

REPORT TO GYPSY TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2018

A FAIRER SCOTLAND FOR ALL, RACE EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2017-2021

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 **Review the Scottish Government, 'A Fairer Scotland for All; Race Equality Action Plan 2017-2021' and how it relates to and is reflected in the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee Action Plan.**
- 1.2 **Agree to add Action 3 and Action 8, from the Race Equality Action Plan into the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee Action Plan.**

2 Background

- 2.1 There is evidence available that outcomes for Gypsy/Travellers experience poor outcomes across a number of areas. It is often stated that discrimination against Gypsy/Travellers is far more accepted and normalised than that directed at other minority ethnic communities. The difficulties experienced by Gypsy/Traveller communities in Scotland are long standing and appear to be intractable.
- 2.2 The Scottish Government has established a Ministerial Working Group, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, attended by the Ministers for Local Government & Housing, Childcare & Early Years, Employability & Training and Public Health & Sport. The Working Group will determine priorities for action and drive forward the changes required to start making improvements for Gypsy/Travellers across a range of issues.
- 2.3 Action 14 of the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee Action Plan, makes reference to the actions in 'A Fairer Scotland for All; Race Equality Action Plan 2017-2021', which are being addressed by the Ministerial Working Group. It was agreed that this should be used as a means to drive forward action at a local level as well as to continue to enhance joint working at a regional level
- 2.4 The table below identifies how the key actions within the Race Equality Action Plan 2017-2021 are reflected in the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee Action Plan.
- 2.5 The key actions will be monitored and regular updates on progress will be reported to the committee.
- 2.6 Future outputs of the Ministerial Working Group will be reported to this committee for consideration.
- 2.7 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are

incorporated within the report 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 needs, culture and lifestyle of the Gypsy/Traveller community.

4. Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the Action Plan.
- 4.2 Any resource implications can be met from within existing budgets. Action 8 in the Race Equality Action Plan relates to the Scottish Government making resources available for organisations working to support Gypsy/Travellers.
- 4.3 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 Liz Hamilton, Strategic Housing Officer
23 October 2018

Key activities within the Scottish Government's Race Equality Action Plan 2017-2021

No	Scottish Government Key Action	Reference to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee Action Plan	Ref No
1.	The Gypsy/Traveller Programme of Work will bring together all the relevant policies across Scottish Government to help secure improved outcomes for the community.	All services in Aberdeenshire Council take into account the needs of Gypsy/Travellers when developing policies and procedures.	1
2.	A mechanism will be established, to ensure continued engagement with stakeholders and members of the community.	Working with Gypsy/Traveller communities to explore options for improving the management of encampments and the potential for developing more informal stopping places ('Negotiated Stopping')	6
3.	Work will take place with National Records of Scotland as they engage with Gypsy/Travellers and devise their plans for Scotland's Census 2021	Officers will continue to work with National Records of Scotland and Scottish Government as these plans emerge.	14
4.	A joint Scottish Government and COSLA summit will be held in 2018 with local authorities to share best practice on improving the lives of Gypsy/Traveller communities	Working with Gypsy/Traveller communities to explore options for improving the management of encampments and the potential for developing more informal stopping places ('Negotiated Stopping')	6
5.	A review will be held into the progress of local authorities and Registered Social Landlords towards meeting the minimum site standards for Gypsy/Traveller sites ahead of the June 2018 deadline	Combat prejudice against the Gypsy/Traveller community, including, by providing information about culture, history and needs, whenever opportunity arises	13
		Take into account new Scottish Government site standards for future provision at Greenbanks, Banff. The site at Aikey Brae meets the site standards.	8

No	Scottish Government Key Action	Reference to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee Action Plan	Ref No
6.	Educational guidance will be published aimed at schools, including early learning and childcare settings, and local authorities, to help them improve educational outcomes for Traveller children	Further develop learning provision for children and young people from the Travelling Culture within Aberdeenshire based on a mixed model of delivery	10
7.	There will be engagement with the Health and Social Care sector to improve Gypsy/Travellers' access to and experience of healthcare services over the lifetime of this Parliament.	Further develop partnership working to support families, children and young people from the Travelling Culture within Aberdeenshire	11
8.	There will be financial support for organisations working to improve outcomes in areas such as employment, health and education for the Gypsy/Traveller and Roma communities.	Use health engagement/outreach to ensure those temporarily resident in Aberdeenshire have access to preventative health information and services.	12
9.	Social media and the One Scotland website will be used to promote the Gypsy/Traveller community and organisations	Officers will continue to monitor opportunities for additional support.	10/1/12
10	Scottish Government will remain committed to Scotland's plan-led system being more effective, and we will review the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), including to enable the positive planning of family sites for the Gypsy/Traveller community, over this parliamentary term. The Planning Bill will	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.	15
		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	3
		Provide assistance to Gypsy/Travellers wishing to build private sites, giving consideration as to how Gypsy/Traveller communities can	4

No	Scottish Government Key Action	Reference to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee Action Plan	Ref No
	<p>pursue a higher, statutory status for policies contained within the SPP. It will also pursue measures aimed at encouraging wider engagement in the development plan.</p>	<p>realise aspirations around private site development, including working in partnership with agencies such as Planning Aid Scotland</p>	
11.	<p>There will be partnership working with Young Scot to develop a Strategic Participation Panel of minority ethnic young people, building on the Fairer Future project, to develop skills and understanding for young people to participate in local and national decision making processes</p>	<p>A review of the approach of including the provision of Gypsy/Traveller sites as part of wider housing/accommodation developments (e.g. within Local Development Plans).</p>	9
12.	<p>There will be work with stakeholders and minority ethnic communities to develop awareness, learning and capacity building in relation to participation requests that can be made under the Community Empowerment Act.</p>	<p>This relates to the action to support 'Year of Young People' 2018.</p>	18
		<p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and other services will continue to work with the Gypsy/Traveller community to improve outcomes.</p>	4/10/11