

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ADVISORY BOARD
AGENDA

Tuesday, 2 September 2008, at 10.00 am Ask for: **Geoff Mills/Andy Ballard**
in the Darent Room - Sessions House, Telephone: **(01622) 694297/694297**
County Hall, Maidstone

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Membership - The Board is asked to note that Mr M J Harrison replaces Mr J B O Fullarton
2. Substitutes
3. Election
 - A. Election of Chairman
 - B. Election Vice-Chairman
4. Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting
5. Minutes - 22 April 2008 (Pages 1 - 6)
6. Update: National Strategies: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme (Pages 7 - 12)
7. Update: Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month 2008 (Pages 13 - 16)
8. Regional Assembly Additional Pitch Allocations 2006-16 (Pages 17 - 22)
9. Security of Tenure on Public Traveller Sites (Pages 23 - 24)

Exempt Items

(At the time of drafting this Agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

Friday, 22 August 2008

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.



This page is intentionally left blank

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ADVISORY BOARD**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on 22 April 2008.

PRESENT: Mr A H Bowles (Chairman), Mrs A D Allen, Mr R B Burgess, Mr M J Fittock, Mr I T Jones, Mr S J Koowaree, Mr F Wood-Brignall and Dr T R Robinson (substitute for Mr J Fullarton)

Also Present: Mr M Angell, Lead Member for Adult Social Services

OFFICERS: Miss C Highwood, Director – Resources, Kent Adult Social Services, Mr B Forrester, Head of Gypsy and Traveller Unit; Mr A Casson, Operations Manager, Gypsy and Traveller Unit; Mr M Lemon, Head of Policy, Department of Public Health, Ms J Robson, Head of Minority Communities Achievement Service; Mrs Louise Simpson (Refugee and Traveller Achievement, Minority Communities Achievement Service), Mr G Mills, and Mr A Ballard (Democratic Services)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**1. Minutes - 30 November 2007**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2007 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Legislation, Policy and Practice Changes from Central Government

(Item 4 – Report by Mr O Mills, Managing Director, Adult Social Services)

(1) This report updated Members of the Advisory Board on a number of current and future legislative changes, policy development and practice guidance documents which would impact on KCC and/or district councils and/or Gypsy and Travellers.

(2) In a wide ranging report, Mr Forrester said that there were major changes taking place to improve and update both the legislation and policy underlying caravan site development and management, including those specifically for gypsies and travellers. A key issue would be the extent to which these regulations were applied to both private and public run gypsy and traveller sites, where the regulatory framework was still behind that for caravan sites generally. Mr Forrester said that representations about that had been made to both the LGA and CLG who were beginning to address some of these issues. Other groups who were left out of the reckoning were migrant and other farm workers.

(3) During the course of discussion, Members of the Advisory Board raised a number of questions. In relation to security of tenure, Mr Forrester said that under current housing legislation, gypsies and travellers could not acquire rights to buy.

However, he did it was fair to say that people living on sites were treated equally amongst themselves but for the reasons outlined in the report, not the same was those who were in housing. As regards to rents, Mr Forrester said that KCC rents could be challenged as KCC was treated as if it were a private landlord. Overall the County Council was currently operating a loss on rents as it had not been able for regulatory reasons to increase these and this was a matter which was being taken up through both the LGA and with government. Mr Forrester also said that where appropriate, district councils were taking into account the Park Home Model Standards and even where the law did not necessarily apply, the local authorities are operating as if they did. On the issue of illegal sites Mr Forrester said that until the new system comes into force and sites are allocated by District Planning Authorities, some people may continue to take the risk of buying land and putting caravans on them. In those circumstances, it was up to district councils to take enforcement action which could result in an appeal and the Inspector giving short-term planning permission, so the situation could prove difficult to deal with.

(4) Following further discussion, the Advisory Board:-

(a) endorsed the report, with the implications of the changes for KCC, other Kent and Medway authorities and other stakeholders in the process being noted;

(b) agreed that a further report be submitted, once the legislation and guidance on security of tenure was finalised by the government; and

(c) agreed that representations should continue to be made to the Local Government Association and government on the importance of model standards being extended to all those who live on permanent caravan or mobile home sites, including gypsies, travellers and agricultural workers.

3. Gypsy and Traveller Health Issues

(Item 5 – Report by Mr O Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services)

(1) This report described various health inequalities experienced by the Gypsy and Traveller Communities in Kent and joint working to address these. Mr Casson said that there was little reliable scientific and statistical data available about the health of the Gypsy and Traveller populations, both nationally and locally. The most significant reliable information nationally was a report undertaken in 2004 by the University of Sheffield on behalf of the Department of Health. Broadly, the findings were that the overall health status of gypsies and travellers was relatively poor in comparison with other disadvantage groups and very poor compared with the general population. Also, certain health conditions and illnesses were significant for gypsy and traveller adults; these included anxiety, asthma, bronchitis, depression and long term illness.

(2) There was also significant health issues for children, many relating to lack of immunisation. In addition there were considerable risks to mothers and their babies leading up, at, or just after birth. Also, life expectancy could be very low with one

study in Leeds revealing that there was a life expectancy amongst the Gypsy and Traveller community which of just 50 years. Mr Lemon said that was a startling statistic within a developed country. Health and inequalities was therefore a big priority and strong efforts needed to be taken in order to address and identify health issues. KCC was playing its part in this by developing strategies through its Public Health Strategy.

(3) Mr Lemon said that a workshop on gypsy and traveller health involving a number of agencies and community members took place in January 2008. A number of work streams emerged from that meeting and these were detailed in the report. In particular Mr Lemon said that the newly established Public Health Observatory could collate currently available gypsy and traveller health data, so that partners could identify what was missing and consider how best to fill the gap. In addition, Healthcare Select Committee a County Council Health Care Select Committee was in the process of being constituted and possibly within its terms of reference could be referenced evidence on Gypsy and Traveller health equalities.

(4) There was also a need to improve awareness amongst Health and Social Care professionals of these communities and their needs. The County Council's Health colleagues were considering how best to achieve that and internally the Gypsy and Traveller Unit was having discussions with colleagues with a view to establishing a familiarisation course for KCC staff, initially for those in Kent Adult Social Services who provide services to these communities. Alongside this, there was a need to identify those healthcare professionals that had expertise and an awareness of gypsies and travellers, their culture and their medical needs. A number of healthcare staff who have regularly dealt with these communities have already been identified by PCT colleagues. There is also a proposal to introduce a Gypsy and Traveller Health passport which can be kept and presented to healthcare professionals wherever the gypsy and traveller may be.

(5) Following further discussion, the Advisory Board endorsed the approach outlined in the report and agreed that it would be useful to include evidence on gypsy and traveller health outcomes and equalities to the planned Select Committee on Access to Healthcare.

4. Update: National Developments, outcomes of early consultation with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community and review of the Minority Communities Achievement Service

(Item 6 – Report by Managing Director (Children, Families & Education))

(1) This report updated Members on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month, the national Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement programme and the outcomes of early consultation with community and a review of the Minority Achievement Service.

(2) Jenny Robson said that Kent had been selected by the Government as one of ten local authorities taking part in a pilot programme to address the national under achievement of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children. This was in recognition of Kent's significant and diverse Gypsy, Roma and Traveller population, and the effective work which the Minority Communities Achievement Service was currently

undertaking to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils (including new EU arrivals).

(3) Jenny Robson also briefed Members on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month which was a nationwide event taking place in June 2008. The aims of the History Month would be to explain the history and culture of the communities, to challenge misunderstanding to breakdown barriers and to celebrate the richness that these communities contribute to everyday life. History Month would be led by community members on a regional basis and the contact for the South East was Mr Jake Bowers. Kent was being represented at Regional Network Planning meetings by staff from the MCAS and members of the local Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community. In Kent, schools were being encouraged to take part in a national poster campaign led by Education Leeds launched in the House of Lords with government endorsement. Locally, History Month was seen as an opportunity to draw attention to projects and developments already placed and promote a greater understanding of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history and achievements.

(4) Jenny Robson also briefed the meeting on outcomes of consultation with Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller Community members. In July 2006, the Department for Schools, Children & Families set out an agenda for the future through its document "Positive Pathways to the Future Provision for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children". Specialist services were encouraged to reassess the orientation of their core work within the context of the agenda for Every Child Matters so that an assessment could be made of the educational needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities, by

- (a) assisting the local authority and other partners to fulfil their legal and professional responsibilities
- (b) focusing on the traditional work of supporting families, children and schools; and
- (c) clarifying the role function and leadership and service delivery model within the local authority for any specialist service with goal of achievement of equality in terms of access, attendance and achievement.

(5) In her report, Jenny Robson also provided the Advisory Board with details of the consultation arrangements and also feedback on the outcomes of the consultation.

(6) Jenny Robson provided the Board with an update on the mapping of specialist services for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community. She said that a priority for the Minority Communities and Achievement Service was to work with other service providers to ensure that the services of all children, young people and their families/carers in Kent were accessible to the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community and strategies to achieve this priority were already in place and these were detailed in her report.

(7) Jenny Robson also gave the Board a briefing on a review which had been undertaken of the Minority Community Achievement Service and how it was intended it would meet budget reductions (which had been agreed through the

Medium Term Plan) whilst at the same time maintaining its high quality services to schools, settings, children and young people and supporting the transition to Local Children's Services Partnerships.

(8) Following discussion of her report and the issues which it raised, the Advisory Board noted it for information and also noted that a further report on the pilot of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement programme would be submitted to a future meeting.

This page is intentionally left blank

By: Managing Director (Children, Families and Education)

To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 2nd September 2008

Subject: Update: National Strategies: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme

Classification: Unrestricted – for information

Summary: This report updates members on the National Strategies: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme and Kent LA's contribution as a pilot authority.

DCSF: Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement Programme

Background

1. (1) Kent was selected, in 2007/8, as one of 10 Local Authorities taking part in this pilot programme to address the national underachievement of Gypsy Roma and Traveller children. This is in recognition of Kent's significant and diverse Gypsy Roma and Traveller population, and the effective practice in the LA in supporting Gypsy Roma and Traveller pupils (including new EU arrivals). This is one of the specialist programmes within the Ethnicity, Social Class and Gender Achievement Plan of the Primary and Secondary National Strategies.

(2) Kent joined in the second year of the project. MCAS and Advisory Service Kent worked collaboratively to support five targeted schools, Sittingbourne Community College, (Swale), Dover Road Primary (Gravesham), Edenbridge Primary (Sevenoaks), Castle Hill Primary (Folkestone) and St Peter's (Folkestone). Each school received £4,000 additional funding to enable them to contribute to the development of effective practice at a national level. The project focused on:-

- Using data to inform planning
- Trialling literacy interventions
- Developing parental and community engagement

The aim of the programme is to improve the quality of provision and rates of attendance, reduce exclusions and raise attainment, for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.

Nationally the following outcomes have been identified:

- Two percentage points increase in attendance for GRT pupils in targeted schools
- Increased rates of progress and an increase in the attainment of GRT pupils in Key Stage 2 and 3 in English, Mathematics and Science in the targeted schools.
- Reduction in exclusions of GRT pupils
- 10% increase in numbers of GRT pupils recorded in the Annual Schools Census.

(3) Schools and services attended national and local network meetings to share good practice and have reported on a Kent two termly basis to the National Strategy Regional Advisor.

Evaluation of 2007/8

2. (1) Kent LA was asked to evaluate the impact of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme on outcomes for children and young people, professional practice and on parental and community engagement. Each school produced a report and the LA produced an overarching report, analysis of the data indicates that Kent is on target to meet the outcomes set out in paragraph 1(2) of this report.

Summary of actions taken by the LA and their outcomes

3. (1) In Kent LA actions were prioritised by a strategic steering group:

- Data on the attainment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children was shared with School Improvement Partners, Primary Excellence Headteachers and Primary Consultants to inform interventions with schools and school improvement planning. *Outcome: In the 5 pilot schools the main interventions from the LA to support school improvement were inclusive of the issues impacting on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller achievement.*
- Operational arrangements to ensure Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children have access to education were agreed as part of the Children Missing Education Protocol and In Year Fair Access Arrangements. *Outcome: the majority of children missing education are found school places within the 20 day timescale set out in the Children Missing Education Protocol.*
- Education Welfare Officers have received training on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller issues to ensure the effective enforcement of attendance and support for children missing education. *Outcome: Education Welfare Officers are able to engage directly with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families or with the support of specialist Family Liaison Officers.*
- Targeted support to pilot schools on the following intervention programmes (Speaking and Listening in the Primary National Strategy, Advanced Learners of EAL Toolkit and the New Arrivals Excellence Programme, Sounds Write). *Outcome: Evaluations from training indicate that professionals feel more confident and empowered to meet the needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.*
- Targeted support for schools in achieving accurate ethnic declaration. *Outcome: Increase in the numbers of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and their families declaring their ethnicity (Schools Census: 2007 and 2008)*
- Members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community worked in partnership with advisory teachers to deliver training to schools and other agencies. *Outcome: Evaluations from training indicate that participants have reflected that their perceptions and prejudices of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community have been challenged and redefined. Members of the community have been confident in contributing to training and multi-agency projects.*

Summary of the actions taken by schools and their outcomes

4. (1) Schools worked collaboratively with advisory teachers and consultants to undertake a self-evaluation and produce an action plan:

Primary

- Analysis of ethnicity, language and faith background and checking with Parents through the Parent Support Adviser to confirm the accuracy.
- Analysis of attendance data to identify mobility patterns
- Consultation with class teachers to establish if Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children can be identified as gifted and talented.
- Implementation of assessment tools for new arrivals including pupil profiling.
- Collation of materials to establish distance learning provision.
- Consultation with parents/carers to establish whether they attend Parent Consultations and any improvements that could be made to facilitate their attendance.
- Strategic use of Parent Support Adviser to ensure that parents are aware of consultation events, Governing Body developments and partnership work with the EWO to improve attendance.
- Employing bilingual staff able to do outreach to new Roma communities.
- High profile introduction of GRT History Month through the introduction of a poster competition by an artist of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller background and the involvement of the Roma Support Group.
- Raising awareness of the nature of racist bullying through partnership teaching during Anti-Bullying Week.
- Develop class teachers' knowledge of speaking and listening strategies and embed within the curriculum.
- Developing guided reading small group work through modelling and discussion
- Reviewing and planning Quality First Teaching to ensure that the needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children can be met
- Review of resources and their use across the schools, one school as a focus on the Art curriculum

Secondary

- Employing a GRT community member as a Student Support Officer with ongoing professional development support and advice from MCAS.
- Outreach to parents from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community by the Student Support Officer.
- Workshop event for the community to celebrate International Roma Day included multi agency contributions and was organised in partnership with the Canterbury Gypsy Support Group.
- Review, verification and dissemination of data relating to target young people to school staff and a focus on personalised learning.
- Sampling of work completed by Gypsy Roma and Traveller children to look at standards and how work is being marked and assessed.
- Modelling of the teaching of spelling and writing strategies through joint support work of MCAS/ASK.
- Modelling the use of effective and challenging questions for use when reading and discussing texts.
- Trialling use of culturally appropriate KS3 resource Kushti Atchin Tan (Romani for 'Good Stopping Place') developed by MCAS with English Heritage.

Outcome reported by schools:

- *Primary schools data showed that for the majority of children their attendance improved although all identify there is more work to be done..*
- *Primary schools attainment data (teacher assessment and SATs) show that the majority of children made progress by at least one national curriculum sub-level.*
- *More accurate data on language, ethnic and faith backgrounds and increased ascription.*
- *Mobility data used to inform the planning of distance learning provision.*
- *Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children are identified as gifted and talented.*
- *Class teachers have used initial assessment data and pupil profiling to improve planning, target setting and are regularly reviewing outcomes..*
- *Primary and secondary schools report increased attendance at parental consultations and have held some targeted events to encourage families to attend.*
- *Class teachers report increased engagement of children and young people in learning as a result of focus on speaking and listening*
- *Senior Leadership Teams in schools embed issues and actions.*
- *Secondary school reports that in Year 10, 8 out of 10 students have personalised learning and two are following an academic programme. This is part of the implementation of the 14-19 Strategy.*

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme September 2008 to July 2009

5. (1) Kent LA has been invited to continue with the programme as a pilot authority for a second year.

(2) The National Strategies have identified the following priorities in 2008/9:

For the Local Authority:

- Increasing the capacity and sustainability at local authority level
- Raising the achievement of GRT pupils in the LA, especially those in targeted programme schools.
- Raising ascription to Gypsy/Roma and Travellers of Irish Heritage categories.
- Reducing exclusions and raising the attendance of GRT pupils especially those in targeted Programme schools.

For schools:

- The use of data to identify underperforming pupils and inform teaching and learning.
- Improved identification of GRT EAL speakers to better inform school data and appropriate target setting and interventions
- Greater use of culturally appropriate resources particularly trialling Kusht Atchin Tan
- The development of Quality First teaching and learning with a focus on literacy development to include literacy interventions where necessary.
- The improved development of effective parent/carer partnerships.
- Successful transfer and transition to and from all Key Stages.¹
- Actions regarding the above priorities will then contribute to improving behaviour and attendance.

(3) Kent LA, in partnership with programme schools, has identified a number of priority actions for 2008/9:

¹ This is a new focus for 2008/9.

- Develop the schools networking meetings to ensure the agenda is focused on the needs of the schools, facilitates sharing of effective practice and is inclusive of the Early Years by involving Children's Centres.
- Further analysis of data to target actions
- Promoting the gathering of more accurate home language data through working in partnership with ASK and LCSPs EMAG staff
- Extend opportunities for joint working between school improvement professionals, specialist and advisory teachers to deliver joint training and programmes of support in schools.
- Develop opportunities for involvement of GRT communities at school and Local Children's Service Partnerships.
- Develop a strategy for rolling out the programme across the Local Authority.
- Focus on speaking and listening and the English as Additional Language Needs of those from oral cultures.
- Build on parental partnerships to promote community cohesion.

6. Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

- (a) Note the progress made by pilot schools.
- (b) Receive a further report on the pilot of the Gypsy Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme at the end of the academic year 2008/9.

Officer details:

Joanna Wainwright, Director of Commissioning (Specialist Services)
 Jenny Robson, Head of Service, Minority Communities Achievement Service
 Ext.4509

This page is intentionally left blank

By: Managing Director (Children, Families and Education)

To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 2nd September 2008

Subject: Update: Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month 2008

Classification: Unrestricted – for information

Summary: This report updates members on the activities that took place in Kent to celebrate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month in 2008.

Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month – June 2008

1. (1) In January 2008 the Department for Children, Schools and Families designated June 2008 as the first Gypsy Roma Traveller Month. This reflects the recognition by Ofsted and other that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are the most marginalised groups who continue to suffer extreme levels of prejudice and discrimination.

The aims of the GRTHM were to:-

- Explain the history and culture of the communities
- To challenge myths and break down barriers
- To celebrate the richness that these communities contribute to everyday life

(2) Following a series of national meetings facilitated by the DCSF, it was agreed that planning would be led by community members on a regional basis. The contact for the South East is Jake Bowers. Kent was represented at regional network planning meetings by an MCAS member of staff and members of the local Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community also attended. This enabled the exchange of information and ideas for the implementation within the region. 'Education Leeds'¹ received funding from the DCSF to establish a website to promote Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month (www.gypsyromatravellerhistorymonth.co.uk)

(3) In Kent, schools were encouraged to take part in a national poster competition led by Education Leeds launched in the House of Lords and endorsed by Lord Adonis, Parliamentary Under Secretary of state for Schools and Learners.

(4) Locally MCAS planned to use the event to draw attention to the projects and developments already in place to promote a greater understanding of Gypsy Roma and Traveller history and achievements, for example, curriculum resources to address the absence of factual information relating to the genocide of Gypsies and Roma in the Holocaust.

(5) CFE Equality and Diversity Strategy Group and the Equalities Lead Officer Group were made aware of the Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month. Members of

¹ Education Leeds is a company contracted to provide education services by Leeds City Council. The Traveller Education for Leeds is provided by 'Education Leeds'.

KCC Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board were briefed at their meeting on the 22nd April 2008.

Activities within Kent

2. (1) Within the SE Region Jake Bowers co-ordinated the production and publication of a GRT History Month magazine with funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. A copy will be circulated at the meeting for members' information.

(2) Within Kent Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month was the catalyst for a whole series of events focused on bringing communities and people together to celebrate and develop a better understanding of history. Events included:

- 15 primary and secondary schools hosted major events, many of which included members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community either in the planning, facilitation or delivery of an aspect of the programme;
- KCC Libraries & Archives hosted displays, story telling and school visits in a number of towns including Cranbrook, Edenbridge, Gravesend, Herne Bay, Margate, New Ash Green, Rusthall, Sittingbourne, Stanhope in Ashford and Swanley. Displays in some libraries also included material from the KCC archive.
- KCC Youth Service and MCAS hosted creative activities at the Emmanuel Baptist Church Youth Club in Gravesham.
- Hawkhurst Film Club promoted a showing of the film 'Kino'.
- Romany Life Centre in Cranbrook and the South East Romany Museum in Marden held Open Days as part of their on-going programme of events.
- Provision of a display by KCC MCAS at the Kent Police College focused on local GRT History.

Promoting Community Cohesion

3. (1) Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month is one of a number of initiatives supportive of KCC and schools statutory duty to promote community cohesion. Schools have had a statutory duty to promote community cohesion since September 2007 and will be inspected on the implementation of the duty from September 2008.

(2) Recent guidance to schools and local authorities² defines community cohesion as working towards 'a society in which there're is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community.'

4. Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

- (a) Note the report for information.
- (b) Consider at a future point plans for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2009.

² DCSF and DCLG: Guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion2007

Officer details:

Joanna Wainwright, Director of Commissioning (Specialist Services)

Jenny Robson, Head of Service, Minority Communities Achievement Service

Ext.4509

This page is intentionally left blank

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services

To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 2 September 2008

Subject: **REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ADDITIONAL PITCH ALLOCATIONS
2006-16**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Bringing Board Members up to date with the Regional Assembly Autumn 2008 consultation on new pitch allocations for inclusion in the South East Plan, and looking ahead.

Background

1. (1) All 75 South Eastern local authorities were required to provide planning advice, in groups, to the Regional Assembly by 15 October 2007, indicating the numbers of pitches required across each of their constituent authority areas, and with one distribution which reflected where the need for accommodation arose and another one which took into account a range of planning constraint considerations. The figures submitted for Kent and Medway are shown in the tables in Appendix 1a & 1b. Following the Regional Assembly rejecting the consultation options early in 2008, authorities were invited to reconsider and make any justifiable changes to what they had submitted in October 2007. Kent and Medway authorities reviewed the data, sought to reconcile the methodologies of the four Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments and found some areas for improvement, including pitch turnover figures for public sites in some areas which had not been taken into account in the original data.

(2) The revised figures submitted for Kent and Medway on 30 April 2008 are also shown in Appendix 1a and 1b, which additionally shows some progress with site provision between 2006 and 2008.

(3) The Regional Assembly discussed the subject on 16 July 2008 and resolved to consult on four options between early September and late November 2008.

(4) Following the consultation, the Assembly will decide what allocations for each authority they think should be inserted into the South East Plan, and, following the relevant processes, the Secretary of State will approve the Plan during 2009.

Autumn 2008 consultation arrangements

2. (1) Following consultation with District Councils and Medway, it has been agreed that there will be 3 public consultation events across Kent, promoted jointly by SEERA, and Kent and Medway authorities, at which Assembly officers will provide material to explain the options, and on which discussion will take place with interested parties.

(2) Tentatively, the meetings are scheduled for late September to mid-October, provisionally in Gravesham, Maidstone and Canterbury.

(3) Invitations will go to a wide range of organisations and individuals, based in part on the stakeholder consultation meetings which were held in 2007.

Progress with provision in Kent (2006-8)

3. (1) Appendix 1a and 1b shows the progress that has already been made in meeting the further site needs identified, between 2006 and 2008. This is entirely based on private sites which have achieved permanent planning consent, usually on appeal.

(2) However, a number of Kent authorities are pursuing expansions to existing publicly-run sites, either of land area (to accommodate more caravans) or of pitch numbers, and these will all assist in meeting needs.

Issues

4. (1) Closely linked to the South East Plan are the Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) which each planning authority must produce, and which need to allocate land for further site needs, as well as demonstrating how adequate site provision to meet need will be accomplished during the timescales laid down.

(2) It is clear that funding for public sites is only guaranteed, in its present form, until 2010/11, and that LDFs may not be produced by that deadline.

(3) It is therefore clear that the authorities which will access the current funding will be those who recognise current need for public sites, and make plans to provide public sites.

The future

5. (1) It is vital that Kent and Medway authorities work closely together to identify needs for sites, work up proposals for public sites, as well as manage unauthorised encampments and unauthorised developments in the interim.

(2) While public sites are most likely to meet the needs of those on unauthorised encampments, local planning authorities considerably strengthen their position in resisting inappropriate unauthorised developments by showing they have addressed the issue of meeting need through public and private site allocations.

(3) In addition, there are the important issues of community cohesion, improving relationships between different communities, and reducing the social tensions that can result from people not having suitable and adequate accommodation over an extended period of time.

(4) Finally, there are the crucial issues of access to services, including health and education provision, and the positive impact that this can have on health and life-expectancy, which have been especially poor for Gypsy and Traveller communities for many years.

Recommendations

6. (1) Members are asked to NOTE the contents and ENDORSE the approach outlined in this report.

Bill Forrester
Head of Gypsy and Traveller Unit
(01622) 221846

Background Documents: None

Revised Option A : Kent and Medway (GTAA Based)

District/GTAA	Original Option A Additional Pitches Years 1-5 (Oct 07)	Original Option A Additional Pitches Years 1-10 (Oct 07)	Revised Need Assessment Years 1-5 Option A (April 08)	Revised Additional Pitches Years 6-10 Option A (April 08)	Revised Total Additional Pitch Provision 2006- 2016 Option A (April 08)	Change in supply post GTAA	Residual Additional Pitch Provision 2006-2016 Option A (April 08)
Ashford	14	22	12	8	20	2	18
Maidstone	32	51	29	19	48	15	33
Ton & Malling	10	15	9	5	14	0	14
Tunbridge Wells	8	12	7	4	11	0	11
West Kent GTAA	64	100	57	36	93	17	76
Sevenoaks	64	89	36	21	57	16	41
Sevenoaks GTAA	64	89	36	21	57	16	41
Dartford	27	38	22	11	33	5	28
Gravesham	15	19	12	4	16	0	16
Medway	10	14	8	4	12	0	12
Swale	62	80	49	15	64	4	60
North Kent GTAA	114	151	91	34	125	9	116
Canterbury	22	32	22	10	32	1	31
Dover	3	6	3	3	6	0	6
Shepway	2	2	2	0	2	0	2
Thanet	4	5	4	1	5	0	5
East Kent GTAA	31	45	31	14	45	1	44
Kent & Medway	273	386	215	105	320	43	277

Revised Option B : Kent and Medway : Alternative Distribution reflecting planning and sustainability factors

District/GTAA Area	Original Option B Additional Pitches Years 1-5 (Oct 07)	Original Option B Additional Pitches Years 1-10 (Oct 07)	Revised Option B Years 1-5 (Apr 08)	Revised Option B Years 6-10 (Apr 08)	Revised Option B 2006-2016 (Apr 08)	Change in supply post GTAA's	Residual Additional Pitch Provision 2006-2016 Option B (Apr 08)
Ashford	31	42	23	9	32	2	30
Maidstone	26	44	21	18	39	15	24
Ton & Malling	24	31	14	6	20	0	20
Tunbridge Wells	13	17	11	4	15	0	15
West Kent GTAA	94	134	69	37	106	17	89
Sevenoaks	8	25	6	16	22	16	6
Sevenoaks GTAA	8	25	6	16	22	16	6
Dartford	21	32	17	10	27	5	22
Gravesham	9	13	9	4	13	0	13
Medway	33	40	26	6	32	0	32
Swale	25	37	20	11	31	4	27
North Kent GTAA	88	122	72	31	103	9	94
Canterbury	28	39	23	10	33	1	32
Dover	23	30	18	6	24	0	24
Shepway	14	16	11	2	13	0	13
Thanet	18	21	16	3	19	0	19
East Kent GTAA	83	106	68	20	89	1	88
Kent & Medway	273	386	215	105	320	43	277

This page is intentionally left blank

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services
 To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 2 September 2008
 Subject: **SECURITY OF TENURE ON PUBLIC TRAVELLER SITES**
 Classification: Unrestricted.

Summary: Bringing the Board up to date on new legislation and the plans for consultation on its details, and its implementation and the impact for Kent Gypsies and Travellers.

Background

1. (1) Since 1983, when the Mobile Homes Act was passed, publicly-provided sites for Gypsies and Travellers have been regulated by a different law from other publicly-provided caravan sites, and private or Park Home sites.

(2) This has resulted in challenges to the different treatment of Gypsies and Travellers, most notably in the successful European Court of Human Rights case of Connors in 2004, and the recent House of Lords decision of Doherty, where judgement was handed down on 30 July 2008.

(3) As a result of the Connors case, the Government agreed to make further improvements to the law on this subject, to promote equal treatment.

The effect of the new Act

2. (1) The Housing and Regeneration Act received the Royal Assent on Tuesday 22 July 2008.

(2) Section 318 of the Act allows the Mobile Homes Act 1983 to apply to caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers provided by local authorities, whether managed directly or under contract.

(3) The Act also allows the Secretary of State to change the way that the 1983 Act applies to such sites, by regulations, after consultation.

Consultation on the details of the changes

3. (1) It is understood that the Communities and Local Government Department (CLG) will produce a consultation paper in August 2008, seeking views on any changes needed, primarily, over the right to assign plots and sell on caravans (both of which the 1983 Act allows) and rights to succession.

Impact on current licensees of public sites

4. (1) The changes to security of tenure are retrospective, so all current licence agreements will need to change, whenever they were entered into.

(2) There are plans for a standard tenancy or licence agreement, to be drawn up by the Communities and Local Government Department, in consultation with stakeholders affected, and then recommended to all public or socially renting site providers of such sites.

(3) It is very likely that there may be a need for local consultation with current public site licensees on the changes, before, with any amendments, they come into effect.

Timescale of change

5. (1) This is not yet clear, but it may be that the above process will enable the changes to be brought into force on 1 April 2009.

Recommendations

6. (1) Members are asked to NOTE and COMMENT on the contents of the report.

Bill Forrester
Head of Gypsy and Traveller Unit
(01622) 221846

Background Documents: None