

**From the Chief Executive Rory Mair**



26<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Mary Fee MSP  
Convener, Equal Opportunities Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh

Dear Mary

Thanks for your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> June. I am sorry my reply has taken longer than I would have liked. I wanted to look into the matter but with holidays for both myself and staff, it has taken me this long to write back.

In respect of the issues raised, you clearly identify challenges in respect of planning, housing, site management, community safety, education, social care and welfare support. We recognise that gypsy travellers continue to experience marginalisation and as such we will make sure that your report is disseminated to our members.

In respect of your recommendations, although, as you acknowledge, we have no formal agreement with the Parliament to implement these, we respect the work of the committees and would therefore want to give full consideration to the matters raised in your report. Your recommendations stretch across a number of portfolios within COSLA and I will give thought as to how best we can highlight these to our members. I suspect the best way for us to deal with this is to take a report on your work to each of the Executive Groups within COSLA which has a specific service interest in the matters you have raised. As that process develops, if there are key elements that our members highlight, I will come back to you to see how we can focus further discussion on these.

We continue to work in partnership with the Scottish Government, and so as work is taken forward on this matter we would hope to play into any policy development processes.

I thank you for bringing these matters to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Rory Mair CBE  
Chief Executive

WHEN CALLING PLEASE ASK FOR: Donna Wallace 0131 474 9203    [donnaw@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:donnaw@cosla.gov.uk)