



Minutes

Policy Review Committee – Research Working Group on Gypsy & Traveller Sites

Venue: Committee Room

Date: 7 November 2011

Present: Councillor R Musgrave (Chair), Councillor Mrs M Davis and Councillor I Reynolds

Apologies for Absence: None

Officers Present: Jonathan Lund, Deputy Chief Executive; Eileen Scothern, Business Manager; Andrew McMillan, Policy Officer and Richard Besley, Democratic Services

5. Declarations of interest

None.

6. Minutes 24 October 2011

RESOLVED:

To receive and approve the minutes of the Policy Review Committee Working Group held on 26 July 2011 as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

7. Review of Sites

7.1 To Confirm the Site Selection Methodology

The Chair introduced the revised site selection methodology prepared by Officers following the groups discussions at the first meeting.

The Chair asked if Officers were able to address the question whether sites outside of permitted development limits could be considered.

Officers confirmed that the Gypsy and Traveller community are subject to the same rules relating to planning policy as everyone else and that there was no grounds to allow development outside of existing limits.

The Chair asked if clarification was now available on the matter of whether illegal or unauthorised sites that were granted permanent planning permission would count towards the Council target of 10 pitched.

Officers confirmed that illegal sites what were subsequently given planning permission would count towards the agreed needs/target figure of 10 pitches.

RESOLVED

To approve the revised methodology to adopt a unified and consistent approach to site selection.

7.2 To review and consider sites against the site selection methodology

Following the renewed call for sites a small number of new sites had been identified.

Two sites, Hillam and Great Heck had come from the landowner direct and a further had been brought forward as a suggestion from someone other than the landowner. This was a site at Bondgate, Selby that is owned by Selby D C.

Andrew McMillan had applied the revised methodology against the 6 original sites and 3 new sites and presented tables for the Committee to show their assessment.

The Deputy Chief Executive asked if the Committee wanted to discount the Bondgate site as it had not come directly from the landowner. Officers pointed out that the site had been designated recreational open space and had received objection from Sport England to development consideration in the past.

The Committee asked that Bondgate remain under consideration for the time being and would be subject to the proposed site visit.

RESOLVED

To note the sites under consideration against the site selection methodology.

7.3 To make a provisional recommendation.

It was agreed that no provisional recommendation would be made at this meeting until after the working group had had the opportunity to view the sites under consideration.

RESOLVED:

To defer recommendation to the meeting on 21 November after the Working Group had conducted a visit of sites under consideration.

8. Site Visit.

A provisional list of seven sites was presented to the working group.

Two were new sites at Bondgate and Hillam. Three were sites identified in the SADPD at Lumby, Hillcrest and Whitley while the last two were the existing sites at Burn and Carlton.

The Deputy Chief Executive informed the Group that a request had been made from Executive Members Councillors Ivey and Mackman to accompany the Group at its Site Visit.

The Working Group felt that as it had been selected to meet and make recommendations it was felt the opportunity to evaluate and deliberate on specific sites on the day should be made as a group and independently of the executive.

RESOLVED:

To conduct a co-ordinated visit for all participants on Friday 11th November without members of the Executive.

The meeting closed at 6:46pm