

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr Groves

18 May 2015

Councillor Susan Elsmore & Councillor Ramesh Patel  
Cabinet Members  
c/o Room 520  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW



Dear Susan & Ramesh

### **Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 13 May 2015**

Thank you for attending the above committee and for supplying a progress report detailing the work to date on the accepted recommendations of this Committee's 'Provision of Accommodation for Gypsy & Traveller Households in Cardiff' Inquiry (2011). This letter captures the agreed comments, observations and recommendations of the Committee.

Members note the work to date in addressing the agreed recommendations, namely: assessing the need for accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers in line with Welsh Government guidance; agreeing site selection criteria; using these to assess potential sites; including a site to meet short term need in the Deposit LDP; and including a criteria based policy for assessing any future proposals for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the Deposit LDP in order to meet long term need.

Members also note that interim works have been undertaken at the Rover Way Gypsy & Traveller site to maintain and improve site conditions compared to 2010/11. This is welcomed albeit that Members recognise these works can never be sufficient to meet the fundamental difficulties that flow from the position and scale of the Rover Way site. Members await the results of the Coastal Erosion report with interest, given its relevance to the expected life of the site. Members also note the position with regard to the recommended footpath for this site and that work is being undertaken to explore other possible funding routes.

However, Members note that the site included in the Deposit LDP was rejected by the LDP Examination Inspectors due to its location and that therefore there is no site currently identified to meet short term need. Members note that the LDP Inspectors charged the Council to prepare a position statement, by the end of April 2015, which detailed the mechanisms and timescales for delivering the 108 pitches required to meet Gypsy & Traveller accommodation needs up to 2026, the duration of the LDP.

Members note that the Council has submitted a position statement that proposes a project group, chaired by Sarah McGill, be established to ensure that sites are identified and planning permission and funding secured, by May 2017 for short term need and May 2021 for long term need.

Members recognise the need for this, given that the proposed site has been rejected, but are concerned that the impact of this is that Gypsies and Travellers who are in housing need, who have already been waiting for a significant period of time for appropriate accommodation, will now have to wait a further two years. This, coupled with the fact that Gypsies and Travellers have some of the lowest life chances in our population which are exacerbated by poor accommodation, is troubling, particularly but not exclusively in the key quality of life areas of education and health. Members appreciate the details given at the meeting of the mitigating actions that are being taken but none of these can entirely ameliorate the impact of inadequate provision.

Members wish to be informed of the LDP Examination Inspectors response to the proposed position statement and ask that this be communicated as soon as possible, in the response to this letter.

Members will be recommending to a future Committee that they include a progress report on this area in their work programme for 2015/16.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID GROVES**

**Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: Sarah McGill Jane Thomas Ian Ephraim  
Andrew Gregory James Clemence Stuart Williams  
Claire Deguara Liz Patterson Helen Warren  
Cheryl Cornelius Nick Blake