

## **Travellers**

### **Points for Cabinet to note arising from the decisions of the Travellers Working Group:**

#### **Police Protocol**

The Joint Sussex Police/local authority protocol for dealing with unauthorised encampments creates a new responsibility for the local authorities to carry out welfare enquires about travellers on behalf of the Police, irrespective of land ownership, when requested to do so and when deemed necessary to assist the Police in any eviction actions they may take.

Lewes District's former policy was that it only carried out welfare enquiries when it was taking eviction action on its own land. This change of policy will increase the call on officer time but can be managed within existing resources.

#### **LDC Internal Procedure**

The new Lewes District Council internal procedure for dealing with unauthorised encampments recommended by the TWG includes the following changes to Council policy:

- a) That the Council will take responsibility for dealing with unauthorised encampments on common land where the management of that Common Land is the responsibility of the Council under a Scheme of Regulation (e.g. Chailey Common).
- b) That the Lead Councillor for Communities must be consulted before a decision on eviction / toleration of an encampment is made by the authorised officer i.e. Director of Planning and Environmental Services.

**End**