Review Title: Boat Dwellers & River Travellers Task and Finish Group Review

Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel: Housing & Major Projects Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel

Panel Chair & Vice Chair: Cllr Appleyard & Cllr Hartley

Policy Development & Scrutiny Project Officer(s): Donna Vercoe / Emma Bagley

Supporting Service Officer(s): Samantha Jones / Ann Robins / Mark Minkley

## Process for Tracking PD&S Recommendations - Guidance note for Cabinet Members

The enclosed table lists all the recommendations arising from the above Policy Development & Scrutiny Review. Individual recommendations are referred to the relevant named Cabinet Members (or whole Cabinet in the case of a whole Cabinet referral) as listed in the 'Cabinet Member' column of the table. In order to provide the PD&S Panel with a Cabinet response on each recommendation, the named Cabinet member (or whole Cabinet) is asked to complete the last 3 columns of the table as follows:

### **Decision Response**

The Cabinet has the following options:

- Accept the Panel's recommendation
- Reject the Panel's recommendation
- **Defer** a decision on the recommendation because a response cannot be given at this time. This could be because the recommendation needs to be considered in light of a future Cabinet decision, imminent legislation, relevant strategy development or budget considerations, etc.

## **Implementation Date**

- For 'Accept' decision responses, give the date that the recommendation will be implemented.
- For 'Defer' decision responses, give the date that the recommendation will be reconsidered.
- For 'Reject' decisions this is not applicable so write n/a

#### Rationale

Use this space to explain the rationale for your decision response and implementation date. For accepted recommendations, please give details of how they will be implemented.

# Recommendations from the Boat Dwellers & River Travellers Task and Finish Group Review

Recommendation	Cabinet Member	Decision Response	Implementat ion Date	Rationale
Recommendation 1				
The Task and Finish Group recommend that to inform future Council Policy direction a full in-depth study/ review on Boat Dwellers and River Travellers within our area should be undertaken, using the supporting evidence and findings contained within this report as a baseline for further investigation.  and as part of that in-depth study and review the TFG recommend that:-	Cllr Ball Cllr Dixon Cllr Allen			
1.1 The Definition used by the TFG as part of their investigations should be consulted on as part of the next phase of in-depth review work and for consideration for future B&NES wider policy definition. This should Include conversations with all the different Authorities within the AINIA (The Association of Inland Navigation Authorities) to agree a standard terminology.	Cllr Ball Cllr Dixon Cllr Allen			
This would ensure that all stakeholders know				

Recommendation	Cabinet Member	Decision Response	Implementat ion Date	Rationale
what and about whom everyone is talking with the consequent benefits of there being shared common language.				
1.2 That the best practice methods undertaken by both Oxford Council (mooring policy and partnership work) and Wiltshire Council (who have linked its policies directed towards River Travellers with those towards gypsy travellers) be introduced in order to inform future policy direction.	Cllr Ball Cllr Dixon Cllr Allen			
The Council should work together with them and any other interested neighbouring authorities to build a consistent approach through the development of a liaison committee or similar forum. This should be co-ordinated with our current Gypsy and Traveller Strategy Group work.  1.3 That the Council investigates and identifies the barriers to services and facilities for vulnerable people along the waterways	Cllr Allen			
These findings could feed into the work the Council is doing on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Review, the Homelessness				

Recommendation	Cabinet Member	Decision Response	Implementat ion Date	Rationale
Strategy and the Gypsy and Travellers Strategy work but would be important in their own right.	Cllr Dixon			
1.4 That the Council continues to establish an open- ended dialogue between boat dwellers and the Council, to establish clear communication channels.				
This should investigate whether improvements can be made to:-				
a.) Our current B&NES Website, to improve access to key information for Boat Dwellers, for example; greater advertisement of the Council Connect service.				
<ul><li>b.) Relations with the Canal &amp; River Trust. (such as the opportunity to use of their notice boards to advertise Council services)</li></ul>				
c.) The communications between local Ward Councilors and Boat Dwellers resident in their wards.				
Financial Assessment:				

Recommendation	Cabinet Member	Decision Response	Implementat ion Date	Rationale
There are no direct and specific financial implications at this stage. However, any costs associated with the specific delivery of the indepth study/ review such as during the consultation/ engagement stage of the work could also look to the funding available through the agreed River Corridor Fund allocation.				
Therefore consideration will need to be given to the amount of officer time from all departments, functions and teams to achieve this. There is also the possibility that future resources could be shared with our neighbouring local authorities such as Wiltshire Council who currently have a dedicated officer for liaising with their local Boat Dwellers.				
Recommendation 2				
B&NES Council should not support	Cllr Tim Ball			
recommendations to endorse the Canal				
River Trust Mooring Strategy, until and unless we have been assured they are				
compliant with their legal obligations under				
the Equality Act and will not conflict with				
Council policy.				
This would need to be timely to feed into the current Mooring Strategy that is being developed and before there is any endorsement				

Recommendation	Cabinet Member	Decision Response	Implementat ion Date	Rationale
of the draft Memorandum of Understanding developed between the Council and the Canal & River Trust which was presented to the Housing & Major Projects Panel in November 2012.				
Financial Assessment:				
No direct financial implications as can be met within existing resources.				
Recommendation 3				
Future B&NES Council spatial planning requirements to deliver more dwellings, which have so far been increased through major housing developments, should also include the needs of people living on the waterways in Bath & North East Somerset.	Cllr Tim Ball			
This should include the following:-				
3.1 Further Investigations to determine the feasibility of all major developments along the river or canal incorporating a pontoon landing stage with ready access to potable water and 240volt power as well as in close proximity to a public footpath, highway and waste disposal for use by River Travellers				

Recommendation	Cabinet Member	Decision Response	Implementat ion Date	Rationale
(RU3 & RU4) for a maximum 2-day stay and policed by Canal & River Trust as part of an approved Mooring Strategy in B&NES. These will also serve as short-stay visitor moorings.				
3.2 Request that all off-line marina and mooring basin developments incorporate a maximum 14-day stay pontoon for River Travellers (RU3) for a minimum of three average length narrow boats as part of the planning approval process and policed by Canal & River Trust as part of an approved Mooring Strategy in B&NES. These are in addition to short-stay visitor moorings.  3.3 Determine whether all off-line marina and mooring basin developments can could reasonably be required to include a minimum of 10% of total berths to be allocated to Boat Dwellers whether or not they are RU1, RU2, RU4 or RU5.				
3.4 To determine the scale and scope of the need and numbers of types of moorings and establish the current and further demands of moorings in the B&NES area.				

Recommendation	Cabinet Member	Decision Response	Implementat ion Date	Rationale
current Mooring Strategy which is currently being developed.				
Financial Assessment:  No direct financial implications as can be met within existing resources. Therefore consideration will need to be given to the amount of officer time from all departments, functions and teams to achieve the above investigations.				
Recommendation 4  The findings within this report support the work of the River Corridor Group's future vision of regenerating the river. We recommend that the planned future B&NES River Strategy includes:-	Cllr Stevens			
4.1 The consideration of the needs and issues of our local Boat Dwellers and River Travellers within its initial evidence base.				
4.2 Representation from the Housing & Major Projects Panel on The River Regeneration Trust (formerly the River Corridor Group) to ensure clear lines of communication between the Council and the				

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Trust.				
Financial Assessment:  No direct financial implications as can be met within existing resources.				