

PROFORMA

Local Action Mini Review request

Please refer to the Briefing and guidance notes before completing this form. You do not have to use this form

From:	Councillor Andrew Rendle
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Signed:	Date: 6 July 2015

Background:

Recent encampments by Travellers in the borough identified what appeared to be a lack of understanding of Traveller community needs and a lack of coordination by public bodies on how to respond to unauthorised encampments. There appears to be a one size fits all approach to a community of communities which is not homogenous.

Lines of Enquiry:

To:

- a) Review current policies and mechanisms (including legislation) for managing issues related to the Travelling Community(ies) including the Croydon Unauthorised Encampment Policy (April 2013);
- b) Consider the roles and responsibilities of each agency involved including the powers and duties that exist and who holds those powers;
- c) Review best practice (including a possible visit) around matters relating to the co-existence of the Travelling Community and local residents'
- d) Gather evidence from interested groups, including travellers (see below); and
- e) Review the progress (challenges and barriers) in identifying sites within the borough in relation to delivering **SP2.7** which states that the Council will seek to deliver ten additional Gypsy and Travellers pitches in the borough by 2021 to meet the need of Croydon's Gypsy and Traveller community and that this will be achieved by allocating land for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals DPD.

Possible questions:

- a) What do travellers need when they visit Croydon and why do they use certain spaces?
- b) What provision do we offer and what do we need to do to improve the provision?
- c) What other needs do Travellers have when they visit Croydon and does the Council and its partner organisations fulfil these?
- d) What do other local authorities offer and what can Croydon learn from best practice?
- e) Why do unauthorised encampments occur and what are our procedures for removing unauthorised encampments?
- f) How can we create a relationship with the Travelling community (ies) so we can prevent unauthorised encampments?
- g) What are the different traveller communities and how can this insight help in working with traveller communities?

Possible contributors to include:

- Travellers inc.
 - Yvonne MacNamara, CEO, The Traveller Movement
 - National Traveller Advisory Group
 - Irish Traveller Movement
- Showmen's Guild
- Landowners inc. Croydon Council and planning officers
- Partner agencies and organisations inc.
 - Public health and other health/ welfare organisations
 - Sarah Clark – Traveller Advisory Teacher, Croydon Traveller Education Service (TES)
- Police contact for Gypsies and Travellers
- Legal Officers
- Residents from areas that have been affected by traveller camps

Scope and timing of the Mini Review:

Outline timetable:

Develop scoping document	July-August
Desk research	August-September
Presentation to Scrutiny and Overview Committee	8 September 2015 meeting
Investigative meeting (1 day)	September
Draft report	September-October
Report to Scrutiny and Overview Committee	3 November 2015 meeting
Cabinet (Stage 1) for noting	16 November 2015
Cabinet (Stage 2) response to recommendations	21 March 2016
Cabinet response to Scrutiny & Overview Committee	22 March 2016

Please send the completed form to:

The Chairs of Scrutiny – Councillors Sean Fitzsimons, Sara Bashford and Carole Bonner
c/o Scrutiny Team, Democratic Services, 4th Floor, Zone G, Bernard Weatherill House,
8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA or email it to: scrutiny@croydon.gov.uk