

Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues

CONSTITUTION

1) NAME and AUTHORISATION

(a) The name of the organisation shall be

“Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues”

(b) The legislation enabling councils to join and participate in the Partnership is The Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary, Incidental Provisions and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

2) AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a) To represent to the minister and to the Assembly, all relevant Departments and non-government bodies (including the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Housing Associations), the Equality Commission and the NI Commission on Human Rights, the collegiate view of member councils on issues relating to Travellers.
- b) To provide mutual support and advice to member councils on issues relating to Travellers.
- c) To assist member councils in the promotion of good relations between Travellers and the settled community and, in this regard, to encourage the participation of local communities and all interested parties in this activity.
- d) To encourage the free exchange of all information between member councils on all issues that will assist in the resolution of local problems and improve the circumstances of Travellers.
- e) To encourage and, if possible, facilitate, the training of elected representatives and appropriate staff in those skills required to ensure the delivery of all Council services, the fostering of good community relationships and the equality of opportunity for all Travellers.
- f) To encourage, as far as possible, member councils in the development of self-help employment and training facilities for all Travellers.
- g) To monitor the progress of the implementation of the New Policy on Traveller Accommodation, 1999.

h) To draw to the attention of the responsible Minister and the relevant Assembly committee any shortcomings therein as may be perceived by the Partnership and to recommend any changes or amendments considered appropriate to remedy such shortcomings.

h) To report to all member councils on a regular basis the nature and progress of all work, deliberations and representations made on behalf of the Partnership in the furtherance of its aims and objectives.

3) MEMBERSHIP

a) Each participating council may appoint three elected representatives together with such professional officers as may be considered necessary to advise and support the elected member representatives. Elected representatives may serve for the life of the council i.e., normally for four years, or such other term at the discretion of their nominating council. Member councils shall advise the Secretary of each nomination and submit details of addresses, both postal and e-mail and party affiliations.

b) The Partnership may from time to time co-opt to membership such person or persons as may be in a position to bring expertise and /or experience to enhance the work and deliberations of the Partnership.

c) The Partnership may appoint a sub-committee with specific powers to handle all issues between meetings of the Partnership and all deliberations and outcomes shall be reported to the Partnership in a timely fashion.

4) MEETINGS.

a) The Partnership shall meet bi-monthly or at such other intervals as the nature of any issues may require.

b) An Annual General Meeting shall be held following the first of June in each year to elect/re-elect officers and to consider the annual financial report.

c) The quorum for a meeting shall be a minimum of 3 elected members.

d) The Partnership shall meet formally at its inception and thereafter immediately, or as soon as reasonably possible, after a general local government election to elect office-bearers.

e) Office-bearers shall be Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer.

f) Voting at meetings shall be restricted to elected councillors only and the procedure shall be by a show of hands unless a ballot is demanded by a majority

of those councillors present and entitled to vote. Proxy voting shall not be allowed.

g) All communications relating to meetings including notices, agenda and papers for discussion shall be issued to all those entitled to attend by electronic means and by that means only.

5) FINANCE.

Participating councils shall contribute a sum of money to be determined by the Partnership on an annual basis sufficient to allow the Partnership to fulfil its aims and objectives. A financial report shall be submitted to the Partnership at each meeting and at the Annual Meeting.

6) DISSOLUTION.

The Partnership may by notice of motion circulated to each member seven days prior to a meeting called for that purpose, resolve to wind up its affairs and activities. In such event, all assets shall be distributed by agreement between the participating council representatives.

W.J.Newburn OBE

Secretary

Adopted by the Partnership at its meeting on September 26th2014

Chairman_Ald Jim Brown_____

Vice Chairman Cllr Joe Boyle

Secretary W.J.Newburn OBE