



REPORT TO THE GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE – 20 JUNE 2018

HOUSING STRATEGY POLICY STATEMENT

1 Recommendations

The committee is recommended to:

1.1 Comment on the draft housing strategy policy statement.

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 Aberdeenshire Council's scheme of governance includes a Policy Development and Review Framework. This is the process for development, monitoring and formal review of policies within Aberdeenshire. A policy is a formal, concise, accessible statement on how the council intends to conduct business and deliver services. A policy must be consulted on and approved through the appropriate policy committee and any changes to the policy must also be approved.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 sets out a draft policy statement that encompasses affordable housing, private sector housing and Gypsy/Travellers. This policy statement contributes to the delivery of the Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023 which supports the Aberdeenshire Council Plan 2017-2022.
- 2.3 Members are asked to comment on sections 1.10, 1.11 and 1.12 of the housing strategy policy statement where it states how Aberdeenshire Council works with, identifies accommodation and provides services for Gypsy/Travellers.
- 2.4 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Sub-Committee is able to consider this item as it relates to policy for Gypsy/Travellers.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 The equality impact assessment shows that the housing strategy policy statement has a positive equalities impact.
- 4.2 There are no additional resource implications arising from this policy statement.
- 4.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: projects do not develop as expected and fail to deliver

payback promised. Monitoring of the action plan and the local housing strategy by the Sub-Committee helps to provide mitigation.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report by Ally Macleod, Housing Manager (Strategy)
31 May, 2018

APPENDIX 1

POLICY STATEMENT

Policy: Housing Strategy	Procedure related to: affordable housing, Gypsy/Travellers and private sector housing
Policy Prepared by: Ally Macleod	Date Prepared: 9 April 2018
Policy Approved by:	Date Approved:
Policy to be Reviewed by:	Review Date:
1.	<u>Policy Aims and Objectives</u>
1.1	Support the delivery of the Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023 and the Aberdeenshire Council Plan 2017-2022 by having the right mix of housing across all of Aberdeenshire, working to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities, providing the best life chances for all our children and young people by raising levels of attainment and achievement, and supporting the delivery of the Health and Social Care strategic plan.
1.2	Increase the supply of affordable housing to meet housing need. The Strategic Housing Investment Plan will detail the development programme each year and will be considered by area committees and agreed by the Communities Committee for submission to the Scottish Government.
1.3	Assist first time buyers and those who can demonstrate a significant change in their household circumstances that affects their housing need to purchase a property to suit their needs by administering and nominating eligible purchasers for the Low Cost Shared Equity Scheme.
1.4	Improve access to appropriate affordable housing and support for people with an identified particular need, such as older people or those with a disability, to live as independently as possible.
1.5	Support homeowners and private sector tenants to repair, maintain, adapt and improve their homes through the scheme of assistance. Information, advice and practical assistance is available for all homeowners. Financial assistance is prioritised for homeowners with the highest levels of need where there is no entitlement to financial assistance and clients have no alternative means of funding to carry out aids, adaptations and essential repairs. The service will work with Environmental Health and homeowners in order to identify and improve houses that are already below the tolerable standard and to help owners prevent their properties from falling below the tolerable standard
1.6	Support people aged over 60 and/or with a disability to access aids and adaptations to live independently through the care and repair service.
1.7	Improve management standards and engage with landlords in the private rented sector.
1.8	Assist homeowners and private tenants to address the adequacy and wholesomeness of private water supplies in the form of private water supply grants.
1.9	Improve the energy efficiency of homes in the private sector by drawing down funding to install measures to improve energy efficiency. Ensure that all households have access to services to identify possible energy efficiency improvements within their

<p>1.10</p> <p>1.11</p> <p>1.12</p> <p>1.13</p>	<p>homes and provide assistance to source any grants or schemes available to help with these measures.</p> <p>Support minority ethnic communities to access to appropriate land, housing and support, encouraging social integration. Syrian New Scots families will be located where they can access services in accommodation appropriate to their needs.</p> <p>Identify appropriate accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers through the Gypsy/Traveller site provision strategy. Local authority run sites will be well managed and compliant with relevant Scottish Government standards for tenancy rights and physical conditions. Assistance will be provided to Gypsy/Travellers who would like to develop private sites.</p> <p>Manage unauthorised encampments in a fair, balanced and coordinated way. The Council recognises the rights of Gypsy/Travellers to a nomadic lifestyle and will not evict Gypsy/Travellers without due cause from the land that it owns or manages. Any eviction will be pursued in accordance with the guidelines on managing unauthorised encampments that are approved by the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee and will take into account the needs and rights of the settled community and the rights of Gypsy/Travellers for a nomadic life. The Council will ensure that it fulfils its statutory duties in respect of both the settled community and Gypsy/Travellers.</p> <p>Implement detailed procedures, guidelines and agreed practices across the service and ensure that staff are supported by training so that they are equipped to carry out the roles expected of them.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><u>Monitoring and Evaluation</u></p> <p>The monitoring of the policy will take place through the performance management framework for the Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy. The delivery of the strategy will be measured by the performance indicators included under each priority in the strategy. These will be reported to Communities Committee and to Area Committees.</p> <p>The Planning for the Future tenant group will be consulted on any future policy proposals to support the delivery of the strategy.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Equality and Diversity:</u></p> <p>In all aspects of the operation of this policy, we will:</p> <p>Seek to combat discrimination and promote equal opportunities for our tenants in all aspects of our policies and procedures. This means the prevention, elimination or regulation of discrimination between persons on grounds of age, sex, race, religion, disability of sexual orientation in accordance with the Equalities (Scotland) Act 2010 Link: http://arcadia.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/?p=27388</p>