

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** Gypsy Roma and Traveller Policy  
Unauthorised Encampments

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 28th November 2017

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Dave Downie.

**CMT Member:** Carole Burgoyne, Strategic Director for People

**Author:** Malisa Collyer, Strategic Manager Community Connections

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**Ref:**

**Key Decision:** No

**Part:**

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### **Purpose of the report:**

This report presents Plymouth City Council policy for dealing with Gypsy Roma and Traveller unauthorised encampments with the aim of reducing the impact on the city.

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### **The Corporate Plan 2016 - 19:**

The policy relates to the City Vision in providing good quality accommodation for the Gypsy Roma and Traveller community when needed and providing a strategic approach to managing unauthorised encampments. This provision of stopping places meets our priorities for Growing Plymouth in providing a broad range of homes and Caring Plymouth in creating inclusive communities and respecting people's wishes.

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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land:**

Cost avoidance could be realised through a reduction in the number of unauthorised encampments and a subsequent clear up costs in the long term. It is the intention that the temporary and negotiated stopping places incur charges for the residents and as such will contribute towards the cost of managing the stopping places.

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### **Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:**

The lack of suitable policy severely hampers the City Council's ability to manage unauthorised encampments, and prevents the Police from using their powers to move on.

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## **Equality and Diversity**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Yes

EIA will be completed for Policy and subsequent selected site(s)

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## **Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

It is recommended that Plymouth City Council:

1. Gypsy Roma and Traveller Unauthorised Encampment Policy is approved subject to consultation on the policy via the scrutiny process.
2. Identification of sites for temporary stopping places progresses once JLP inspection has completed.

Please see Policy.

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## **Alternative options considered and rejected:**

Continuing with existing procedure and lack of policy is not a viable option because:

- An unplanned, ad hoc and reactive approach will continue to incur costs, arising from dealing with unauthorised encampments, and stronger powers cannot be employed without stopping places.
  - An unplanned approach is inconsistent with commitments in the Corporate Plan and will damage the reputation of the City Council as a progressive forward thinking authority.
  - Unauthorised encampments will continue to cause upset in both the traveller and settled communities, and tensions will remain.
  - Gypsy and Traveller needs will not be met and therefore significant inequalities will remain.
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## **Published work / information:**

[Gypsy and traveller sites consultation document 31 March - 12 May 2009, Plymouth city council Department of development](#)  
[PBA - Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Assessment Study - Final Report](#)  
Joint Local Plan

## **Background papers:**

Strategic Land Review 2016 (Hyperlink Unavailable)

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**Sign off:** comment must be sought from those whose area of responsibility may be affected by the decision, as follows (insert references of Finance, Legal and Monitoring Officer reps, and of HR, Corporate Property, IT and Strat. Proc. as appropriate):

Fin	djn17 18.13 4	Leg	29414 HMI7 .11.17	Mon Off	29430/DVS	HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: Matt Garret, Head of Community Connections													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													