

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

**Housing and Communities Committee**

**22 August 2018**

**Gypsy/Traveller Strategy 2018-21**

**Report by Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (18/258)**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report seeks approval for a revised Gypsy/Traveller Strategy 2018-21.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 A final report on the previous Gypsy/Traveller Strategy for Perth and Kinross (2013-18) was approved by the Perth & Kinross Council Housing and Communities Committee on 16 May 2018 (Report No 18/162 refers), and the Community Planning Partnership Executive Officer Group on 1 June 2018.
- 1.2 Members requested that a revised Gypsy/Traveller Strategy be reported back to this Committee.
- 1.3 The Gypsy/Traveller Strategy (2018-21) was revised with input from officers across the Council and partner agencies at a Gypsy/Traveller Working Group and a Third Sector Engagement Group. Gypsy/Traveller community participation was invited through outreach surgeries, direct mail or online.

**2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 The revised Gypsy/Traveller Strategy (2018-21) is included in full as Appendix 1 of this report. However, some specific points should be noted.
  - 2.1.1 The aims of the revised strategy are to continue:
    - to ensure services provided to meet the needs of the Gypsy/Traveller community in Perth and Kinross are provided in a non-discriminatory way and take account of cultural requirements;
    - to plan to meet the future needs of Gypsy/Traveller community members in Perth and Kinross;
    - to involve Gypsy/Traveller community members in planning any future service developments which may be relevant to them;
    - to improve access to local services for the Gypsy/Traveller community in Perth and Kinross;
    - to raise awareness amongst staff in partner organisations and elected members of issues which impact on Gypsy/Travellers locally;
    - to promote positive images of Gypsy/Travellers in local media and to wider community where possible.

2.1.2 The key themes remain unchanged from the previous Gypsy/Traveller Strategy (2013-18) but actions contained within it have been updated. The 5 key themes are:

- (i) Site Provision
- (ii) Improving Access to Services and Advice on Employment and Health
- (iii) Anti-Discrimination Advice and Training
- (iv) Addressing Operational Issues at Bobbin Mill and Double Dykes
- (v) Community Engagement and Empowerment

2.1.3 Gypsy/Traveller community members were consulted on the themes and revised actions during July and August with opportunities to comment also made available online. The community participation discussions took place as part of the outreach surgeries led by PKAVS Bridging the Gap Project (at Double Dykes and in Kinross) as well as individual discussions with community members in Crieff, Auchterarder and Pitlochry. 27 responses were received and all were in agreement with the proposed themes and actions. 3 specific comments were received from community members relating to (i) the lack of a bus stop near the Gairney Bridge/Greenacres site in Kinross; (ii) a request for the provision of more information about events and (iii) a request for information on the themes and actions to be provided in Plain English. These issues will be responded to as the Action Plan is taken forward.

### 3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

3.1 This Strategy has been developed for a specific community of interest that may experience significant inequalities of outcome, with a view to reducing those inequalities.

3.2 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Approves the contents of this report
- (ii) Notes the revised Gypsy/Traveller Strategy (2018-21) outlined in Appendix 1
- (iii) Agrees that the report is shared with the Community Planning Partnership for their approval
- (iv) Requests the Executive Director (Housing & Environment) brings an annual update on the Strategy's progress to the Committee in August 2019

#### Author(s)

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|--------------|------------------------|--|
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#### Approved

| Name           | Designation                                | Date     |
|----------------|--|----------|
| Barbara Renton | Executive Director (Housing & Environment) | 08.08.18 |

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

| <b>Strategic Implications</b>                       | <b>Yes / None</b> |
|---|-------------------|
| Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement           | <b>Yes</b>        |
| Corporate Plan                                      | <b>Yes</b>        |
| <b>Resource Implications</b>                        |                   |
| Financial   | <b>Yes</b>        |
| Workforce   | <b>Yes</b>        |
| Asset Management (land, property, IST)              | <b>Yes</b>        |
| <b>Assessments</b>                                  |                   |
| Equality Impact Assessment                          | <b>Yes</b>        |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment                  | <b>None</b>       |
| Sustainability (community, economic, environmental) | <b>None</b>       |
| Legal and Governance                                | <b>Yes</b>        |
| Risk  | <b>Yes</b>        |
| <b>Consultation</b>                                 |                   |
| Internal  | <b>Yes</b>        |
| External  | <b>Yes</b>        |
| <b>Communication</b>                                |                   |
| Communications Plan                                 | <b>Yes</b>        |

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 This report supports all outcomes in the Community Plan:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

#### Corporate Plan

1.2 This report supports all outcomes in the Corporate Plan:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

## 2. Resource Implications

### Financial

- 2.1 There are no additional financial implications arising directly as a result of this report at this time. Ongoing work is managed within existing budgets and any new developments which arise in the future will be subject to budget approval as appropriate.

### Workforce

- 2.2 There are no additional workforce implications arising directly as a result of this report at this time. Ongoing work is managed within existing officer workloads.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no additional Asset Management implications arising as a result of this report at this time. Any new proposed developments which arise in the future will be subject to the relevant approval process at that time.

## 3. Assessments

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **relevant** and the following positive outcomes expected following implementation:
- provision of appropriate information and access to appropriate services
  - increased engagement with all members of the Gypsy/Traveller community regardless of gender
  - improved service for those taking account of their disability or age-related requirements as appropriate

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

The proposal recommended in this paper has been considered under the Act and the pre-screening has identified that the proposal will have no environmental effects, it is therefore exempt. The reason for concluding this is

that the recommendation in this report will have no direct environmental effects.

### Sustainability

- 3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

No steps are required to be taken in this area.

### Legal and Governance

- 3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted during the development of this Strategy.

### Risk

- 3.5 Any risks associated with this Strategy will be mitigated by the monitoring and reporting procedures which have been put in place.

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

- 4.1 This Strategy has been developed across services within the Council and all relevant Senior Management Teams have been consulted along with the Executive Officer Team and colleagues in the Community Planning Partnership.

### External

- 4.2 This Strategy has been developed in partnership with key Community Planning Partners, NHS Tayside and Police Scotland and third sector organisations who contribute to the delivery of the strategy. Members of the Gypsy/Traveller community have also been invited to contribute to the process. The consultation was also made publicly available on the Council website.

## **5. Communication**

- 5.1 Section 6 of the Strategy document outlines the process for managing, monitoring and reviewing it. This includes the communication process. Easy-read versions of the Strategy and an audio version were also made available during the consultation.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No other background papers were referred to in the preparation of this report.

## **3. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: The Gypsy/Traveller Strategy 2018-21.