

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Adult Social Services

To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 30 November 2007

Subject: **PROJECT UPDATES: SITES IN SWALE AND TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGHS**

Classification: Unrestricted.

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Summary: A report of progress with two major projects where KCC and the relevant Borough Councils are working jointly.

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## **Background**

1. Of the seven local authority sites for Gypsies and Travellers owned by KCC, the Three Lakes site at Murston, Sittingbourne in Swale Borough is the one that has remained without improvements longest of any (it was built in 1990), and it is the one most in need of very substantial improvement, redevelopment or relocation.
2. The Coldharbour site in Aylesford was first built in 1981 and has consent for 26 caravans on 22 pitches. However, it is currently in use as an eight pitch site for a maximum of 16 caravans. The amenity blocks for the 8 pitches were replaced in 1998. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has a need for a likely further 10 pitches projected for the years until 2011, and there is therefore a strong case for redeveloping, expanding and/or relocating the site in the same general area.

## **Partnership arrangements**

3. Project Boards have been established for both the above projects, involving KCC and the relevant Borough Council in each case. Consideration is also being given to the involvement of other relevant partners appropriate to each project.
4. Options appraisal has been carried out for each project, considering the risks and benefits of no action, redeveloping the site in its current location and moving it to a new location.

## **Revenue Funding arrangements**

5. The costs of the projects are to be shared between the relevant authorities.

## **Capital Funding**

6. We are currently awaiting the bidding guidance from Communities and Local Government for 2008/9, and it is anticipated that bids will be made in autumn 2008 for both these projects.

## **Conclusions**

7. Both projects will enable both increased provision and higher-quality sites.
8. Both will assist the relevant local and planning authorities in meeting the needs identified by the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments covering their respective areas, and in contributing towards the pitch allocations which will be included within the South East Plan in 2009.

## **Recommendations**

9. Members are asked to:
  - a) Note the above report
  - b) Endorse the approaches taken to achieve successful new site provision
  - c) Support successful bids for grant in 2008, subject to further updates on progress

*Background Papers: None*

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