



SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 31 JANUARY 2007

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR TRANSIT AND STOPPING
PLACE PROVISION FOR GYPSIES AND OTHER TRAVELLERS**

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the views of the Commission on the Cabinet's decision to apply for a grant to develop up to two transit sites for Gypsies and other Travellers in Leicestershire.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. At its meeting on 16 January 2007 the Cabinet considered the attached report by the Director of Resources. In considering the matter, the Cabinet took account of the following comments of members:

- (a) Mr. D. C. Bill CC and Mr. D. O. Wright CC commented as follows:

As County Councillors representing the Hinckley division, we wish to point out that the Hinckley & Bosworth area already hosts about half the travellers in the County and we suggest that there should be no further action in submitting a bid for a transit site within the area until the communities likely to be affected have been consulted.

We request that our views are fully taken into account and noted in the records.

- (b) Mrs. L. A. S. Pendleton CC did not comment on the merits of the sites but expressed the hope that Leicestershire Constabulary and the relevant Parish Councils be consulted prior to submission of a bid.
3. The Cabinet resolved:
 - (a) That an application be made to the Department for Communities and Local Government via the Regional Housing Group of the East Midlands Regional Assembly for a grant to develop a transit site in North West Leicestershire for Gypsies and other Travellers;

- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Director of Resources following the completion of technical studies of the proposed sites at Hemington and Lockington to determine the site for which a bid is to be made;
- (c) That the County Council's intention to work jointly with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to submit a further bid for a transit site within the Borough, be included in the application form;
- (d) That the views of the Constabulary on the suitability of the sites be confirmed before any bid is made; and
- (e) That, although the sites in North West Leicestershire are not within the Parish boundary, Castle Donington Parish Council be fully consulted on this proposal.

Recommendation

- 4. The Scrutiny Commission is recommended to comment on the Cabinet's proposal. Any comments will be reported to the Cabinet prior to a bid being submitted, by 28 February 2007.

Equal Opportunities Implications

- 5. This development will provide services for an under-privileged sector of society.

Background Papers

Report to Cabinet on 16 January 2007.

Circulation under the Sensitive Issues Procedure

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