

Purpose of Paper

1. To seek clarity from the Environment Select Committee (ESC) on the frequency of updates on progress on the Traveller Reference Group and Traveller Strategy.

Background to Traveller Reference Group (TRG)

1. The TRG oversees and supports the implementation of the 2016 traveller strategy and is made up of a range of council and non-council partners. The group is coordinated by the public health team and meets four times a year.
2. A refreshed traveller strategy, written by the TRG and approved by the ESC was published in September 2016. There is a 23-point action plan that supports the strategy, which promotes better intelligence, better accommodation, better community engagement and better health and education.
3. In September 2017, an update report was provided to the ESC highlighting the work undertaken by the TRG over the previous 12 months to support implementation of the strategy. The report reflected that that service provision and engagement was well coordinated throughout the county but more needed to be done to engage better with Traveller communities over the remaining 3 years of the strategy. The next update from the TRG is expected by the ESC in September 2018.

Proposal

4. In a recent review of the TRG's terms of reference, a discussion was had regarding the frequency of reporting to the ESC (currently annual). It was agreed that advice would be sought from the ESC on the frequency of updates.
5. Due to the timescales involved in some of the project work associated with the TRG and strategy, as chair of the TRG I would recommend continuing with an annual update to the ESC, with the next update expected in September 2018. Should the ESC prefer more regular updates please can they advise the TRG on the frequency of these updates.

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Appendices

None

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

None