

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services
To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 11 February 2010
Subject: **MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR MAIDSTONE BOROUGH PUBLIC SITES**
Classification: Unrestricted.

Summary: A report about the transfer of the management of Maidstone Borough Council's caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers to the KCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit

Background

1. (1) Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) owns and operates two caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers, Stilebridge Lane, Marden with 18 pitches and Water Lane, Ulcombe, with 14 pitches, both of them established in the 1960's, and refurbished (and in the Marden case expanded by six pitches) since then.

(2) As part of an overall review of its budget, MBC's officers approached the Gypsy and Traveller Unit in KCC about the possibility of taking on the contract for management of these two sites.

(3) The proposed transfer date would be 1 April 2010, or a date very close to that.

Financial Implications

2. (1) The detailed contract is specifically for the provision of management services, and the amount which MBC will pay KCC will cover the full costs of staffing and make a contribution to senior management costs.

(2) The ownership of the sites will remain with MBC, as will the risks involved in being the freehold owner.

Duration and Termination

3. (1) It is proposed that the Agreement shall continue for a period of three years and either party may terminate the Agreement at any time by giving to the other not less than three months written notice.

Staffing

4. (1) KCC is currently recruiting new site managers and, providing the transfer of management is agreed, there will be adequate staff to manage the two Maidstone sites.

Conclusions

5. (1) This is an excellent example of partnership between the two authorities. KCC can provide these management services at less cost than the current agency contract that MBC has. These are sites that were previously managed by the KCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit (until 2004), and fit well, both in type and geography, with its other services. There is more flexibility of staffing and other resources possible within a larger team managing ten sites overall. The links with other partner agencies that the KCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit already has can assist with the management of these sites.

Recommendations

6. (1) Members of the Advisory Board are asked to endorse the recommendation to support this transfer, likely to take effect from early April 2010, and advise the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services accordingly, so that he can take this into account when taking a decision on this matter.

Bill Forrester
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Background Papers: None