

## Economy and Environment OSC – Unauthorised Encampments Working Group

### Initiation Document

<b>Work Group Name:</b>	Unauthorised Encampments Working Group
<b>Committee:</b>	Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>Municipal Year:</b>	2019/20
<b>Chair:</b>	Councillor Harrison
<b>Lead Officers:</b>	Lorraine Boothman Matt Powis
<b>Membership:</b>	Councillor Bott Councillor Shires Councillor Singh Sohal Councillor Ward
<b>Co-opted Members:</b>	None

<b>1.</b>	<b>Context</b>
	<p>Following, the first meeting of Economy and Environment OSC it was resolved to establish a working group on unauthorised encampments in the Borough.</p> <p>The Committee considered a presentation on the Council's approach to Unauthorised Encampments (UE) and the equality duty with regard to people following a travelling lifestyle.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
	<p>The working group wishes to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Review the Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessments;</li> <li>II. Understand challenges facing the Council when dealing with UEs with particular focus on the use of Section 61/62 powers and the use of negotiated stopping;</li> <li>III. Understanding Gypsy and Travellers equality implications and the 'Walsall for All' Strategy;</li> <li>IV. Explore the development of integrated strategy to enable Walsall to fulfil its equality duty to assist in the management of UEs and to reduce health, social and economic inequalities in vulnerable groups;</li> <li>V. Explore options for a Gypsy and Travellers Transit Site in the Borough.</li> </ol>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Scope</b>
	<p><b>What should be included and excluded?</b></p> <p>The working group will consider and develop key findings identified in work carried by Council Officers and partners in 2018. This includes the following:</p> <p>Economy and Environment OSC – Unauthorised Encampments Presentation from Councillor Perry, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Communities; Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessment;</p>

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	<p>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Engagement – Findings and Recommendations</p> <p>The Group will identify key points for the development of an integrated strategy and plan. In addition, the Group will also explore options for a Gypsy and Traveller Transit Site in the Borough.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equalities Implications</b>
	<p style="color: red;">There is a legal and moral obligation to ensure that, when undertaking a scrutiny review, the impact of policies; procedures; strategies and activities is considered within the 6 strands of equality (Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Religion or Belief, and Sexual Orientation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will the working group consult with each of these six groups regarding this review and its outcomes?</li> <li>• If an EIA has been carried out for this service\policy then what were its outcomes? Can this be mapped into the review? If no EIA has been carried out by the service is one required and can this be reported to the working group?</li> </ul> <p>The Working Group will consider the equality implications with the development of any policy or strategy. This includes the Equality Act 2010 which protects certain characteristics such as colour, nationality, ethnic origin and national origin.</p> <p>Romany Gypsy and Irish Travellers are protected against race discrimination as they are ethnic groups under the Equality Act.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Who else will you want to take part?</b>
	<p style="color: red;">Think about who else, other than lead officers and members, it would be useful to include either as part of the working group or to bring information at specific points. For example- partners, stakeholders, other authorities.</p> <p>Clean and Green          Community Protection Team          Equalities and Cohesion Team          Police          Walsall CCG          WHG          Residents          Traveller Groups          Children Services          Traveller Education Support Service – Walsall          Legal Services – both the enforcement team and the team that carries out land searches          Communications          Planning</p>

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	Public Health									
<b>6.</b>	<b>Timescales &amp; Reporting Schedule</b>									
	<p>Needs to be completed within the same municipal year and so should be able to report to full panel by the last meeting at the latest but consider the subject- is there anything else that it may need to tie into (e.g. academic or financial year or to coincide with national/sub-regional developments) How often will update be provided to full panel?</p> <p>Task and Finish Group – First meeting to discuss Terms of Reference – 7 August 2019</p> <p>Terms of Reference to be approved at Economy and Environment OSC – 26 September 2019</p> <p>Final report due by 21 November 2019.</p>									
<b>7.</b>	<b>Risk factors</b>									
	<p>Are there any obstacles that can be predicted? For example, is it dependent on other organisations outside your control and duty to cooperate? Identifying these factors early and how they will be mitigated should help minimise their impact.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Risk</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Likelihood</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Measure to Resolve</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Challenges with scheduling evidence gathering within a short timeframe.</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Medium</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Consider the most effective way to engage each of the identified groups that the working group wishes to speak to effectively gather evidence.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Input from Officers will distract from service delivery</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Medium</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Identify a manageable scope of the group</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Risk	Likelihood	Measure to Resolve	Challenges with scheduling evidence gathering within a short timeframe.	Medium	Consider the most effective way to engage each of the identified groups that the working group wishes to speak to effectively gather evidence.	Input from Officers will distract from service delivery	Medium	Identify a manageable scope of the group
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#### Timetable:

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Activity</b>
7 August 2019	<p>Present draft terms of reference to the Working Group</p> <p>Presentation by Portfolio Holder – Leisure, Culture and Communities</p>
22 August 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand Gypsy and Travellers equality implications and the 'Walsall for All' Strategy</li> <li>• Review the Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessments</li> </ul>
3 September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand challenges facing the Council when dealing with UEs with investigating the use of Section 61/62 powers and the use of negotiated stopping (Police).</li> </ul>
18 September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand challenges facing the Council when dealing with UEs with investigating the use of Section 61/62 powers and the use of negotiated stopping (Legal).</li> <li>• Invitation for CCG and Children's Services to attend.</li> </ul>
26 September 2019	<p>Present working group terms of reference to Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.</p>
8 October 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore options for a Gypsy and Travellers Transit Site in the Borough.</li> <li>• Explore options for the development of an integrated strategy to enable Walsall to fulfil its equality duty to assist in the management of UEs and to reduce health, social and economic inequalities in vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>
21 October 2019	<p>Review evidence and draw conclusions in preparation for a draft final report with recommendations.</p>
21 November 2019	<p>Present final report and recommendations to Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>