

Derbyshire County Council

Cabinet Member for Health and Communities

2 April 2014

Report of the Director of Legal Services

GRANT TO DERBYSHIRE GYPSY LIAISON GROUP

Purpose of the Report

To consider a grant application from the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group in recognition of its work with Gypsies and Travellers in Derbyshire in the year 2013 -2014.

Information and Analysis

An application for grant for the financial year 2013-2014 has been received from the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, requesting £3,500.

The Liaison Group is asking for support for its work over the current financial year with traditional Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers. It plays an extremely important role in supporting the three Council-owned Traveller sites in Derbyshire. Other activities include the production of a newsletter ("The Traveller"), assistance with private site planning applications and dealing with issues of education, health and welfare of Travellers. Over the year the Authority has held regular discussions with the Liaison Group on issues arising from unauthorised encampments, site management and on developing good practice in dealing with unauthorised encampments.

The Group relies on small annual grants to cover the baseline running costs.

In the year 2012/2013 the group was awarded a grant of £3,500.

It is recommended that a grant of £3,500 be awarded to Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, in recognition of its work in the County over the current year.

Financial Considerations

Budgetary provision of £3,500 has been made to support Traveller organisations in the current year.

Equal Opportunities Considerations

Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group works to combat discrimination and promote the rights of Gypsies and Travellers in Derbyshire.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:

Prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, health, legal and human rights, personnel and property considerations.

Background Papers

The annual report and accounts have been supplied by the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group.

Officer Recommendation

That the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group be awarded £3,500 for the year 2013-2014, subject to the County Council's standard conditions of grants.

John McElvaney
Director of Legal Services