

## COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

### GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 13 FEBRUARY, 2019

**Present:** Councillors A Stirling (Chair), N Baillie, R Cassie (as substitute for Councillor A Allan), I Davidson (as a substitute for Councillor M Ewenson), D Robertson, H Smith, I Taylor and S Wallace.

**Also in attendance:** Councillor M Ford.

**Apologies:** Councillors A Allan and M Ewenson

**Officers:** Housing Manager (Strategy), Strategic Housing Officer, Education Support Officer), Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer, Team Leader, Housing, Team Leader, Planning and Building Standards, Principal Solicitor (Democratic Services), and Senior Committee Officer.

#### 1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. Councillor Robertson declared an interest in Item 4, as a non-executive member of NHS Grampian Board. No further interests were declared.

#### 2A. STATEMENT ON EQUALITIES

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Sub-Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

#### 2B. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Item 7, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in paragraphs 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

#### 3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 21 NOVEMBER, 2018

There had been circulated, **approved** as a correct record, and thereafter signed, the Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 21 November, 2018.

#### **4. ACTION PLAN FOR THE GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE**

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 6 September, 2017 (Item 4), there was circulated a report dated 17 January, 2019, by the Housing Manager (Strategy) on the Action Plan for the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee.

The Housing Manager (Strategy) introduced the report and provided an update on each outcome within the Action Plan.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed** to continue to monitor the Action Plan at future meetings.

#### **5. PROPOSED INDICATORS FOR THE ACTION PLAN**

The Team Manager (Housing) advised that proposed performance indicators for the Action Plan were currently being developed and would be submitted to the next meeting for consideration

The Committee **agreed** that a report on Measuring the Delivery of the Action Plan be submitted to the next meeting.

#### **6. ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021 – CONSULTATION ON POLICY H5**

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 21 November, 2018 (Item 4), there was circulated a report dated 4 February, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021 – Consultation on Policy H5, in respect of Gypsy/Travellers.

The Team Leader, Planning and Building Standards presented the report which explained that the Local Development Plan (LDP) and set out the policies that would be used by the Council to determine planning applications. The preparation of the LDP 2021 was ongoing and there was currently a public consultation period on the Main Issues Report until 8 April, 2019.

The Main Issues report recognised minor changes to the existing Plan's policy on Gypsy/Travellers was required. A draft proposed policy had been produced as an interpretation of the changes. These were detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed** to endorse the draft Policy H5 Gypsy/Travellers, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

#### **7. REVIEW OF AIKEY BRAE TRAVELLERS SITE, OLD DEER**

With reference to the Minutes of Meetings of the Sub-Committee of 12 October, 2018 (Item 3) and 21 November, 2018 (Item 7) there was circulated a report dated 24 October, 2018, by the Director of Infrastructure Services.

The report reminded the Sub-Committee that it was agreed at the meeting on 12 October, 2018 that a report be submitted to the next meeting to review the provision onsite, further requirements and to explore options for extending the opening periods for Aikey Brae and Greenbanks in the future. Thereafter, a further review report was considered at the meeting on 21 November, 2018.

The report reminded the Sub-Committee that the site was opened on 8 May, 2018, on the basis of a maximum stay of two weeks, unless otherwise agreed. The site became well used and it was apparent that the Travellers' preference was to remain on site for longer periods of time. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer carried out surveys with the residents and they suggested it would be preferable if facilities could be upgraded to make the site more attractive to Gypsy/Travellers which would contribute to improved health outcomes for the families on site. The report therefore provided information on the viability and costs of upgrades.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the viability of upgrades for toilets, showers and laundry facilities and to continue to monitor the usage and feedback from residents at Aikey Brae; and
- (2) that that a report be submitted to the next meeting on the development of wireless internet facilities on site.

### **8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS IN 2019**

The Sub-Committee **noted** that it had previously been agreed that the following meetings take place in 2019 (all at 10.00am):

4 September  
20 November