

Report to: Community Protection Panel

Date: 17th September 2007

Subject: Award of Grant Funding:- Council's Gypsy /Traveller Site

Report of: Director of Environmental Services

Contact officer: Peter Layland, Assistant Director, Housing Regeneration Telephone: 01942 404135

Purpose/summary: To advise Members of the award of grant funding for the gypsy and traveller site at Bickershaw.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: Alternative option would have been not to seek grant funding to help carry out essential repair / improvement works on the Council owned site.

Recommendation/decision: To note the award of grant assistance for the Gypsy and Traveller site at Bickershaw.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision.

Risks/Implications:

Financial:	Cost to the Council represents up to £68,000 which is included in the Private Sector Housing Capital Programme.
Staffing:	None.
Policy:	Housing Strategy.
Equal Opportunities - has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	No.
Wards affected:	Abram.

Property – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

Yes, it looks to fund improvement to the Council owned site.

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

No.

Has the Director of Legal and Property Services confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **N/A**

Has the Director of Finance and IT confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **N/A**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **N/A**

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only:

Categorisation of the report:	X		
Discussion leading to a decision		Discussion	
Monitoring		Decision	
Sharing for corporate understanding		Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
CPP - 17.9.07			

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer M. Kimber

Date 29th August 2007

1. Background:

- 1.1 The Council's gypsy / traveller site is located at Bickershaw and is managed by Wigan and Leigh Housing. It comprises 16 pitches and was opened in 1974. It is currently in poor condition and has been identified as being in need of improvement for a number of years. It helps meet the Council's legal obligations to provide sufficient site provision for gypsies / travellers in its area.

2. Gypsy / Traveller Site Grant:

- 2.1 To help maintain such sites the Government operates a gypsy and traveller site grant scheme which Councils can bid for. This provides 75% of the costs of any improvement works to sites.
- 2.2 A bid was submitted in Spring and the proposals included improved site security, resurfaced access roads, improved pitches, drainage work and improved fire provisions.
- 2.3 The Council have just been informed that the bid was successful and a Government grant of £205,000 has been awarded to cover 75% of the total costs. A Council contribution of £68,000 will be required to match this funding and provision has been made in the private sector capital programme.

3. Conclusions:

- 3.1 The award of the grant will enable desperately needed works to proceed on this Council owned facility with Government meeting the majority of the cost. If this opportunity was not taken the Council would eventually have needed to bring the site up to an acceptable standard, possibly meeting the full costs out of its own resources.