012, Consultation Paper 2

⁸ Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012, Consultation Paper 2

⁹ Gypsy and Traveller caravan count January 2011

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1932949.pdf>

¹⁰ Draft Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012: Consultation Paper 2

¹¹ Assessing Local Authorities’ progress in meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller Communities in England

- 1.13 According to a Brighton & Hove City Council Cabinet report on the Gypsy Roma Traveller Action Plan for 2011/12:

*'The South East has 43 transit pitches with more than half of these (23) in Brighton & Hove (this is more than Greater London which has only 20).'*¹²

- 1.14 The panel heard that the Caravan Sites Bill which received its first reading on 1st December 2011 would place a duty on local authorities to:

*'...provide or to facilitate the provision of adequate caravan site accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their area.'*¹³

Traveller communities in Brighton & Hove

- 1.15 Cllr Pete West, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability, told the panel that:

*'Brighton & Hove had a lower proportion of Traveller households in the City than the SE average but higher numbers are setting up unauthorised encampments than the rest of the region. This was a longstanding issue, in part because it [the city] was an attractive destination, in part because it provided a convenient base for those seeking work across Sussex.'*¹⁴

- 1.16 This meant that:

*'Travellers visiting Brighton were up to four times more likely to have set up unauthorised encampments here than in the rest of the region.'*¹⁵

Why do Travellers face such poor outcomes?

- 1.17 The panel were struck by the evidence, both that gathered for the Strategy and that provided directly by witnesses, regarding the significant inequalities experienced by Travellers, in particular in relation to health and education.

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/13assessing_local_housing_authorities_progress.pdf

¹² Cabinet report on the Gypsy Roma Traveller Action Plan for 2011/12:

<http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=30802>

¹³ http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0115/lbill_2010-20120115_en_2.htm

¹⁴ Cllr Pete West, Evidence to the Panel, 31.01.12

¹⁵ Cllr Pete West, Foreword to Consultation Paper 2

Addressing the concerns of the settled community

- 1.18 Evidence to the panel showed that unauthorised encampments can have a significant impact on the settled community, an impact increased by a lack of clarity as to who was responsible for dealing with the problems which arose. Residents' anger and negative headlines about Travellers in the local media, stemmed primarily from the unauthorised encampments in the city.

Increasing community cohesion and inclusion

- 1.19 David Bailey, the Traveller and Diversity Manager for Fenland District Council (DC), believed that:

*'Local authorities tend to address the problems that Roma face as security rather than human rights and social inclusion issues.'*¹⁶

- 1.20 To this end Fenland DC have developed a cohesion strategy, in which Travellers are seen as an important component, because they feel community cohesion is:

*'...crucial to promoting greater knowledge, respect and contact between various communities, and to establishing a greater sense of citizenship. Community cohesion is an indicator of quality of life and cohesive communities are able to exist together in a state of harmony, characterised by mutual understanding and respect.'*¹⁷

The panel were pleased to see that 'Improving community cohesion' is one of the four Strategic outcomes for the new Strategy.

Improving outcomes for Travellers

- 1.21 The panel heard a significant amount of evidence about how the establishment of a permanent site in Brighton & Hove could improve outcomes for the Travellers who would live there. However there is also a need to improve outcomes for transient Travellers and address the needs of all Travellers prior to opening the permanent site.

Consequences of not achieving these outcomes

- 1.22 The panel felt that there could be a number of significant consequences for the city if the issues relating to Travellers were not sufficiently addressed, namely:

¹⁶ Roma and Traveller inclusion in Europe, Green Questions and Answers, Green European Foundation, 2011
http://www.gef.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/GEF_11_10_Roma_and_Traveler_Inclusion_web_final.pdf

¹⁷ Fenland Community Cohesion Strategy 2010-2012
<http://www.fenland.gov.uk/aksfenland/images/att1358.pdf>

- Financial – including losing funding for a group in need and the costs of legal action in response to unauthorised encampments
- Increasing numbers of unauthorised encampments
- Worsening outcomes for Travellers
- Increasing tensions between settled community and Travellers

What the panel thought of the Strategy

- 1.23 The panel welcomed the draft Strategy because it:
- Represented a significant step forward in describing the needs of the Traveller community and determining which outcomes a Traveller Strategy for this city aimed to achieve
 - Contained a comprehensive set of high-level goals about meeting the needs of Travellers and the settled community
 - Had addressed both the needs of Travellers and the settled community in those goals
 - Had been based on a two stage consultation process (although the panel would like see how information from consultation with Travellers was going to be incorporated into the final Strategy)

2. Recommendations and statements from the panel

How these recommendations were developed

- 2.1 On the 6th February 2012, the panel had submitted a response to Housing on the Consultation Paper 2 of the Strategy. The panel made 27 recommendations in relation to the draft strategy and outlined 9 areas where they had received evidence which was not addressed in the Strategy.
- 2.2 The Housing Service provided a very constructive set of responses to the panel's recommendations, which are contained in the full report of the panel. The recommendations and statements below were then agreed by the panel following the response and represent their final say on the draft Traveller Strategy.

Final recommendations

- 2.3 This section now outlines the 22 recommendations from the panel and 10 statements from the panel regarding the Strategy, in the order in which they appear in the report.

Recommendations to address the key concerns of the panel about Consultation Paper 2

Recommendations 1 to 5 and Statements 1 & 2 relate to the following overall concerns the panel had about the draft Strategy:

- **Concern A:** The panel appreciate that this Strategy is pitched at a very high level. However, without a detailed action plan to accompany the document it is not easy to determine what is going to be done by services to address the issues raised. Therefore the panel requested a detailed action plan to accompany the Strategy.
- **Concern B:** That so much of the Strategy appears to be predicated on the development of the permanent site. Given that this site is not timetabled to open until Winter 2013/14, it was felt that a key focus of this three year Strategy should be addressing transit provision in the city, both prior to the opening of the permanent site and if needed after the opening.
- **Concern C:** For the same reason, another key focus of the Strategy should be unauthorised encampments.

Recommendation 1: The panel noted with considerable concern the lack of monitoring of the priorities and actions contained in the last Traveller Strategy for 2008-11. The panel welcomes the action plan which has been developed for this Strategy. The panel expects this plan to be effectively monitored and would like a monitoring report to be sent to the relevant Member Committee at the following intervals: 6 months, 12 months, 24 months and 36 months. To enable effective monitoring the panel would expect each action in the Action Plan to be SMART (i.e. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time limited).

Recommendation 2: In a number of areas, the Strategy posits the establishment of a permanent site as a solution to the issues associated with Travellers. This may be the case, but it is important to recognise that the permanent site will not be opened until winter 2013/14 at the earliest. Therefore a coherent vision is needed for what is to be done in the years before the permanent site is ready, particularly in terms of transit provision.

Recommendation 3: The panel feel that preventing, and responding to, unauthorised encampments should be a key focus of the Strategy, particularly until the permanent site is opened. The panel would like the Strategy to draw on good practice by other authorities in this area such as Fenland DC. The panel would also like the Strategy to include information on how the council will pro-actively liaise with any settled community affected by such encampments.

Recommendation 4: The panel believes the Strategy should be both a place where all the separate plans for dealing with Traveller issues are brought together and a process via which these plans are effectively integrated. While the draft Strategy fulfils the first of these requirements, the panel is not sure that it currently meets the second: more needs to be done to link the different parts of the Strategy into a coherent narrative.

Statement 1: The panel were pleased to see that their recommendation was accepted to change the vision for the Strategy back to 'Balancing the needs...'

Statement 2: The panel welcomes the intention to identify which types of Traveller are typically based in Brighton & Hove and to design services to meet the specific needs of these communities. We also welcome the promised needs assessments and cultural awareness training. The panel strongly supports evidence-based planning and are encouraged that the council is actively seeking to collect more data in key areas. We confidently anticipate that future iterations of the Strategy will be based on local up-to-date information.

Recommendation 5: The panel welcome the agreement to review the working of the Traveller Liaison Team, but seek assurance that the review will focus on support and enforcement elements, as well as having the key aim to improve the service for both Travellers and the settled community.

Recommendations regarding the goals of the Strategy

In order to achieve the vision of the Traveller Strategy, four strategic outcome areas have been identified which are:

'...aimed at supporting Travelling communities to improve the quality of lives and reduce the tensions between Travellers and the settled population'¹⁸

Nineteen goals have been developed in order to achieve these outcomes and the remaining recommendations of the panel are placed under each of those headings.

Strategic Outcome 1. Improve site availability

Goal 1: Develop a new permanent Traveller site

Recommendation 6: The panel heard evidence from a number of sources favouring several small sites rather than a large single permanent site. While we accept that there are valid arguments in favour of both solutions, we feel it is important that the multiple site option is fully explored, in terms of both current and future needs. Should the choice nonetheless be for a single site, the thinking behind this, and the pros and cons of single and multiple sites, should be explained in the Strategy.

Recommendation 7: The panel welcomes the commitment to consulting with both Travellers and the settled community on proposed site(s), their design and management. It would like to see the Strategy contain some detail on how the consultation will be 'effective' and a commitment that it will meet the standards of the Community Engagement Framework. We anticipate that the

¹⁸ Traveller Strategy Consultation Paper 2, BHCC

consultation process will include asking whether a single or multiple sites would be preferred – and be explained in the Strategy.

Goal 2: Develop procedures for Tolerated sites

Statement 3: The panel welcomes the development of procedures for Tolerated Sites for implementation in summer 2012 and is looking forward to seeing progress in their implementation via the monitoring reports requested in Recommendation 1.

Goal 3: Consider the demand for future site provision

Recommendation 8: The panel believe that assessing the need for future site provision should not wait until 2016. The panel believe that there should be an ongoing collation of information on the regional situation from the Regional Forum, monitoring information and data on enabling site provision to plan future need. This Strategy presents a real opportunity to stop being reactive and to begin to plan capacity more pro-actively.

Goal 4: To provide advice to Travellers seeking to buy their own land for developing a site

Statement 4: The panel welcomes the commitment that the council will provide, later in 2012, local information to advise Travellers who are seeking to buy their own land.

Strategic Outcome 2. Improve health, safety & wellbeing

Goal 5: Improve access to health and other support services for Gypsies and Travellers in the city

Statement 5: The panel welcomed the agreement that the needs of Travellers will be reflected in the 2012 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and that a specific needs assessment on the health and wellbeing of Travellers will be published in November 2012. We hope that this will provide sufficient information in order to properly plan and provide health and social care services for this community. The panel look forward to seeing this information being used to revise this Strategy in future years.

Recommendation 9: The panel welcomed the commitment to review the impact of the work of Health Visitors and looks forward to an update on its findings in the 6 month and 12 month progress report on the Strategy.

Goal 6: To improve cultural awareness in health services

Recommendation 10: The panel welcomes the commitment from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to provide cultural awareness training in relation to Travellers for CCG staff and lead clinicians. However, we are concerned that this does not fully address the problems of front-line clinical staff (e.g.

GPs and dentists) and other staff (e.g. GP surgery receptions) lacking awareness of Traveller issues, and sometimes a knowledge of their statutory duties to provide services. We therefore seek clarification as to how the training of CCG staff and lead clinicians will percolate down to other primary care workers.

Goal 7: To improve ethnic monitoring in health and other services to include Gypsies and Travellers

Recommendation 11: The panel is pleased to see the statement that NHS Brighton & Hove is using and promoting the common framework for ethnic monitoring being developed by the City Inclusion Partnership. The panel is also pleased that the council is promoting the use of the common framework. However, the panel would like the Strategy to contain a statement on how the ethnic monitoring information will be used and an assurance that the council and NHS Brighton & Hove will integrate their information to plan and monitor services.

Goal 8: Tackle domestic and sexual violence

Statement 6: The panel welcomes the commitment to integrate the Domestic Violence (DV) Commissioning Strategy and the Traveller Strategy and for this to be referred to in the Traveller Strategy.

Strategic Outcome 3. Improve education outcomes

Recommendation 12: The panel would like to see a commitment in the Strategy to learning from successful education projects which have offered mentoring to Minority Ethnic groups, and to drawing in members of the Traveller community to offer help and advice with Traveller education issues.

Goal 9: Raise standards by ensuring successful education provision for Traveller children at the new permanent site

Recommendation 13: The panel would like the Strategy to contain an action re: obtaining city based information on Traveller educational attainment, across all sectors of education from pre-school to Further Education. Once this data has been gathered it should be used as a baseline from which to identify the educational attainment of Traveller children. The panel would expect data and a statement on how this data will be used to be contained in the progress updates reported to Committee.

Goal 10: To raise the engagement with learning opportunities for all traveller families visiting Brighton and Hove

Recommendation 14: The panel is keen to ensure that the Strategy contains more detailed information and outcomes on how to improve the educational experience and attainment for transient Travellers who visit the city.

Goal 11: Secure engagement of families from the early years

Recommendation 15: The panel welcomes the commitment to include actions in the Strategy which build on successful 'out reach to in reach' work in encouraging take up of education and combining this with information from health outreach work. The panel would like to see the data gathered to be used to plan future services and measure progress achieved by these services.

Recommendation 16: The panel is concerned that the positive work which is being done to secure Traveller engagement from early years could go to waste if the Strategy does not include sufficient measures to retain Traveller children in education. This in turn will enable Travellers to improve their employment prospects. The Strategy should include new ways to engage with harder to reach Traveller groups such as teenagers, enabling access to adult and further education, and using ICT and other methods to engage with these groups.

Goal 12: Improve further the awareness in schools about Traveller History and Culture

Recommendation 17: The panel would like to see the Strategy contain a commitment from the council to lead a co-ordinated programme to improve awareness in schools about Traveller history and culture. This would include the council leading, and co-ordinating, the city's participation in Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month and including Travellers in People's Day.

Strategic Outcome 4. Improve community cohesion

Goal 13: Increasing awareness of different cultures

Statement 7: The panel is pleased that there will be a commitment in the Strategy to the council participating in Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month.

Goal 14: Involving Travellers in service design and delivery

Statement 8: The panel is pleased that there will be an explicit commitment in the Strategy to 'Involve Travellers and their advocates in service design and delivery'.

Goal 15: Effective management of unauthorised encampments

Recommendation 18: The panel would like the Strategy to contain information on the Joint Sussex-wide protocol on unauthorised encampments which is being developed for use by the Police and local authorities and to place this under goal 16 of the Strategy 'Effective Management of Unauthorised Encampments'.

Goal 16: Ensure sensitive sites are protected

Recommendation 19: The panel appreciates that work is ongoing in relation to sensitive sites. However it believes that the Strategy should contain a clear plan for sensitive sites. This could identify levels of sensitivity and a commitment to mapping the impact of site protection measures on unauthorised encampments elsewhere in the city.

Goal 17: Tackling crime, anti-social behaviour

Statement 9: The panel welcomes the commitment to expanding the actions under Goal 15 'Effective Management of unauthorised encampments' in relation to crime, anti-social behaviour and nuisance and is looking forward to finding out the progress in the regular reports to the Scrutiny Committee.

Goal 18: Tackling racism, sexism and homophobia

Statement 10: The panel is pleased that the Strategy will be amended to include detail on the new ways being developed to encourage the reporting of crimes and incidents.

Goal 19: Develop a protocol for addressing Van Dwellers who are often mistaken for Travellers

Recommendation 20: The panel is pleased that the Action Plan is to be updated to show that the Protocol for Van Dwellers will be developed during 2012/2013. The panel would like the council to contact other local authorities who experience this issue, such as Bristol, to see what practices they have developed.

Recommendations to cover areas not addressed in the draft Strategy

Due to the breadth of evidence received by the panel, it was felt that the following areas were not sufficiently addressed in the draft Strategy:

- Council leadership & political support
- Employment and Travellers
- Planning – in light of the conflicting evidence about the impact of the Localism Act
- The importance of regional working and means of achieving this
- Financial impacts of Traveller issues
- Needs of housed Travellers
- Site Management
- Media coverage of Traveller issues
- Managing the seasonal increase – which was originally a stated aim of the new Strategy

The final recommendations of the panel relate to a number of the areas listed above.

Recommendation 21: Given the important role Councillors play in relation to Travellers, the panel believe that Councillors should be offered the opportunity to attend Traveller Awareness Training run by the council on an annual basis.

Recommendation 22: The panel recommends that the council works with the local media to ensure balanced reporting of issues relating the Traveller community. This could include such things as:

- Reporting positive Traveller stories
- Challenging the need for Traveller stories to be front-page, a practice which automatically sensationalises the issue
- Moderating, and if necessary deleting, comments placed on websites

3. Gathering the evidence

How the panel evidenced this submission

- 3.1 The panel initially held two capacity building sessions where it heard evidence from 15 witnesses who either worked for Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) or key partners such as the Police.
- 3.2 The panel also met with the Traveller Liaison Team (TLT) and visited the Horsdean Transit site on 13th December 2011 to talk to Travellers living in Brighton & Hove.
- 3.3 Then three formal evidence gathering sessions, with 16 witnesses, were held in January 2012 which were recorded to assist in the evidence gathering process.
- 3.4 The full list of witnesses is set out below in the order of appearance.

Name	Title	Service
Jonathan Fortune	Head of the Traveller Liaison Team	BHCC
Nick Hibberd	Head of Housing and Social Inclusion	BHCC
Andy Staniford	Head of Housing Strategy	BHCC
Simon Court	Senior Lawyer	BHCC
Sarah Tighe-Ford	Equalities Co-ordinator	BHCC
Jackie Whitford	Co-ordinator	Traveller Education Team, East Sussex County Council (ESCC)
Kirsty Hewitt	Public Health Speciality Registrar	NHS Sussex
Phil Seddon	Equality and Diversity Manager	NHS Sussex
Steve Whitton	Superintendent	Sussex Police

Peter Castleton	Sergeant Strategic and Neighbourhood Policy Support	Sussex Police
John Peerless Mountford	Head of Trading Standards	BHCC
James Dougan	Head of Children & Families	BHCC
Celia Lamden	Neighbourhood SureStart Service Manager	BHCC
Rob Fraser	Head of Planning Strategy	BHCC
Sandra Rogers	Senior Planning Officer	BHCC
Caroline Lucas	MP for Brighton Pavilion	
Cllr Liz Wakefield	Cabinet Member for Housing	BHCC
Esther Quarm	Gypsy and Travellers Manager	West Sussex County Council (WSCC)
Trudy McGuigan	Traveller Liaison Manager	East Sussex County Council
Chris Whitwell	Director	Friends, Families and Travellers (FFT)
David Bailey	Traveller and Diversity Manager	Fenland District Council
Jean Thomas	Chair	Stanmer and Coldean Local Action Team (LAT)
Michael Murray		Brighton & Hove Environment Action Group (BHEAG)
Patricia Weller		Hangleton & Knoll Community Action Forum
Greg Yates	Founder	Clearwater Gypsies
Mike Weatherley	MP for Hove	
Cllr Pete West	Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability	BHCC
Linda Beanlands	Commissioner Community Safety	BHCC
Juliet McCaffery	Secretary	Sussex Traveller Action Group (STAG)
Lisa Williams	Community Development Worker	STAG
Michael Beard	The Editor	The Argus

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The large majority of the evidence heard from the panel emphasised the benefits that would arise from establishing a permanent site in Brighton & Hove. The panel heard that Traveller communities faced significant inequalities and problems in accessing services that would be of benefit to them. The panel were also struck by the impact that

unauthorised encampments could have on the settled community and the importance of improving the way their needs are responded to.

- 4.2 The panel felt that the proposed Traveller Strategy 2012 represented a significant step forward in addressing the issues raised in relation to Travellers, while balancing both the needs of the settled community and Travellers. They were very encouraged by the positive and constructive response from the author's of the Strategy, to the panel's submission to Consultation Paper 2.
- 4.3 The panel have made a comprehensive set of recommendations to address their outstanding concerns about the Strategy (see Section 2). The panel then expressed their desire to see the following in in future Traveller strategies:
- A greater input from Travellers
 - The use of data which has been gathered, e.g. through the JSNA, to inform future goals and service delivery
 - An action plan which contains SMART actions which is effectively and regularly monitored
 - Increasing emphasis on community cohesion in the future
- 4.4 To achieve this, the panel have asked for the action plan and Strategy to be monitored on a regular basis (at 6 months, 12 months, 24 months and 36 months).

5. The way forward

- 5.1 The Panel recommend that the progress achieved in relation to the Traveller Strategy Action Plan and Strategy is reported to the relevant Member Committee at the following intervals:
- 6 months
 - 12 months
 - 24 months
 - 36 months
- 5.2 At the same intervals the progress on implementing recommendations of this panel, which are not also contained in the Traveller Strategy or Action Plan, should be reported back to the relevant Member Committee.

