

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 6 AUGUST 2015

MIGRANT WORKER CARAVAN SITES – PROPOSED SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP

REPORT BY THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report recommends the establishment of a Short Life Working Group to review the conditions applied by the Council in respect of caravan site licences granted under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and, in particular, in relation to sites predominantly occupied by migrant/seasonal workers.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee

- (i) establish of a Short Life Working Group to review the conditions applied by the Council in respect of caravan site licences granted under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and, in particular, in relation to caravan sites predominantly occupied by migrant/seasonal workers;
- (ii) Nominates elected members to sit on the Short Life Working Group;
- (iii) Instructs the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to identify relevant officers to support the work of the Short Life Working Group and to make arrangements for it to meet as and when required; and
- (iv) Instructs the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to report the conclusions of the Short Life Working Group to the Civic Licensing Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

The Development Standards Committee, at its meeting on 10 March 2015, considered a report from the Head of Planning and Place in respect of Seasonal Worker Caravans (Report 133/15 refers). In respect of that report, the Committee agreed to establish a Short Life Working Group to formulate an appropriate framework for the assessment of planning applications against the criteria established by Policy TC5 of the Angus Local Development Plan.

This Working Group met on 28 April 2015 and 23 June 2015. As well as discussing the principal issues for which it was established, there was considerable discussion around the conditions imposed by the Council as licensing authority under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. In particular, it was noted that:-

- (i) that seasonal/migrant worker caravan sites were not seen as being temporary in nature,
- (ii) that the use of these facilities (and the workers residing therein) had not lessened and would still be required by the agricultural and horticultural trade for the foreseeable future,
- (iii) that the use of these sites had extended from a seasonal requirement to an almost all year round requirement; and
- (iv) given that the decision to apply the Model Standards for Holiday Caravan Sites was made, with hindsight, without a full understanding of the extent and nature of the use of these caravan sites, there may be merit in reviewing the conditions applied to such sites to improve the standards and quality of the accommodation and services provided.

In light of the above, it was considered by the members of the Short Life Working Group that there was merit in establishing a further Short Life Working Group to consider:-

- (a) The present conditions applied to seasonal worker caravan sites;
- (b) The merits of reviewing the conditions applied to seasonal worker caravan sites having regard to (i) to (iv) above; and
- (c) The extent to which the Council can impose further conditions having regard to the terms of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and other legislation.

The Short Life Working Group referred to above was established under the auspices of the Development Standards Committee. Given that the granting of caravan site licences is delegated to this Committee, it is considered appropriate that the proposed Short Life Working Group be established by this Committee.

It is, therefore, recommended that the Committee establish of a Short Life Working Group to review the conditions applied by the Council in respect of caravan site licences granted under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and, in particular, in relation to caravan sites predominantly occupied by migrant/seasonal workers.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights issues arising directly from this report.

NOTE: No background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

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