



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge  
Waterford City & County Council

# Draft TAP 2019 -2024

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## **Glossary of Terms**

TAP: Traveller Accommodation Programme

Department: The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

WC&CC: Waterford City & County Council

NTACC: National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

LTACC: Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

ITM: Irish Traveller Movement

NTRIS: National Traveller & Roma Integration Strategy

RAS: Rental Accommodation Scheme

HAP: Housing Assistance Payment

CDP: Community Development Project

TSS: Tenancy Sustainment Service

CBL: Choice Based Lettings

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## **Introduction**

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that all Local Authorities prepare and adopt Traveller Accommodation Programmes for specific periods of time the most recent being for 2019 -2024.

The purpose of these programmes is to assess the current and projected accommodation needs for accommodation for Traveller families in the Local Authority area over this period and to outline specific proposals to ensure this need is met. The programmes will have regard to all relevant legislation.

The Programme was prepared in accordance with the directions issued by the Minister for Housing and Planning in the Memorandum on the preparation, adoption and implementation of Local Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2019-2024.

## Policy Framework

The Government Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness Rebuilding Ireland which was published in 2016 states that:

*“Government Policy on housing in Ireland has for many years aimed to ensure that to the greatest extent possible, every household can access secure, good quality and affordable housing suited to their needs and located within sustainable communities.”*

It is also recognised that accommodation itself is not enough and there is a need for an integrated response from existing support services to assist in the development of sustainable communities.

On March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 the Taoiseach, made a statement in The Dail announcing Ireland’s recognition of Travellers as a distinct ethnic group in Irish Society.

Following on from that The National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 was published by The Department of Justice and Equality.

The strategy was developed following a three phase public consultation and it sets out a range of actions across a number of themes including accommodation.

The stated overall objective in respect of Accommodation in the Strategy is:

*“There should be adequate provision of accessible, suitable and culturally appropriate accommodation available for Travellers.*

*Delivery of Traveller accommodation should be underpinned by a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, with a view to ensuring full expenditure of funds allocated to Traveller specific accommodation.”*

The specific proposals which will be outlined in this Programme will have regard to these Policy objectives.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024, and any subsequent reviews of same, will have regard to the Waterford City & County Development Plan and the Housing Strategy

The principles of sustainable neighbourhood structures, social integration, adequate provision of the widest possible range of housing options and improved estate management underpin many of the proposals being put forward in this programme and will need to

comply with the City & County Councils overall objective of developing sustainable communities.

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## **Policy Statement**

It is the policy of Waterford City and County Council to endeavour to provide accommodation appropriate to the needs of Traveller households who live in the area, who are approved applicants for accommodation by the Council and who are included in the assessment of need in the preparation of this programme. Approved housing applicants of Waterford City and County Council are all applicants who are assessed as having an accommodation need.

Waterford City & County Council will have due regard to the Council's Allocations and Tenancy Management Policies when making any allocation.

In so far as possible the preferred accommodation choice of the applicant will be considered.

This will be achieved using the full range of Social Housing options which are currently available and by a commitment to investigate and provide, where appropriate any new initiatives that may become available during the lifetime of this Programme.

The Social Housing Options currently available include:

- Group Housing
- Standard Local Authority Housing
- Approved Housing Bodies
- Transitional Housing
- Halting Sites
- Leasing Scheme
- Housing assistance Payments
- Annuity Loans
- Caravan Loan Scheme
- Housing Adaption grants

The specific proposals to meet the identified needs and the timeframe for same will be outlined in the Implementation Strategy section of the Programme.



The development and delivery of Traveller specific accommodation i.e. Group Housing or Halting Site accommodation will involve ongoing consultation with Traveller families and the wider community and Elected Council Members to ensure the proposed development meets the needs of the families that will be resident there and also that any issues arising may be addressed at an early stage and in the context of developing sustainable communities.

Waterford City and County Council recognises that some Traveller families own horses and would be willing to support proposals for the development of an appropriate horse project in keeping with the following stated objectives of The National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021:

*“The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine will support a Traveller equine strategy to support Travellers to engage with knowledge and competence in the equine industry. Traveller horse owners/keepers must comply with all EU and National legislation relating to equine identification and animal welfare.*

*“The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine will support the development of regional Traveller horse projects in association with local Authorities to promote knowledge and care of horses, with a focus on animal welfare and road safety.”*

Waterford City and County Council will consult on an individual basis with families who are involved in traditional economic activities to see if their particular needs may be accommodated subject to compliance with relevant legislation.

It is a stated action in the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion strategy that *“The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees will examine how best they can further develop the involvement of Traveller specific accommodation tenants in issues relating to their scheme or site.”*

All tenancies provided by Waterford City and County Council are subject to the conditions of the tenancy agreement. The Council provides pre tenancy courses for all of its tenants, however it is recognised that there are particular issues that need to be addressed when families move to ‘Traveller specific accommodation. In response to this it is proposed to develop a course that takes these issues into account.

Waterford City and County Council has a contract with Focus Ireland to provide a Tenancy Sustainment Service for individuals and families. This service is available to assist any family or individual accessing and maintaining either private rented, Local Authority accommodation or accommodation provided by the Approved Housing Bodies.

Tenants of Traveller Specific accommodation and Standard Local Authority housing will be offered the support services of the Housing Welfare Officer on an ongoing basis to address any welfare issues that may arise.

The Traveller Liaison Officer is the point of contact for Traveller families living in Traveller specific accommodation in relation to issues relating to their tenancy and accommodation.

Waterford City and County Council's Anti Social Behaviour Policy states that the City & County Council is committed to the prevention and elimination of anti-social behaviour in its estates. The City and County Council has the authority under Section 13 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997 to refuse to allocate a tenancy to a person or household who has been or is involved in anti-social behaviour. The City and County Council also has a procedure to deal with complaints of anti-social behaviour made against existing tenants and if these allegations are substantiated the sanctions available include termination of a tenancy of a family or household, or an Exclusion Order against a member of the household.

It is intended that The Traveller Accommodation Programme will be subject to review on an annual basis and to a formal midterm review in 2022 and that the City and County Council will commit to modify the objectives if changing circumstances so warrant.

## Review of the Waterford County Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 was prepared at a time of unprecedented change in the Local Government system in Waterford which resulted in the formation of a new Local Authority Waterford City & County Council.

Initially both the City Council and the County Council's prepared a Traveller Accommodation Programme for their areas.

The assessment of need for the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 was carried out as two separate assessments by Waterford City Council and Waterford County Council (including the assessment of need for the Dungarvan Town Council Area).

The midterm review of the TAP was conducted in 2016 and an updated assessment of need for the City and County was carried out.

The need as identified is outlined in the following table.

### Summary of Proposed Accommodation need by Type Following the Mid Term Review

Accommodation Type	Existing Need	Projected Need	Total
Standard Housing *	20	7	27
Group Housing	5	-	5
Halting Site	5	9	14
Transitional Housing	3	-	3
Rental Accommodation Scheme	9	-	9
Private Rented/HAP Scheme**	-	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>61</b>

\*Standard Housing includes houses provided directly by Waterford City & County Council and by Approved Housing Bodies.

\*\*The HAP Scheme was introduced during the life time of the TAP so was not included in the original assessment of need.

**Implementation programme as outlined in the Traveller Accommodation Programme TAP 2014-2018 following the mid term review**

The proposals to address the accommodation needs of Traveller families over the lifetime of the TAP are outlined in the table below.

Initially there were two implementation Plans but following the midterm review an updated Plan was produced.

**Proposed Timeframe for Delivery of Units of Accommodation 2014-2018 (updated in 2016)**

<b>Accommodation Type</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Standard Housing Units</b>	5	4	4	3	4	20
<b>Group Housing Units</b>				3		3
<b>Halting Site Units</b>					6	6
<b>Total Units</b>	5	4	4	6	10	29

## **Progress report on the Implementation strategy of TAP 2014-2018**

### **Group Housing.**

Three casual vacancies in Group Housing Schemes were allocated during the lifetime of the TAP.

The individual house in the Green Road which was initially completed in 2008 had never been occupied. This was due to ongoing vandalism that resulted in the property being fire damaged twice. This property was redeveloped for a specific family need and was tenanted in 2018.

Stage one Approval has been received from The Department for the provision of a five house group scheme in the City. The TAP 2014-2018 proposed a three unit group Scheme in the city but following ongoing consultation with Traveller families a need for five units was identified. The target for completion by 2017 was not met.

### **Halting Site Accommodation.**

It was proposed to identify a site and develop plans for a six bay Halting site within the lifetime of the plan. Stage one approval has been received from The Department.

### **Kilbarry Site**

Following from the review of the TAP carried out in 2016 a preliminary application for funding to redevelop the Kilbarry Site was made to the Department.

The Minister of State for Housing visited Kilbarry in 2018 and gave a commitment to look favourably on any funding application regarding Kilbarry.

The Council is currently Working on plans to redevelop the Traveller Accommodation in Kilbarry.

### **Caravan Loans**

Waterford City & County Council continue to approve Caravan Loans for Travellers resident on approved sites where there is a need for better quality caravans to replace and upgrade existing units that are of poor standard.

### **Standard Housing.**

Allocations to Council tenancies and referrals to Approved Housing Bodies are being made in accordance with the Councils Allocation Scheme. The yearly breakdown of allocations made is detailed in the table Accommodation Provided in the period 2014-2018.

In September 2016 WC&CC introduced the Choice Based Lettings System for general Social Housing Allocations. The Council will on a weekly basis post on the website a list of vacant houses available for allocation. Approved Applicants can express an interest in any property and the allocation is made only from the list of applicants who have expressed an interest and in accordance with the Allocations Scheme.

### **Homeless Accommodation**

Emergency accommodation is made available to anyone who is assessed as being homeless and in need of accommodation. In November 2018 there were 8 Traveller families and individuals in emergency accommodation in Waterford City.

One of the main issues of concern for these families is the lack of move on options from emergency accommodation. To prevent families having to stay in emergency accommodation for longer than is necessary families and Individuals are offered ongoing support from homeless services to assist them with their move to more secure accommodation. These supports include an assigned Social Care Worker to assist them with property searches, and access to the HAP Place Finder service which aims to fast track individuals and families in emergency accommodation into secure private rented accommodation.

Referrals to The Tenancy Sustainment service are also made to assist families and individuals to access and maintain accommodation.

## Accommodation Provided in the period 2014 -2018

Accommodation Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Standard Housing*	2	6	8	8	7	31
Group Housing**		1	-	1	2	4
Halting Site***		2	-	-	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>37</b>

\*Standard Housing includes houses provided directly by Waterford City & County Council and by Approved Housing Bodies.

\*\* Group Housing Vacancies include units that became vacant due to tenants moving on to alternative accommodation and the house in the Green road was completed in 2018.

\*\*\* Halting Site Vacancies were the result of casual vacancies.

## Assessment of Need Methodology

The assessment of Accommodation Need for Traveller families in the Waterford City and County Area was carried out in late 2018 and early 2019.

The purpose of the assessment was to establish the need for the following accommodation types in the period 2019-2024

- Traveller Specific Group Housing
- Halting Site accommodation
- Standard Local Authority Housing
- HAP
- Approved Housing Bodies

This assessment was carried out by compiling information from the following:

- Annual Estimate of Traveller Families carried out November 2018
- Data compiled from the Social housing Assessment carried out in June 2018
- Consultation with the members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.
- Consultation with Waterford Traveller CDP
- Ongoing consultation with individual families.
- Reviewing all Traveller families who have applied for Social Housing Supports with Waterford City and County and County Council.
- Review all existing Traveller tenants to look at their current accommodation and identify any outstanding needs.
- Identify all children born in the period 2001-2007 to project a likely need for accommodation in the lifetime of the Programme.
- Submissions were requested from organisations who work with Travellers in Waterford City & County, from Social Housing Providers, and from neighbouring Local Authorities.

See Appendix 1 for the list of people and organisations from whom a submission was requested.

See Appendix 2 for a summary of submissions received.



## Assessment of accommodation Need 2018 -2024

### Demographic profile

The 2016 Census shows that there were 30,987 Travellers in Ireland which was an increase of 5% from the 2011 figures.

The data from the Census shows that the majority of Irish Travellers are under the age of 65. 39.7% are under the age of 15, 57.3% are aged between 15 and 64 and only 3% are over the age of 65.

The Census also shows that 31.9% of Travellers age between 15 and 29 years are married and that 44.5% of women aged between 40 and 49 years have more than five children.

This data shows that Irish Travellers are a relatively young population. They tend to marry younger and have larger families.

### Current Profile Waterford City

In November 2018 there were 224 Traveller families resident in Waterford City and County. These families were living in a range of accommodation types as can be seen from the following breakdown. These figures are based on the statistics available to Waterford City and County and County Council from the Annual Estimate of Traveller Families undertaken on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Accommodation Type	Number of Families
Serviced Halting Site bays	18
Sharing Halting Site Bays	4
Basic service Bays	10
Roadside	7
Standard Housing	81
Group Housing	7
Private rented/RAS	19
Approved Housing Bodies	15
Private Houses (estimate)	25
Sharing houses with relatives	12

Sharing Traveller Specific Accommodation	14
Homeless emergency accommodation	8
Transitional Housing	1
Private Yard	2
Other (nursing Home )	1
Total	224

### Existing Need

Of the 224 families and individuals identified in the Annual Estimate of Traveller families 2018 148 had been satisfactorily accommodated leaving a total of 76 families and individuals whose accommodation needs have not been met.

These are currently living in a variety of different circumstances as can be seen from the breakdown below.

### Current Accommodation of Families and Individuals seeking Long Term Accommodation.

Accommodation Type	Number of Families
Sharing Family Home	12
Sharing Halting Site Bay	4
Sharing in Group Housing Scheme	14
Roadside	7
Private Rented (including HAP)	19

Basic Service Bays	10
Homeless Accommodation (includes transitional accommodation)	8
Private Site	2
Total	76

Following an assessment of the accommodation needs of the 76 families and individuals without long term accommodation available to them the following is a break down by accommodation type needed.

Accommodation Type	Number of Units required
Standard Housing	36
Group Housing	16
Halting Site	21
Long Term Supported Accommodation	3
Total	76

It should be noted that there are a number of families living in Social Housing Tenancies where their current accommodation no longer meets their needs. Waterford City and County will address the accommodation needs of existing tenants whose current accommodation is no longer adequate for their needs either by transferring the tenants or by modifying their current accommodation. This will not result in a need for additional units of accommodation.

#### **Projected need for the Period 2019-2024**

The estimate of the projected need for accommodation for the five year period to the end of 2024 was determined by analysing the following data:

- The number of children who will reach the age of 18 during the lifetime of the programme.

- The number of young single Travellers who are currently living with their families and who do not now have an accommodation need but may do so in the future.

From this data an estimate of the number of applications for Accommodation can be reached.

While being aware of the fact that a number of families may move to the area it is not possible to estimate the numbers.

Families who move to Waterford City and County will only be included in the assessment of need if they satisfy the criteria for inclusion on the List of Approved Housing Applicants i.e.

- They have a valid application for accommodation with the City and County Council and are assessed as having an accommodation need as determined by the Social Housing Regulations 2011.
- They have no other accommodation that they can reasonably occupy.
- They haven't been evicted from Local Authority accommodation.
- They have no record of Anti Social Behaviour as defined by the (Housing Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1997 and consistent with the Council's Anti Social Behaviour Policy.

#### **Projected Need for the Period 2019-2024**

<b>Age in 2019</b>	<b>Number of Individuals</b>
18+	28
17	6
16	6
15	10
14	14
13	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

## **New family formation**

There are 75 young Travellers in Waterford City and County who are either over the age of 18 now or who will reach the age of 18 by 2024.

Past experience has shown that this will not result in 75 new families requiring accommodation. There are a number of reasons for this:

- Couple formation within the local Traveller Community
- Young single people remaining with their family.
- Migration to other areas of the State.
- Emigration.

The determination of the projected accommodation need is based on an assumption that not more than one third of these 76 individuals will have an accommodation need in the five year period of the programme i.e. 25 family units.

This can be broken down as follows in terms of timescale.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of families</b>
2019-2021	15
2022-2024	10

The accommodation needs of these families can be met by using the full range of Social Housing Options available.

It is however difficult to predict the accommodation preferences of families that have yet to be formed but based on past experience the preferred options are Halting Site, Standard Social Housing and Rental Accommodation. Ongoing assessments of accommodation need will be carried out to ensure that applicants are aware of the full range of accommodation options available to them.

The Projected Need can be broken down as follows:

<b>Accommodation Type</b>	<b>New Household Need</b>
Standard Housing	15
Private Rented Accommodation	5
Halting Site	5
Transitional Housing	-
Group Housing	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

**Total Need for the Period 2019 -2024**

<b>Accommodation Type</b>	<b>Existing Need</b>	<b>New Household Need</b>	<b>Total Need</b>
Standard Housing	36	15	51
Private Rented Accommodation	-	5	5
Halting Site	21	5	26
Transitional Housing	3	-	3
Group Housing	16	-	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>101</b>

A number of issues that also need to be addressed by the Traveller Accommodation Programme were identified by reviewing the previous programme and analysis of the assessment of need carried out for the preparation of this programme.

The issues include

- To provide sufficient accommodation to meet the needs of Traveller families as identified in the assessment of Need carried out for this programme on the basis of greatest need similar to Housing need generally in line with the Allocation Scheme and Anti Social Behaviour Policy.
- Implement the ongoing maintenance and Management of existing Traveller specific accommodation.
- Examine how the present levels of cost of maintaining existing accommodation can be reduced while continuing to maintain standards and sustainability.
- Progress the site identification, secure funding and begin construction of Group Housing Schemes.
- To engage with Approved Housing Bodies providers who have expressed an interest in developing Traveller specific accommodation proposals in line with available funding streams.
- To develop and implement estate management groups to effectively manage Traveller specific accommodation.
- To carry out ongoing consultation with both Travellers and the local community around the development of Traveller specific accommodation.
- Ensure that the Local Traveller Consultative Committee meets on a regular basis is relevant and that there is full participation from all members. The NTACC Guidelines and recommendations in relation to the operation of the committee will be implemented.

## **Implementation Strategy 2019-2024**

The proposed strategy to meet the identified need will be bound by SMART principles. They will be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time Bound.

The strategy will include yearly targets.

Specific locations for proposed Traveller Specific Accommodation will not be included due to issues around identifying suitable serviced sites.

Waterford City and County and County Council can meet the accommodation needs of Traveller Families which have been assessed in the preparation of this programme in the following ways.

### **Group Housing:**

The number of families identified as needing Group Housing is sixteen. Five of these will be accommodated in the Scheme that is currently being processed in the Waterford City South Electoral Area.

This leaves a need for eleven units.

It is proposed that a three unit Group Scheme be provided in the Dungarvan Lismore District.

The remaining eight units will be provided in the Metropolitan District as follows

Four units will be provided in the Tramore Waterford City West Electoral Area and four units in the Waterford City East Electoral Area.

### **Standard Housing:**

There is an identified need for 51 units of standard housing. Standard Local Authority Housing includes houses provided by Approved Housing Bodies. The Council will allocate tenancies to Traveller Families who are approved applicants in accordance with the Allocation Scheme.

The Council acknowledges that there is not universal access to computers and that some applicants can have issues with literacy therefore assistance and advice will be provided to approved applicants to access the Choice Based Lettings system.

Approved applicants will also be offered supports to access private rented accommodation under the HAP scheme while they wait for an allocation of a Social Tenancy.



### **Halting Site Accommodation:**

The identified need for Halting site Accommodation for the lifetime of the Tap is for 25 units this includes the families currently living in Basic service Bays in Shandon in Dungarvan.

The proposed seven Bay Halting Site at Carrickpherish in Waterford City currently at planning stage will meet the need for seven units.

Upgrading of the Basic Service Bays in Shandon will meet the need for seven additional Halting site Bays.

The remaining 12 units can be met by additional capacity arising out of the proposed upgrade of Kilbarry Sites and by allocating casual vacancies as they arise.

The continuing need for Halting Site Bays will be monitored and reviewed during the lifetime of the TAP.

### **Homeless Accommodation**

The demand for emergency accommodation by Traveller Families has increased over the past number of years.

Waterford City & County Council provides emergency accommodation and ongoing supports to families and individuals from the Integrated Homeless Unit.

This unit has a wide range of support services available to prevent people from becoming homeless and assisting them if they do so.

### **Transient Sites.**

Waterford City and County and County Council recognise the culture of nomadism amongst certain sections of the Traveller community.

Section 10 3(c) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 states that the housing authority shall have regard to the accommodation needs of Travellers other than as a normal place of residence i.e. transient sites

However the majority of Traveller families on the roadside in Waterford are those awaiting permanent accommodation and they are a priority of this programme.

The need for a network of transient sites and their location is something that should be established on a National Basis and based on the identified need for such sites.

## **Unauthorised Encampments**

Unauthorised encampments will be dealt with as appropriate in accordance with the following legislation:

- Sanitary Services Act 1948
- Roads Act 1993
- Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 incorporating Section 1 of the Housing Miscellaneous Act 1992.

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**Time Frames for the Implementation of Proposals to meet the Accommodation Needs of Traveller families 2019-2024**

**Number of New Traveller Specific Units to be provided by Accommodation type 2019-2024**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Halting Site</b>		7	7			
<b>Group Housing</b>		9	3	4	4	

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## **Management and Maintenance of Traveller Specific Accommodation**

Waterford City and County and County Council has a responsibility for the management and maintenance of all of the accommodation it provides including Traveller specific accommodation, and recognises that the most effective method to achieve this is in partnership with the tenants. Unless tenants accept responsibility for and a sense of ownership of their accommodation it becomes very difficult to maintain.

Waterford City and County and County Council will develop estate management groups to address any management and maintenance issues that may arise. Waterford City and County and County Council will provide a caretaker service to Traveller specific accommodation.

Issues in relation to tenancy Management and Anti Social behaviour will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Anti Social Behaviour Policy.

Like all new tenants families who are allocated tenancies in standard Local Authority Housing and Traveller specific accommodation will be required to attend pre-tenancy meetings and will be encouraged to become involved in residents groups.

It is an objective of this Programme to reduce costs of ongoing Management and Maintenance of Traveller specific Accommodation while maintaining acceptable standards.

This can only be achieved with the buy in and co operation of the Travellers and the Traveller Support Groups.

## **Monitoring and Review Procedures**

It is proposed to monitor the implementation of this programme on an ongoing basis and to report on it on a yearly basis. This report will

- monitor progress on the implementation of the programme
- identify any barriers to achieving the implementation proposals
- Identify actions needed to overcome these barriers.

This will be carried out by the Housing Department of Waterford City and County and County Council and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Section 17(1) (a) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that the Traveller accommodation Programme be formally reviewed at least once in its lifetime.

Any amendment to the programme that is proposed following this review must be made within seven months and is subject to the same procedures and requirements that apply to the preparation of the programme.

## **Appendix 1**

### **List of Organisations that were requested to make submissions in relation to the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024**

General Manager, HSE South

Social Inclusion Unit HSE

Traveller Health Unit HSE

Traveller Health Project (City & Dungarvan)

SEO Housing Department, Tipperary County Council,

SEO Housing Department, Kilkenny County Council,

SEO Housing Department, Wexford County Council,

St Brigid's Family & Community Centre,

Sacred Heart Family & Community Centre,

Waterford Area Partnership,

Subla Centre,

Waterford Traveller CDP

Traveller Youth Support Project.

Cluid Housing

Respond Housing

Focus Ireland

Simon Housing

Tuath Housing

Cooperative Housing (Namco)

Tintean housing

Oasis House

St Vincent De Paul Society

Men's Development Network

Probation & Welfare Service

Child Care manager TUSLA

Treo

Gardai (3 divisions Waterford Tramore & Dungarvan)

Education Welfare Service

Traveller Interagency Group

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### Details of Submissions Received

Two submissions were received in relation to the preparation of the Programme. These came from the Irish Traveller Movement (ITM) and Waterford Traveller CDP.

The main issues raised in these submissions and the responses to those are listed below.

Issue raised	Comment
The statement of strategy should be bound by SMART principles	Included in the strategy
The assessment of Need should involve local Traveller Organisations	Ongoing process
Allocations should be open and transparent	All Allocations are made in line with WC&CC's allocation Scheme.
There should not be separate waiting lists for Travellers	WC&CC have one waiting list for all applicants.
There should not be a quota clause in the TAP	Not in the TAP
Compatibility with other families should be taken into account when making allocations to Traveller Specific Accommodation	This is taken into account and good estate Management underpins all Council allocations
Provision of Accommodation for Nomadism	WC&CC believe this is a National Issue
Crisis Accommodation	Travellers wanting to access emergency accommodation are assessed by homeless services and if appropriate offered emergency accommodation. WC&CC do not operate family hubs
Caravan Loan scheme	WC&CC continues to operate a caravan loan scheme.
Tenant Participation and building good relationships with WC&CC.	WC&CC's Estate management Section actively encourage all tenants to become involved in their local area and offer supports to tenants to do so.
Improve Fire safety at Traveller Specific	This is an ongoing process.



Accommodation	
TAP should recognise Travellers as an ethnic minority	This is part of the TAP
Clear targets to implement the TAP	Included in the implementation strategy
Recognise the difficulties faced by Travellers accessing Private rented accommodation	This is recognised and the support services available to families and individuals to overcome this are outlined in the TAP.
People who access HAP should stay on the Housing List	Applicants availing of HAP are given the option to remain on the list should they choose.
People who access RAS should stay on the Housing List	Applicants who are accommodated via RAS are Council Tenants and will be rehoused if the contract ends through no fault of their own.
WC&CC will work with Traveller applicants to meet their accommodation needs.	All applicants have their accommodation options explained to them at application stage.
Management & Maintenance of Traveller Specific accommodation	This will be carried out in line with WC&CC's maintenance policies.
LTACC should operate in line with the NTACC Guidelines	Ongoing
Work with Approved Housing Bodies to develop Traveller Specific Accommodation.	WC&CC are open to working with any AHB.
The development of a Horse Project	While recognising the importance of horses to Traveller culture the TAP is an accommodation programme.
TAP should reference the NTRIS	NTRIS recommendations are referenced in the TAP
WC&CC should undertake a Human Rights & Equality Impact Assessment to assess its compliance with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014.	This is an organisational action
WC&CC is committed to comply with the EU Race Equality Directive in its traveller	

accommodation delivery and recognised its obligations under the UN Convention on the rights of the Child	

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## **Membership of Waterford City & County LTACC**

The following are the current members of Waterford City & County Council's Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Cllr John O' Leary Chair

Cllr Ger Barron

Cllr Joe Conway

Mary Stokes

Karen O' Reilly

Teresa Mc Donagh

Joe Sullivan

Derek Lyons

Catherine Finn

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