



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

Traveller Accommodation Programme

2019–2024



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Introduction

1.1. Legal Background

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires Kildare County Council (*the 'Council'*) to adopt a Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers within their functional area for the period specified in the programme.

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government has directed that relevant authorities adopt a programme for a five year period. He has further directed that the programme be adopted by relevant housing authorities by 30 September 2019.

The adoption of the Programme is a reserved function of the elected members of the Council.

1.2 Current Programme

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 was adopted by the members of Kildare County Council on 31 March 2014.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 was adopted on 23rd September 2019 and should be read as a continuation of the previous Traveller Accommodation Programmes.

1.3 Aims of the Programme

To enhance the management and services to the current Traveller specific housing stock through planned maintenance and upgrades to current stock.

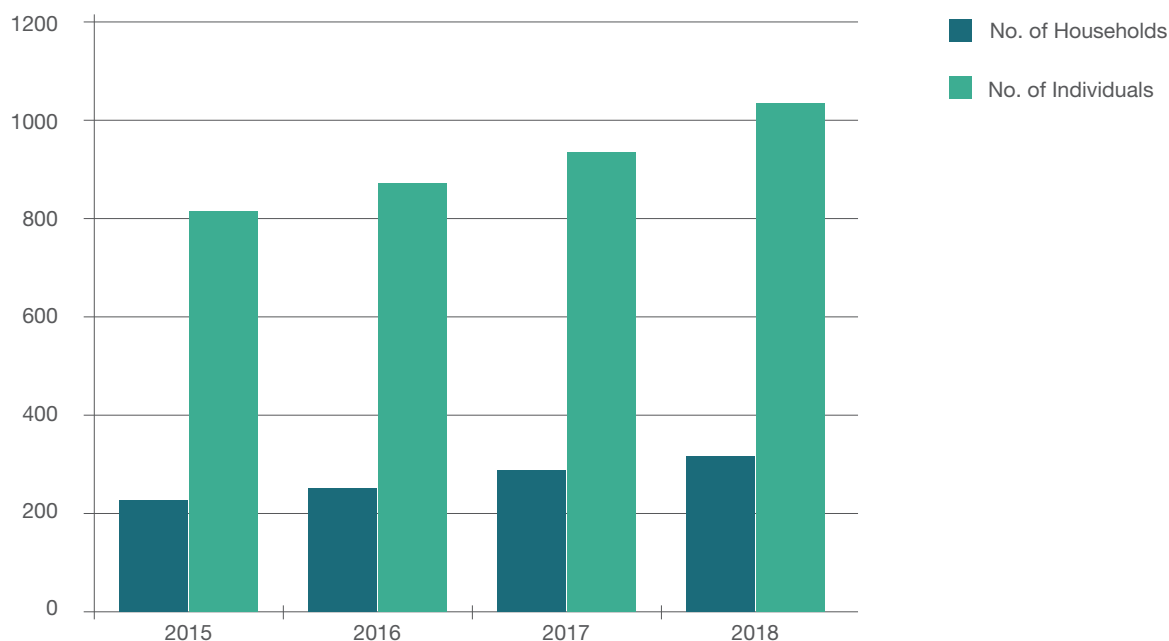
To provide Traveller specific housing units within the county through capital funding for new builds.

To develop basic services including the provision of temporary sites, to directly improve the living standards of Traveller families who are homeless and are awaiting permanent accommodation.

1.4 Annual Count of Traveller Families 2018

In accordance with the Annual Traveller Count which took place in November 2018, there are currently 302 Traveller families residing in County Kildare. These families are accommodated in a range of accommodation types from Traveller specific group housing or halting sites to a range of social housing options and private rented accommodation.

Comparison of annual count of Traveller families in County Kildare



Comparison of annual count results in County Kildare

Year	No. of Households	No. of Individuals
2015	225	813
2016	242	842
2017	283	934
2018	302	1026

These figures illustrate that in the context of the increasing numbers of Traveller families living in County Kildare, the Traveller population is a young population with increasing numbers of new and growing families.

National Census 2016 Figures

The CSO National Census results from 2016 put the Traveller population nationally at 30,987, which is 0.7% of the general population. The national census also highlighted that 78.6% of Traveller families live in urban areas in cities and towns. In relation to the age breakdown, it highlighted that 60% of Travellers are under 25 yrs and that 31.9% of Travellers aged 15-29 yrs were married. This contrasted with 5.8% of the general population for the same age category. Traveller households are also more likely to be multiple families; at 4.2% compared to 1.3% of the general population.

1.5 Current Provision of Traveller Specific Accommodation

The current position in relation to Traveller specific accommodation provided by Kildare County Council for Traveller families is as follows;

Location	Bays	Group Housing
Ardrew, Athy	6	6
Blacklion, Maynooth	3	8
Tankardsgarden, Newbridge	3	-

The halting site in Cloncarlin, Monasterevin (2 bays) was decommissioned in the lifetime of the 2014-2018 Traveller Accommodation Programme. This decision was based on the commitment of Kildare County Council to provide high quality Traveller specific accommodation for the Traveller community and the recognition that Cloncarlin did not meet this standard.

There were three bays decommissioned in Tankardsgarden as part of and in preparation for the programme of redevelopment.



2

Section Two Policy Statement

2.1 County Development Plan

The County Development Plan 2017-2023 contains the following statement in relation to the Traveller community:

(Sec. 4.7 Specific Needs Housing):

‘The Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 sets out the Council’s policy regarding the provision of Traveller Accommodation. The Council will, as necessary continue to update its accommodation programme for the Traveller community. The Council will endeavour to provide accommodation for members of the travelling community’.

Furthermore, it is the policy of the Council:

To implement the Draft Kildare County Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 (and any superseding programmes agreed by the Council) in accordance with the principles of the proper planning and sustainable development. (SN4)

It is an objective of the Council:

To ensure that the Traveller accommodation is located in proximity to key services including education, community, health, recreation and public transport facilities. (SN07)

To provide longer term sustainable Traveller accommodation development, while ensuring proper provision of infrastructure for all accommodation including halting sites. (SN08)

2.2 Traveller Culture

It is the policy of the Council to provide high quality accommodation based on the distinct needs and the family circumstances of Travellers which will be accommodated in so far as is possible. This accommodation will include general housing, group housing, halting site accommodation, temporary sites and appropriate emergency accommodation where appropriate.

Kildare County Council, in recognition that ‘Nomadism’ is an essential element of ethnic identity within the Traveller culture, will give approval for Traveller families to make a request to the Council to leave their accommodation for short periods (not exceeding 6 weeks) for the purpose of travelling. Failure to do so will deem a property to have been abandoned.

The council commits to further review and consultation with Traveller families and Traveller representative groups for the provision of a transient site within the county, (see Sec. 6.6).

Kildare County Council will continue to consult with Travellers, Traveller organisations and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee on issues relating to Traveller accommodation.

Kildare County Council will continue to collaborate with Approved Housing Bodies in County Kildare to increase the provision of accommodation to Traveller households, in particular, for Traveller specific accommodation.

Kildare County Council will continue to deliver a quality customer service to the Traveller community in County Kildare.

2.3 Traveller Accommodation Unit

Kildare County Council is committed to the delivery of high quality accommodation and services and to this end, the Council established the Traveller Accommodation Unit within the Housing Section in 2018. The unit is supported by the following staff, however administrative, clerical and social work staff also hold additional responsibilities across other housing service areas:

- Administrative Officer x 1
- PQ Social Workers x 2
- Staff Officer x 1
- Assistant Staff Officer x 1
- Clerical Officers x 1
- Caretakers x 3
- In addition, there is support from relevant personnel across the housing section including the Homeless Service, Tenant Liaison Service, Maintenance, Assessments, Allocations and Rent Review teams.

This team ensures that Traveller families will continue to receive a range of on and off-site services.

Kildare County Council will continue to engage on Traveller issues through the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Kildare Traveller Action and relevant local and national organisations.

2.4 Recognition of Traveller Ethnicity

On 01 March 2017, there was a Statement of Recognition of Travellers as an Ethnic Group and a formal recognition of Travellers as a distinct ethnic group within the Irish nation. Kildare County Council fully recognised the distinct ethnicity of Traveller culture and is committed to promoting equality and inclusion for Travellers living in County Kildare. Kildare County Council is committed to the development and implementation of the County Kildare Traveller and Roma Interagency Strategy 2019-2023.

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. Section 42(2) requires public bodies to assess, address and report on progress in relation to equality and human rights in their strategic plan and annual reports in a manner that is accessible to the public.

In preparation of the 2019-2024 Corporate Plan Kildare County Council is currently preparing a strategy for implementing the Public Sector Duty. This Public Sector Duty requires a public body, having regard to its functions, purpose, size and resources available to it, to:

- 1. Assess** - set out in its strategic plan an assessment of the human rights and equality issues it believes to be relevant to the functions and purpose of the body;
- 2. Address** - set out in its strategic plan the policies, plans and actions in place or proposed to be put in place to address those issues;
- 3. Report** - report on developments and achievements in its annual report.

Implementation of the Public Sector Duty will have regard to the functions of the authority in relation to Traveller Accommodation, the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and the work of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.



3

REVIEW OF TAP 2014-2018 PROGRAMME

3.1 Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 envisaged that 65 units of accommodation would be required during the lifetime of the programme based on an existing need of forty-nine families and a projected need for a further sixteen family formations.

The TAP 2014-2018 Programme therefore, aimed to deliver 76 units of accommodation - 55 standard units and 21 Traveller specific units of accommodation.

Type	Targets 2014-2018	Units Delivered 2014-2018	Outcome
Standard housing	55	58	+5.5% over delivery target
Single housing	0	0	-
Traveller Specific	21	13	62% delivery achieved (shortfall of 38%)
Total	76	71	93% delivery

During the life of the programme, there were 71 units of accommodation delivered across standard and Traveller specific housing. Overall, Kildare County Council successfully delivered 93% of the overall accommodation targets set out in the 2014-2018 programme.

3.2 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 – Final Progress Report

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	Target v Delivery	Target v Delivery	Target v Delivery	Target v Delivery	Target v Delivery

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

Standard Housing	2 (2)	2 (3)	2 (5)	3 (3)	3 (2)
Traveller specific	- (-)	1	1 (0)	-	-

Maynooth Municipal District

Standard Housing	2 (2)	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (3)	1 (3)
Traveller specific	1 (-)	1 (2)	- (2)	- (1)	- (1)

Naas Municipal District

Standard Housing	- (-)	2	2 (1)	- (2)	- (3)
Traveller specific	- (-)	-	3 (0)	-	-

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District					
Standard Housing	3 (-)	3 (1)	3 (5)	3 (4)	4 (3)
Traveller specific	4 (1)	3	1 (0)	-	-
Athy Municipal District					
Standard Housing	4 (4)	3	3 (4)	3 (2)	3 (3)
Traveller specific	- (2)	2 (1)	1 (0)	3 (2)	-
TOTAL	16 (11)	19 (9)	17 (18)	13 (17)	11 (15)

The TAP 2014-2018 was delivered against a backdrop of the worst housing crisis in modern Irish history, and the Traveller community have been disproportionately affected by the national housing shortage.

This has led to increased numbers of Traveller families in homelessness and overcrowded and unsuitable accommodation.

The mid-term review was carried out in 2016 and it was determined that no change was required to the programme and there continued to be the full commitment from Kildare County Council to meet and exceed, where possible the targets as set out in the TAP 2014-2018.

3.2 Current Developments

Tankardsgarden Halting Site, Newbridge

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has approved the re-development of eight halting site bays with 'day houses' at Tankardsgarden, Newbridge. Kildare County Council continues to move forward with this development and it is envisaged that construction will commence in the later part of 2019.

Ardrew Halting Site, Athy

Kildare County Council is committed to enhancing the accommodation in Ardrew Halting site and a full electrical upgrade of the day houses and bays was undertaken and completed in 2017/2018. Added to this, was an upgrade of all the lighting on the site. The day units are scheduled for upgrades in 2019 whereby all stoves, kitchens and bathrooms are being replaced.

Mobile Home Replacement

Kildare County Council provides support to tenants living on council halting sites to access support for a mobile home on the basis of exceptional need or hardship.



4

CONSULTATION

4.1 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

A Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) was established in 1999 and they have met at quarterly intervals since that time. The Committee is representative of Travellers, members of Traveller support groups, elected members and officials of the local authorities. Working groups may be set up within the Committee to progress work between the LTACC meetings. The members of the LTACC are contained in Appendix 1 to this document.

4.2 Consultation with Individual Travellers

Kildare County Council is committed to consultation with individual Travellers in relation to their accommodation requirements. This is achieved through the Council's Social Workers and other officials from the Housing Department liaising with the Travellers.

4.3 Public Consultation

Consultation in relation to the provision of all accommodation is facilitated through the processes as set out in the Planning Acts and in consultation with prospective families seeking Traveller specific accommodation.

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires local authorities to undertake a consultation process as part of their preparation for the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Under Section 9 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Kildare County Council made available the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme for public inspection and invited submissions. The following three submissions were received, which were taken into consideration in the preparation of this programme.

- Kildare Traveller Action
- Minceirs Whiden
- Siobhan Farrelly

These submissions were considered by the LTACC and have been incorporated into the programme as appropriate (Appendix 2 - Chief Executive's Report).

Not all recommendations contained in the submissions relate directly to the provision of housing or Traveller specific housing, but rather link in to a wider approach of inclusion and interagency collaboration. Kildare County Council is committed to the development and implementation of the County Kildare Traveller and Roma Interagency Strategy 2019-2023 at a national and local level.

4.4 Kildare Traveller Action

Kildare County Council continues to work with and support the valuable work undertaken by Kildare Traveller Action. Kildare County Council is committed to maintaining communication, consultation and collaboration with Kildare Traveller Action in relation to delivering on the accommodation needs of the Traveller families living within the County.



5

ASSESSMENT OF NEED

5.1 Basis and Methodology of Assessment of Need

Section 6 (as amended in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 requires housing authorities, for the purposes of preparing a programme in respect of their functional area, to make an assessment of the accommodation needs of Travellers who are assessed under Section 20 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 as being qualified for social housing support, including the need for sites.

In order to ensure a thorough assessment of need was completed, Kildare County Council Social Work staff based their Assessment of Need Process on the following:

- Annual Count of Traveller Families 30 November 2018
- Updated data on iHouse further to the Housing Needs Assessment 2018
- Letters were issued to all Traveller households currently requiring accommodation to advise them of the preparation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and to invite them to attend local focus groups. Families were also given the opportunity to meet with a social worker on a one-to-one basis to complete a survey and express their accommodation preference.
- Focus Group meetings were held in five locations across the county (Naas/Newbridge/Athy/Maynooth/Celbridge) in October 2018, to give members of the Traveller community an opportunity to come and participate in the consultation process and to ensure correct information on those families with a housing need.
- Consultation and collaboration with Kildare Traveller Action to ensure a complete picture of need was captured. The Kildare Traveller Action Primary Care Workers also completed surveys and assisted other families with completion of surveys.
- The members of the LTACC also provided assistance with the completion and return of surveys to ensure families had fully expressed their accommodation preferences.
- The Assessment of Need of Travellers in the county is also assessed and monitored on a continuous basis by the local authority Social Workers through their work.

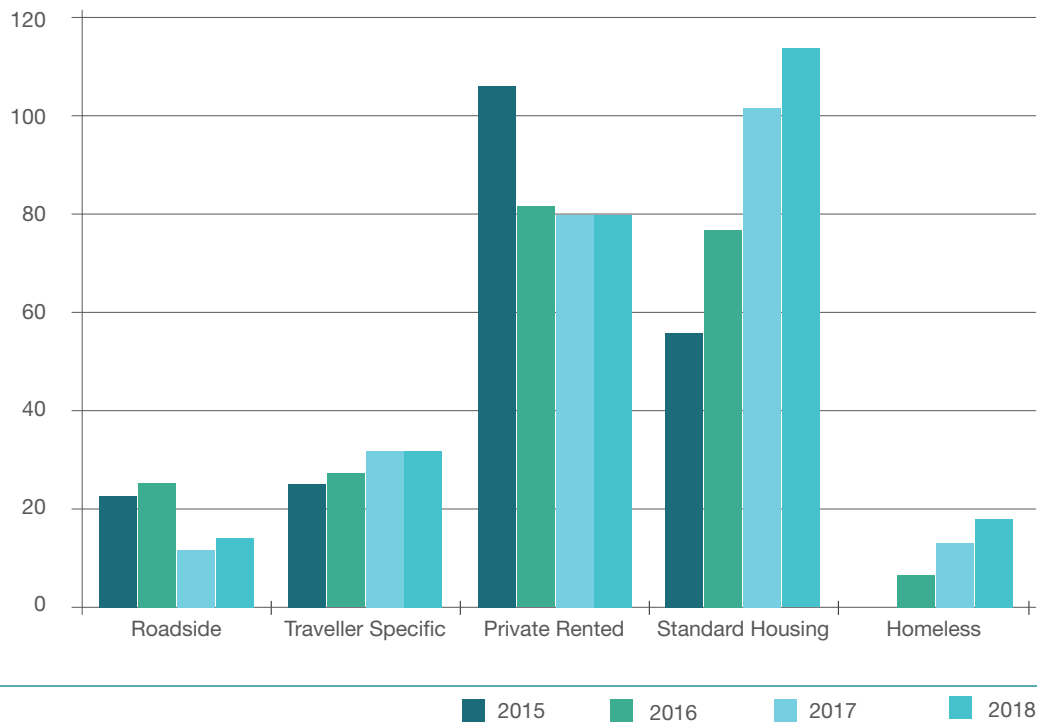
5.1.1 Assessment of Need for all Traveller Families in County Kildare

A significant difficulty in assessing the accommodation needs of the Traveller community in the County is that the numbers of, the types of accommodation, and locations of Traveller community family homes often change frequently. This has been found to be particularly the case with families who are living in private rented accommodation.

The Present Numbers in Context

The chart illustrated in Table One (page 4), shows how the number of Traveller families living in the county has increased steadily over these past four years. This year's figures indicate an increase in roadside families since last year and a steady decline in the number of private rented houses over the past four years in line with declining availability all over the county.

These figures echo the views and experiences voiced by Traveller families during the consultation process as they described difficulty in accessing private rented accommodation and increasing instances of living in roadside caravans due to a lack of accommodation availability.



	2015	2016	2017	2018
Roadside	23	26	12	15
Traveller Specific	25	27	31	31
Private Rented	106	83	80	80
Standard Housing	56	77	101	112
Homeless	0	7	14	19

5.1.2 Assessment of Current Need in County Kildare

This was divided into two parts - Legislation requires the Council to provide a current assessment (*Table A*) and a projected needs assessment (*Table B*).

Table A: Assessment of current need for Traveller families

Municipal Area	Standard Social House	Group House	Halting Site	Single Instance/ Rural House	MD Area Total
Celbridge/Lexlip	6	1			
Maynooth	10		1		11
Naas	4	5			9
Kildare/Newbridge	11			2	13
Athy	7	10		1	18
Total	38	16	1	3	58

5.1.3 Assessment of Projected Need due to New Family Formations

As part of the assessment for the TAP 2019-2024, families who were consulted were asked if they thought any of their children would form marital or partner type relationships as adults in the next five years.

Their responses are set out below. As in previous TAP's, the figure of newly married-aged children is divided by two to give a notional figure for the extra family formation.

Table B - Number of new family formations per family

MD Area	One	Two	Three	Four	Total by Area	Extra Housing Demand (total divided by 2)
Celbridge/Lexlip	1x1=1	1x1=1	1x1=1	4x1=4	7	3.5
Maynooth	-	3x1=3	-	4x1=4	7	3.5
Naas	-	-	1x1=1	-	1	0.5
Kildare/Newbridge	2x1=2	2x2=4	-	-	6	3
Athy	1x1=1	2x1=2	3x2=6	-	9	4.5
Total	4	10	8	8	30	15

Combined Assessment of Current and Projected Need

(Due to new family formations for all long term Traveller families, Table A + Table B)

By Municipal District

	Group House	Halting Site	Standard Housing	Single Instance/ Rural House
Celbridge/Lexlip	1	-	6	-
Maynooth	-	1	10	-
Naas	5	-	4	-
Kildare/Newbridge	-	-	11	2
Athy	10	-	7	1
Total	16	1	38	3

	Surveyed Overall Total By Town and Area	Projected Area Total for Units in the next 5 years	Overall Area Totals for all types of units.
Celbridge/Lexlip	7	3.5	10.5
Maynooth	11	3.5	14.5
Naas	9	0.5	9.5
Kildare/Newbridge	13	3	16
Athy	18	4.5	22.5
Total	58	15	73

A teal background with a white circle in the center. Inside the white circle is the number 6 in teal.

6

STRATEGY STATEMENT

6.1 Basis of Accommodation Programme

The Accommodation Programme is based on an assessment of need, which has been developed from;

- The Assessment of Need as described in Section 5
- Anticipated family formation as described in Section 5

It is difficult to assess the rate at which new family formation among the long term resident families will occur. The best estimate is that 15 new families will be formed during the lifetime of the programme. It is accepted that if/when these anticipated family formations occur they may have different requirements than those envisaged in the programme.

6.2 Accommodation Options

The Accommodation Programme encompasses a range of housing options including:

- Standard Housing
- Group Housing
- Halting Sites
- Social Leasing and the Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) for private rented accommodation
- Housing with Approved Housing Bodies
- Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

Members of the Travelling community will be assisted in applying for any of the above options.

6.3 Accommodation Preferences

Members of the Travelling community have been invited to express a preference for a particular type of accommodation. This preference will be considered in the context of availability, the Council's Allocations Scheme for Social Housing, principles of good estate management, availability of resources to do so and planning requirements.

The Programme will endeavour to offer a range of measures so that applicants have a wide choice of accommodation options. It is recognised that the shortage of available Traveller specific accommodation does create limitation in the choices available to current applicants.

Areas of Choice – 1st preference choice (as per consultation)

Area	Number
Athy	16
Kildare Town	2
Newbridge	10
Naas	5
Celbridge	3
Maynooth	7
Leixlip	5
Other Areas	Prosperous x 1
	Clane x 1
	Kilcock x 2
	Kilmeague x 1
	Sallins x 3

Accommodation Preference - 1st preference V's 2nd preference choice

Type	1st	2nd
Standard Social Housing	35	2
Group Housing	18	7
Halting Site/ Mobile Bay	1	3
Rural House	3	-
Stated no second preference	-	46

Standard Housing:

As evidenced in the above table this tenure type remains the accommodation of choice for the majority of Traveller households.

Approved Housing Bodies:

The Council recognises the significant role played by the voluntary sector in the provision of social housing in County Kildare. Voluntary Housing Bodies will be encouraged and facilitated to accommodate Traveller families. Assistance will be provided to bodies approved under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 subject to terms and conditions in operation from time to time.

During the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018, in years 2017 and 2018, 13 Traveller households were accommodated by Approved Housing Bodies.

6.4 Prioritisation of Applicants for Traveller Specific Accommodation

Kildare County Council will only provide Traveller specific accommodation for the Council's indigenous Traveller households. For this purpose, the Council will only regard a Traveller household as indigenous where they have been resident in the County for at least two years immediately prior to the adoption of this Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 or any continuous five year period in which an applicant was previously a tenant of, or resident in the council's administrative area.

Any member of the Traveller community, in common with all other eligible persons, in need of housing and unable to provide it from their own resources, can apply for housing to the housing authority in County Kildare. Applications will be considered in line with the social housing assessment regulations.

In deciding on any application for housing, consideration will not be given unless there are exceptional circumstances to an applicant who is included in the Traveller Accommodation Programme of any other county.

Where Kildare County Council considers a person has been engaged in anti-social behaviour, or that a letting to that person will not be in the interests of good estate management; accommodation will not be offered in the first instance, and in the case of existing tenants, Kildare County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy will apply.

6.5 Partnership and Consultation

The Council is committed to a partnership with the Traveller community and will liaise with them through awareness information and consultation exercises. The Council is committed to promoting tenant participation in estate management in the case of group housing schemes and halting sites.

6.6 Management and Maintenance of Traveller Specific Accommodation

The Traveller Accommodation Unit (the Unit) is responsible for the delivery of services to the Traveller specific accommodation in County Kildare. The Unit is responsible for providing the following;

- Social Work service to assist tenants and applicants with the housing application process, in addition to support and advice
- Caretaker service for Traveller specific accommodation
- Site refurbishments and upgrades
- Management and maintenance of Halting Sites
- Liaison with relevant departments on capital developments

6.7 Liaison with other Agencies

The Council recognises the importance of involvement of other agencies in contributing to the creation of a sustainable living environment for the Traveller community. The involvement of a number of agencies is also necessary if the effects of social exclusion are to be minimised.

In this regard the Council is committed to co-operation with the various statutory and community development agencies that have an interest in the accommodation, health/ welfare and education/ training/ employment needs of the Traveller community. To this end, Kildare County Council is fully committed to the co-ordination and implementation of the County Kildare Traveller and Roma Interagency Strategy 2019-2023.

6.8 Temporary and Transient Sites

While it is recognised that there is a requirement to provide a network of transient sites for Travellers in the context of recognising nomadism as a feature of Traveller culture, this has to be developed on a regional basis in conjunction with other Local Authorities.

In the overall context, priority for accommodation will be given to those Travellers who have been identified as being in need of permanent accommodation in the assessment undertaken for the preparation of this Programme. As part of the consultation for the development of the TAP 2019-2024, the Council asked respondents for their feedback on the development of temporary sites and transient sites within Kildare.

The results are outlined below.

	Temporary Site	Transient Site	Basic Services
Yes	28	7	24
No	11	27	10
No Preference Expressed	10	15	15

The survey (*limited as it is*) indicates that there was strong support for the development of temporary sites that could be used by families who are otherwise living on the roadside and are awaiting an offer of permanent accommodation.

In relation to transient sites however, the survey found that the majority of respondents were against this type of site. The general view was that respondents were uncomfortable with families that they did not know coming into the area. Kildare County Council is however, committed to a further consultation exercise to be undertaken to examine this issue in more detail with the local Traveller community. It is aimed to have this review completed by the end of 2019.

There was support among respondents for Kildare County Council to provide roadside families with access to basic services such as water, refuse collection and portable toilets. The Traveller Accommodation Unit can undertake, on a case by case basis an assessment of need for families who are homeless and without access to basic facilities. Where temporary accommodation provision can be offered in emergency accommodation or on a temporary site, this will be offered in the first instance.

6.9 Monitoring of Programme

The Act places an obligation on the Council to secure implementation of the Programme within five years and requires continuing implementation and monitoring of progress. This will be accomplished by quarterly meetings of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

6.10 Review of Programme

In the context of a number of factors, including the changing needs of Traveller families and the changing circumstances relating to family formations, a review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme will take place as directed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

6.11 Unauthorised Encampments

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

- Roads Act 1993
- Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998
- Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992
- Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1948
- Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002

6.12 Horses

Kildare County council will not include the provision of accommodation for horses in any Traveller accommodation proposals. Horse owners are responsible for the provision of appropriate accommodation for their horses. The control of horses is managed by the Environment Section of Kildare County Council.



IMPLEMENTATION OF TAP 2019-2024 PROGRAMME

Kildare County Council is responsible for the adoption of a Traveller Accommodation Programme for all of County Kildare.

7.1 Specific Implementation Proposals

The following specific implementation proposals are for the period of the programme based on existing and projected needs for 73 families as identified in Section 5 of this Programme.

7.2 Breakdown of Housing Units by Municipal Area

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Target v Delivery	Target v Delivery	Target v Delivery	Target v Delivery	Target v Delivery	Target v Delivery
Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District						
Standard Housing	2	2	2	2	1	1
Traveller specific	-	-	-	-	5	-
Maynooth Municipal District						
Standard Housing	2	2	-	1	2	1
Traveller specific	-	-	-	-	-	-
Naas Municipal District						
Standard Housing	1	2	1	1	-	-
Traveller specific	-	-	5	-	-	-
Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District						
Standard Housing	2	2	2	1	1	1
Traveller specific	-	8	-	-	-	-
Athy Municipal District						
Standard Housing	2	2	2	2	2	1
Traveller specific	1	-	-	5		6
TOTAL	10	18	12	12	11	10

7.3 Proposal for Additional Traveller Specific Accommodation Units

(Pending successful funding applications to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)

Kildare County Council will endeavour to deliver on an ambitious target of 28 additional Traveller specific accommodation units over the lifetime of this Traveller Accommodation Programme. The Council is committed to the provision of Traveller specific accommodation in line with objectives set out in national, regional and local plans.

Permanent Traveller Specific Accommodation

Town	2020	2021	2022	2023
Tankardsgarden, Newbridge	8			
Athy			5	5
Naas		5		
Celbridge				5

Tankardsgarden, Newbridge

It was intended to provide accommodation at Tankardsgarden in 2 phases, however, this development will now progress with the delivery of 8 mobile home bays and associated ‘day houses’ and these will be allocated on a phased basis. It is aimed to bring these units online in 2020.

Athy

Through the consultation undertaken for the TAP 2019-2024, it has been established that there are two distinct family groups who have expressed a preference for group housing accommodation.

Group One is comprised of five larger families who have a preference for larger accommodation to suit the needs of their families. These families have also requested transfers so as to source larger accommodation however; a group housing development would be their preference.

Group Two is comprised of married couples with smaller, but growing families and who are in need of long term accommodation to suit their family needs. Both families are indigenous to Athy with strong local connections.

Naas

A need has been identified in Naas for a group housing scheme for a family group comprising five families.

Celbridge

The consultation demonstrated that there is a need for additional Traveller specific accommodation in north Kildare. To this end, Kildare County Council will aim to deliver a group housing scheme in Celbridge.

Temporary Accommodation

Kildare County Council is currently reviewing the use of temporary sites to meet the need of homeless Travellers, including but not limited to the use of emergency powers to provide temporary sites where appropriate.

APPENDIX 1

MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE:

2014-2018

Elected Members

Cllr. Anne Breen - Chairperson

Cllr. Aoife Breslin

Cllr. Reáda Cronin

Cllr. Joanne Pender

Cllr. Ide Cussen

Traveller Community Representatives

P.J. Dooley - Kildare Traveller Action

Ann O'Donnell

Rosie McInerney

Kathleen Donoghue

Elizabeth McDonagh

Kildare County Council

Tadhg McDonnell (Director of Services)

Annette Aspell (Senior Executive Officer)

2019-2024

Elected Members

Cllr. Peggy O'Dwyer - Chairperson

Cllr. Anne Breen

Cllr. Aoife Breslin

Cllr. Nuala Killeen

Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick

Traveller Community Representatives

Rose McInerney

Kathleen Donoghue

Ann O'Donnell

Elizabeth McDonagh

Bridget Cawley

PJ Dooley - Kildare Traveller Action

KCC Officials

Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Services

Annette Aspell, Senior Executive Officer

Sinéad Fitzpatrick, Administrative Officer

APPENDIX 2

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT - KILDARE TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2019 - 2024

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires local authorities to undertake a public consultation process as part of their preparation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024. As per the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's guidelines on the preparation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024, Kildare County Council made publicly available the draft programme and invited submissions for consideration.

Three submissions were received on the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme. Submissions were received from:

1. Kildare Traveller Action
2. Minceirs Whiden
3. Siobhan Farrelly

The following provides a summary of the matters contained in the submissions received and the associated response:

1. Kildare Traveller Action

Summary:

Kildare Traveller Action acknowledges the positive working relationship that has developed with Kildare County Council and the proactive approach taken in preparation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024. The submission received set out twelve specific recommendations. Kildare Traveller Action welcomed specific initiatives taken by Kildare County Council including the establishment of a Traveller Accommodation Unit and the introduction of support mechanisms for mobile home replacement. Delivery, however, of additional Traveller specific units was raised as a concern in the submission. While acknowledging the current housing crisis, issues relating to Traveller homelessness were also cited as concerning. Recommendations include but are not limited to the setting of specific targets, the delivery of new additional Traveller specific units, the provision of once off rural houses and the development of a transient site.

Response:

Kildare County Council recognises and welcomes the positive working relationship that has developed with Kildare Traveller Action. Kildare County Council confirms that they are committed to continued support for the Traveller Accommodation Unit and the support given to replacement of mobile homes on sites.

Kildare County Council acknowledges that for a complexity of reasons, delays were experienced in relation to the delivery of new units. The 2019-2024 programme carries forward these units in addition to other needs identified throughout the

County. The ambitious programme now endeavours to deliver 28 new units over the next 5 years.

The draft programme also addresses recommendations in relation to the management and maintenance of halting sites, the provision of transient sites and temporary sites including but not limited to the use of emergency powers.

Other recommendations contained in the submission related more to the provision of community projects and services as opposed to the Traveller Accommodation Programme. These will be referred to the relevant section for consideration. Kildare County Council is a lead agency in the Interagency Traveller and Roma Strategy which will also provide opportunity to progress community led initiatives.

2. Minceirs Whiden

Summary:

Thirteen recommendations were received in relation to the development of effective Traveller Accommodation Programmes. The recommendations relate primarily to monitoring and evaluation, adherence to guidelines and relevant legislation and access to housing supports for members of the Travelling community.

Response:

The Local Traveller Consultative Committee are committed and open to engaging in all monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and have engaged directly with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee on such matters.

Similarly in relation to guidelines and legislation currently in place, Kildare County Council is committed to meeting all relevant responsibilities to meet the needs set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

With regard to housing options available to members of the Travelling community, these options have been detailed in the programme. Kildare County Council has also made available resources to support families to access appropriate good quality mobile homes / caravans which meet the standards specified in the submission.

Kildare County Council is a lead agency in the County Kildare Traveller and Roma strategy which includes actions related to accommodation. This strategy also identifies measures to support Traveller participation in the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and wider community participation and representation.

3. Siobhan Farrelly

Summary:

A submission received from Siobhan Farrelly who proposed the use of 20% of hardstands available in existing caravan parks be used for accommodation.

Response:

The option of utilising mobile home parks was previously investigated by the Traveller Accommodation Team and considered by the Local Consultative Committee on Traveller Accommodation. Commercial caravan parks tend to be seasonal in their operation and are therefore not suitable for long term accommodation. While such sites are limited in Kildare it is also recognised that these sites are commercial tourism businesses as opposed to long term accommodation services and would not meet the culturally appropriate housing needs of the Traveller community that Kildare County Council has committed to in the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Conclusion:

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 is ambitious in its accommodation targets and clearly sets out a programme for delivery of a range of housing options based on needs analysis conducted.

In the main, the programme reflects the overarching recommendation of the submissions received which is culturally appropriate housing for members of the Travelling community who wish to avail of same.

It was noted that not all recommendations contained in the submissions relate directly to the provision of housing or Traveller specific housing, but rather link in to a wider approach of inclusion and interagency collaboration for the provision of community or educational initiatives. Kildare County Council is committed to the development and implementation of the County Kildare Traveller and Roma Interagency Strategy 2019 which addresses a wide range of social, cultural and educational initiatives and will refer such actions to the appropriate section in Kildare County Council where relevant.