

(For Democratic Services use)

Decision Number: 17 (2023/24)

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

Subject: To seek approval to use S106 and Do It Yourself Shared Ownership (DIYSO) funds to refurbish up to 3 vacant pitches on the Council-owned Gypsy and Traveller site at Romani Way, Hever Road, Edenbridge.

Details of Decision taken: Approval of the use of s106 and DIYSO funds held by the Council which are ring-fenced for the purpose of meeting the Council's affordable housing objectives in accordance with the criteria agreed and set out within the Affordable Housing SPD in order to refurbish up to 3 pitches at Romani Way, Hever Road.

Use of the funds for this purpose has been agreed by Planning Policy who have confirmed the use is in accordance with the Affordable Housing SPD.

Current s106 and DIYSO funding held by the Council is as follows:-

S106 - £165,708

DIYSO - £42,623

Costs for the refurbishment of 3 pitches is estimated at £171,000

Reason for Decision: The Council's Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment undertaken in 2022 indicates a total shortfall of 43 pitches over the period 2022/23 to 2039/40) to meet evidenced need.

Three vacant pitches have recently been refurbished at Romani Way. Refurbishment has included clearance of fly tipping, new boundary treatments including vehicular and pedestrian gates and the installation and/or refurbishment of individual amenity blocks for each pitch.

Refurbishment is in line with government guidance on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches. All refurbished pitches have now been allocated to waiting households in accordance with the Council's Gypsy and Traveller Allocation Policy.

A further 9 households are currently registered with the Council for housing at Romani Way.

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All Documents considered:

Sevenoaks District Council's Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document 2011;
Sevenoaks District Council's Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment 2022;
Sevenoaks District Council's Gypsy and Traveller Allocation Policy Sevenoaks District Council's Emerging Local Plan

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision: N/A

Financial implications: The funds are held by the Council and are ring-fenced for the purposes detailed within the Affordable Housing SPD. Therefore, there is no cost to the Council. Refurbishment and letting of vacant pitches will increase annual income for the Council which in turn will provide funds to help maintain the site.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement:

None.

Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty)

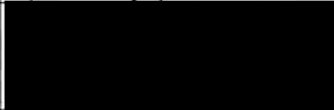
Refurbishment of vacant pitches will assist in meeting the housing needs of applicants who meet the eligibility criteria and who have registered with the Council.

All applicants registered with the Council for housing at Romani Way will be considered for housing in accordance with the Council's Gypsy and Traveller Allocation Policy.

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Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and Chief Officer/Head of Service Consulted Sarah Robson, Chief Officer, People and Places	
Details of any conflicts of interest a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict	
Decision taken by:	Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health
Signed by Portfolio Holder	
Date of Decision	08 Feb 24 (pp 02nd Feb 24 email)
Record made by:	Phil Magee
Date of record:	12/02/2024

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