

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Tuesday, 17 September 2019

Decision No: (CAB 19/20 24060)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	HOMES & CULTURE
SUBJECT:	ALLOCATIONS POLICY AND GYPSY TRAVELLER SITE ALLOCATION POLICY
AUTHOR:	LIZ SLATER, STEVE SMITH

THE DECISION

- (i) To consider and approve the Allocations Policy.
- (ii) To consider and approve the Gypsy & Travellers Site Allocation Policy.
- (iii) Subject to recommendations (i) and (ii) being agreed, to delegate authority to the relevant Service Director to, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, make minor technical amendments to the policy in line with any legislative changes or for the purpose of clarification.
- (iv) Subject to recommendations (i) and (ii) being agreed, to delegate authority to the relevant Service Director to, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, update the points systems in either policy to respond to local demand.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. The Allocations Policy has not been reviewed since 2016 and, therefore, does not reflect the council's latest position in terms of regulation and processes. The updated policy does not represent any fundamental changes to the policy or service, but instead clarifies what the council is already doing and brings together a number of incremental changes brought forward through delegated powers. The policy has also been updated to reflect the latest legislation in terms of the allocation of social housing.
2. The Gypsy & Travellers Site Allocation Policy does not represent any significant change service and has been brought in line with processes and legislation. This will allow the council to continue to allocate pitches at Kanes Hill and ensure they are allocated fairly and proportionately.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. An alternative option is to not review and update the two policies. This option is not recommended as it could put the council at risk of legal challenge, as current policies do not accurately reflect processes or latest legislation.
2. An alternative considered and rejected was to add a section to the general Allocations Policy which would address allocation for travellers at Kaneshill, with a procedure for staff. This is different to what is being proposed, which is two completely separate policies, one for general allocations and another for the allocation of pitches at Kaneshill. The differences are substantial enough to warrant their own policies. Namely, to be eligible for a plot at Kaneshill a person must be:
 - From a gypsy / traveller background (not a stipulation in the general policy)
 - There is no residential condition applied to travellers requesting pitches at Kaneshill. This differs from the main Allocation Policy requirement of 3 years residence within the Southampton boundary
 - Specific consideration given to additional relevant legislation relating to Gypsies & Travellers
 - Assessment of applications is managed by the Thornhill Housing Office not the Allocations Service
 - There is a separate application form.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 17th September,
2019

Decision Maker:
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:
Claire Heather

SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*