

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**27 APRIL 2010**

**REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OFFICER**

**Report prepared by Esther Bell**

**1. Gypsy and Traveller Sites Written Update**

1.1 Issue for Consideration

1.1.1 To consider the requested written update on Gypsy and Traveller Sites.

1.2 Recommendation of Overview and Scrutiny Officer

1.2.1 That the Committee considers the written update, attached at **Appendix A** of the Spatial Policy Planning Manager, Michael Thornton and make recommendations as it sees fit.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

1.3.1 At its meeting on 26 January 2010, the Regeneration and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered its future work programme and agreed to receive an update on gypsy and traveller sites. The relevant extract of the draft minutes of the meeting are as follows:

“The Committee considered its future work programme and noted that it only had 3 meetings left in the municipal year. Members considered possible items it could review following the removal of the contaminated land review item and agreed to consider an update on ‘Gypsy and Traveller Sites’ at its next meeting.”

1.3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Officer contacted the Spatial Policy Planning Manager regarding the requested update and was advised that more information would be available for Members if the update was postponed to a later meeting. At its meeting on the 23 February 2010, Members agreed to receive the update at its meeting on 27 April 2010.

1.3.3 In consultation with the Chairman, it was agreed that the Committee receive a written update as the anticipated progress had not yet been made and therefore only a limited update would be available.

1.4 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

1.4.1 The Committee could choose not to consider the update, however this could diminish knowledge of the work undertaken to develop gypsy and traveller sites.

1.5 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.5.1 The Council's Strategic Plan 2009-12 lists "improving communications and delivery of services to gypsy and traveller communities" as a key objective within the "Homes and Communities" topic.

1.6 Risk Management

1.6.1 There are no risks associated with the Committee considering the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Update.

1.7 Other Implications

1.7.1

1. Financial
2. Staffing
3. Legal
4. Equality Impact Needs Assessment
5. Environmental/Sustainable Development
6. Community Safety
7. Human Rights Act
8. Procurement
9. Asset Management


1.8 Relevant Documents

1.8.1 Appendices

## Appendix A – Written Gypsy and Traveller Sites Update