

**CABINET – 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2012****LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED  
GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES IN LEICESTER****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise the Cabinet of the current position regarding Leicester City Council's consultation on the establishment of up to 3 potential new authorised Gypsy and Travellers sites which are close to the City/County boundary.

**Background**

2. Members will be aware that the Leicester City Council began consultation on establishing more authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites to help prevent unauthorised camps. Unauthorised camps are a particular problem in the north west of the City and a cause real concern for local residents. Three potential sites were identified as follows:-
  - Greengate Lane;
  - Beaumont Way; and
  - Red Hill Way.
3. In response to this consultation the attached report (marked 'JJ') was prepared for consideration by the Cabinet. Since the report was drafted the City Mayor issued a Press Statement on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the content of which is set out below:

***City Mayor widens investigation into travellers' sites***

*'The search for transit gypsies' and travellers' sites in Leicester is to be extended.*

*City Mayor Peter Soulsby has asked the council's economic development, culture and tourism scrutiny commission to look at the proposals, to ensure the widest possible consideration has taken place.*

*He has also asked for details of officers' earlier investigations to be published on the council's website so that city and county residents can see the full extent of the work done so far.*

*Peter Soulsby said: "Having listened to the concerns raised, and*

*taken account of the comments our consultation has generated, before taking any decisions I want people to be assured that we have explored every possible opportunity in finding suitable sites.*

*"Although our aim was to have these much-needed sites in place as soon as possible, the funding will still be available to us if we extend our search and consultation to ensure we have been as thorough as we possibly can.*

*"The scrutiny commission has already asked for details of all of the areas identified. I have now asked them to carry out a thorough review of them all, with a view to establishing whether there are alternatives available to the ones the officers have identified for consultation."*

*The council will be publishing on its website details of the 350 areas it identified at the start of its search. All are on council-owned land.*

*It will also publish questions and answers that have been frequently asked during the consultation, and responses to freedom of information requests about the potential sites.*

*Peter Soulsby said: "We've had many requests for information, so I've asked officers to publish everything in one place on the website. This will take a little time to assemble, but we will publish it as soon as we can."*

*The consultation period has now been extended to Friday 13th July 2012.*

*More information will be published on the council's website at [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk) over the next two weeks.'*

### **Recommendations**

4. In view of the recent announcement by Leicester City Council, the Cabinet is asked to:
  - a) Note the current position;
  - b) Note that it will be kept informed of developments as they emerge and affect the County.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

5. To ensure that the County Council views are made known to the City Council in relation to any future consultation concerning the impact on the County of the provision of Gypsies and Travellers sites.

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