Gypsy and Traveller Policy

On 6th November 2013 Cabinet resolved that:
(i) The Council will continue with the search for a transit site
(ii) Take up Robert Syms MP offer to arrange a meeting with the Home Office and DCLG (invitations to be extended to Conor Burns MP and Annette Brooke OBE MP) to consider varying the law regarding the boundaries for the search and location of transit sites particularly to facilitate the different position of urban Unitary Authorities such as Poole and Bournemouth
(iii) The Council will consider searching for Temporary Stopping sites within Poole
(iv) The Council’s Head of Legal & Democratic Services will consider the legal position regarding the potential use of pre-emptive injunctions on certain sensitive sites.
(v) The Council will consider the option of providing toilets and skips on unauthorised encampments and consider any resulting financing options as part of this
(vi) The Council will review communications and the provision of better access to information about unauthorised encampments on the Borough of Poole website

On 29th April 2014 Cabinet resolved that:
(i) The progress of the Six Point Plan as outlined in the attached Report be noted.
(ii) That the following six sites are urgently expedited for increased protection against unauthorised incursions: Whitecliff, Baiter, Verity Crescent, Broadstone Recreation Ground, Branksome Recreation Ground and Haskells Recreation Ground.
(iii)(a) That the work to improve the protection of the six sites in (ii) above is funded from the budget previously allocated towards Temporary Stopping Places.
(iii)(b) That the exact detail and nature of the expenditure be delegated to the Head of Environmental and Consumer Protection Services who is requested to limit the expenditure to the minimum necessary to enhance protection of these six sites.
(iv) That decisions on work to be undertaken as per (ii) above be delegated to the Head of Environmental and Consumer Protection Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders and Ward Members.

(v) That any sites in addition to (ii) above are prioritised on the basis of a history of unauthorised Traveller incursions, their close proximity to children’s play facilities, usage for sporting activities, attractions for tourism and other factors as detailed in Appendix B* to the report.

(vi) Not to proceed with the use of pre-emptive injunctions due to the high evidential test, uncertainty as to outcome and the possibility of high legal costs.

Proposal for a Transit Site

On 17th December 2013 Council resolved to carry a motion to:
‘Provide a temporary transit site within the Borough of Poole by June 2014’.

On 27th January 2014 Council resolved that:
Environmental and Consumer Protection Services should prepare and submit planning applications for 2 parcels of land, at Safety Drive and Broadstone Way, to enable the provision of two temporary stopping places by June 2014.

On 20th March 2014 Planning Committee refused planning applications on for temporary stopping places at Safety Drive and Broadstone Way.

Petition relating to Harboursie 2 Car Park

On 15th December 2015 Council resolved:

(i) That action be taken to harden Harbourside 2 Car park defences.

A second recommendation, “to revisit the possibility of identifying a transit site for Gypsies and Travellers in Poole” was Lost.