

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY 2024 at 10.15 am

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE** to be held **FULLY VIRTUALLY VIA TEAMS**, on **WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY 2024**, at **10.15 am**

This meeting will be live streamed and a recording of the public part of the meeting will be made publicly available at a later date.

Tuesday, 23 April 2024

Director of Business Services

To: Councillors A Stirling (Chair), N Baillie, G Crowson, A Evison, G Owen, H Powell, C Simpson and H Smith

Contact Person:- Nicole Chidester
Tel: 01467 469790
Email: nicole.chidester@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

B U S I N E S S

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2	Public Sector Equality Duty	3
	Consider, and if so desired, adopt the following resolution:-	
	(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) where an Integrated Impact Assessment is provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching a decision.	
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PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY – GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS

What is the duty?

In making decisions on the attached reports, Members are reminded of their legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:-

- (i) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (iii) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The “protected characteristics” under the legislation are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; and (in relation to point (i) above only) marriage and civil partnership.

How can Members discharge the duty?

To ‘have due regard’ means that in making decisions, Members must consciously consider the need to do the three things set out above. This requires a conscious approach and state of mind. The duty must influence the final decision.

However, it is not a duty to achieve a particular result (e.g. to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination or to promote good relations between persons of different racial groups). It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve these goals.

How much regard is ‘due’ will depend upon the circumstances and in particular on the relevance of the needs to the decision in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact that a decision may have on people with protected characteristics, the higher the regard required by the duty.

What does this mean for Committee/Full Council decisions?

Members are directed to the section in reports headed ‘Council Priorities, Implications and Risk’. This will indicate whether or not an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals and, if so, what the outcome of that assessment is.

An IIA will be appended to a report where it is likely, amongst other things, that the action recommended in the report could have a differential impact (either positive or negative) upon people from different protected groups. The report author will have assessed whether or not an IIA is required. If one is not required, the report author will explain why that is.

Where an IIA is provided, Members should consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision. Members should also be satisfied that the assessment is sufficiently robust and that they have enough of an understanding of the issues to be able to discharge their legal duty satisfactorily.

For more detailed guidance please refer to the following link:-

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.equalityhumanrights.com%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Ftechnical_guidance_psed_scotland.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

GYPSYTRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 2024

- Present:** Councillors A Stirling (Chair), N Baillie, G Crowson, A Evison, G Owen, C Simpson, H Smith, and A Turner (as substitute for Councillor H Powell).
- Apologies:** Councillor H Powell and Constable Sarah Grant, Police Scotland.
- Officers:** Housing Manager (Strategy and Building Standards) (Hannah McSherry), Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer (Di Faithfull), Strategic Housing Officer (Liz Hamilton), Teacher (ASL) (representing Education & Children's Services) (Lyndsay Aspey), Quality Improvement Officer – Education (Marian Youngson), Principal Solicitor (Martin Ingram) and Committee Officer (Nicole Chidester).
- Others in attendance:** Jill Smith, NHS.

1 SEDERUNT AND DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare, in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. There were no interests declared.

2 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the 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 and 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, and

to consider, where an Integrated Impact Assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

3 MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF 15 NOVEMBER 2023

There had been circulated and was **approved** as a correct record the Minute of the Meeting of the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee of 15 November 2023.

4 PRESENTATION ON EDUCATION

Members **noted** a presentation from Lyndsay Aspey, Teacher (ASL), which provided an education update as it related to the Gypsy/Traveller community.

Within Aberdeenshire, there were about 90 children who were attending school that identified as Gypsy/Traveller. Many Gypsy/Traveller children were not making the transition to secondary school. Monitoring of student data was valuable as it helped to safeguard the children.

A questionnaire had been issued about Gypsy/Traveller concerns and priorities. Results showed that schools increasingly had no concerns and that school priorities were aligned with national Gypsy/Traveller priorities. These priorities were briefly highlighted, and Members **noted** that all priorities were seeing improvements.

There had been significant efforts to increase cultural awareness – including the development of two ALDO courses, Continuing Professional Training (CPT) and events during Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM). Promotion of the ALDO courses was occurring weekly, but it was recognised that the intended audience may not be reached through current promotion efforts. Direct contact with schools would begin instead. Feedback on the courses was positive.

The presentation highlighted events and feedback from GRTHM. Additional work was ongoing to provide IT support and prevent racial discrimination. Focus areas for 2024 included 1) primary/secondary transitions/online learning, 2) guidance for schools, and 3) racial discrimination and commitment to 'The Pledge'.

Following the presentation, Members thanked the presenter for the information shared and the progress toward greater inclusion. Members discussed the importance of cultural awareness for all schools and teachers. They suggested that the Director of Education or Head of Schools should be more involved in the consideration of how to best deliver/promote the ALDO cultural awareness training courses. Members requested that the training courses be shared with them for promotion and completion.

Members queried how content was curated for GRTHM, including collaboration between neighbouring local authorities and the review/feedback process. Members suggested that more promotional work could be done for the GRTHM to engage with the public better, tackle stigma, and develop a programme with greater visibility. Members highlighted that the Area committees were well suited to assist with promotion.

5 GYPSY/TRAVELLER ACTION PLAN UPDATE

There had been circulated a report dated 15 December 2023, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which highlighted the progress of delivery for projects contained within the Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan. This report was produced under the current Local Housing Strategy as a standing item on every agenda.

Members were informed that efforts had concentrated on developing the Gypsy/Traveller and Site Provision Strategy, and identifying upgrades for Akey Brae. An update was pending from the Scottish Government on the Gypsy Traveller Fund, with the potential for funding to be identified through the capital plan.

Members asked for a progress update on site selection and sites previously selected, including those which were privately owned. They discussed the format of the action plan update, explaining it was difficult to monitor the work as the plan didn't give a sense of progress/extent of impact. They asked for more evidence/information from engagement activities with the Gypsy/Traveller community and critiqued the Integrated

Impact Assessment (IIA). Members requested that the IIA was better linked to the Action Plan, to ensure it gave Members a greater sense of assurance/guidance in terms of impact.

They asked how Aberdeenshire's primary to secondary school transition figures compared to national figures, why the transition was difficult, and if there were difficulties when these young people reengaged. They asked how success/impact were measured, how the status within the action plan was determined, and how 'better income' was defined.

Having considered the report, Members **agreed** to:-

- (1) Monitor the progress on actions in the Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan;
- (2) Instruct the Director of Infrastructure Services to prepare a revised action plan for consideration at the next meeting of the Sub Committee;
- (3) Instruct the Director of Infrastructure Services to prepare a Site Provision Report, detailing which sites the Council had selected, how they are moving forward, and details around private sites; and
- (4) Instruct the Housing Manager to share the recording of this meeting with colleagues to consider how to better link the IIA and Action Plan.

6 LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY - GYPSY/TRAVELLER PROVISION

Members had a discussion on the Local Housing Strategy – Gypsy/Traveller Provision, which was led by the Housing Manager.

An update on the last Local Housing Strategy period was provided. During this period the Gypsy/Traveller and Site Provision Strategy for 2021 to 2026 had been agreed. This strategy prioritised new provision, particularly in central Aberdeenshire, and provided enhancements to facilities for current Traveller sites. Work was ongoing to identify additional sites. Adherence to the Code of Conduct had been consistently high and travellers were reporting they felt safe within Aberdeenshire. Applications for private sites had also been submitted.

Details from the latest Housing Need and Demand Assessment were also highlighted, including concerns about the aging population and predictions that this would continue to rise, and that the number of young adults had been decreasing. Research was ongoing regarding concealed households and updated census data would need to be examined once released. Housing affordability remained a challenge. Demand had increased for particular needs housing as well. There had been a lack of progress in identifying and delivering further Gypsy/Traveller sites.

On the 30 November 2023, a session for the Communities Committee Member was held to set high level priorities for the next period of the Local Housing Strategy (2024-2029). Officers were developing the priorities agreed by Members and identifying actions to align with these priorities.

Three actions had been identified within the Local Housing Strategy for the Gypsy Traveller Sub-Committee:

- 1- Minority ethnic groups to have access to good quality affordable housing which meets their needs, culture and lifestyle;
- 2- Gypsy/Travellers, normally resident in Aberdeenshire, and those Gypsy/Travellers visiting the area to have accommodation that meets their needs, culture and lifestyle; and
- 3- General relations between Gypsy/Traveller and settled communities to be improved.

At the conclusion of the Housing Managers introduction, she briefly reviewed additional items, including Net Zero and accessibility standards, that would need to be considered when delivering the Local Housing Strategy.

Members requested a copy of the slides for further review, along with a copy of the current Local Housing Strategy. Members commented that they would need more time to properly consider and respond to the plan. They confirmed that the three actions were still key areas of focus. Members queried if the increase in applications for private site was a result of the pandemic and clarified if members of the Gypsy/Traveller community still preferred to manage their own sites.

The need for more sites was highlighted, particularly for Central and South Aberdeenshire. If there were any ideas or potential sites, Members were invited to contact officers who could begin the necessary investigations.

The draft Local Housing Strategy would be consulted on during April/May 2024, with the plan going to each Area Committees. The final draft report would be considered by the Communities Committee in September 2024.

Following consideration, Members **agreed** to:-

- (1) instruct the Committee Officer to arrange a meeting for the end of April/beginning of May 2024 to discuss the Local Housing Strategy; and
- (2) instruct the Committee Officer to arrange an additional two meetings in 2024.



From mountain to sea

Briefing Note – Private Gypsy/Traveller Sites in Aberdeenshire

1. Executive Summary/Recommendation

1.1 This Briefing Note is to provide members of the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee with background information relating to Gypsy/Traveller private site provision in Aberdeenshire.

1.2 Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

2. Discussion

2.1. At its meeting on 10th January 2024, the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee requested information on the number of private Gypsy/Traveller sites in Aberdeenshire, those with planning permission and those awaiting permission.

2.2. There are currently nine privately owned and managed sites in Aberdeenshire with a total of 54 pitches.

- Boddam, Peterhead - 4
- Boyndie - 5
- Clola - 3
- Findon – 5
- Kemnay – 11
- Newmachar (Land at Sandyford Farm) - 1
- New Pitsligo - 5
- North Esk (Residential) - 11
- North Esk (Transit) - 9

2.3. Aberdeenshire has received four planning applications for private sites since 2018. Three of these applications were made in 2021. The site at Newmachar was approved in July 2022. The new site in Portlethen is awaiting a decision. The application made in 2021 in relation to a request for four additional pitches on the existing site at Quarry Wood, Kemnay was approved in January 2022. There was also an application approved in early 2019, for the formation of the North Esk transit site which is currently operational.

2.4. Some Gypsy/Travellers have expressed a preference for living on private sites as they can live in family groups and monitor who is admitted on the site.

Barriers:

- Cost of land itself.
- Quality of land for less expensive plots is poor requiring expensive solutions in order to get planning approval, i.e. porosity tests, drainage, etc.
- Applying for planning permission is challenging.
- Finding an architect to draw up plans can also be difficult.
- There tend to be lots of objections and prejudice from the settled community.
- Literacy issues make it difficult to contact Scottish Water, electric/gas companies, etc. when getting basic infrastructure put on these sites.
- Cost of residential site licence from council and fire risk assessments for this. Licences have to be renewed every five years. The prime purpose of the licence is to protect the public health of those people living on the site.

- 2.5. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer continues to provide support to Gypsy/Travellers who wish to investigate private site provision.

Report and additional information prepared by Liz Hamilton, Strategic Housing Officer
15th April 2024.



REPORT TO GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE – 1st MAY 2024.

LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2018-2023 – UPDATE ON THE GYPSY/TRAVELLER ACTION PLAN

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee requested reports highlighting the progress on delivery of projects contained within the Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan produced under the current Local Housing Strategy be a standing item on every agenda.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Monitor the progress on actions in the Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan.

2 Decision Making Route

- 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.
- 2.2 The Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan can be viewed at **Appendix 1**. The Action Plan has been informed by engagement with Gypsy/Traveller community representatives and stakeholders. Members of the Sub Committee are asked to consider the actions within the Action Plan and continue to monitor it at its regular meetings.
- 2.3 The Action Plan was previously reviewed in light of the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure it reflects the needs of Gypsy/Traveller communities. The revised Action Plan was approved by the Sub-Committee at its meeting on 30 June 2021 ([Item 7](#)).

3 Discussion

- 3.1 Updates to each of the actions are set out in **Appendix 1** under the five themes. Members are asked to consider progress in the Action Plan.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This Action Plan contributes to all of the Council priorities and in particular to resilient communities, health and wellbeing, education and infrastructure.



Pillar	Priority
Our People	Learning for Life Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Climate Change Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economic Growth Infrastructure and public assets

4.2 The Aberdeenshire action plan is aligned with the Scottish Government and COSLA joint action plan 'Improving the Lives of Scotland's Gypsy/Travellers' national action plan that was published in late 2019. This report helps deliver against Aberdeenshire Children's Services Plan and the priority of Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing. This report helps deliver on the Local Outcome Improvement Plan Priority of Child Poverty.

4.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			x
Staffing			x
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	x		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	x		
Climate Change and Sustainability	x		
Health and Wellbeing	x		
Town Centre First	x		

4.4 There are no staffing or financial implications.

4.5 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the Action Plan and can be viewed at **Appendix 2**.

4.6 Positive impacts have been identified as follows:

- Children's Wellbeing and Rights – children will have healthy and active lives, support in achieving their wishes and will be nurtured, respected, safe and responsible.
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact – All avenues of support needs, to ensure Gypsy/Travellers will have better incomes in and out of work and improved quality of lives, will be explored to reduce inequalities.



- Health Inequalities- Gypsy/Travellers will be supported to try to give them access to healthy eating options, physical exercise and support with mental health and substance use.
- Sustainability and Climate Change – Energy efficiency measures are in place to assist with cost-of-living concerns and the quality of the environment for Gypsy/Travellers on sites have been improved.
- Town Centre - the site at Greenbanks will contribute positively to Banff Town Centre.

4.7 No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level.

5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 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.

5.2 The Sub-Committee is able to consider this item because it relates to a function of the Sub-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.

Alan Wood, Director of Infrastructure Services

Report by Hannah McSherry, Housing Strategy and Building Standards Manager.

15th April 2024.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1. Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee Action Plan.



Appendix 2. Integrated Impact Assessment.


Appendix 3. Outcomes from January 2024 to April 2024.





Appendix 4. List of courses and outcomes to April 2024.


Appendix 5. Community Information Point.

Draft Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee Action Plan – 1st May 2024.


No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
Outcome: Better incomes in and out of work.						
1	Help Gypsy/Travellers maximise their incomes and increase uptake of financial support they are eligible for	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	<p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is a member of the Financial Inclusion Partnership and progresses benefit claims on behalf of the Travelling community, establishing entitlements to maximise incomes.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer seeks additional financial assistance from Welfare Officers in the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Team by providing contact details for discussing need for assistance.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer assists with the completion of any benefits forms as and when requested.</p> <p>One referral to Progress in Dialogue for assistance with financial assistance.</p>		Continue to engage with the Travelling community to identify needs and progress claims as required to maximise income.
2	Support parents to overcome barriers to work, and in-work poverty	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	April 2025 (when funding for training courses will cease.)	The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer continues to source and provide iPads and Laptops where possible for children and adults, to facilitate digital inclusion, to assist with benefit claims and other online activities. She also continues to investigate and arrange appropriate training courses in, for example, HGV licences. She also provides practical assistance with job applications		<p>Continue to engage with the Travelling community to identify requirements and funding streams to provide IT equipment where possible.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer continues to assist to with CVs and</p>

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
				<p>and CVs, investigates apprenticeship opportunities and 'Getting Ready for Work' courses. (List of courses attached at Appendix 3)</p> <p>From 2020 to date, approximately 60 iPads and Laptops were provided along with Sim cards and dongles. Unfortunately, this initiative is no longer in place. At present Sim cards can be made available but this is the final round of their provision.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller attends the Employability Partnership Planning meetings to keep in abreast of training opportunities and funding available.</p>		investigating job opportunities.
3	Improve standard of living by reducing daily living costs for Gypsy/Travellers	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	<p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer assists with additional payments for utilities, replacement white goods, foodbank deliveries, clothes, food and toys for children from AberNecessities and accesses appropriate support for Gypsy/Travellers.</p> <p>24 donations from Abernecessities in 2023 13 deliveries containing clothing, food, toiletries etc. 11 deliveries of Christmas Eve boxes.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer assists with the completion of any benefits forms as and when requested to ensure they are optimising their income.</p>		<p>Continue to engage with the Travelling community to identify needs for additional payments and arrange, order and deliver donations and access support as required.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will offer Foodbank assistance as and when required.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will continue to assist</p>

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
				The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer refers Travellers to SCARF and Home Energy Scotland for any assistance with utility payments and advice on saving energy in homes.		Travellers to access additional assistance with utility bills through various funding sources.
4.	Develop and agree a new Gypsy/Traveller Site Provision Strategy 2021-2026	Housing Strategy and Building Standards Manager	2026	Aberdeenshire's Gypsy/Traveller Site Provision Strategy 2021-2026 is in place.		Review and update Site Provision Strategy in consultation with Gypsy/Travellers.
			Complete	The Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee, at its meeting on 15 th November 2023, approved 10 stances to be made available for occupancy throughout the year at Greenbanks.		
			Ongoing	It has been agreed that identifying land for a site in central Aberdeenshire is a priority. Officers monitor the asset disposal register for possible new sites in addition to those identified in the Local Development Plan and will work with the Planning Service to maximise opportunities.		Continue to try to identify suitable land for an additional Gypsy/Traveller site in Central Aberdeenshire in addition to land identified in the LDP.
		Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	Support continues to be provided to Gypsy/Travellers wishing to build their own sites. To date the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer has provided three Families with planning applications and practicalities required.		Continue to support Gypsy/Travellers requesting assistance with planning applications.

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
				<p>Eight private sites have been approved, with one pending approval.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is working with Environmental Health which is investigating the need for Licences on Private sites.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and Strategic Housing Officer are involved in the evaluation of COSLAs Negotiated Stopping Pilot.</p>		<p>Continue to work with and assist Environmental Health as required.</p> <p>Continue to attend meetings until the pilot has been evaluated and finalised.</p>
5.	Consider upgrades for Aikey Brae as part of new national fund.	Housing Strategy and Building Standards Manager	2025/20206	<p>Aberdeenshire Council was unsuccessful in its original, bid in 2022 to the Scottish Government £20m Gypsy/Traveller Accommodation Fund 2022-2025, to upgrade facilities at Aikey Brae Travellers' Site. An email was received from Scottish Government on 26th October 2023 to the effect that a meeting took place with COSLA to discuss the future of the funding but a decision on the remaining funding has not yet been made. We are awaiting an update.</p> <p>Match funding would have to be identified to allow a bid to be submitted in 2025/2026.</p> <p>There are currently seven pitches occupied on Aikey Brae and the occupants have indicated that they wish to remain on site on</p>		Investigate options for future provision of individual pods on each pitch (toilet and shower), with communal laundry facilities and a disabled toilet. Feedback suggests that upgraded facilities would make the site more attractive for Gypsy/Travellers. This would only be possible with Scottish Government funding.


No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
				a long-term basis as they feel safe and supported.		
6.	Carry out site improvements at Aikey Brae and Greenbanks.	Housing Strategy and Building Standards Manager	Complete	<p>Improvements at Aikey Brae and Greenbanks from the award from the Scottish Government '£2m additional funding for public sector Gypsy/Traveller sites over and above the Minimum Standards.' are complete.</p> <p>Improvement works at Aikey Brae include the provision of a height restricted, security barrier, additional safety lighting, an additional water stance, storage facilities, rotary driers, educational playground markings, playground equipment, planters, bench seating, picnic benches, trees, wildflowers and access to free Wi-Fi, enabling digital inclusion.</p> <p>Free Wi-Fi is in place at Greenbanks, facilitating digital inclusion for the residents. Roller blinds were fitted in the chalets to afford privacy and help with heat loss. There are also two large planters, bench seating, picnic benches and artificial grass on the piece of land owned by Scottish Water, to improve the ambience.</p> <p>Greenbanks site visit for Sub Committee members took place on Wednesday 7th June 2023 at 9.45 am.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Engage with Gypsy/Travellers on an ongoing basis to identify additional improvements.</p> <p>Continue to investigate funding sources to provide improvements in discussion with residents on both sites. A Greenbanks Residents' Group is awaiting the constitution to be drafted to allow it to become a Registered Tenant Organisation.</p> <p>Hoping to do something similar on Aikey brae in due course with occupants wishing to remain long term.</p>
Outcome: Improve access to public services.						


No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
	Gypsy/Travellers to access services.			Regulator on 7 th March 2024 engaging with the Gypsy/Traveller community to look at accommodation needs for Travellers. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer attended to represent the views of Travellers in Aberdeenshire.		
9.	Health	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer/ NHS Grampian		<p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is working with NHS colleagues on Health Issues in the Community (HIIC).</p> <p>Previous initiatives were halted due to the pandemic and new initiatives are under discussion with Health colleagues on how to address health issues.</p> <p>One meeting has already taken place on Aikey Brae on 21st March 2024 with Health colleagues which was very successful. It was an open discussion regarding health needs. It is hoped that in the near future that a similar meeting will be held with residents on Greenbanks.</p> <p>Community Information Points are to be set up at Aikey Brae and Greenbanks sites to keep communities informed and up to date about health support and initiatives.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is part of the Scottish Government Group considering how to address Gypsy/Traveller Domestic Abuse. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer has</p>		Continue to work with Health colleagues to improve and achieve best health outcomes for the Traveller community.

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
				<p>completed Grampian Women's Aid modules on this topic.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer engages with Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project (MECOPP) to keep in touch with initiatives and support opportunities.</p>		
10.	Education	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer/Education		<p><u>Current picture across Aberdeenshire (2023)</u></p> <p>Gypsy/Traveller education data from SEEMiS has been recorded since September 2021. The number of children and young people identified as Gypsy/Traveller has increased by around 30%. It is not apparent whether this increase is due to Travellers moving into Aberdeenshire or if it is an increase in identification. Nationally, it is still unusual for young Gypsy/Travellers to make the transition from primary to secondary and figures reflect that. It is acknowledged that actual numbers of Gypsy/Travellers in schools is likely to be higher as there are still several families who do not wish to disclose their Gypsy/Traveller ethnic status.</p> <p><u>Early years transitions</u></p> <p>Early Years transitions have been very successful. Starter saks from the Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP) have been distributed to Gypsy/Traveller families with children under five to bridge</p>		<p>The post of Gypsy/Traveller teacher is currently vacant as the previous post holder is on secondment for two years. The post is in the process of being advertised.</p> <p>Endeavour to continue promoting accessing Early years provision. To date it has been challenging to get uptake from the</p>

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
				<p>the gap between home and an early years setting.</p> <p><u>Racial Discrimination</u> Copies of the graphic novel 'Shifting' have been distributed to several schools across Aberdeenshire. The novel is available online through the STEP website and there are lesson plans to accompany the resource. The novel is based on a true story and is unfinished. Pupils are encouraged to create their own endings in the form of a comic strip. Pupils from Kintore Primary entered their finished comic strips into the Anne Frank Awards, organised by GREC. The entries were acknowledged by STEP and have been showcased at several community engagement events. Kinellar School have been identified as a pilot school for the Gypsy/Traveller Pledge in Scotland. They have built strong relationships with families, regularly celebrate the culture, and involve parents in improvement planning. They have no reported incidents of racial discrimination against young Gypsy/Travellers (nationally, 92% of young Gypsy/Travellers have reported experience of racial discrimination in schools) and had a return rate of 86% within one term of reopening after the first Covid lockdown (national rate is believed to be less than 40%).</p>		<p>Travelling community for this. Transport to nursery is one barrier to take up.</p>

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
				<p><u>Cultural awareness and resources</u> To support staff with cultural awareness and relevant resources, there are now two ALDO courses – Gypsy/Traveller Cultural Awareness and Ensuring the needs of young Gypsy/Travellers are met in schools, as well as a Gypsy/Traveller resource tile on the Aberdeenshire ASN website. The courses have been very well received and feedback indicates value in hearing lived experiences from members of the community. Four events were held in schools and at Banff Vinery for GRTHM. All were very successful with all schools giving a 4/5 or 5/5 rating. Six schools have indicated interest in holding a session next year. Several schools have requested cultural awareness sessions for staff.</p> <p><u>Update policy</u> It has been recognised that the CME (child missing education) and Attendance Policies do not adequately support schools for Gypsy/Traveller children and young people. Both policies are under review and will include specific guidance for Gypsy/Traveller pupils.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is regularly contacted by schools for information on welfare of children not currently attending School.</p>		<p>Include schools in Gypsy Roma Traveller History month activities in June 2024.</p> <p>Review policies for CME (child missing education)</p>

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
				The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is currently providing literacy support to five children.		As need identified.
Outcome: Tackle racism and discrimination						
11.	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 Annually Annually in June.	<p>A presentation has been drafted to raise awareness of the Gypsy/Traveller Cultural and over a period Awareness Raising sessions, have been provided in-house, to partners and the Third Sector, as well as organisations such as Job Centre Plus, Citizens Advice Bureau, Skills Development Scotland and Social Security Scotland. Participation etc.</p> <p>An online ALDO training course has been developed for staff, raising awareness of the Gypsy/Traveller community. There is also a course specifically tailored for Education staff.</p> <p>Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month takes place in June. In addition to information on Aberdeenshire Council's Website and social media platforms, several in-person events took place in 2023. These took place at the Vinery in Banff where a storyteller was joined by Primary 3 pupils from Banff Primary. Activities took place at Maud School where there was also a storyteller.</p>		<p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is happy to continue to provide Awareness Raising sessions as requested.</p> <p>Review the ALDO course on an annual basis and amend, update as required.</p> <p>Commence work for Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month in June 2024 in consultation with the Gypsy/Traveller community and Education colleagues.</p>

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
				Local libraries took it in turn to host Gypsy/Traveller Awareness exhibitions. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer attended some libraries in person in 2023 to raise awareness of the Gypsy/Traveller community.		
Outcome: Improve Gypsy/Traveller Representation						
12.	Consult regularly with Gypsy/Traveller communities on accommodation and services to ensure these are fit for purpose	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Annually	<p>Annual surveys take place at Greenbanks Travellers' Site as per Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) requirements.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer carries out ad hoc surveys with the occupants of Aikey Brae Travellers Site. Additional targeted surveys are carried out as required.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer attends groups and events looking at how best to improve services and access to services for Gypsy/Travellers, such as Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project (MECOPP). The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer recently attended a meeting to look at accommodation needs for Travellers.</p>		<p>Carry out annual survey at Greenbanks with residents for submission to the Information Team in April.</p> <p>Continue ad hoc surveys with occupants on Aikey Brae and informal surveys with occupant on Unauthorised encampments.</p> <p>Continue to provide feedback on behalf of Travellers to organisations as necessary, as they do not always feel confident to do this on their own or do not have access to the IT required.</p>
13.	Involve Gypsy/Travellers in the design and delivery of	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	The upgrade at Greenbanks was completed in 2020 to achieve Scottish Government		Engage with Gypsy/Travellers on the

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
	any new accommodation proposals.			<p>minimum standards. Residents on Greenbanks were consulted on the upgrade of the facilities and feedback has been positive.</p> <p>Residents on Aikey Brae and Greenbanks were consulted on improvements from the Scottish Government '£2m additional funding for public sector.</p>		design and delivery of any new accommodation as opportunities present.
14.	Ensure regular input from Gypsy/Traveller communities into decision-making groups.	Strategic Housing Officer/ Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	<p>The Strategic Housing Officer and the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer attend the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee meetings and are members of COSLAs 'Negotiated Stopping as an approach' group.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer maintains a list of contact details of Gypsy/Travellers whom she can contact for input to decision making.</p> <p>The Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee has recommended the introduction of a Scrutiny Panel to discuss issues and oversee progress of initiatives relating to</p>		<p>The Strategic Housing Officer and the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will continue to attend meetings and groups and engage with Gypsy/Travellers to gauge their views.</p> <p>Regularly review and update contact details to take account of interest in relevant topics of interest to allow them to be involved in the decision-making process.</p> <p>Maintain details of those expressing an interest in a particular topic(s) and will</p>

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status	Next Steps
				<p>Gypsy/Travellers. This is being progressed by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and the Strategic Housing Officer. It will be topic driven and Gypsy/Travellers contacted and consulted as appropriate.</p> <p>Residents on Greenbanks had an initial meeting with the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer, the Strategic Housing Officer and the Site Assistant on 2nd August 2023 and one subsequent meeting on 14th September 2023. Thereafter the Tenant Participation Team has met with residents of Greenbanks and residents of the private site at Boyndie and are progressing to a Registered Tenant Organisation.</p>		<p>be contacted as necessary for their input.</p> <p>Attend meetings arranged by Tenant Participation staff.</p> <p>A meeting is to be arranged sometime after April 2024 when seasonal residents return.</p>

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee Action Plan.

Assessment ID	IIA-002103
Lead Author	Liz Hamilton
Additional Authors	Di Faithfull
Service Reviewers	Hannah McSherry
Subject Matter Experts	Suzanne Rhind, Susan Forbes, George Howie, Claudia Cowie, Kakuen Mo, Caroline Hastings, Annette Johnston, Christine McLennan
Approved By	Alexander Macleod
Approved On	Wednesday April 17, 2024
Publication Date	Wednesday April 17, 2024

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

The current Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee Action Plan has been produced under the Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023, which 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. Work, consultation and engagement is ongoing on the Local Housing Strategy 2024-2029. The Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee Action Plan also reflects the outcomes and actions in the Scottish Government Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan 2019 - 2022 (which was extended to Autumn 2023). The Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee Action Plan has been informed by engagement with Gypsy/Traveller community representatives. Members of the Sub Committee are asked to consider the actions within the Action Plan and continue to monitor it at its regular meetings, highlighting the progress on delivery of projects and outcomes contained within the Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan.

During screening 8 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 5 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Town Centres First

In total there are 33 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by alexander.macleod@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	Yes
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Climate Change and Sustainability	No Negative Impacts Identified
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Town Centre's First	No Negative Impacts Identified

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe	Yes			
Healthy	Yes			
Achieving	Yes			
Nurtured	Yes			
Active	Yes			
Respected	Yes			
Responsible	Yes			
Included	Yes			

4.2. Rights Indicators

<p>UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy</p>	<p>Article 1 - Definition of a child Article 2 - Non-discrimination Article 3 - Best interests of the child Article 4 - Protection of rights Article 5 - Parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities Article 6 - Life, survival and development Article 8 - Protection and preservation of identity Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child Article 13 - Freedom of expression Article 16 - Right to privacy Article 17 - Access to information; mass media Article 19 - Protection from all forms of violence Article 23 - Children with disabilities Article 24 - Health and health services Article 27 - Adequate standard of living Article 28 - Right to education Article 29 - Goals of education Article 30 - Children of minorities / indigenous groups Article 31 - Leisure, play and culture Article 42 - Knowledge of rights</p>
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4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Achieving	Children will be supported by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and other partners and agencies to try to try to ensure positive outcomes in achieving positive outcomes in education, well being. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer assists children with numeracy and literacy skills.

Impact Area	Impact
Active	Children will be supported by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and other partners and agencies to try to ensure they have the opportunity to live healthy and active lives, passing on information about activities and play areas in the local area. A playground was provided at Aikey Brae with Scottish Government funding to address the lack of facilities on the site which is remote and existing facilities are not easily accessible, without transport. The children are safe in the fenced off playground.
Healthy	Children will be supported by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and other partners and agencies to try to ensure the best health outcomes accessing appropriate benefits such as free school meals, Best Start Cards, liaising with Health Visitors to ensure the children get vaccines, vitamins, necessary diagnosis for conditions such as ADHD, Autism etc. Health Visitors are keen for young children to attend Nursery for their wellbeing. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer works with Childsmile to help with dental hygiene and access dentists.
Included	Children will be supported by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer, other partners and agencies to try to ensure that they feel included and valued. Events such as Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month in June raises awareness of their culture within school settings and helps them to feel included within schools. Gypsy/Traveller children's are provided in schools which also helps to raise awareness of their culture and lifestyle.
Nurtured	Children will be supported by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and other partners and agencies to try to try to ensure they are nurtured and protected. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer works with schools and nurseries to ensure safeguarding and well being of children when not in school, to confirm to schools that children are being nurtured and protected outwith the school setting.
Responsible	Children will be supported by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and other partners and agencies to allow them to be able to take responsibility as appropriate, encouraging interests and educational opportunities. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will encourage children on the site to do homework and take care of the site by helping picking up litter for example and taking a pride in their surroundings.
Respected	Children will receive respect and support from the Gypsy/ Traveller Liaison Officer, other partners and agencies. Visits are arranged on to Aikey Brae by Health Visitors, Childsmile, CLD, Early Learning, Book Bug etc. mindful of making them feel included, valued and respected.
Safe	Children will have culturally appropriate accommodation and will be supported by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and other partners and agencies to try to ensure they are in safe surroundings.

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Financial Inclusion Partnership. Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group.	Gypsy/Travellers continue to experience inequalities in education and health outcomes.	This has to be addressed to improve outcomes by facilitating access to education and health services and to ensure the parents get access to benefits which they are entitled to for their children.
Other Evidence	Engagement and feedback to the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and knowledge of the community.	It says Gypsy/Travellers continue to experience poor outcomes in health and education.	These will have to be continually monitored, addressed and improved to try to achieve the best outcomes for Gypsy/ Traveller children.

4.5. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer carries out annual surveys with residents of Greenbanks Travellers Site and ad hoc surveys at Aikey Brae, to gather views and feedback. She engages with children through educational activities and support. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer tries to offer events and activities of interest and value to the children in discussion with them.

4.6. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

It takes account of the children's wishes before planning any activities they might want to be involved in. There is direct engagement with children and parents/carers and education staff to ensure children are supported and safeguarded.

4.7. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

Any planned activities are in discussion with children to take account of their views and preferences.

4.8. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

They can be mitigated where possible by recognising what needs to be put in place to ensure the well being of the child in terms of health and education, if not already in place, although only for those known to the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer.

Not all Travellers identify due to discrimination therefore the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is not aware of all Gypsy/Travellers in Aberdeenshire so can not mitigate all negative impacts. However by continuing to support Travellers then others may become aware of the Gypsy/ Traveller Liaison Officer and the support and assistance which they could be provided with.

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)	Yes			
Age (Older)	Yes			
Disability	Yes			
Race	Yes			
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income	Yes			
Low wealth	Yes			
Material deprivation	Yes			
Area deprivation	Yes			
Socioeconomic background	Yes			

5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Older)	The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer ensures Gypsy/Travellers receive the benefits they are entitled to, particularly additional benefits such as PIP, Disability Living Allowance, Blue Badges etc. and support them with housing needs and adaptations if required. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer also assists with foodbank deliveries, utilities and other cost of living assistance.

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Younger)	<p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer assists with foodbank deliveries, clothes, food and toys for children from AberNecessities to help to improve the quality of life for children and works with Education to provide early learning opportunities, working closely with parents. Starter sacks from the Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP) have been distributed to Gypsy/Traveller families with children under five to bridge the gap between home and an early-years setting. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer also works with Health colleagues to ensure parents and children have access to necessary health services.</p>
Disability	<p>The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer ensures Gypsy/Travellers receive the benefits they are entitled to, particularly additional benefits such as PIP, Disability Living Allowance, Blue Badges etc. and support them with housing needs and adaptations if required. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer also assists with foodbank deliveries, utilities and other cost of living assistance. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer works with (Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project (MECOPP) and other partners to help to assist Gypsy/Travellers experiencing any problems relating to physical disabilities and mental health concerns. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer liaises between parents/carers and schools to ensure necessary support for children with Special Needs and attends Child Action Plan and Child Protection meetings. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer liaises with Health Visitors and supports families to take children to hospital appointments.</p>
Race	<p>An ALDO course for staff is in place to raise awareness of the Gypsy/Travellers culture and one aimed specifically at Education staff. Gypsy/Traveller Cultural Awareness raising sessions continue to be rolled out in-house, with external partners, Prison staff, Social Security Scotland, Libraries and the Third Sector, to promote a positive message. Officers work together to monitor and respond where appropriate to counter prejudiced media coverage and continue to work closely with Corporate Communications. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer works in partnership with Police Scotland's dedicated Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer for North East Division. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and the Strategic Housing Officer have been trained in Third Party Reporting of Hate Crimes. Aikey Brae is a Third Party Reporting Centre. Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month in June provides an opportunity to promote Travellers in a positive light in their contribution to Scottish culture and community.</p>

Impact Area	Impact
Area deprivation	If the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is aware of any families living in areas of deprivation she will assist them to maximise their incomes and increase uptake of financial support and benefits they are eligible for, tries to improve the standard of living by reducing daily living costs for Gypsy/Travellers and explores ways to address employability barriers where possible through, for example, education, training and digital inclusion. Work is ongoing to investigate site improvements at Aikey Brae to provide enhanced facilities on the site.
Low income	The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will assist Gypsy/Travellers to maximise their incomes and increase uptake of financial support and benefits they are eligible for, tries to improve the standard of living by reducing daily living costs for Gypsy/Travellers and explores ways to address employability barriers where possible through, for example, education, training and digital inclusion.
Low wealth	The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will assist to secure additional payments for utilities, replacement white goods, foodbank deliveries, clothing, food, and toys for children from AberNecessities and access appropriate support for Gypsy/Travellers. In addition, the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer arranges training courses in, for example, HGV licences etc. to improve employment opportunities. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer also provides practical assistance with job applications and CVs and investigates apprenticeship opportunities.
Material deprivation	The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will assist to secure additional payments for utilities, replacement white goods, foodbank deliveries, clothing, food and toys for children from AberNecessities and to access any other appropriate support for Gypsy/Travellers as required. Work is ongoing to investigate site improvements at Aikey Brae to provide enhanced facilities on the site.
Socioeconomic background	The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will assist Gypsy/Travellers to maximise their incomes and increase uptake of financial support and benefits they are eligible for, tries to improve the standard of living by reducing daily living costs for Gypsy/Travellers and explores ways to address employability barriers where possible through, for example, education, training and digital inclusion.

5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Engagement with the Gypsy/Traveller community	The Gypsy/Traveller community disproportionately experiences inequalities in income, access to services.	All avenues of support need to be explored to improve their quality of live and improve opportunities and outcomes.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	The Gypsy/ Traveller Liaison Officer maintains a list of annual outcomes for the Gypsy/Traveller community in Aberdeenshire.	It identifies numbers of Gypsy/Travellers and the services and organisations they accessed for assistance annually.	It shows that the Gypsy/ Traveller community experiences inequalities in income, education, health and employability.

5.5. Engagement with affected groups

Engagement through annual surveys, ad hoc surveys and informal consultation, gathering feedback. There are residents meetings at Greenbanks, with a view to setting up a Registered Tenant Organisation. Tenant Participation staff are assisting with this.

5.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

The Gypsy/Traveller community is directly involved.

5.7. Evidence of engagement

The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer works in partnership to address all aspects of inequalities suffered by the Travelling community, by listening to their concerns and experiences and thereafter exploring options for addressing these.

5.8. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

It is not possible to reach all members of the community to provide the support to achieve positive outcomes, as many may be unwilling to identify due to possible discrimination. To continue to make efforts to improve outcomes for those Gypsy/Travellers who can be supported and try to engage with other Gypsy/Travellers to try to assist more.

The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer raises awareness of the culture, lifestyle and needs of the Gypsy/Traveller community through various services and partners to promote good relations between Gypsy/Travellers and the settled community.

5.9. Improving Relations

The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer raises awareness of the culture, lifestyle and needs of the Gypsy/Traveller community through various services and partners to promote good relations between Gypsy/Travellers and the settled community.

5.10. Opportunities of Equality

Accommodation needs will be addressed and better met, as will educational, support, health and employment opportunities.

6. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

6.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating	Yes			
Exercise and physical activity	Yes			
Substance use – tobacco	Yes			
Substance use – alcohol	Yes			
Substance use – drugs	Yes			
Mental health	Yes			

6.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Exercise and physical activity	The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will support Gypsy/Travellers in securing options for exercise and activity through Live Life Aberdeenshire and any other available options. Educational play markings and a playground with equipment have been installed at Aikey Brae Travellers site to encourage children to partake in physical activity outdoors. Children and adults on Greenbanks are encouraged to join in activities such as gardening at the Vinery. In addition Greenbanks is situated close to the beach where children have the opportunity to play outdoors.
Healthy eating	The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer supports families on sites and living in the settled community to secure food bank and other donations to ensure that they have the option of obtaining healthy food through initiative such as Best Start Food Card, a Social Security Scotland benefit to access fruit and veg for children and maximising access to eligible benefits to provide more choices for buying healthy food. She will also engage with Gypsy/Travellers in partnership with Health, to raise awareness of healthy eating options. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer posts information about available fresh produce at the Vinery in Banff, such as lettuce, potatoes etc. free for collection.
Mental health	When engaging with the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will have opportunity to raise awareness of services which can provide support and assistance specific to the Gypsy/Traveller community and make referrals as necessary and makes them aware that there is a counselling helpline specifically for the Gypsy/Traveller community. There are Mental Health Well-being groups at the Vinery which Travellers are welcome to access.
Substance use – alcohol	When engaging with the Travelling community, the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will have opportunity to raise awareness of substance misuse and provide support and information to the community. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer works closely with Health colleagues and can pass on information on initiatives relating to alcohol use.

Impact Area	Impact
Substance use – drugs	When engaging with the Travelling community, the Gypsy/ Traveller Liaison Officer will have opportunity to raise awareness of substance misuse and provide support and information to the community. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer works closely with Health and Substance use colleagues and will pass on any information and initiatives.
Substance use – tobacco	When engaging with the Travelling community, the Gypsy/ Traveller Liaison Officer will have opportunity to raise awareness of substance use and provide support and information to the community. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer works closely with Health colleagues and will be in a position to pass on information about any particular initiatives on tackling substance use.

6.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Engagement with the Gypsy/ Traveller community	The Gypsy/ Traveller community have difficulty accessing health services and continuity of this service, due to lifestyle. Access is often online and there are issues with literacy.	It means their health issues may be compromised and this may have an effect on life expectancy. Life expectancy is on average 10 years less than the settled community.
External Data	Evidence Source Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project (MECCOP)	They have difficulty accessing health services and continuity of this service, due to lifestyle, access to services online and literacy issues.	Life expectancy is on average 10 years less than the settled community.

6.4. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

It is not possible to reach all Gypsy/Travellers in order to assist and support them to achieve positive outcomes.

There is support in place to try to achieve the best outcomes for those Gypsy/Travellers who are known to the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison officer and other services in Aberdeenshire. Working with Health it is proposed to establish Community Information Points at Aiky Brae and Greenbanks sites.

7. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

7.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy	Yes			
Energy efficiency	Yes			
Energy source	Yes			
Low carbon transition		Yes		
Consumption of physical resources		Yes		
Waste and circularity		Yes		
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition		Yes		

7.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment	Yes			
Quantity of environment		Yes		
Wildlife and biodiversity	Yes			
Infrastructure resilience		Yes		
Council resilience		Yes		
Community resilience		Yes		
Adaptation		Yes		

7.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Quality of environment	Additional trees and wild flowers have been planted at Aikey Brae which are aesthetically pleasing as well as benefiting nature, wildlife and biodiversity. Similarly, flowers and plants have been planted in the large planters at Greenbanks benefiting nature, wildlife and biodiversity at the site. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer consulted with Landscape Services and Environmental Planning colleagues to agree which plants would be best to encourage biodiversity and attract wildlife.
Wildlife and biodiversity	Additional trees and wild flowers have been planted at Aikey Brae which are aesthetically pleasing as well as benefiting wildlife and biodiversity. Flowers have also been provided in planters at Greenbanks which will benefit wildlife and biodiversity at the site. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer consulted with Landscape Services and Environmental Planning colleagues to agree which plants would be best to encourage biodiversity and attract wildlife.

Impact Area	Impact
Consumption of energy	Solar panels and window blinds have been fitted at the chalets and office at Greenbanks Travellers Site which are helpful for residents with energy costs as well as being positive for energy efficiency and the environment.
Energy efficiency	Solar panels and window blinds have been fitted at the chalets and office at Greenbanks Travellers Site which are helpful for residents with energy costs as well as being positive for energy efficiency and the environment.
Energy source	Solar panels have been fitted at the chalets and office at Greenbanks Travellers Site which are positive sources of energy benefiting the residents and staff, as well as the environment.

7.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Feedback from residents on sites.	Solar panels have helped with rising fuel costs for residents on Greenbanks.	The installation of solar panels on the chalets at Greenbanks have helped with fuel and living costs for residents on Greenbanks.
Other Evidence	Feedback from residents on Aikey Brae and Greenbanks.	The residents are happy to see flowers encouraging biodiversity and enhancing the look of the sites.	The sites are more pleasing places to reside.

7.5. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The solar panel and window blinds have had positive outcomes for the residents on Greenbanks in terms of cost-of-living considerations. In addition, the window blinds have afforded privacy for residents. The additional trees and wild flowers at Aikey Brae and flowers in the planters at Greenbanks are aesthetically pleasing and also beneficial to wildlife and biodiversity.

8. Town Centre's First Impact Assessment

8.1. Local Factors

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Town centre assets	Yes			
Footfall	Yes			
Changes to road layouts		Yes		
Parking		Yes		
Infrastructure changes		Yes		
Aesthetics of the town centre		Yes		
Tourism		Yes		
Public safety		Yes		
Town centre business	Yes			
Cultural heritage and identity	Yes			
Social and cultural aspects	Yes			

8.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Cultural heritage and identity	The Gypsy/Traveller community have been using Greenbanks site for the past 30 years and prior to the site being built it was used as a traditional stopping place. An event took place during Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month in June 2023 at the Vinery in Banff to which children from the local primary school were invited to attend. There was a traditional storyteller, skipping games and a competition to colour a Vardo all celebrating the cultural heritage and identity of Gypsy/Travellers.
Footfall	There will be increased footfall from the residents of Greenbanks, particularly during the summer, open season when there are more families on site. Families remaining on site outwith the season, will continue to have an impact on footfall in the town centre.
Social and cultural aspects	The Gypsy/Traveller community have been using Greenbanks site for over 30 years and prior to the site being built it was used as a traditional stopping place. The residents are considered to be a valued part of the community by those in the settled community in Banff. The residents take the opportunity to visit family members locally and also the opportunity to meet old friends on the site. It is believed that over the years Travellers have settled in Banff and opened business themselves.
Town centre assets	The residents of the site at Greenbanks in Banff will have a positive impact on the Town Centre as they will be using the facilities and bring more money into the town centre.

Impact Area	Impact
Town centre business	The residents of the site at Greenbanks in Banff will have a positive impact on the Town Centre business as they will be using the facilities and bring more money into the town centre. This is likely to increase during the seasonal opening of the site with more residents on site.

8.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Occupancy figures at Greenbanks and statistics	The site at Greenbanks in Banff is used by families during the season and some stay on beyond the seasonal operation of the site, as 10 stances are now available throughout the year.	The site is continuously occupied and was used as a traditional stopping place before being developed over 30 years ago.
Other Evidence	Oral evidence	The Greenbanks site was used as a stopping place many years before the site was developed by the council. Aikey Brae was also a traditional stopping place prior to it being developed and opening in 2018 as a Stopover Site.	The Travellers have contributed to the the Town centre economy and culture in Banff over a number of years and continue to do so. Aikey Brae occupants use the local facilities in Mintlaw and other local towns, therefore contribute to these economies and businesses.

8.4. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The sites contribute to and benefit the local economies as well as bringing cultural aspects to the locales.

9. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
<p>Monitor the progress on actions and outcomes in the Gypsy/ Traveller Action Plan.</p>	<p>Lead Officer Hannah McSherry</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Wednesday May 01, 2024</p> <p>Planned Finish Thursday May 01, 2025</p> <p>Expected Outcome Gypsy/Travellers accommodation needs will be met and they will experience improved outcomes in education, health, connectivity and opportunities in and out of work.</p> <p>Resource Implications Within existing resources.</p>

SUPPORT TO GYPSY/TRAVELLERS. JANUARY 2024 TO APRIL 2024

EDUCATION:

- Contact Early Learning to find out where there are spaces and then set up visits.
- Completed application forms:

Nursery: Five children enrolled in Nursery.

School: 12 children enrolled in Primary.

- Transport forms – Five forms completed.
- Ensure schools receive copy of birth certificates and in some cases help parents to get new ones, when lost or left behind.
- Give extra support weekly – Five children are currently being provided with additional support and assistance with education.
- Apply for Free School Meals/Clothing Grants – Four children assisted and also liaise with schools for pre-loved uniforms.
- Attended Child Action Plan meetings.
- Attended Child Protection meetings.

HEALTH:

- Registering with dentist – Three families assisted.
- Registering with new GP surgery – One family registered which required a number of forms to be completed and downloaded.

VARIOUS FORMS:

- Employment Support Allowance – One.
- Adult Disability Payment – Two.
- Child Disability Payment – One.
- Driving Licence application – One.
- Change of name/deed poll – One.
- Community Care Grant – Two payments awarded, one for assistance with utilities one and for the provision of a cooker and washing machine.
- Universal Credit journals – Assisted 10 people with updating these.
- Associated housing forms for termination/start of occupancy, etc – Three families.
- Requesting replacement National Insurance Numbers – Three.

FINANCE:

- Referred to Council Welfare Right's Officer – Three families helped with utilities and other expenses. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is not always informed of the final amount of funding provided.
- 26 x £100 Love Local cards given out to families for various reasons, mostly food and utilities.

CONFIRMATION OF ID:

- Driving Licence – Three verified.
- Passports – 10 verified.

GYPSY/TRAVELLER EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT– Courses and Outcomes to April 2024

COURSE/TRAINING	DATE	OUTCOME
Trailer/Towing Licence, Roadwise	22 nd July 2021	Fail
Trailer/Towing Licence, Roadwise	23 rd July 2021	Fail
Trailer/Towing Licence, Roadwise	11 th August 2021	Pass
Trailer/Towing Licence, Roadwise	24 th August 2021	Pass (2 nd attempt)
Trailer/Towing Licence, Roadwise	3 rd September 2021	Fail
CSCS Course, F1 Training	19 th October 2021 CITB test	Pass
CSCS Course, F1 Training	19 th October 2021 15 th February 2022 – CITB test	Pass
Introduction to Textiles and Design, NESCOL, Ellon	28 th January - 4 th April 2022	Attendance only No formal qualification awarded
First Aid, Ringlink Services	11 th February 2022	Pass
Barnardo's, SCQF Level 3 - Steps to Work Award	March 2022	Pass
Telehandler/Forklift CG Safety Training	7 th - 11 th March 2022	Pass
Telehandler/Forklift CG Safety Training	7 th - 11 th March 2022	Pass
Excavator/Digger CG Safety Training	7 th - 11 th March 2022	Pass
Excavator/Digger CG Safety Training	7 th March 2022	Fail
Driving Licence	31 st March 2022	Pass
CSCS Course, F1 Training	12 th April 2022 12 th August 2022 - CITB test 30 th August 2022 - resit	Fail Pass
Beginner's Cake Decoration, NESCOL, Fraserburgh	19 th April 2022 for 8 weeks	Attendance only No formal qualification awarded.
Bookkeeping Level 1	Online course	Did not pursue the course.
LGV Licence, Roadwise	5 th May 2022	Pass
LGV Licence, Roadwise	16 th Jun 2022	Pass
LGV Licence, Roadwise	Ongoing	Still in training.

COURSE/TRAINING	DATE	OUTCOME
LGV Licence, Roadwise	Ongoing	Theory Test to be arranged.
LGV Licence, Roadwise	Ongoing	Theory Test booked
LGV Licence, Roadwise	Ongoing	Withdrew from course. (cost reimbursed)
LGV Licence, Roadwise	Ongoing	Ongoing
Assisted with CV and applying for jobs online	Secured a position with a Cleaning Company	Employed – February 2023
Assisted with CV and applying for jobs online	Secured a position with a Cleaning Company	Employed – February 2023
<p>Jewellery Making</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <p>4 – week block course: week 1 - make a silver ring week 2 - make enamel earrings week 3 - make a silver bangle week 4 - learn to solder in the traditional way using a gas torch</p> <p>Mixture of Levels 2 and 3:</p> <p>4 – week block course: week 1 – water casting week 2 – sandcasting weeks 3 & 4 - making sea glass rings</p>	<p>The Smiddy, Banff</p> <p>7th July – 27th July 2023</p> <p>September 2023</p>	<p>All successfully completed and keen to do other courses. Helped in gaining self-confidence and some considering college beauty courses next year at NESCOL.</p> <p>One course member offered internship at The Smiddy in 2024.</p>
<p>Driving Lessons</p> <p>Aberdeen Foyer/Roadwise</p>	<p>January 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Theory Test Passed</p> <p>Driving test booked</p>

Appendix 5

Community Information Points supported by NHS Grampian Public Health Healthpoint service

NHS Grampian's Public Health Healthpoint, in partnership with the Health and Social Care Partnerships (H&SCP) across Grampian would like to support local community groups/services to establish their own Community Information Points. Support will be offered by Healthpoint, and a network will be created to share information and campaigns.

What you include in your Community Information Point including materials, layout and location, is your choice as you will have the best understanding of your local community needs. We can offer advice on how to start your Community Information Point and guidance on a selection of start-up resources that you could order and stock.

If I want to set up a Community Information Point, what support is available?

- You will be part of a network of Community Information Points across Grampian supported by the Healthpoint service.
- Healthpoint will be aware of your Community Information Point and any other services that you provide, and will signpost clients to you
- A 'global' email will be dispatched monthly to you by the Healthpoint team promoting local and national campaigns, new information and resources available. These may include campaigns/events that you would like to promote.
- You will receive information on the Healthpoint service and how clients can be referred to the service for further advice and support.
- A free account with our Resources Service. This account gives you access to order resources and campaign materials including leaflets, posters, condoms, loan items etc. free of charge.
- Advice and guidance on setting up an information point e.g. advice on popular resources for your community.
- Community Information Points who are not part of the NHSG internal mail system or are unable to collect orders in person, we will consider posting materials to them.
- The opportunity to sign up for the Condom Distribution Scheme (optional)
- If your Community Information Points is staffed, we will offer training on Making Every Opportunity Count (MEOC) and services offered by Healthpoint. Please note that Community Information Points do not need to be staffed.
- External training opportunities will be highlighted.
- Access to advice from Public Health and Healthpoint staff.
- For Community Information Points that have access to a computer (with camera and microphone), we can provide advice and guidance on how you can support clients to access the Healthpoint service via Near Me (virtual consultation with a Healthpoint Advisor).
- Please note that signage, branding, displays, leaflet stands will not be offered as part of this offer.

What would be expected of the Community Information Points?

- Community Information Points will be asked to submit an application to register for resources and to sign up to be part of the network
- You will need to identify a named individual/s who will be our point of contact and will order materials from the Resources Service.
- Participation in the ongoing evaluation of the service.

If you are interested in developing a Community Information Point, please email gram.healthpointadmin@nhs.scot.

REPORT TO GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB COMMITTEE – 1st MAY 2024

LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY - GYPSY/TRAVELLER

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The [Local Housing Strategy 2018 - 2023](#) was agreed by Communities Committee on 21st December 2017. In line with Scottish Government guidance, this must be reviewed every five years.

1.2 This report seeks comments from the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee on the proposed actions and performance indicators which will be presented as part of the revised Local Housing Strategy to Communities Committee following full consultation.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Provide comment to Communities Committee on proposed actions and performance indicators as part of the consultation of the revised Local Housing Strategy.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 The [Local Housing Strategy 2018 - 2023](#) was agreed by Communities Committee on 21st December 2017. The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is the strategic vision for housing delivery and housing related services. The document should be reviewed every five years. The LHS will link with other Council Strategic Plans, including the Local Development Plan.

2.2 Following identification of strategic priorities, the service should ensure that there are sufficient measures in place to monitor the progress of these targets. The outcomes of the Local Housing Strategy 2018 – 2023, in terms of the Minority Ethnic priority, are summarised in **Appendix 1**.

3 Discussion

3.1 When reviewing and developing a new Local Housing Strategy, the [Housing Need and Demand Assessment](#) (HNDA) is the main evidence base used to inform the process.

3.2 The HNDA is developed in partnership with Aberdeen City Council and is a common evidence base to enable both Local Authorities to meet its statutory obligations.

3.3 The HNDA was given robust and credible status by the Centre of Housing Market Analysis (CHMA) in January 2024.

3.4 Key points highlighted in the HNDA relating to the Gypsy/Traveller community are summarised below.

- The population size of Gypsy/Traveller groups is relatively unknown. Gypsy/Traveller was added as an ethnic group in the 2011 census; however, it is considered that data from this time may be unreliable due to a reluctance of the community to identify as such. Updated data from the 2022 census is due to be released in May 2024 which may provide a more accurate indication of the population in Aberdeenshire and Scotland.
- The HNDA acknowledges that additional sites and potential locations are required to meet the needs of this community. While there has been land identified, there has been a lack of progress in terms of delivery.
- For those families who wish to reside on a private site, challenges are faced in terms of costs, planning permission and the need to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments. From 2018 – 2023, four planning applications for private sites were received by Aberdeenshire Council, one which was approved with a further three refused, withdrawn or pending at the time of writing the HNDA.
- Gypsy/Travellers are more likely to report long-term health problems and poor educational outcomes, and these issues can be exacerbated by their living conditions.

3.5 At a workshop held on 30th November with members of the Communities Committee, five new priorities were agreed for the Local Housing Strategy 2024 – 2029. Priority 4, Increase the supply and ensure best use of particular needs accommodation, includes housing for minority ethnic communities.

3.6 The revised LHS is currently being drafted and will be consulted on in the coming months. Under the actions of the minority ethnic community section, it is proposed that 4 actions would be monitored in terms of Gypsy/Travellers. These are:

- Better incomes in and out of work.
- Improve access to public services.
- Tackle racism and discrimination.
- Improve Gypsy/Traveller representation.

These actions align with the COSLA and Scottish Government's National Action Plan for Improving the Lives of Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland.

3.7 In addition to these overarching actions, a number of performance indicators will also be monitored and reported on as part of the annual LHS review. The proposed indicators include:

- Number of Unauthorised Encampments.
- Adherence to the Code of Conduct for Gypsy/Travellers.
- Prejudice and Discrimination Reporting.
- Number of Privately run Gypsy/Traveller sites in Aberdeenshire.
- Number of local authority run Gypsy/Traveller sites in Aberdeenshire.

3.8 At the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee on 1st May, members are asked to review the proposed priorities and performance measures and provide comment on any additional information they would like to add in terms of this priority. Consultation feedback will be incorporated to the draft document prior to final reports being presented to Communities Committee later this year.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report contributes to all of the Council priorities and in particular to resilient communities, health and wellbeing, education and infrastructure.

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Learning for Life Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Climate Change Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economic Growth Infrastructure and public assets

4.2 This report helps deliver against Aberdeenshire Children’s Services Plan and the priority of Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing. This report helps deliver on the Local Outcome Improvement Plan Priority of Child Poverty.

4.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation is agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing			X
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			X
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing			X
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

4.4 There are no staffing or financial implications.

- 4.5 An integrated impact assessment has not been undertaken at this stage. A full IIA will be presented to all area committees and Communities Committee with the draft Local Housing Strategy.
- 4.6 No risks have been identified at this stage as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level.

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The Sub-Committee is able to consider this item because it relates to a function of the Sub-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.

Alan Wood
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Hannah McSherry, Housing Manager
Date 11th April 2024

List of Appendices –

Appendix 1 – Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023: Outcomes and Achievements –
Minority Ethnic Priority

Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023

Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023: Outcomes and Achievements

Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2023 -2028 builds on the strong foundations and positive outcomes delivered by the 2018-2023 LHS. The key outcomes which were achieved over the last five years are outlined below. They help to demonstrate the progress made in delivering the priorities and actions set out in the Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy 2018 – 2023. Covid-19 had an impact on targets and outcomes of priorities, but in the main targets were reached

LHS outcomes from 2018 to 2022.

Minority Ethnic Communities (Gypsy/Traveller Focussed)

- A new Gypsy/Traveller Site Provision Strategy 2021-2026 was agreed by the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee in November 2021. This prioritised new provision in central Aberdeenshire and enhancements to the facilities to one of the existing Travellers' sites. Efforts continue to try to identify land for Gypsy/Traveller sites in addition to those identified in the Local Development Plan.
- Adherence to the Code of Conduct has been consistently high, exceeding targets, with Travellers reporting that they feel safe in Aberdeenshire.
- Two additional planning applications were granted for private sites in South and North Aberdeenshire in 2021/2022. Other planning applications are in process, with applicants being assisted by the dedicated Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer.