

# **PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

## **Housing and Communities Committee**

**21 August 2019**

### **Gypsy/Traveller Strategy 2018-21 – Year 1 Progress Reprt**

#### **Report by Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (Report No. 19/227)**

This report provides members with an update on progress for the first year of the Gypsy/Traveller Strategy 2018-21.

#### **1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 The Gypsy/Traveller Strategy was approved by the Housing and Communities Committee on 22 August 2018 (Report No 18/258 refers), and the Community Planning Partnership Executive Officer Group on 23 November 2018.
- 1.2 Members requested that the Executive Director (Housing & Environment) brings an annual update on the Strategy's progress back to the Committee in August 2019.

#### **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 The aims of the Gypsy/Traveller Strategy 2018-21 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;
  - plan to meet the future needs of Gypsy/Traveller community members in Perth and Kinross;
  - involve Gypsy/Traveller community members in planning any future service developments which may be relevant to them;
  - improve access to local services for the Gypsy/Traveller community in Perth and Kinross;
  - raise awareness amongst staff in partner organisations and elected members of issues which impact on Gypsy/Travellers locally;
  - promote positive images of Gypsy/Travellers in local media and to wider community where possible.
- 2.2 The 5 key themes of the strategy are:
  - site provision
  - improving access to services and advice on employment and health
  - anti-discrimination advice and training
  - addressing operational issues at Bobbin Mill and Double Dykes
  - community engagement and empowerment.

- 2.3 The strategy Action Plan is monitored by the Gypsy/Traveller Strategy Working Group, in partnership with a third sector engagement Group. The working group consists of representatives from across Council services, partner organisations (NHS Tayside and most recently Police Scotland) and third sector organisations working with Gypsy/Traveller communities directly, including MECOPP Gypsy/Traveller Carers Project; PKAVS; Ethnic Minorities Law Centre and Article 12.
- 2.4 The Action Plan (Appendix 1) details how actions against each theme have progressed. Some specific positive actions worth noting include:
- approval of the negotiated stopping sites pilot by Housing and Communities Committee (report No. 19/145 refers);
  - issuing an easy-read leaflet with key contacts and information for Gypsy/Travellers;
  - hosting a successful Annual Wellbeing Mela Event with a record number in excess of 250 in attendance;
  - 128 young people from 5 primary schools attended specific Show Racism the Red Card Out of Site workshops during 2018/19 (an anti-racism education programme focussing on racism and discrimination targeted at Gypsy/Roma/Travellers) - the delivery of these sessions involved a Gypsy/Traveller Youth Assembly member. This remains part of the overall Show Racism the Red Card education programme within local schools and will continue for the lifetime of the strategy.
  - a number of events in partnership with MECOPP and Culture PK for Gypsy/Roma/Traveller History month (including displays in the Civic Hall, Perth Museum, Loch Leven Community Campus and the AK Bell Library);
  - a pilot initiative for Gypsy/Traveller women to allow them to take part in Salle Ossian's Project Forte, a Sport for Change initiative that aims to reach out to community groups who might benefit from the therapeutic opportunities inherent in the sport of fencing;
  - ongoing commitment to improving and maintaining site standards and engagement with Gypsy/Travellers at Double Dykes and Bobbin Mill through a separate dedicated improvement plan
  - the inclusion of Double Dykes and Bobbin Mill in the Local Stock Condition Survey, to validate self-assessment of adherence to Scottish Government's minimum site standards and future financial investment levels
  - succesful funding applications through Participatory Budgeting for Double Dykes residents 'Happy Cabin' and through Creative Scotland by Pitlochry based Rajpot Project for inter-cultural mini-festival and scoping exercise;
  - approval for siting of a bus stop near to the private site of Gairneybank in Kinross in response to resident consultation.
- 2.5 It should also be noted that we await formal approval of the proposed joint Scottish Government/COSLA Action Plan 'Improving the Lives of Scotland's Gypsy/Travellers' so that any required actions from it can be implemented at a local level. The Council is aware of proposals within the draft stages of the Plan through the COSLA Leaders Briefings.

- 2.6 Implementation of the Negotiated Stopping Sites Pilot provides a positive and proactive opportunity to address the occasional tensions that arise within communities when temporary or “unauthorised” encampments are set up”.

### 3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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 through the actions reported on.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) approves the contents of this report
  - (ii) agrees that the report is shared with the Community Planning Partnership for their approval
  - (iii) requests the Executive Director (Housing & Environment) brings a second annual update on the Strategy’s progress to the Committee in August 2020

#### Author

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#### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Executive Director (Housing & Environment)	15 July 2019

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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.
- 3.2 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- 3.3 The Strategit itself was 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

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

- 3.5 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

- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 No steps are required to be taken in this area.

#### Legal and Governance

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

#### Risk

- 3.9 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 also contributed 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.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

## **3. APPENDICES**

- 3.1 Appendix 1: The Gypsy/Traveller Strategy 2018-21 Action Plan