

 Executive 10th August 2011		Agenda Item No. 7B
Title	Travellers Costs – Chief Executive Emergency Powers	
For further information about this report please contact	Andrew Jones Andrew.jones@warwickdc.gov.uk (01926) 456830	
Wards of the District directly affected	None	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	None	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No (If No state why below)
N/A.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer	5 th July 2011	Author
CMT	6 th July 2011	Chris Elliott Bill Hunt Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	6 th July 2011	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	18 th July 2011	Norman Vincett Dave Shilton John Hammon
Consultation & Community Engagement		
N/A		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 During week commencing 13th June 2011, the District experienced a number of illegal Traveller encampments on privately owned land. To reduce the risk of Travellers occupying Council owned land, officers put security arrangements in place. There is no budget to finance these arrangements so the report requests that the costs be covered from the Contingency Budget.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Executive notes that the Deputy Chief Executive has exercised the use of powers allowed for under Section 4 (4) CE (4) of the Council's Constitution to meet the cost of deterring illegal encampments by Travellers on Council owned land and that a total of £4,700 was used.
- 2.2 That Executive agrees to fund the £4,700 referred to in 2.1 and any further actions necessary to deter illegal encampments in 2011/2012 from the Council's Contingency Budget up to a maximum of £10,000.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council has no budget to respond to issues brought about by the real or potentially illegal activity of Travellers in the District. Consequently should a response be necessary, whether pro or re-active, the Chief Executive needs to exercise his emergency powers.
- 3.2 In this instance, officers were aware that a large number of Traveller vehicles had occupied privately owned land and that Bailiffs, supported by the Police, would be evicting the occupiers. It therefore appeared prudent to put security arrangements in place to deter the Travellers from moving on to Harbury Lane, a site that had been occupied by Travellers in the recent past.
- 3.3 Due to the urgency of the situation the Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) (in the Chief Executive's absence) sought agreement of the Group Leaders to spend up to £10,000 to put the necessary security arrangements in place. Only £4,700 amount was required, however, by agreeing to utilise up to £10,000 from the Contingency Budget for 2011/2012, officers will be able to respond more quickly for the remainder of this financial year.

4. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 There are no policy implications as a consequence of this report.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The Contingency Budget for the current year currently stands at £246,100 before any appropriations agreed by this meeting of the Executive. This figure will be reduced to reflect the allocation identified in 2.2.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Officers could have decided not to put temporary security arrangements in place but this would have left Harbury Lane vulnerable to occupation by Travellers which brings with it public upset and ordinarily, extra cleansing costs.