



GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

COMMITTEE: GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

DATE: 4TH MARCH 2011

TITLE OF REPORT: GRAMPIAN GYPSY / TRAVELLERS SUMMIT –
UPDATE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Grampian Joint Police Board of arrangements for the Grampian Gypsy / Travellers Summit and seek the approval of the Board for these.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Board agree:

- That the Grampian Gypsy / Traveller Summit, Building Consensus: A Constructive Way Forward, will take place on Tuesday 5th April 2011 and will be held at Inverurie Town Hall.
- That the purpose of the Summit will be to improve relations and ease tensions within the North East community and to seek consensus and support for a fresh approach to this issue.
- That the desired outcomes of the Summit are:
 - To improve relations and reduced barriers to communication
 - To increase understanding of the Scottish Governments Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Interim Strategy and what it may mean for the area
 - To build cross-party and community support for the establishment of short-stay sites in the Grampian area
 - To develop a roadmap / routes identifying where we want to be and how we are going to get there.
- To nominate up to 5 Board Members to attend the Summit on behalf of the Board.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Grampian Joint Police Board previously agreed a budget of up to £2,000 to fund the Grampian Gypsy / Travellers Summit. Aberdeen City Council has also contributed funding and a detailed forecast budget is currently being prepared.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

None

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6. REPORT

6.1 Following previous decision of the Board, Grampian Racial Equality Council (GREC) have been engaged to facilitate the planning of this Summit and to facilitate effective running of the Summit. GREC have brought together a Steering Group, consisting of representatives from each constituent authority, Grampian Police, GREC and the Clerks Office, to assist with the planning process.

6.2 The Steering Group has met on two occasions, and three further meetings have been scheduled. The role of the Steering Group is to enable a multi agency approach and to contribute relevant knowledge and experience to the planning of the summit.

6.3 The Steering Group have, in moving forward with the planning process, been mindful of the discussion on this topic held at the GJPB Meeting in September 2010, issues surrounding unauthorised encampments and temporary halting sites and the on-going work of the Scottish Government Housing Minister's Working Group on Gypsy/Traveller issues in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. GREC have also had discussions with a range of organisation who work with or who represent Gypsy / Travellers to inform the planning process.

6.4 Following consideration of the necessary timescale for planning, the availability of key personnel, the availability of a suitable venue and the impact of the forthcoming Scottish Parliament Election, the Steering Group have identified Tuesday 5th April 2011 as the date for the Summit to be held. Further, the Steering Group have identified Inverurie Town Hall as the preferred venue. This venue holds up to 90 people and the cost for venue hire plus lunch and refreshments totals approximately £825.00. In addition, crèche facilities will be provided for participants.

6.5 The Steering Group have proposed that the purpose of the Summit be stated as "To facilitate ways to improve relations and ease tensions within the North East community in respect to Gypsy / Travellers and to seek consensus and support for a fresh approach to this issue."

6.6 The desired outcomes of the Summit have been identified as:

- To improve relations and reduced barriers to communication
- To increase understanding of the Scottish Governments Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Interim Strategy and what it may mean for the area

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- To build cross-party and community support for the establishment of short-stay sites in the Grampian area
 - To develop a roadmap / routes identifying where we want to be and how we are going to get there.
- 6.7 The Steering Group have developed an invite list for the Summit. This includes:
- Elected Members from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils (each group within each Council will be invited to nominate a representative to attend)
 - Relevant Officers (with both operational and strategic remits) from each constituent authority
 - Local Members of the Scottish Parliament
 - The Scottish Government Housing Minister
 - Representatives from local Community Councils
 - Gypsy / Travellers
 - Representatives from Grampian Police and NHS Grampian
 - Representatives from the Equality & Human Rights Commission
 - Representatives from the Fiscals Office
 - Representatives from GREC
- 6.8 The GJPB are also invited to send representatives to the Summit. Given the limited capacity of the venue, it is proposed that the Board send up to 5 Members.
- 6.9 The Summit programme will include an Introductory Session, a keynote speaker, a range of workshop discussions focussed on each of the desired outcomes and a panel question and answer session.
- 6.10 Following the conclusion of the Summit, GREC will prepare a Summit Report and Evaluation including the development of the roadmap referred to in the desired outcomes. This will be distributed to all participants and to other relevant agencies.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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25th February 2011