

JOINT AUTHORITIES GYPSY AND TRAVELLER PANEL (JAGTP)**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report seeks the nomination by Cabinet of a Member to represent this Council on the Joint Authorities Gypsy and Traveller Panel.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Joint Authorities Gypsy and Traveller Panel (JAGTP) is being resurrected by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association to consider cross-boundary matters relating to the gypsy and travelling communities. JAGTP is a forum for sharing information and exploring common approaches aimed at addressing the issues relating to travellers.
- 2.2 The JAGTP Panel last met in 2008, but the recent publication of a new assessment of accommodation needs for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople has highlighted the need for local authorities to work collaboratively to address their accommodation needs and to consider issues relating to unauthorised encampments.
- 2.3 Government policy requires that local authorities assess the accommodation needs of travellers and establish targets for provision in the light of these assessments. The Council has collaborated with other Hampshire authorities to commission a report on the accommodation needs of travellers. In April this year the Travellers Accommodation Assessment for Hampshire (TAAfH) was published. The TAAfH recommends pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for showpeople which the Council should use as the basis for making provision. Provision is being made in the Council's Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management. The implications for this Council of the TAAfH assessment will be outlined in a report to Cabinet in September detailing proposed changes to the Local Plan Part 2 on this and other matters.
- 2.4 A copy of the Draft Terms of Reference for JAGTP are provided as a background paper to this report. The Draft Terms of Reference specify that 'Only the elected constituent members of the JAGTP may vote on any recommendation or business of the Panel.'

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL, FINANCIAL, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY, CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Gypsies and travellers are recognised minority groups. Under housing and planning legislation the Council is required to assess the accommodation needs of travellers and to make appropriate provision to meet their needs. The Council must also satisfy a 'duty to cooperate' test in taking forward its planning strategies. The Council is also involved in dealing with unauthorised encampments which can arise as a result of lack of available permanent or transit accommodation for travellers. JAGTP will facilitate collaboration with neighbouring authorities in making appropriate provision of accommodation which can reduce the incidence of unauthorised encampments, reduce

the costs to the Council in dealing with them and avoid or reduce conflicts which may arise between travellers and the settled community.

4.0 PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

I welcome the opportunity for this Council to work with colleagues across the County to progress this important issue.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

The Cabinet appoint a Member to represent the Council on the Joint Authorities Gypsy and Traveller Panel

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Background Papers:

Hampshire Joint Authorities
Gypsy and Traveller Panel
Draft Terms of Reference

HAMPSHIRE JOINT AUTHORITIES' GYPSY AND TRAVELLER PANEL (JAGTP)

Draft Terms of Reference

1. To assist the Hampshire and Isle of Wight authorities (HIOWLGA)* to develop and maintain a joint policy in relation to Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and their communities.
2. To advise HIOWLGA on planning, housing and other matters related to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People, including responses to Government and other consultations.
3. To highlight the impact of policies relating to Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Show People and how these should be incorporated into Local and Regional Development Frameworks.
4. To identify a coordinated and integrated approach in planning for and providing appropriate facilities for Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Show People.
5. To advise on enforcement procedures in relation to unauthorised encampments.
6. To advise HIOWLGA on lobbying Regional and Central Government on issues relating to Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Show People in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
7. To receive reports from standing officer groups, including the Strategic Housing Officers' Group and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Planning Officers' Group as necessary to assist the work of the Panel.
8. To report occasionally to the full HIOWLGA Local Government Association on the work of the Panel.
9. Membership of the JAGTP shall be one elected representative (or deputy) appointed by each of the constituent Councils from whom a Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected at the first meeting in each municipal year. Further members attend from the constituent Hampshire Councils, authorities, agencies and representative bodies as named below.
10. Up to three representatives of the local gypsy and traveller community as observers.
11. Only the elected constituent members of the JAGTP may vote on any recommendation or business of the Panel.
12. The JAGTP shall normally meet twice annually, with additional meetings as may be required, at the discretion of HIOWLGA or the Chairman.
13. Minute taking facilities will be provided by the District Council hosting the meeting; secretaryship will be provided by one of the constituent authorities..
14. The JAGTP shall be accountable to HIOWLGA, who shall take account of but not be bound by any recommendation of the JAGTP.

* (HIOWLGA authorities include County, Unitary and District Councils, Parish and Town Council Associations, Police and Fire Authorities, the National Park Authorities and the South Downs Joint Committee insofar as Hampshire is concerned but the remit covers other authorities such as Health and Environment Agency)