

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee

Report on Year 1 Review with Partners

23 January 2014

Report by Anna Lambert, Head of Delivery Transitions

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On 22 October 2013, the Joint Committee tasked the author to meet with all Essex Countywide Traveller Unit (ECTU) to review the first year of operation of the new arrangements. This included discussion on customer satisfaction to date and possible improvements to the service.

2.0 Progress Report

- 2.1 To date, Anna Lambert and Steve Andrews (Head of ECTU) have met with:

Rochford District Council
Thurrock Council
Essex Police
Essex Fire and Rescue Service
Public Health (now based in Essex County Council)
Colchester Borough Council (telephone conversation)

A meeting with Maldon District Council is planned to take place just prior to this Joint Committee, which will be reported on verbally. The remaining Members of the Joint Committee have declined the offer for the moment.

- 2.2 The interim conclusion following the meetings that have taken place are that all Partners are very satisfied with the service and see that it is an important step towards consistency in matters relating to Gypsies and Travellers across Essex.
- 2.3 One discussion point raised has been the legal timeframe when enforcing under Section 77. This has been put on the 23 January Joint Committee agenda for discussion with Legal colleagues.
- 2.4 Discussion with partners has also highlighted that the ECTU will need to engage with Partners and potential partners to secure funding beyond October 2015 over the next six months to that end, as budget setting will commence in Autumn 2014.

3.0 Conclusion and Next Steps

- 3.1 The results of the first round of meetings indicate that the ECTU are meeting the expectations of Partners; a good start for the first year of operation. The Unit will continue to build on this good work and further strengthen working relationships with all Partners.
- 3.2 The Unit will engage with Operations Board Members to discuss the best approach for budget discussions over the next 6 months and commence that task.

Anna Lambert
13 January 2014