

**These Minutes should be referred to in conjunction with the Minutes of the subsequent meeting of the Council, where they are presented; and for completeness to the next relevant meeting when the Minutes are adopted.**

ELMBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION MAKING - LEISURE AND CULTURE

Report of decisions taken on 28 April 2017

Present:

Mrs. J.R. Turner (Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture)

3/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MATTER OF REPORT

4/16 UPDATED JOINT TRAVELLER AND GYPSY PROTOCOL

(Link to Council Priorities: LC100)

In light of the number of unauthorised traveller and gypsy camps within Elmbridge during the spring and summer of 2016, the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture considered a report and protocol that had been updated to take into account the most recent legislation and other good practice from neighbouring authorities.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased to note that the installation of physical security measures at each of the previous camps had now been completed. A small residual sum was still available should additional sites be identified during 2017. Further works were also planned at Waterside Drive as similar issues with homeless / camper vans in this location had arisen.

Given that some of the unauthorised camps in 2016 had been prolonged in nature and by the same group, the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services advised that a new approach had been trialled whereby such groups, would be served with a Community Protection Warning followed by a Community Protection Notice. The Portfolio Holder noted that in 2016, one group was served such a notice and it was confirmed that the notice was still in effect should they return in 2017. The Joint Elmbridge Borough Council Traveller and Gypsy Protocol had been updated to include this new approach although it would be dependent on the circumstances of the encampment as to whether this action would be taken.

The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services also took the opportunity to provide a brief update in respect of the Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer (GTLO) role which included meeting with the travellers to ascertain what their needs were in terms of welfare, education and housing. In this regard, the Portfolio Holder acknowledged the need for additional resilience to support the existing Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer (GTLO) role given the prolonged spate of unauthorised camps in 2016. It was noted that the Council had only 2 active GTLOs and in

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order to increase the resilience and ability to respond effectively in the event of another summer of prolonged unauthorised incursions, a professional company had been procured to provide support carrying out the initial welfare checks.

Whilst noting that this company would only be used in the event of leave and sickness or following a sustained number of incursions, the Portfolio Holder supported this new approach which it was noted would be met from within existing budgets and would be reviewed at the end of the summer to assess the effectiveness and total cost of this service compared to internal resources.

On consideration of the updated Protocol, the Portfolio Holder supported the revisions and accordingly,

RESOLVED that the revised Joint Elmbridge Borough Council Traveller and Gypsy Protocol be adopted.

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The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 9.45 am

MRS. J.R. TURNER  
Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture

Democratic Services Officer

Mrs. T. Hulse

Principal Committee and Member Services Officer

Other Officers in attendance

I. Burrows

Head of Leisure and Cultural Services

A. Harrison

Head of Legal Services