

## **REPORT TO GYPSY TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE – 20 JUNE 2018**

### **ACTION PLAN FOR THE GYPSY TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE**

#### **1 Recommendations**

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1.1 Monitor the Action Plan at meetings of the sub-committee.**
- 1.2 Agree to hold a workshop following the next sub-committee to measure outcomes for the action plan.**

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023 identifies minority ethnic communities as one of six priorities. For each of the priorities in the local housing strategy, there is an action plan and performance management framework. Within the minority ethnic communities' priority, there is a Gypsy/Traveller Officer Group, which monitors and delivers an action plan across partner agencies. While much of this work is shared with the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee, it was agreed at the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017, to formalise this approach, by creating an action plan for members to review at each meeting.
- 2.2 The Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee action plan can be viewed in Appendix 1. It has been informed by actions from previous meetings of the sub-committee including the wide-ranging session held on 21 June 2017, on meeting the needs of Gypsy/Travellers. Gypsy/Traveller Officer Group Action Plan now reflects the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee Action Plan.
- 2.3 Members are encouraged to review the action plan and identify any gaps or areas for further consideration or investigation.
- 2.4 The Action Plan will be monitored at every meeting of the sub-committee. The Action Plan has been updated to take account of the recommendations from the 'Gypsy/Traveller Needs Assessment 2017'.
- 2.5 It is proposed that a workshop takes place to discuss how the action plan can be measured against its outcomes and those of the Local Housing Strategy. This will focus on performance management and is proposed to take place at the end of the agenda of the next sub-committee meeting in September.
- 2.6 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report, 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 This committee is able to consider this item because it relates to a function of the committee to develop and approve Council policies and practices in respect of a) addressing the accommodation needs which meets the needs, culture and lifestyle of Gypsy/Travellers and unauthorised encampments.

### **4. Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the Action Plan. There is a positive impact as follows:
- The Action Plan includes increasing site provision for Gypsy/Travellers
  - Gypsy/Travellers are to be able to access appropriate land, housing and support and encourage social integration.
  - The provision of well –maintained permanent and stop over sites will contribute to meeting the needs of the Gypsy/Traveller Community.
  - Gypsy/Travellers wishing to build private sites with be provided with assistance
- 4.2 Any resource implications can be met from within existing budgets.
- 4.3 No negative impacts have been identified.
- 4.4 A Town Centre Impact Assessment is not required as this does not have a differential impact on Town Centre First Principle.

**Stephen Archer**  
**Director of Infrastructure Services**

Report by Ally Macleod, Housing Manager (Strategy)  
28<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

**GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB GROUP ACTION PLAN – 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018**

<b>Outcome: The needs of Gypsy Travellers are met by more informed and joined-up planning of service delivery from Aberdeenshire Council and partner agencies</b>					
No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status
1	Carry out research across the North East to identify the accommodation and support needs of Gypsy/Travellers	GREC	November 2017	Completed and actions included in the Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan.	
2	All services in Aberdeenshire Council take into account the needs of Gypsy/Travellers when developing policies and procedures.	All services	Ongoing	Policy Statement is on the Agenda for consultation.	
3	Information sharing protocol is agreed between partners to enable joint working	Solicitor, Legal and Governance	June 2018	Protocol drafted and feedback provided by partners. Legal Services is awaiting Scottish Government General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) template/guidance.	
<b>Outcome: Gypsy/Travellers normally resident in Aberdeenshire and Gypsy/Travellers visiting the area have accommodation that meet their needs, culture and lifestyle</b>					
4	Increase Gypsy/Traveller site provision in Aberdeenshire. The Local Development Plan should identify suitable sites for the Gypsy/Traveller community. It should also consider whether policies are required for small privately-owned sites for Gypsy/Travellers	Affordable Housing Officer/Strategic Housing Officer	Ongoing	Site Provision Strategy agreed by Aberdeenshire Council in 2015, is under review. Aikey Brae site completed and opened on 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018. Exploring the provision of information for occupants in digital and other means. Information Bulletin for North Esk to be provided to Members of the Sub Committee.	

5	Review the approach of including the provision of Gypsy/Traveller sites as part of wider housing/accommodation developments (e.g. within Local Development Plans).	Affordable Housing Officer/Strategic Housing Officer	Ongoing	Part of the Site Provision Strategy as above.	✔
6	Provide assistance to Gypsy/Travellers wishing to build private sites, giving consideration as to how Gypsy/Traveller communities can realise aspirations around private site development, including working in partnership with agencies such as Planning Aid Scotland	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer/Strategic Housing Officer	Ongoing	Support continues to be provided to Gypsy/Travellers wishing to build their own sites and investigation will be made into partnership working where possible.	✔
7	Monitor the numbers, size and location of unauthorised encampments	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer continues to monitor encampments and provide regular updates to members.	✔
8	Work with Gypsy/Traveller communities to explore options for improving the management of encampments and the potential for developing more informal stopping places (Negotiated Stopping)	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	Engage with Gypsy/Travellers and discuss concepts for well managed encampments. Investigate 'Negotiated Stopping' and consider if it would be feasible to operate this in Aberdeenshire, working with the settled community.	✔
9	Assist Gypsy/Travellers with their housing needs.	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer/Housing Options and Homelessness	Ongoing	Officers continue to provide support for Gypsy/Travellers wishing to access housing.	✔

10	Take into account new Scottish Government permanent site standards for future provision at Greenbanks, Banff.	Housing Manager	June 2018	Options under consideration. Consultation has taken place with Gypsy/Travellers, local and sub-committee members. Report on agenda.	
<b>Outcome: Education needs of Gypsy/Travellers are met</b>					
11	Further develop learning provision for children and young people from the Travelling Culture within Aberdeenshire based on a mixed model of delivery.	Education Support Officer	June 2018	<p>Learning packs are in development for learners within Broad General Education.</p> <p>Guidance and advice</p> <p>Guidance to support school colleagues has been developed.</p> <p>An easy to read leaflet has been produced giving detail of support available to families.</p> <p>Support for families has been provided by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer, Education Support Officer and Additional Support for Learning teachers.</p>	
12	Further develop partnership working to support families, children and young people from the Travelling Culture within Aberdeenshire.	Education Support Officer	June 2018	<p>Collaborative working and partnership working has been at the forefront of developing learning provision.</p> <p>Early Years, Education and Community Learning Development have worked together to deliver support.</p>	

				<p>The Education Support Officer continues to attend appropriate national and local events e.g. Traveller Education Network which is held at the University of Edinburgh.</p> <p>The Education Support Officer, Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and teaching staff, working with children and young people from a Gypsy/Traveller background, provide support and advice to schools. Working collaboratively we will continue to investigate ways to support families engage in learning, which can include school attendance. This includes supporting families who may be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Settled</li> <li>• Semi – sedentary</li> <li>• Highly mobile</li> <li>• Out of school</li> <li>• Living within Aberdeenshire including on Aberdeenshire sites/"private sites"/ unauthorised sites.</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>Outcome: Support, care and health needs of Gypsy/Travellers are better met</b></p> <p>Use health engagement/outreach to ensure those temporarily resident in Aberdeenshire have access to preventative health information and services.</p>	Health	Ongoing	<p>A report on health and wellbeing needs is on the agenda.</p>	

Outcome: Better and more constructive relationships are developed between Gypsy/Travellers and settled communities			
14	Combat prejudice against the Gypsy/Traveller community, including, by providing information about culture, history and needs, whenever opportunity arises	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer/Strategic Housing Officer	Ongoing
15	All Agencies should work together to counter prejudiced media coverage, provide joint responses to press inquiries about Gypsies/Travellers encampments and coordinate legal action where necessary.	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing
16	Explore initiatives to improve relations between Gypsy/Traveller communities and settled communities	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing
17	Raise awareness of the Aberdeenshire Council's Prejudice and Discrimination reporting process and encourage Gypsy/Travellers to report incidences of Hate Crime.	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer/Strategic Housing Officer	Ongoing
18	Encourage Gypsy/Travellers to adhere to the Code of Conduct on Unauthorised Encampments	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing

	A Cultural Awareness Pack to be developed and a DVD, with input from Article 12 and Education Services. Investigate Heritage Lottery Funding stream. Myth Buster section to be posted on Arcadia for Gypsy/Traveller History Month.
	Officers are working together, to monitor and respond where appropriate.
	The Gypsy/Traveller interagency Group provides a forum for discussion. There has been some positive press coverage recently. See also action 14.
	Under discussion at the Gypsy/Traveller Interagency Group. Proposals to engage with school pupils to raise awareness of Hate Crimes. GREC has arranged training on Third Party Reporting on 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2018. Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officers are attending.
	Adherence to the Code of Conduct is high and is continually monitored.

19	<p>Support 'Year of Young People' 2018, with a particular interest in June 18 as this Gypsy/Traveller History Month.</p>	<p>Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer/Strategic Housing Officer</p>	<p>June 2018</p>	<p>Officers are working together on a presentation to Members, to raise awareness for the Gypsy/Traveller culture. Myth Buster section to be posted on Arcadia for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is working with Community Learning Development colleagues to provide support for 'Year of Young People', particularly in relation to young Gypsy/Travellers.</p>	
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