

**LEADERSHIP PANEL (SPECIAL).**

Minutes of special meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
on 18th December 2012 at 10.45 a.m.

Present: Councillors Bill McIntosh (Chair), Bill Grant, John McDowall, Rita Miller, Robin Reid, Philip Saxton and Margaret Toner.

Attending: D. Anderson, Chief Executive; E. Howat, Executive Director – Corporate Services; H. Garland, Executive Director – Children and Community; V. Andrews, Head of Legal and Administration; K. Leinster, Head of Head of Community Care and Housing; and D. Knight, Democratic Services Administrator.

**Community Services – Housing and Customer First.**

**1. Transit site funding for Gypsies / Travellers.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Community Services Standing Scrutiny Panel of 12th December 2012 (Page 50, paragraph 1) when that Panel, having considered the terms of a call-in from the Leadership Panel of 4th December (Page 18, paragraph 2) in relation to the various options considered for a gypsy/traveler transit site and had agreed to return £81,375 of funding to the Scottish Government due to changing gypsy / traveller travelling patterns and that no Council owned land that met both the requirements of the settled and gypsy/traveller communities being available, had decided following review, to refer this matter back to the Leadership Panel with the recommendation that further discussions take place with the Scottish Government to explore different options for the use of this funding such as the development of unauthorised sites and whether the terms and conditions of the original grant funding could be changed so that this Council could purchase land in private ownership.

The Head of Community Care and Housing outlined the background to the Scottish Government's financial support for the development of a transit for gypsy/traveller.

Arising from discussion, the relevant Officers provided further information and clarification in response to matters raised by Members relative to the undernoted, namely:-

- clarification of the decision that had been approved at the meeting of the Community Services Standing Scrutiny Panel; and
- should the £81,375 of funding be used, whether there would be an opportunity to obtain additional funding from the Scottish Government.

**Decided:**

- (1) to agree that the Community Services Standing Scrutiny Panel's recommendation be accepted that further discussions take place with the Scottish Government to explore different options for the use of this funding such as the development of unauthorised sites and whether the terms and conditions of the original grant funding could be changed so that this Council could purchase land in private ownership; and
- (2) to note that Officers would report back to the Leadership Panel in due course.

The meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.