

REPORT TO GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB COMMITTEE – 8TH JANUARY 2025

LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY - GYPSY/TRAVELLER

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 at Appendix 1.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 [Aberdeenshire Council's Local Housing Strategy 2024 - 2029](#), identifies increasing the supply of appropriate housing and support to ensure health and wellbeing across all of Aberdeenshire's Communities as one of five priorities. The provision of accommodation for minority ethnic groups, including Gypsy/Travellers is identified within this chapter. 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, stakeholders and is in line with the [Improving the Lives of Scotland's Gypsy/Travellers 2 action plan 2024-2026](#). Members of the Sub Committee are asked to consider the actions within the Action Plan and continue to monitor it at its regular meetings.

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.

3.2 At its meeting of 7th November 2024, Communities Committee approved a change of frequency of the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee from quarterly to bi-annually [Agenda for Communities Committee on Thursday, 7th November, 2024, 10.15 am - Aberdeenshire Council](#) item 6 refers. In addition to this change, it was agreed that the Gypsy/Traveller Officer Group be reestablished. This group is an enhanced officer group with membership including colleagues from Education, Housing, Environmental Health, Community Learning and Developments, Planning, Corporate Equalities, Social Work, Legal, NHS and Police Scotland. The group will meet quarterly to monitor and progress actions

within the action plan. Details of this work will be reported back to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee.

- 3.3 The Scottish Government has advised that future funding for Gypsy/Traveller accommodation will be delivered through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme from 2026/27 onwards. Gypsy/Traveller provisions will also be monitored and reported in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) and through the Local Housing Strategy annual updates. The team and Gypsy/Traveller community will also be involved in discussions around the next Local Development Plan.
- 3.4 The Scottish Government and COLSA have recently published their latest action plan [Improving the Lives of Scotland's Gypsy/Travellers 2 action plan 2024-2026](#). The team have reviewed this plan and incorporated appropriate actions into the action plan at Appendix 1.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 The Action Plan contributes to all of the Council priorities and in particular to Connected Communities and Living Well Locally.

Pillar	Priority
A sustainable economy	We will support a strong and diverse economy by attracting people of working age to our region, complementing our highly skilled local workforce.
Connected communities	We will work with communities and partners to enhance the sense of connection among our places. This includes supporting communities to come up with innovative solutions to ensure our places are resilient and vibrant.
Living well locally	We will encourage and support our residents to lead healthy and active lives and contribute meaningfully to their communities. We will make proactive choices that will allow us to cater to the needs of our increasingly ageing population.

- 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' 2 action plan 2024 – 2026 that was published in September 2024 and the Local Housing Strategy 2024- 2029. 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(s) is (are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing			X
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Climate Change and Sustainability	IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Health and Wellbeing	IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Town Centre First	IIA attached as Appendix 2		

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 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- [ACORP001](#) – Budget Pressures – This will be monitored and reported to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee and where appropriate, policy committees relating to the area of pressure.
- [ACORP002](#) - Changes in government policy, legislation and regulation. This will be monitored and reported to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee and where appropriate, policy committees relating to the area of the change.

- [ACORP005](#) – Working with other organisations. Risks around partnership working or supply chain challenges will be monitored and reported to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee and where appropriate, policy committees relating to the area of pressure.
- [ACORP006](#)– Reputation management (including social media). Risks around reputational management in terms of Gypsy/Traveller communities will be monitored and report to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee and where appropriate, policy communities relating to the area of the issue.
- [ACORP007](#) – Social risk. Changes to population and demographic of Aberdeenshire influencing the delivery of the local housing strategy and/or delivery of the Gypsy/Traveller action plan will be monitored and impacts reported to Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee and where appropriate, policy committees relating to the area of risk.
- [ACORP010](#) – Environmental changes. Environment changes influencing the delivery of the local housing strategy and/or delivery of the Gypsy/Traveller action plan will be monitored and impacts reported to Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee and where appropriate, policy committees relating to the area of risk.

4.8 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

- [ISR008](#) – Placemaking to meet the current and future needs of communities and supporting communities to help themselves, enabling community wealth building that support local economic opportunities – Placemaking activities will be a key feature of planning housing and housing related services with consultation being undertaken with the appropriate groups, communities and policy committees.
- [ISR015 & ISR016](#) – everyone having access to appropriate accommodation and housing support where required. This will be monitored and reported to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee and Communities Committee.

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.

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Report prepared by Hannah Russell, Housing Manager
 9th December 2024

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee Action Plan

Appendix 2 – Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan Integrated Impact Assessment

Appendix 3 – Employability Outcomes Gypsy/Travellers September to December 2024