

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item

Brighton & Hove City Council

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| Subject: | Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012: Update on Implementation of Agreed Scrutiny Panel Recommendations | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 26 January 2015 | | |
| Report of: | Executive Director Environment Development & Housing | | |
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| Ward(s) affected: | All | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC) agreed on 5 September 2011 to establish a Scrutiny Panel to shadow the development of the Traveller Commissioning Strategy. ECSOSC approved the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations on 7 March 2012.
- 1.2 On 15 March 2012, Cabinet approved the Council's formal response to the ECSOSC Traveller Scrutiny Panel recommendations and highlighted the impact the Panel has had on the development of the city's new Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012. This strategy was subsequently approved by Council on 22 March 2012.
- 1.3 Overview & Scrutiny Committee has requested an update on the progress made in implementing the Panel's recommendations which is detailed in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 Further information on the outcomes achieved during the first 2 years of the strategy are contained in Appendices 2 & 3: *Two Years On: the Traveller Commissioning Strategy in Action 2013/14* which was due to be presented at Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee, 20 January 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Overview & Scrutiny Committee members consider and comment on the contents of this report and its appendices.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The implementation of (agreed) scrutiny panel recommendations is routinely monitored by the relevant scrutiny committee until members are content that all necessary actions have been undertaken. This is the second monitoring report regarding the recommendations from the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Traveller Scrutiny Panel that shadowed the development of the Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012.
- 3.2 Two formal requests for scrutiny of the development of the Traveller Commissioning Strategy were made at the 5 September 2011 meeting of the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC) by Councillors Liz Wakefield and Geoffrey Theobald. In addition there was a petition heard at Council on 21 July 2011 and a Notice of Motion regarding Travellers. Following discussion ECSOSC agreed to establish a 3-Member Scrutiny Panel to be involved in the Cabinet review of the Travellers Strategy.
- 3.3 The Traveller Scrutiny Panel was chaired by Dr. Aidan McGarry, School of Applied Social Science, University of Brighton. The other panel members were Councillors Littman, Simson and Robins.
- 3.4 The panel held capacity building and evidence gathering sessions where it heard from 31 witnesses representing Council services, other public sector bodies such as the Police and NHS Sussex, the Community & Voluntary Sector, resident groups, politicians and representatives from other authorities. The panel also visited the Horsdean Transit site to talk to Travellers living in Brighton & Hove.
- 3.5 The panel's final report has highlighted that:
- '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 wished 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'*
- 3.6 The Panel made 23 recommendations, many of which were incorporated into the final version of the strategy and action plan.
- 3.7 On 15 March 2012, Cabinet approved the Council's formal response to the ECSOSC Traveller Scrutiny Panel recommendations and highlighted the impact the Panel has had on the development of the city's new Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012. This strategy was subsequently approved by Council on 22 March 2013.
- 3.8 The Scrutiny team won the Centre for Public Scrutiny award for Innovation (for the second year running) for its work on the scrutiny panel.
- 3.9 Appendix 1 to this report includes detailed information on the implementation of each panel recommendation.

3.10 Further information on the outcomes achieved during the last year of the strategy is contained in Appendix 2 & 3: *Two Years On: the Traveller Commissioning Strategy in Action 2013/14* which was due to be presented at Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee, 20 January 2015.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

4.1 None with regard to this monitoring report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 None with regard to this monitoring report.

Legal Implications:

5.2 None with regard to this monitoring report.

Equalities Implications:

5.3 None with regard to this monitoring report.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None with regard to this monitoring report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None with regard to this monitoring report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None with regard to this monitoring report.

Public Health Implications:

5.7 None with regard to this monitoring report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.8 None with regard to this monitoring report.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 This is a monitoring report rather than one proposing any active decision.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 This is a monitoring report and not one requiring a specific decision.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. January 2015 Update to Traveller Scrutiny Panel Recommendations on the Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012
2. Two Years On: the Traveller Commissioning Strategy in Action 2013/14; Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee, 20 January 2015
3. Covering Report: Two Years On: the Traveller Commissioning Strategy in Action 2013/14; Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee, 20 January 2015

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. January 2014 Update to Traveller Scrutiny Panel Recommendations on the Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 27 January 2014
2. One Years On: the Traveller Commissioning Strategy in Action 2013/14; Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee, 8 October 2013
3. Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012, Council, 22 March 2012
4. Response to the recommendations of the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Traveller Scrutiny Panel shadowing the development of the new Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012, Environment & Sustainability Cabinet Member Meeting, 15 March 2012
5. Traveller Strategy Scrutiny Panel Report, Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC), 7 March 2012