

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.