

**From:** Michael Hill, Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

Simon Jones, Corporate Director - Growth, Environment and Transport

**To:** Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee – 14 March 2023

**Decision No:** N/A – For information only

**Subject:** **Decisions Taken Outside of the Cabinet Committee Meeting Cycle**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member Decision

**Future Pathway of Paper:** N/A

**Electoral Division:** County-wide

**Summary:** The following decision was taken between meetings of the Growth, Economic Development and Cabinet Committee as it could not be reasonably deferred to the next programmed meeting of the Cabinet Committee for the reasons set out in paragraph 2.3 below.

**Recommendation:**

The Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee is asked to note that decision 23/0008: Gypsy and Traveller Service Improvement Project was taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process in Part 2 paragraph 12.36 of the Council's Constitution.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Decision 23/0008: Gypsy and Traveller Service Improvement Project was taken between meetings of the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee, as it could not reasonably be deferred.

**2. Background and Reason for Urgency**

- 2.1 The Department for Levelling Up and Housing and Communities Traveller Fund was launched in May 2022 and welcomed bids for improvement and development projects on designated Gypsy and Traveller Sites. The national fund was £10million, and Local Authorities were invited to bid for individual projects not exceeding £1million per bid. Due to the limited amount of funding available, and being the first opportunity of its kind, there was a lot of interest in applying for the competitive fund.

- 2.2 The Gypsy and Traveller Service submitted 7 individual bids, totalling £3.8million and were successful in all of them. All of the project plans will provide essential improvements and maintenance on site, which will ensure KCC is providing residential sites that are safe and well maintained.
- 2.3 Due to the numerous changes in central government last year, the decision around the award was delayed. It was only advised to us on 23rd December 2022 that all of our bids had been successful and have been awarded £3.8m capital grant. Consequently, the stipulated timeframe for accepting the funding awarded was extremely short (13th January 2023). A short extension to the initial deadline was agreed to enable KCC to complete its formal governance process to accept the grant but this was still outside the meetings timetable for this Cabinet Committee.

### 3. Recommendation(s)

The Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee is asked to note that decision 23/0008 – Gypsy and Traveller Service Improvement Project was taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process set out in Part 2 paragraph 12.36 of the Council’s constitution.

### 4. Background Documents

[Decision - 23/0008 - Gypsy and Traveller Service Improvement Project \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)

### 5. Contact details:

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