



**Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council**

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

**Adopted by the Elected Members of Leitrim County Council on
Monday 2nd September, 2024.**

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1. Introduction

1.1 Legal Background

Under the 1998 Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, Leitrim County Council has certain obligations in relation to the preparation, adoption and implementation of a Traveller Accommodation Programme. The provisions of the Housing Act play an integral part in promoting social inclusion and equality and counteracting discrimination that may be experienced by members of the Traveller community.

In summary, Leitrim County Council is required to:

- prepare and adopt a Traveller Accommodation Programme to meet the existing and projected accommodation needs of Travellers in Co. Leitrim.
- allow for public consultation on the preparation of the Programme.
- establish a Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) to facilitate consultation with Travellers.
- secure the implementation of the new Programme.
- include objectives concerning Traveller Accommodation in the County Development Plan.

In December 2023 Mr. Kieran O' Donnell, Minister of State for Planning and Local Government issued Circular 46/2023 under Section 10 of the 1998 Housing Act directing that the current Traveler Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 be extended to 31st December 2024 and that the new Traveler Accommodation Programme 2025 -2029 should be prepared for a five year period from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2029. The adoption of the Traveller Accommodation Programme is a reserved function and the latest date for the adoption of the Accommodation Programme is 31st December, 2024.

1.2 County Profile

Leitrim is located in the Northwest of Ireland, in the Border Region, and has a population of 35,199 people (2022 Census). Leitrim has three Municipal Districts, Carrick-on-Shannon, Manor Hamilton and Ballinamore. Carrick-on-Shannon located in the south of the county is the largest town in the county, Manor Hamilton is the second largest town, followed by Killough, Ballinamore, Drumshanbo and Mohill.

1.3 Local Traveler Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

In accordance with the provisions of Section 21 and 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) 1998 Act, a Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) has been established to facilitate consultation between the Council and the Local Traveller Community and to advise on any aspect of accommodation for Travellers. The LTACC plays an important role in the development of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. The views of the Committee have been considered in the preparation of this Programme and implementation of the new Programme will be monitored by the Committee. The membership of the Leitrim Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee is comprised of, four Traveller representatives, six elected Members of Leitrim County Council and three County Council Officials. **(Appendix 1).**

Following the Local Election in June, 2024 – a new Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will be established for the next five years with membership from the following -Elected Members of Leitrim County Council (6), Traveller representatives (4), Council Officials (3) and a representative from Leitrim Integrated Development Company (1). Having regard to the role of Leitrim Integrated Development Company (LIDC) in working directly with members of the Traveller community in County Leitrim, it is proposed that the new LTACC will provide for membership of one representative from the LDC onto the LTACC committee.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Overview

It is the policy of Leitrim County Council to provide quality accommodation based on the distinct needs and circumstances of Travelers who are deemed qualified for, and in need of, social housing support in accordance with – The Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011.

There are a range of social housing supports that can be provided to Travelers who are on Leitrim County Council’s Social Housing Waiting List e.g. Traveler Specific Accommodation, Standard Local Authority Housing, accommodation provided by Approved Housing Bodies, Rental Accommodation Scheme, Social Housing Leasing Initiative, Housing Assistance accommodation and Temporary Emergency Accommodation.

All social housing applicants, including members of the Traveler Community, will be considered for any vacancies arising in accordance with the Council’s Allocation Scheme including the allocation of dwellings under the Choice Based Letting Scheme.

Under the Planning and Development Acts, County and City Development Plans and Local Area Plans must include objectives for the provision of accommodation for Travellers. Provisions contained in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2027 are sufficient to realise the Traveller accommodation objectives set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029.

Leitrim County Council’s policy is set out in the County Development Plan 2023-2027 and is as follows:

- Groups with Specific Planning Needs: ‘There are a number of groups in society with specific design and planning needs including, children/young people, people with disabilities, older people, ethnic minorities and the Traveller community. The Council recognises the importance of planning for the needs of these groups’.

2.2 Inter-Agency Approach

It is also the policy of Leitrim County Council to adopt an inter-agency approach in the provision of services and accommodation to Travellers. This approach is critical, particularly in relation to addressing any special needs accommodation and support requirements. The HSE Public Health and Occupational Therapy

services are central to this process. Leitrim Integrated Development Company's Traveller Development Worker(s) plays a significant role in liaising with Council staff on a wide range of issues including maintenance requests and their assistance in the delivery of Traveller accommodation and support services is acknowledged. The Council will continue to work collaboratively with Leitrim Integrated Development Company and/or other agencies as appropriate to deliver positive outcomes. The supportive role of other Agencies and their staff in supporting applicants and tenants and advocating on their behalf is also acknowledged. The Council remain committed to continuing to work on an inter-agency basis to support individuals and families and in the broader context to promote the principles of inclusiveness, integration and good estate management practice.

2.3 Pre-Tenancy Training

The policy of mandatory Pre-Tenancy Training an important part of the service the Council provides to new tenants. This provides the new tenant(s) with information in relation to their new home, their obligations and responsibilities under the tenancy agreement and the Council's commitment to them as tenants.

2.4 Recognition of Traveller Ethnicity



On 1st March 2017, there was a statement of Recognition by the Irish State, of Travellers as an Ethnic Group and a formal recognition of Travellers as a distinct ethnic group within the Irish nation. Leitrim County Council recognises Travellers' identity as a minority ethnic group and is committed to promoting equality and inclusion for Travellers living in Leitrim.

2.5 Public Sector Duty

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty ('The Duty') is a statutory obligation for public bodies in Section 42 of the *Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014*. Section 42(1) requires public bodies in the performance of their functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect human rights of staff and people availing of their services.

2.5 Back up Services & Support

Leitrim County Council is committed to the delivery of high-quality accommodation and services. The Council employs a Traveller Liaison Officer whose role is to work closely with the Traveller Community in Leitrim to assist them with a range of issues related to their housing requirements and needs including the following:

- Facilitating an appointment-based service in the Housing Office.
- Assistance in applying for Social Housing Support.
- Providing information, support and advice on housing options.
- Advising on the Housing Adaptation Grant and Mobility Aids Grant Scheme.
- Provision of pre and post tenancy support to assist individuals or households to sustain their tenancies.
- Provision of Homeless HAP Place-Finder support for individuals at risk/or homeless.
- More recently, the Tenant-in-Situ Scheme has been used successfully to prevent homelessness.
- Engage with the Traveller Accommodation Unit in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to access funding streams in the delivery of Traveller Specific Accommodation.
- Collaboration on projects to benefit the Traveller Community e.g. 'Leitrim Pony Riding and Animal Welfare Project'.
- Consultation with Travellers, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and/or other Agencies as appropriate on issues relating to their accommodation needs.

2.6 Homelessness

Leitrim County Council as a Housing Authority is responsible for the provision of emergency accommodation throughout Co. Leitrim for household(s) who are assessed and determined to be homeless in accordance with Section 2 of the 1988 Housing Act. The provision of Temporary Emergency Accommodation can be arranged by the Local Authority to meet emergency housing need. The Council actively engage with Accommodation Providers to source emergency accommodation in all areas of the county. In circumstances where a household(s) is at risk of homelessness or has become homeless they need to present in person to the Housing Department of Leitrim County Council for assistance.

3. Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024

The TAP 2019 -2024 provided for the delivery of a total of **25 units** of accommodation for Travellers over the five-year period. Delivery was achieved via several social housing options including the allocation of tenancies in Standard Local Authority Housing, Traveller Group Housing, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SHLI), Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and by the allocation of tenancies in accommodation provided by the Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs). A total of 45 offers of accommodation issued, 34 were accepted and 11 were refused.

Table 1. Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 –Outputs achieved.

Accommodation Type	Outputs 2019-2020	Output 2020- 2021	Outputs 2021-2022	Outputs 2022-2023	Outputs 2023-2024	Total Outputs from July 2019 to May, 2024
Group Housing Scheme (Casual Vacancy Arising)	1	0	0	0	1	2
Service Bay (Casual Vacancy Arising)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Local Authority Standard Housing	10	4	9	5	6	34
Rental Accommodation Scheme (including renewal of contracts)	4	1	0	0	0	5
Long Term Leasing (including renewals)	0	0	0	0	1	1
Housing Provided by an Approved Housing Body	0	0	0	1	0	1
Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P)	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total Delivery (including refusals of offers of accommodation)	16	5	9	7	8	45
* Refusals of offers of accommodation	3	1	5	1	1	11
Net overall delivery of TAP outputs excluding 11 offers of accommodation that were refused.						34



4. Public Consultation Process

4.1 Overview

Leitrim County Council, in accordance with the requirements of Section 8 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, gave public notice on 5th January 2024 of its intention to prepare a Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme for the period 2025 - 2029 and to carry out an assessment of existing and projected accommodation needs of Traveller families living in County Leitrim.

4.2 Public Notice

Section 8 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires Local Authorities to undertake a consultation process as part of their preparation for the new Draft Traveller Accommodation Programmes. Notice of Leitrim County Council's intention to prepare a Draft Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 issued on 5th January, 2024 to the following:

- The Elected Members of Leitrim County Council.
- Members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.
- Oireachtas Members.
- Members of the European Parliament (Midlands North-West)
- Adjoining Local Authorities.
- Health Service Executive
- TUSLA
- Leitrim Integrated Development Company
- An Garda Siochana
- Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Educational Training Board
- Traveller Organisations and Traveller Support Groups.

Notice of the intention to prepare the Draft TAP 2025 -2029 was published in the Leitrim Observer on 10th January 2024 and on the Council's website (www.leitrimcoco.ie).

4.3 Consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Committee (LTACC)

The Draft Programme 2025-2029 has been prepared in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and a number of meetings of the LTACC were held to discuss the key stages in the preparation and adoption of the Draft Programme.

4.4 Consultation with members of the Traveller Community

Leitrim County Council is committed to consultation with individual Travellers in relation to their accommodation needs. The Traveller Liaison Officer and other staff from the Housing Department are available to provide information, support and advice to members of the Traveller Community in relation to their accommodation needs.

In preparing the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029, the following consultation process was undertaken:

- A letter issued to all Traveller households notifying them of the Council's intention to prepare a new Traveller Accommodation Programme together with an Assessment of Need form to be completed and returned. This ensured that each household were given an opportunity to submit additional information considered relevant to their housing need.
- Traveller households residing at Shannonside View, were invited to attend a consultation meeting with the Traveller Liaison Officer to discuss their housing needs.

4.5 Submissions received.

Leitrim County Council received a total of **seven** written submissions (**Appendix 2**) in relation to the preparation of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 -2029, six of which were received following notification of the Council's intention to prepare the Draft TAP 2025-2029 and one which was received following the placing of the Draft TAP 2025-2029 on public display. Elements of the original six submissions were considered by Leitrim County Council for inclusion in the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 that was placed on public display on 19th June, 2024. Submissions were received from the following organisations:

1. Leitrim Integrated Development Company.
2. National Traveller Health Implementation Group.
3. National Traveller Money and Budgeting Service.
4. CENA Culturally Appropriate Homes.
5. Northwest Traveller Health Unit.
6. Irish Traveller Movement/Pavee Point/National Traveller Women's Forum
7. Leitrim Integrated Development Company – submission received following the public consultation process.

Not all recommendations contained in the submissions relate directly to the provision of accommodation/housing for the Traveller community, but rather link into a wider approach of inclusion and interagency collaboration.

Having regard to the contents of the additional submission by Leitrim Integrated Development Company following the placing of the Draft TAP 2025-2029 on public display, a number of minor amendments to the Draft TAP 2025-2029 were considered necessary. In this regard, under Section 2 on the Policy Statement, Section 2.6 provides clarification on the procedure in place for an individual(s) at risk of or experiencing homelessness. In addition, under Section 7 – ‘Tenancy Management and Maintenance’–Section 7.3 - details have been provided on the Council’s Policy Document on Anti-Social Behaviour following the request of the LTACC.

5. Assessment of Need

5.1 Traveller Population in Leitrim

Leitrim County Council as directed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, is required to complete an annual Traveller Census to estimate the number of Travellers residing in the county. In May 2024, there are 73 Traveller family's resident in the county and the following table provides an overview of their tenure type:

Table 2. Profile of Traveller families in County Leitrim

Profile of Traveller Families residing in Leitrim by Accommodation Type (May 2024)		
Type of Tenure	No. of Households	% by Tenure Type
Traveller Specific Accommodation	12	16.5%
Standard Local Authority Accommodation	39	53.5%
Approved Housing Bodies	4	5.5%
Long Term Accommodation (RAS/ HAP/ Long-term Leasing)	7	9.5%
Applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List	11	15.0%
Total	73	100%

Significant outputs have been achieved under the Traveller Accommodation Programmes over the last number of years to meet the accommodation needs of the Traveller Community in Leitrim.

The Traveller population is primarily located in South Leitrim in the towns of Carrick-on-Shannon and Mohill. Under the 2005-2008 Traveller Accommodation Programme a Group Scheme of 14 units of Traveller specific accommodation was provided at Shannonside View, Rosebank, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim which provided 8 Group Scheme Dwellings and 6 Service Bays. In recent years, there are only 7 of the 14 units in this development tenanted and there has been a number of incidents of vandalism and significant damage to the vacant units at Shannonside View.

5.2 Basis and methodology of Assessment of Need

In accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988, as amended, and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Leitrim County Council is required, for the purpose of preparing the new Traveller Accommodation Programme, to make an assessment of the accommodation needs of Travellers who have been assessed under Section 20 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 as being qualified for social housing support. This assessment relates to the existing accommodation needs of Travellers and the projected needs estimated to arise over the period of the new TAP from 2025 to 2029.

The figures from the Annual Traveller Census indicate that Leitrim's Traveller population has increased significantly over the past twenty-four years, from twenty-two households in 2000 to seventy-three households in 2024.

5.3 Projected Need

In accordance with the provisions of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 and the Minister's direction, an assessment of the projected accommodation needs of Travellers arising during the duration of the new Traveller Accommodation Programme i.e. 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2029 was carried out.

Based on the profile of the families currently resident in Leitrim, it is estimated that twelve (12) new family formations may arise over the lifetime of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 - 2029. It is difficult to accurately estimate how many of these new households will remain in Leitrim, however, we estimate that approximately 50% (six new family formations) will remain in Leitrim. Housing is a demand led service and should the level of new family formations exceed this estimate, any change in the need can be addressed in the mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme which must be completed no later than 30th June 2027.

Members of the Traveller community were invited to confirm their accommodation preference as part of the Assessment of Need process. These preferences have been factored into the targets to be achieved in the delivery of the new Programme and will be considered in the context of the availability of suitable

properties, the Council’s Allocation Scheme for Social Housing, the principles of good estate management, availability of resources and any relevant planning requirements.

In Leitrim, the Traveller population is predominantly located in south Leitrim in the county town of Carrick-on-Shannon, which is the area of highest demand for social housing supports within the county. Social Housing applicants now have the option to specifically identify as Irish Travellers by declaration in completing their social housing application form.

Table 3: Projected Needs under the 2025-2029 Traveller Accommodation Programme

Category	Number of Households
Households assessed as having a current housing need	14
Estimate of New Household Formations to arise over the lifetime of the 2025 -2029 Programme	6
Total	20

Transfer Applicant(s).

Where an individual or a family have applied for a transfer to alternative Local Authority accommodation and have been included on the Transfer List, that specific need has not been incorporated into the Assessment of Need as these households have already had their housing need addressed. Given the current housing crisis and the demand for social housing, there is very limited capacity for the council to be in a position to accommodate transfer requests other than in cases where there is a serious medical issue e.g. the need for ground floor accommodation. Other possible options e.g. the completion of works under the Mobility Aids Grant (MAGS’s) and the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme (HGD) to render the accommodation suitable to meet the needs of the member of the household with a disability will be considered in the first instance as an alternative to transferring the household to alternative accommodation.



Table 4: Profile of Households assessed as having a current housing need with their Area of Choice for LA Accommodation.

Area of Choice	Carrick-on-Shannon	Mohill	Ballinamore
Household Composition			
One adult household	6	1	0
Two adult household	1	0	0
One adult and 2 child dependents	1	0	0
One adult and 3 child dependents	0	0	1
Two adults and 3 dependent children	3	0	0
Two adults and 4 dependent children	1	0	0
Total No. of households	12	1	1
Total Projected Need: 12 + 1 + 1 = 14 Households (12 of which have indicated their preference to be accommodated in Carrick-on-Shannon, 1 in Mohill and 1 in Ballinamore).			

Table 5: Targets under the 2025-2029 Traveller Accommodation Programme

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Standard Local Authority Accommodation	1	2	2	2	2	9
Traveller Specific Accommodation	1	1	1	1	0	4
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's)	0	0	1	1	0	2
RAS/Leasing/H.A.P	1	1	1	1	1	5
Totals	3	4	5	5	3	20

5.4 (B) Group Scheme Development at Shannonside View, Rosebank, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

The 2005-2008 Traveller Accommodation Programme provided for the provision of a Traveller Specific Group Housing Scheme Development at Shannonside View, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim. The development was an Architecturally designed scheme which delivered a total of 14 units of accommodation consisting of 8 dwellings of 2-bedroom, 3 bedroom and 4-bedroom family type accommodation and 6 ‘Service Bays’. The tenants allocated to Service Bays were provided with a kitchen and utility facilities as well as a bathroom, while retaining their cultural heritage by having a serviced area for a mobile home /caravan to provide their sleeping accommodation.

Following completion of the re-development of the site, Leitrim Integrated Development Company also developed a Childcare Facility on the site to provide childcare, after-school and other supports to members of the Traveller Community. This facility remains a vital aspect of the support’s services available to the Traveller Community in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Over the years, the occupancy of this Traveller Specific Group Housing Scheme Development has been impacted by a number of factors including the death of tenants, tenants seeking a transfer to alternative

accommodation and abandonment of units by former tenants. Currently, the occupancy rate of the development is 50% with only 7 of the 14 units tenanted and the remaining 7 units unoccupied.

The underoccupancy of the site has resulted in a marked deterioration in the overall condition of the site. There are ongoing issues with incidents of vandalism, illegal dumping, backyard burning and anti-social behaviour occurring on the site on a regular basis.

In 2023, Leitrim County Council commissioned CENA – the Approved Housing Body for Travellers to complete a report and recommendation on the future of the site. CENA engaged in a detailed consultation process with the residents.

Aims of the study

1. Consult with Shannonside View residents to explore their current accommodation needs, their lived experience of current accommodation arrangements and avenues to meet projected future needs.
2. Gain an understanding of broader challenges and needs faced by residents and implications there may be for mainstream community-based services to address these needs into the future.
3. Consider possible options for development of the Shannonside View site into the future and make recommendations to Leitrim County Council based on this analysis.

Following the consultation process, the report was submitted to the Housing Department with the following options proposed:

1. Refurbishment of existing dwellings.
2. Total vacation of the site and relocation of residents elsewhere.
3. Demolition of existing dwellings and planning for new homes.

The report provided a detailed analysis of the ‘lived in’ experience of the existing residents of the site and referenced the issues that are negatively impacting on the lives of the residents. There is a clear recommendation that any proposed re-development of the site must also consider the need for

additional support services to sustain tenancies and to provide for a range of community development initiatives to sustain any future development of the site.

The report was considered by the Council and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, and it was agreed that the matter warranted further consideration including the information provided from the consultation process completed in preparation for the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029.

Recommendation to progress a solution for the Shannonside View Group Housing Scheme, Carrick-on-Shannon.

- Having regard to all the factors that must be considered in exploring future proposals for the Shannonside View Group Scheme at Rosebank, the Council proposes to establish an Inter-Agency Working Group with representatives from the key agencies and representatives from the residents currently residing on the site to explore the future options for the site.
- Leitrim County Council will assume the role as the Lead Agency for the Project and will seek membership from the other key agencies and stakeholders.
- The future development of the site or the provision of alternative accommodation will be dependent on adequate funding streams being available to Leitrim County Council.
- The provision of capital funding provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for any social housing schemes will only finance the accommodation costs, additional costs e.g. expansion of community facilities, provision of additional tenancy support services etc would have to be financed by accessing alternative funding streams.
- It is proposed that this Inter-Agency Group will progress the project to reach a final recommendation on the future of the site. The recommendation on the future development of the site/or the de-commissioning of the site together with providing the existing tenants with alternative accommodation will then be progressed with the other actions/outputs for accommodation to be delivered over the lifetime of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029.

5.4 Transient Sites

The incidence of roadside or unauthorised encampments is infrequent in Leitrim with no discernible pattern arising. In the preparation of the new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 it is not considered that there is any identified need for the development of a Transient Site within the county. The issue can be reviewed on a regional basis in collaboration with adjoining Local Authorities should the circumstances change over the lifetime of the new Programme.

5.5 Unauthorised Encampments

Unauthorised encampments present difficulties in relation to health and safety and can be hazardous to road users. Leitrim County Council will consult with relevant parties to address issues arising. The Council will however utilise powers available under the legislation to remove caravans/temporary dwellings when deemed appropriate and necessary.

6. Strategy Statement

6.1 Implementing Authority

Leitrim County Council is the authority responsible for implementing the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029. The Local Authority co-operates with other public and voluntary agencies as well as adjoining Local Authorities to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers. Several groups have an important role to play in assisting in the implementation of the programme including: -

- The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)
- The Housing and Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
- Leitrim Development Company (LDC)
- Health Services Executive (HSE)
- Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim Educational Training Board (MSLETB)
- An Garda Siochana
- Voluntary Housing Bodies (AHBs)
- Department of Social Protection
- Money Advice & Budgeting Service (MABS)

It will be the responsibility of Leitrim County Council to seek the co-operation of the above groups to ensure the implementation of the new Programme. Progress in relation to the 2025-2029 programme will be monitored by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

In addition, a dedicated Inter-Agency Group will be established with Leitrim County Council to consider the future options for the existing Traveller Specific Accommodation at Shannonside View, Rosebank, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

6.3 Development of Proposals/Implementation of Programme

Where a new accommodation project is being provided directly by Leitrim County Council the accommodation proposal will be subject to a local consultation process with Travellers and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, approval by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and an adherence to the requirements of the Part VIII Planning Procedure. The

Council will avail of the full range of housing options available having regard to expressed accommodation preferences and working within the existing budget for capital funding. The Council will endeavour to provide housing through casual vacancies arising in existing Local Authority housing stock and possibly, subject to sanction, a limited number of acquisitions. The Long-Term Leasing Scheme (SHLI), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), as well as collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) will also be utilised as a means of addressing the long-term housing needs of the local Traveller community.

6.4 Financial Resources

The successful implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 will be dependent on the provision of capital funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Council is also required to provide funding from the Revenue Budget for housing maintenance and routine maintenance requests on the Social Housing stock.

6.5 Management and Maintenance of Accommodation

The effective management and maintenance of accommodation is crucial. Traveller accommodation will be managed on the same basis as all other housing stock. Leitrim County Council will endeavour to ensure maximum tenant participation to manage and maintain accommodation schemes to a high standard.

6.6 Measures for Implementation

Leitrim County Council will report regularly on developments and progress on the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 with reports being made available to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC), the Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and NOAC – the National Oversight and Advisory Committee who oversee the reporting on the National Performance Indicators for the Local Authority Sector. One of the reports submitted to NOAC is a report on the outputs achieved by the Local Authority in the implementation of their Traveller Accommodation Programme.

7. Tenancy Management and Maintenance

Leitrim County Council continues to invest significant financial resources in the management and maintenance of Traveller specific social housing accommodation - this is in line with our management of standard housing schemes.

7.1 Repair Requests

All requests for maintenance of Traveller accommodation are recorded. The request is categorised e.g. routine, urgent, emergency, etc. This enables the Housing Maintenance Team to ensure that maintenance works are carried out within a specific timeframe. Works of an emergency nature will continue to be awarded priority status; such works include electrical repairs and maintenance issues of a health & safety nature. There are some maintenance issues which are tenant responsibility. Non-essential repairs and routine maintenance will not be carried out where rent accounts are in arrears of six weeks or more and where is no arrears payment plan in place.

7.2 Rent Payments

All tenants are required to pay a rent for the type of accommodation they occupy. Tenants of Shannonside View Group Housing Schem are required to pay a fixed weekly rent while tenants of group housing schemes will be required to pay a rent in accordance with the Council's Differential Rent Scheme. Non-payment of rent may result in repossession proceedings being initiated as is the policy with standard housing. A tenant evicted for non-payment of rent will be deemed to have rendered themselves homeless.

7.3 Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour impacts negatively on local residents, the wider community and Leitrim County Council staff. In addition, anti-social behaviour such as, but not limited to, criminal damage, waste dumping etc. places unacceptable burdens on the financial resources of the Council. It is Council policy that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated in any Council, Traveller specific or standard housing accommodation. Equally, any verbal abuse, threats or intimidation of Council staff will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in consultation with An Garda Síochána.

Details on Leitrim County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy are published on the Council's website at www.leitrimcoco.ie. On their appointment as tenants of the Local Authority at their Pre-Tenancy Training, tenants are provided with an over-view of the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and issued with a copy of the policy to retain for their records. Hard copies of the ASB Policy can also be made available by contacting the Housing Department.

8. Conclusion

- Leitrim County Council acknowledges the commitment, co-operation and support of local Travellers, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC), Leitrim Integrated Development Company in assisting the Council in the delivery of the previous Traveller Accommodation Programmes.
- The financial support provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has enabled the Council to meet the accommodation needs of the Traveller Community in Leitrim.
- The Council has made considerable progress over the lifetime of the previous Traveller Accommodation Programmes to increase the supply of accommodation to meet the housing needs of the Traveller Community.
 - Of the **73** families currently residing in Leitrim,
 - **39** are accommodated in Standard Local Authority Housing,
 - **12** are accommodated in Traveller Specific Accommodation,
 - **4** are accommodated in housing provided by an Approved Housing Body
 - **7** have been provided with social housing support under the Long-Term Leasing/ Rental Accommodation Scheme or the Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P).
- Of the **73** families residing in the county, **62** have had their long-term accommodation needs addressed by the Council. In this regard, 85% of the Traveller Community in Leitrim have had their long-term accommodation needs addressed by the Council.



Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 - 2029

- The outputs achieved in the delivery of previous Traveller Accommodation Programmes has increased the supply of accommodation to members of the Traveller Community across a range of housing support options.
 - The targets set out in this Programme have been developed having regard to the existing and projected need for Traveller accommodation in Leitrim. This Programme is being prepared at a time of unprecedented demand for housing, the Council will continue to deliver on the annual targets for delivery under our Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 and the outputs to be achieved under the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029.
 - The delivery of this Programme requires a commitment from all stakeholders to work together on a collaborative basis to deliver positive outcomes. It is also dependent on the availability of necessary funding being available from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
 - The Council acknowledges the importance of tenancy sustainment supports to enable tenants to sustain their tenancies and/or to access other supports if required that may impact on the tenant(s) ability to successfully manage their tenancies.
 - Leitrim County Council will continue to work closely with Travellers, their representatives, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, and other relevant agencies to identify and access potential funding opportunities to progress initiatives in relation to Traveller Accommodation, Tenancy Sustainment, Support and Integration.
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Appendix 1 – Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

Membership of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee May, 2024

<u>Elected Members</u>	Traveller Representatives	Leitrim County Council Staff
Councillor Enda Stenson (Chairperson)	Ms. Bernadette Reilly	Mr. Eamonn Cunningham Traveller Liaison Officer
Councillor Brendan Barry	Mr. Christopher Stokes	Ms. Ann Warnock, Housing Officer
Councillor Paddy Farrell	Ms. Ann Stokes	Ms. Sinead Flynn, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Councillor Cormac Flynn	Ms. Nicola Burke	
Councillor Eddie Mitchell		
Councillor Sean McGowan		



Appendix 2 – List of Submissions received on the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029.

1. National Traveller Health Implementation Group.
2. Leitrim Integrated Development Company.
3. Irish Traveller Movement/National Traveller Women’s Forum/Pavee Point/Roma Centre.
4. North-West Traveller Health Unit, Health Service Executive.
5. CENA, Culturally Appropriate Homes.
6. National Traveller MABS, Money and Budgeting Advice Service.
7. Leitrim Integrated Development Company second submission following the public consultation process.