



Subject:	Update on Traveller sites- Health and Safety issues
Date:	10 May 2016
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager Clare Mullen, Community Resources Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on the approach and work to date in relation to the decision taken on 9 th November with regard to identifying the health and safety issues pertaining to Traveller sites across the city and an update on the progress made to develop a three year strategy on Traveller Issues.
1.2	Following the tragedy on a site at Carrickmines (South Dublin County Council) in which ten members of a Traveller family lost their lives, Council made the decision on 9 th November to carry out a scoping exercise on the health and safety procedures in place to manage Traveller accommodation. Addressing the needs of Travellers in terms of their accommodation is central to tackling the deep-seated social exclusion experienced by this diverse group. Council officers have been working with key stakeholders in developing interventions that will ensure the safety of Travellers living on permanent or transit sites in Belfast.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Committee is asked to: (i) Note the key successes to date in addressing Health and Safety issues in Traveller sites.

	(ii) Note progress made in adopting a programmed and interagency approach to Traveller work
3.0	Main report
3.1	During the past few months officers have held a number of meetings with the NI Housing Executive (NIHE), APEX housing and held discussions with Clanmill Housing Association with regard to identifying the internal procedures that are in place with regard to the management of their Traveller sites.
3.2	There are currently three traveller sites in Belfast: Glen Road, Glen Road Heights and Tinker's Lane. The Glen Road and Tinkers Lane sites are owned by Clanmill Housing Association and are managed by the NIHE through a Service Level Agreement.
3.3	The agreement that is in place outlines that the NIHE are ultimately responsible for the management of the sites including any Health and Safety issues. The Service Level Agreement is currently under review and the NIHE are working towards having a more effective structure in place to ensure the quality of life and protection of residents living on their managed sites.
3.4	Additionally, the NIHE have indicated that they will commence improvement works on the site located in Glen Road Heights over the coming months, and officers have been assured that Health and Safety good practice will be adhered to and any improvements will follow the high standards stated in "Outlining Minimum standards for Traveller Accommodation" guidance.
3.5	Officers will continue to meet with the agencies involved on a quarterly basis to determine progress on the improvement works and to determine the outcome of the review of the Service Level Agreement with Clanmill Housing to ensure that there is improvement with regard to the management of the sites.
3.6	Officers have also engaged with the NI Fire Brigade who have recently completed site assessments and, as a result, fire alarms have been distributed in the three Traveller sites and 16 alarms have now been installed in the caravans located on those sites.
3.7	Fire Awareness sessions have also been held with regard to fire safety with members of the Traveller Community through visits to residents, communication with the Traveller Forum and specific sessions held utilising information produced by the Fire Brigade. Further

	sessions will be held with the Travellers community to ensure key messages are reinforced on a regular basis with families.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	None