RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

i. careful consideration is given to the representations received on the draft of the Eastleigh Borough Travelling Communities Development Plan Document which are set out in a summary form in the schedule at Appendix 1 to this report;

ii. the officer comments on those representations, as also set out in the schedule, are noted and used to further develop the strategy and policies for meeting the needs of travelling communities; and

iii. work ceases on preparing a separate Travelling Communities DPD, with the evidence gathered from this consultation and further work to meet travelling communities needs being taken forward within the new Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2011-2036;

Summary

This report draws attention to the most significant issues raised in the representations received in response to the recent consultation on the draft Eastleigh Borough Travelling Communities Development Plan Document published in December 2014. A schedule setting out all the representations received on the draft DPD is appended to this report in Appendix 1. Officer comments on the representations are also set out in the schedule. The outcomes of this consultation will inform the preparation of the new Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2011-2036.

Statutory Powers
Localism Act 2011
The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present all the representations received on the Draft Travelling Communities DPD together with officer comments to those representations. It is proposed that work to meet the needs of travelling communities is continued in preparation of the new Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2011-2036, informed by the evidence gathered from the recent consultation.

Consultation

2. The Draft Eastleigh Borough Council Travelling Communities Development Plan Document consultation ran from Monday 1\textsuperscript{st} December 2014 to Monday 2\textsuperscript{nd} February 2015. Details of the consultation programme, including the dates of the public exhibitions, were publicised in the Borough News, by press release and by posters and leaflets made available to local libraries and parish and town council offices. Site notices were also displayed at the sites proposed to be allocated for development.

3. A total of approximately 210 visitors to the exhibitions were recorded. A total of 124 individual representations from 108 respondents were received by the close of the consultation period.

Representations on the draft Travelling Communities DPD

4. A schedule summarising all the representations received on the Draft Travelling Communities DPD is at Appendix 1 to this report. The schedule includes officer comments on these representations.

5. The most significant issues raised in the representations on the Draft Travelling Communities DPD are as follows:

   - General objections to **principle of allocating sites**
   - Concerns raised regarding the identified preferred **spatial strategy**, in particular the proposed allocation of existing unauthorised sites
   - Concerns about the suitability of the proposed site allocations, most notably:
     - **Land at Cockpit Farm**, Horton Heath (policy TC9). Members should be aware that the site has been withdrawn by the landowners.
     - **Land at the junction of Botley Road and Bursledon Road**, Southampton (policy TC11). Objections are primarily from nearby residents; and
     - **Land at Kestrel Farmhouse, Grange Road**, Netley (policy TC12). Objections are primarily from the existing community in the area.
Proposed Responses

6. The schedule of representations at Appendix 1 to this report includes officer comments on all of the representations received.

Next Steps

7. Preparation of a new Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2011-2036 provides an opportunity for the needs of travelling communities, and associated site allocations, to be considered and developed alongside the needs of other communities’. Addressing communities’ needs together in a single document is consistent with Public Sector Equality Duty and will support development of a Plan to address sustainable development needs of the borough up to 2036. Whilst this will delay adoption of planning policy document for addressing the needs of travelling communities, progressing this DPD in isolation is not considered to be a prudent use of resources, or in the best interests of planning for sustainable development of the borough.

Financial Implications

8. Continuing to progress a separate Travelling Communities DPD would require consultation on a pre-submission version of the document and then examination by a Planning Inspector. These processes would result in additional costs to the Council compared to the alternative of incorporating the policies and site allocations into the Local Plan 2011-2036. As such, the cost to the Council would be reduced in progressing site allocations to meet the needs of the travelling communities.

Risk Assessment

9. In order to minimise the risk of any legal challenge to the process adopted by the Council for the preparation of the Travelling Communities DPD, members should take into account all of the representations on the draft document, and all other material considerations in agreeing how the needs of travelling communities will be addressed in future policy documents.

10. Members should also consider that not proceeding with the DPD will delay having an adopted planning document to address the needs of travelling communities. Nevertheless, proceeding with the DPD in isolation of the Local Plan risks failing to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. The needs of travelling communities would be incorporated into the Equalities Impact Assessment of the new Local Plan 2011-2036.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken on the Travelling Communities DPD. There were no issues arising from the assessment. The risk assessment has highlighted the equality and diversity implications of proceeding or not with the DPD (see paragraph 10 above).
Conclusions

12. This report and its appendix present for members, in summary form, all of the representations received in respect of the draft Travelling Communities DPD and officer comments to those representations. It is recommended that members note these comments and that, in the best interests of sustainable development, work to meet the needs of the travelling communities is continued in preparation of the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2011-2036. Evidence gathered as part of the recent consultation will be used to inform this future work.

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Appendices Attached: 1
Report No: PP000154

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information:

None