

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2025-2029

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL



TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

2025-2029

HOUSING DIRECTORATE

December 2024

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CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND TO THE TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

1.1 Introduction:

Cork County Council prepared this Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) in accordance with the **Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998**. This plan aims to meet the accommodation needs and the projected need that will arise during the period of the programme, for Traveller families in the county over the 5-year period; 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2029.

The **Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998** puts in place the legislative framework to meet the needs of Travellers normally resident within the administrative area of each local authority within the lifetime of the Programme. The Act provides for the preparation and adoption of Traveller specific Accommodation Programmes and for provision for public participation in the process by way of a notification and consultation process. Cork County Council has produced five Traveller Accommodation Programmes to date in accordance with the 1998 Act.

The functional area of the current Plan is the revised administrative area of Cork County Council following the transfer of part of our administrative area to Cork City Council as provided for under the Local Government Act 2019.

In July 2024, The Department of the Housing, Planning and Local Government issued guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption, and Implementation of the Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Programmes for the period 2025 to 2029. These guidelines require relevant Housing Authorities in consultation with Travellers to prepare and adopt by December 31st, 2024, Accommodation Programmes to meet the existing and projected needs of Travellers in their areas.

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In preparation for this Programme spanning 2025 to 2029, a consultation process was undertaken. This included consultation with the countywide Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC).

It was acknowledged that a vital component to the development of a comprehensive Programme was to ensure consultation with relevant stakeholders including external agencies and the general public. This was achieved through seeking submissions from bodies involved in providing services to Travellers in County Cork (Appendix 1). Cork County Council received five submissions within the required timeframe and one response stating that they have nothing to submit (Appendix 2).

The current Traveller Accommodation Programme expires upon completion of the 2025-2029 TAP. This Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 to 2029 is cognisant of the fact that linkages exist between accommodation and the broader issues of Traveller health, education, employment, and social inclusion.

Cork County Council foresees linkages with external approved housing body agencies and other stakeholders as being pivotal to achieving goals set out in this Programme. Approved Housing Bodies have experience in the provision and management of social housing. Cork County Council intends to intensify linkages with these agencies during the lifetime of this Programme and to encourage future developments through the Capital Assistance Scheme and Social Housing Leasing Initiative Supports where necessary.

Cork County Council is fully committed to the success of this Traveller Accommodation Programme and the targets set within; it will be actively engaging with the Approved Housing Body sector that will have a contributory role to play in meeting those targets during the lifetime of the plan.

Cork County Council recognises Travellers as an ethnic minority group within Irish society and will endeavour as far as is possible to provide Traveller specific accommodation.

CHAPTER 2

POLICY STATEMENT ON TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

- The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 is subject to review during its duration. Section 17 (1) and (2) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 state that:

‘1 a. the relevant housing authority shall review an accommodation programme at least once in each three-year period or at such time the Minister may by direction specify from time to time, and

b. may review an accommodation programme at any time during the period which the accommodation programme concerned relates.

A relevant housing authority may amend or replace an accommodation programme at any time or following a review under subsection (1)’
- It is Cork County Council’s policy to directly provide and assist approved housing bodies in the provision of Traveller specific accommodation for the County’s indigenous Travelling Community where possible.
- Cork County Council operates an active Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee whose membership consists of Traveller Representatives, Elected Members and County Council Officials. It is the policy of this committee to meet on a quarterly basis in accordance with best practice.
- In circumstances where an emergency arises it is the policy of Cork County Council to refer families to local homeless services where possible. All cases of homelessness are considered on a case-by-case basis and referred to the appropriate agencies.
- Applications for accommodation to Cork County Council will be considered under Council’s Allocation Scheme. This Traveller Accommodation Programme provides a working framework for allocations to Traveller households for the next five years. To meet the accommodation needs of Travellers, a range of accommodation options will be necessary including amongst other options standard local authority housing, housing assistance payment, housing with an approved housing body etc.
- All new Traveller tenancies allocated under this Programme will be subject to the payment of rent under Cork County Council’s differential rent scheme.

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- Cork County Council will where possible support Travellers interested in opting for private ownership through specific loans for the purchase or building of a house.
- All applications to Cork County Council must be made through the standard Cork County Council application forms. Each request will be assessed individually on the basis of need. Support and guidance will be offered through the Housing Department, in the eventuality of any difficulty arising from the application process.
- In the event of a tenant surrendering a Cork County Council tenancy there will be no obligation on the Council to re-accommodate the individuals involved.
- Allocations and tenancies of Cork County Council properties are subject to the Council's Allocations Policy and Tenancy Conditions.
- Tenants should not place temporary/moveable accommodation on their site/dwelling and should not utilise same for living accommodation on their site/dwelling without prior consultation with Cork County Council in writing.
- Transfer applications will only be considered if the Social Housing Department deem that there is a valid housing need present under the Council's Allocation Scheme.

The following should be noted:

- ✓ A tenant can only apply for a transfer following a minimum of two years living in their dwelling.
 - ✓ A tenant's rent should be fully up to date for an application to be considered.
 - ✓ The tenant's property must be deemed habitable and tenantable following inspection by the Council.
 - ✓ A housing application should be fully completed and submitted with all necessary supporting documentation.
- Cork County Council requires persons who keep horses to comply with the requirements of the Control of Horses Act 1996 and the Control of Horses Byelaws 1998. A common theme from Cork County Council's recent research on Traveller Accommodation is that the care and rearing of horses is a deep-rooted part of Traveller culture and identity.

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- The Travellers surveyed did not indicate a preference for transient sites however consideration will be given to same should the need arise during the duration of the plan.
- The Council discourages the establishment of unauthorised encampments including the citing of caravans in green areas, housing estates, parking areas and other Council owned land and to this end will use appropriate measures as provided for in legislation. Where appropriate, consideration will be made to allow caravans in the yard of family members with services and compliance.
- The possibility of developing a halting site to replace demountables with “tigíns” is being explored.
- This policy will follow any changes regarding tenancy agreement or legislation.

CHAPTER 3

REVIEW OF THE TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2019-2024

The types of accommodation which were allocated to Travellers for the period 2019 to 2024 were:

- Standard allocations from the County Council’s general housing stock: This was the most common method of allocations to Traveller families during the 2019 to 2024 Traveller Accommodation Programme and was in response to the type of accommodation sought by the travelling community during the lifetime of the Plan.
- Group Housing: This accommodation type consists of schemes of permanent houses specifically designed for allocation to Traveller tenants.
- Acquisitions: Specific situations arise where units of accommodation are acquired to meet the needs of certain Traveller families. Many attempts were made to acquire such accommodation with no success during the lifespan of the 2019-2024 TAP.
- Caravans/Mobile Homes/Demountable: Occasionally Cork County Council received requests from specific families/individuals requesting the provision of these services due to specific reasons, often relating to an emergency situation. These units were generally located in either designated Council owned areas or within close proximity to family homes. Each request was individually assessed.
- Social Housing Measures.

3.1 Overall Outcomes in Accommodation Provision under Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 (Target of 68 Units)

Division	Offers 2019-2024	Allocations 2019-2024	Number of Refusals of Accommodation
South	24	22	2
West	17	14	3
North	59	49	10
Total	100	85	15

3.2 Constraints experienced by Cork County Council in achieving Accommodation Targets under the 2019-2024 Programme

It should be noted that countywide targets were met and exceeded regarding the provision of standard housing which was the main target accommodation reference identified in the plan. Challenges which arose in relation to the accommodation of Travellers include: -

- There were difficulties with engaging with the Traveller Community during the Covid -19 Pandemic in 2020-2022.
- The lack of larger units of accommodation available for occupation. This is specifically an issue in relation to four bed units or larger.
- Some applicants have requested that detached properties are supplied in built up urban areas, in which no supply of such properties exist.
- Some applicants require end of terrace houses in Council estates which are of limited supply. This can lead to issues with parking of trailers and other vehicles and dumping of rubbish causing complaints.
- Some applicants have expressed a desire to reside on a family-only halting site or in group housing specific to their own family.
- Some Traveller families require standard accommodation in geographic areas where there is a scarcity of Cork County Council properties, and which are areas of high demand across the entire waiting list.
- Some young Traveller couples want to remain in caravans/mobiles/demountables on the grounds of family property which is not permitted under tenancy agreement and leads to complaints from neighbours.
- There has been an increase in young married Traveller couples seeking Emergency Accommodation. They want to live independently from their parents. Although desire for independence is understandable, wanting to reside independently does not qualify as being in need of Emergency Accommodation.
- There are limited supports in place for Travellers who have literacy issues and need to access Choice Based Letting (CBL) and Daft.ie to source accommodation. Support is needed to use and access technology also.

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- There is an ongoing issue with ensuring documentation is up to date on files. As Traveller family size increases, the paperwork needs to be updated, this can be challenging to achieve at times.
- Communicating with Travellers is an issue as phone numbers tend to change regularly.
- The general large geographical area of Cork County and the distances between areas is a constraint within the Traveller Accommodation Unit.
- Some applicants refused to consider properties in certain locations due to certain circumstances e.g. feuding and family interaction.

3.3 Existing Cork County Council Traveller Specific Accommodation and Supports offered through the 2019 to 2024 Traveller Accommodation Programme.

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL PROVIDES TENANCIES TO TRAVELLERS AS FOLLOWS:

Group Housing Schemes:

- Foxes Hill, Cloughmacsimon, Bandon:

There are two individual houses in this location.

- Springmount, Clonakilty:

Cork County Council has two individual houses in this location.

- Rosewood Drive, Charleville:

This development consists of five individual houses for Traveller families.

Permanent Halting Sites:

- Hill View, Cloughmacsimon, Bandon

Four bays were provided by Cork County Council in this location and a demountable unit and mobile are situated on two bays.

- Moses' Road Halting Site, Clonakilty

Four bays were provided by Cork County Council in this location and demountable units are situated on two bays.

- Pier Road Halting Site, Bantry

Cork County Council provides services at this location.

Basic Service Bays

Cork County Council has service bays at:

- Marsh Road Site, Skibbereen

Two bays are in situ at this location, one of which is occupied.

- Ballydineen, Doneraile

Consultation is currently on-going with the Department and CENA. Planning has been secured for 2 houses and 5 bays.

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ON COUNCIL OWNED GROUNDS DURING THE LIFESPAN OF THE TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PLAN 2019-2024:

- Midleton – One mobile and a demountable were provided to two separate families.
- Bandon – A mobile was provided under the Emergency Replacement Mobile scheme.
- Clonakilty – A demountable was provided for a couple on this site.
- Skibbereen – Upgrades were facilitated on a unit and works were carried out on the site.
- Mitchelstown – One mobile, a demountable and a utility unit were provided.
- Fermoy - An extension to a property owned by Cork County Council was carried out for a Traveller family.
- Mallow –
 - ✓ One mobile was purchased under the Caravan Loan Scheme.
 - ✓ Two mobiles were provided to two separate families.
 - ✓ Water connection works were carried out on a Traveller home.
- Facilities such as Portaloos and Skips are provided throughout the County to some sites.
- Pest control has been provided for some sites in the County.

SUPPORTS OFFERED DURING THE 2019 TO 2024 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

TIMEFRAME:

The Countywide Allocation of Standard Housing target was met and exceeded, refer to table 3.1.

Several transfers were facilitated to Traveller tenants during the lifetime of the 2019-2024 Programme. These transfers were granted due to specific circumstance and needs.

A comprehensive Fire Safety Audit was conducted and completed annually on all relevant sites in the Cork County Area. Cork County Council acknowledges the co-operation of all parties and continues to actively consult with the residents on all sites.

Refurbishment of the group housing scheme at Rosewood Drive, consisting of five individual houses for Traveller families, was completed.

Documentation and presentation have been created by the Traveller Accommodation Unit to support and guide members of the Travelling Community and Traveller Organisations to search for private rented accommodation. This document includes practical guidelines for searching for private rented accommodation via Daft.ie and guidelines on how to access and use CBL. The documents created include guidelines for support workers on how to support their clients, a document for clients on how to search for properties and prepare for property viewings and a visual handout for those who struggle with literacy. Support has also been provided to access and set up Daft.ie accounts on individual's phones and to also access their CBL account via their phone.

A presentation was carried out with a Traveller Representative Group to facilitate the group to support members of the Travelling Community with property searches. Meetings have been held with individuals and families by the TAU to provide both support and information with regards to sourcing housing.

Support was offered with completion of documentation, advice and support regarding entitlements, advocacy support, tenancy sustainment support, support given when moving into new property e.g. set up/change utilities etc.

CHAPTER 4

INTRODUCTION TO ASSESSMENT OF TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

The Minister, under section 6 (1) of the 1998 Act, directed that relevant housing authorities for the purposes of preparing a Traveller Accommodation Programme in the functional area concerned, make an assessment of the accommodation needs of Travellers who are assessed under S. 20 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 as being qualified for social housing support, including need for sites.

The Minister has given a direction under section 6(5) of the 1998 Act, specifying that relevant housing authorities shall make an estimate of the projected accommodation needs of Traveller families arising during the duration of the programme (1st of January 2025 to 31st of December 2029).

4.1 2024 Census:

On the 24th of November 2023 an Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation Position was undertaken. Cork County Council is cognisant that this census is a snapshot of the position on a specified date, and that this data may have changed in some cases.

South Cork:

The census indicated that there were 151 Traveller households living in the South Cork area. Of these families 61 were living in standard local authority housing, 11 were living in houses acquired or improved with the assistance of the local authority, 5 were living in houses acquired without local authority assistance, 6 households resided in private rented accommodation and 13 families were living in voluntary housing. 30 families were sharing accommodation with local authority tenants and private owners. 5 families were sharing in houses acquired by Travellers without local authority assistance and 8 families were on unauthorised sites. 5 families were homeless.

West Cork

The census indicated that there were 153 Traveller households living in the West Cork area. Of these families 56 were living in standard local authority housing, 5 were living in local authority group houses, 3 were living in houses acquired or improved with the assistance of local authority, 5 were living in houses acquired without local authority assistance, 13 households resided in private rented accommodation and 9 families were residing in voluntary housing. 26 families were sharing accommodation with local authority tenants and private owners. 7 families were living on serviced halting sites. 5 families were homeless, and 5 others were accommodated in institutions (HSE/Prison).

North Cork

The census indicated that there were 276 Traveller households living in the North Cork area. Of these families 98 were living in standard local authority housing, 9 were living in local authority group houses, 5 were living in houses acquired or improved with the assistance of the local authority, 15 were living in houses acquired without local authority assistance, 47 households resided in private rented accommodation. 13 families were residing in voluntary housing. 69 families were sharing accommodation with local authority tenants and private owners. 14 families were on unauthorised sites. 5 families were homeless.

4.2. Housing Needs Assessment 2024:

Each housing authority is required under Section 21 of the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2009 to carry out a summary of the social housing assessments carried out in its administrative area. The Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2022 provided for an amendment to the application form for social housing support. This amendment, on the prescribed Social Housing Support application form in Part 8: Housing Requirements, provided for the inclusion of a Traveller identifier question to identify Travellers wishing to be included in Traveller Accommodation Programmes. This will enable local authorities capture relevant information to develop and adopt Traveller Accommodation Programmes under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 only where an applicant decides to answer this question in the affirmative.

4.3. Traveller Accommodation Survey 2024 (Appendix 3)

Cork County Council undertook a research project to identify the views of Travellers in the County who are in need of accommodation. The extent of this need and other relevant information will assist the Local Authority in developing an Accommodation Action Plan appropriate to their needs. This primary research was undertaken with families in the Cork County area who have an accommodation need and families who had children who would reach the age of eighteen during the lifetime of the Programme. The information collected will assist in informing policy and practice when addressing the accommodation needs of Travellers. A copy of the Traveller accommodation survey compiled by Cork County Council was sent to the Traveller representative groups for comment. No Traveller representative group reverted with any proposed changes.

It should be highlighted that there were challenges when attempting to make contact with participants. The most common of which was that phone numbers were no longer valid. Some postal addresses were not on file, others are not contactable in their current residence (hospital/prison/homeless). Some participants did not want to participate, and some have moved to another County or Country.

Division	Attempted Made	Participants
South	112	34
West	146	81
North	134	80
Total	392	195

4.4 The Main Findings of Survey:

Looking specifically at accommodation characteristics the most desired accommodation is standard housing in own area or surrounding areas. Interest was expressed to reside in more rural areas with space to keep caravans and horses. This was to keep the family unit close together and to have own space and privacy. There was little desire to reside on halting sites or Traveller specific accommodation unless the site was explicit to their own family. Feuding between rival families was mentioned throughout which is impacting accommodation needs and desires. Some participants stated that they cannot live in certain areas due to feuding, some of which is historical.

34% of participants were male and 66% were female. The average age of respondents was 43 years old. 50% of respondents expressed a need for housing. 6% of respondents are in a halting site with Private Rented Tenancy accounting for 3% of accommodation types. 3% occupy an Approved Housing Body (AHB) property, 4% reside in a caravan/ demountable in their parents' yard. 7% reside in their parents' home which is owned by the Council/AHB. Approximately 65% are in a council house. 2% reside in group housing and 2% own their own home.

When contrasted with desired accommodation the surveys show that a standard house is the most favoured at 34% with the percentage preferring a halting site falling to 12%. 11% expressed desire to reside in a bungalow with family residing in surrounding houses on their own site. 92% of respondents do not own a horse, 6 % own a horse and 2% wish to own a horse. 25% of respondents do not identify as a Traveller. The Travellers surveyed did not indicate a preference for transient sites. However, Cork County Council acknowledges their responsibility in accordance with the Housing Act 1998, which specifies that in addition to the need for permanent accommodation, local authorities must also assess the need for transient facilities. Although there was no need identified in the survey, if a need should be identified during the term of this plan consideration will be given to how this can be met in line with the national and regional approaches.

The results of this research will assist Cork County Council in formulating their Traveller Accommodation Programme in a manner that meets the needs of the travelling community

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residing in the county. The research findings will prove particularly beneficial in terms of allowing the local authority to allocate resources and work with an accurate reflection of the reality on the ground.

CHAPTER 5

MAIN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

5.1 FINDINGS FROM SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED:

High mortality rates and poor health.
Low levels of Literacy.
High levels of discrimination experienced.
An overall lack of cultural awareness.
Unsafe living conditions.
Overcrowding.
Trailer/ mobiles are expensive to run.
Poor access to public services.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED IN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED:

Culturally appropriate housing e.g. halting sites, accommodation for large family size.
Use a universal/general ethnic identifier in the application – not Traveller specific question.
Comprehensive Needs Assessment.
Traveller representation on LTACC.
Training in equality and anti-Traveller racism for all local authority staff.
Training in Traveller culture.
Focus on children, elderly, disabilities, youths, and homelessness.
Add play facilities to halting sites.
Provide annual TAP targets/reports/budgets.
Improve environmental and health standards of homes and trailers.
Recruit more staff for the Traveller Accommodation Unit.
Increased emphasis on education.
Caravan Loan Scheme.

CHAPTER 6

IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2025-2029

6.1 Introduction:

- The projected need for the South Cork Area as per the Traveller Survey for the five years of the Traveller Accommodation Programme, excluding future household formations is 18 families.
- The projected need for the West Cork Area as per the Traveller Survey for the five years of the Traveller Accommodation Programme, excluding future household formations is 20 families.
- The projected need for the North Cork Area as per the Traveller Census for the five years of the Traveller Accommodation Programme, excluding of future household formations is 38 families.

6.2 Existing Accommodation Circumstances of Travellers in Cork County:

Accommodation Type	South	West	North	Total
Private Rented	6	13	47	66
Homeless & Institutions	5	10	5	20
Group Accommodation Scheme (Sharing)	0	4	0	4
Privately owned house (sharing)	0	3	5	8
Standard Council House (Sharing)	30	26	69	125
Sites (permanent)	0	3	0	3
Roadside or unauthorised	8	4	14	26
Private Property	0	0	1	1
Total	49	63	141	253

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Due to Departmental Guideline Changes a re-categorisation of applications “on the basis of need” was introduced. As a result of this, Travellers as a basis of need category was removed and households were reassigned priority under alternative criterion for example, homeless, medical, elderly, overcrowded etc. Taking this development into account, Cork County Council has confined their targeted need to the remaining applicants. It is envisaged that the Applicants who are currently in private rented accommodation will be accommodated through the Housing Assistance Payment and through the following Housing Options:

- Local Authority Housing
- Voluntary/Co-Operative Housing
- RAS Housing
- Leased Accommodation
- Home modifications due to disability requirements

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government requested that Local Authorities examine the projected need of Travellers and future family formations with a view of establishing the number that will have a housing need during the period of the Programme. 76 individuals are estimated to have a housing need for both short term and long-term accommodation. This is broken down in the table below. It is intended that these individuals will be assisted through income supports, primarily the Housing Assistance Payment, until their longer-term needs are assessed.

Projected need is by necessity an estimated figure and obviously it is very difficult to predict specifically which of these children will formally apply to Cork County Council for accommodation, where they will select as a permanent preference and what type of tenure they will opt for.

6.3 Projected Family Formations as Identified:

Divisional Area	Number of projected households based on individuals turning 18 during lifetime of Programme:
South	18
West	20
North	38

In general, it is proposed that newly formed Traveller households can make suitable arrangements for securing private-rented accommodation; however, Cork County Council will be cognisant of each household’s need and circumstances as they arise on an individual basis and acknowledge the difficulties some families encounter when trying to secure private rented accommodation.

As mentioned previously in Section 3.3 training has been offered by the Traveller Accommodation Unit to a Traveller Representative Group and members of the Travelling Community. This training included how to search for private rented accommodation, prepare for property viewings, how to use CBL and Daft.ie along with other useful guidelines. The documents provided are tailored to assist those who struggle with literacy. It is proposed that the Traveller Accommodation Unit will expand on this vital resource and carry out regular training and workshops with groups, individual members, and organisations of the Travelling Community. The hope is to work collaboratively with Traveller Representative Groups who can then hold training and workshops for the clients they support.

6.4 Overall Accommodation Targets County Cork:

Accommodation Type	South	West	North	Total
Standard Housing/Acquisitions	8	8	14	30
Group Housing	0	0	2	2
Residential Caravan	2	2	6	10
Bay/Existing Bays	0	2	4	6
HAP	8	8	12	28
Total	18	20	38	76

6.5 Accommodation Targets County Cork by Year:

Accommodation Type	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total
Standard Housing/Acquisitions	6	6	6	6	6	30
Group Housing	0	1	0	1	0	2
Residential Caravan*	0	7	2	0	1	10
Bay/Existing Bays	1	1	3	1	0	6
HAP	5	5	6	6	6	28
Total	12	20	17	14	13	76

Accommodation by the Approved Housing Body sector who receive assistance from the Department of the Housing, Planning and Local Government will prove vital in ensuring Travellers are accommodated during the lifetime of the Plan. Whilst no specific targets have been set for the voluntary sector, these housing bodies will be required to accommodate a number of Traveller families whether through standard accommodation or through the support of the local authorities under the Capital Assistance Scheme and other Social Leasing Initiative Supports.

Assistance will also be provided to Travellers who wish to acquire their own dwellings through Cork County Council loans section, subject to meeting the qualifying criteria for same.

Council staff will continue to assist and advise Travellers in relation to the range of housing options available to them such as Private Rented accommodation, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Housing Assistance Payment and long-term leasing.

*Residential Caravans – those who wish to reside in a caravan on their parents' property.

6.6 Proposal to Upgrade some Halting Sites:

It is proposed to upgrade some halting sites. The initial plan will allow space for those residing in caravans with no access to services, upgrade existing sewage and electrical services and expand the site to accommodate more members of the Travelling Community who are without accommodation. The process and methodology to progress this is outlined below.

The Five-Point Methodology Details as Follows:

1. The site will be examined from a planning/technical viewpoint to ascertain if there are any fatal flaws, which would rule out the proposed works.
2. Arising from the output of this review, details of the site to be presented to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, followed by the Municipal District Area Committee.
3. Sites then to be included in the Draft Local Area Plan/County Development Plan for publication as part of that process. Public meetings to be held in the relevant area where sites work is proposed.
4. Following completion of detailed plans of proposed development, normal public consultation process under existing planning regulations to take place.
5. Report on consultation to be presented to elected members in the context of making a decision as regards whether or not the proposed development should take place.

Development of any land to be acquired will be subject to agreement under Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000. Public consultation in relation to such sites will be conducted in accordance with procedures set out under the above regulations.

Office of the Planning Regulator Case Study Paper CSP 03 – Traveller Accommodation and the Local Authority Development Plan was prepared during the previous TAP following engagement between the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), the County and City Management Association (CCMA), the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the Traveller Accommodation Expert Group. Best practice guidelines contained in the report will be considered in the context of any current or future proposed Traveller specific accommodation developments.

Criteria to Identify Sites Suitable for Traveller Specific Accommodation.

- Must comply with Planning and Development Regulations.
- Location to have regard to individual family needs.
- Consultation with Travellers, Travellers Representatives and Organisations, Elected Members, General Public, and other agencies.
- To contribute to improve relations between Travellers and Settled communities.
- To include proper landscaping to ensure the site is not only functional but also pleasant to live on and aesthetically pleasing. This should include not only the site itself but also the outer boundary.
- To have adequate public lighting for security and safety purposes.
- To ensure an appropriate balance between personal privacy and communal needs compatible with the requirements of the Fire Officer.
- To include facilities for play space.
- Where possible cater for changing family structures.
- To be accessible and appropriate for Traveller tenants with a disability.
- That all Health & Safety regulations will be complied with.
- Accommodation to comply with current guidelines issued by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, Department of Health, and Children as well as Department of Fire and Emergency Management.

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

Cork County Council will be the implementing authority for the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029. This programme outlines the existing and projected need for Traveller Accommodation and how Cork County Council will meet this need.

Cork County Council welcomes and acknowledges the support of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the HSE, and all other agencies to date in supporting the Traveller Accommodation Programme. The initiation of any proposed new schemes will require the on-going support of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the provision of funding towards same. Cork County Council is committed to working with Travellers, Traveller Representatives, the LTACC, local communities and all other key agencies and stakeholders in order to deliver on the targets identified within the Programme (see table 6.4 and 6.5).

Annual targets will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that progress will be maintained.

It must be borne in mind that there are certain restrictions that Cork County Council operate within. For example, it must be recognised that families may seek accommodation in areas where there is a high likelihood that vacancies may not arise during the duration of the programme. The targets set out are also subject to the necessary funding become available as required. These influencing factors will have a significant effect on the success of the programme.

Cork County Council is committed to the principals of interagency working and will continue to work in partnership with all relevant agencies to ensure positive outcomes from this Programme.

Appendix 1: Requests for Submissions:

South Cork

- All City and County Managers from surrounding Local Authorities i.e. Cork City, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford.
- LTACC Members
- Traveller Visibility Group
- Homeless Person's Unit
- Threshold
- Respond Housing Association
- Cluid Housing Association
- Tuath Housing
- Edel House
- Southern Traveller Health Network
- Tusla, Child and Family Agency
- East Cork Traveller Project

West Cork

- Tenancy Sustainment Officer, NOVAS
- West Cork Traveller Centre
- HSE
- Clonakilty Gardaí
- Bandon Gardaí

North Cork

- Community Welfare Services, HSE
- Travellers of North Cork
- YANA
- TUSLA
- Le Cheile Family Resource Centre
- Mallow Gardaí
- Public Health Nurses

Appendix 2: Submissions Received

Submissions received by the following:

CENA

NOVAS

MABS (Money Advice & Budgeting Service)

ICEYH (Irish Coalition to End Youth Homelessness)

Irish Traveller Movement (ITM), National Traveller Women's Forum and Pavee Point and Roma Centre

East Cork Traveller Project

West Cork Travellers

Response from Limerick City & County Council stating they did not wish to make a submission.

Appendix 3: Copy of Travelling Community Accommodation Survey 2024

**TAP 2024 Travelling Community
Accommodation Survey
Cork County Council Area**

1. **NAME:**

2. **ADDRESS:**

Are you a housing applicant? Yes _____ No _____
Are you a housing tenant? Yes _____ No _____

3. **SPOUSE/PARTNER:**

Are you a housing applicant? Yes _____ No _____
Are you a housing tenant? Yes _____ No _____

Note: All information contained in this survey will only be used by Cork County Council Housing Directorate to inform policy in addressing the accommodation needs of Travellers.

4. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Name	Male/Female	Date of Birth/ Age	School/College/Employed
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			

Do you have an open social housing application Yes _____ No _____
Have you searched for a HAP property? Yes _____ No _____

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Have you used CBL (Choice Based Letting) Yes _____ No _____
Do you have any difficulties accessing housing? Yes _____ No _____

5. PREVIOUS TENANCIES

How many previous tenancies have you had?

What are your reasons for leaving?

Did the landlord know that you are a Traveller? Yes _____ No _____

6. ACCOMMODATION – CURRENT

What type of accommodation are you currently living in now?

(a) **Council Tenancy** Yes _____ No _____

Description of current accommodation e.g., no. of bedrooms/floors

(b) **Private Rented Tenancy** Yes _____ No _____

Description of current accommodation e.g., no. of bedrooms/floors

(c) **Halting Site** Yes _____ No _____

Description of current accommodation e.g., Bay in Halting Site

Is the standard satisfactory? Yes _____ No _____

(d) Transient/Roadside

Yard Yes _____ No _____

Roadside Yes _____ No _____

Mobile Yes _____ No _____

Caravan Yes _____ No _____

Cabin Yes _____ No _____

Do you have access to hot water? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have access to toilets? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have heating? Yes _____ No _____

(e) Other Accommodation

RAS Yes _____ No _____

HAP Yes _____ No _____

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Leasing Yes _____ No _____
AHB Yes _____ No _____

7. **DESIRED ACCOMMODATION**

What type of accommodation would you like to have?

Flat	Yes _____	No _____
Standard house in Cork County Council Estate	Yes _____	No _____
Bungalow	Yes _____	No _____
AHB	Yes _____	No _____
Traveller Specific Accommodation	Yes _____	No _____
Halting Site	Yes _____	No _____
Chalet	Yes _____	No _____
Mobile	Yes _____	No _____
Group Housing	Yes _____	No _____
Transient/Come and Go Site	Yes _____	No _____

What area would you like to live in? e.g., Bandon

8. **HAVE YOU APPLIED TO CORK COUNTY COUNCIL FOR A TRANSFER?**

(a) If you are a tenant Yes _____ No _____

Details if yes e.g. Type of accommodation & location (house size, halting site, group housing)

(b) If you are an applicant Yes _____ No _____

Details if yes e.g. Type of accommodation & location (house size, halting site, group housing)

9. **ROADSIDE FAMILIES**

How long have you been at your present location?

How long have been in the Cork County Council area?

Did you ever live on Cork/another County Council site/house?

If yes, where did you live and for how long?

Why and when did you leave that accommodation?

Have you applied to Cork County Council for accommodation?

When did you apply?

Have you applied to other Council's for accommodation? Details of where and when:

Are you living on the roadside by choice? Yes _____ No _____

OR

Are you forced to live at the roadside due to lack of available housing or feuding?

Yes _____ No _____

Is your accommodation secure?

Yes _____ No _____

10. HORSES

Do you own horses? Yes _____ No _____

Where do you usually keep them?

Does your family require facilities for horses/animals? Yes _____ No _____

Are you interested in accessing supports for the provision of animals?

Yes _____ No _____

11. FUTURE GENERATION ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

What types of Accommodation will your children (aged 14 and over) need in the next 4 years and in the future?

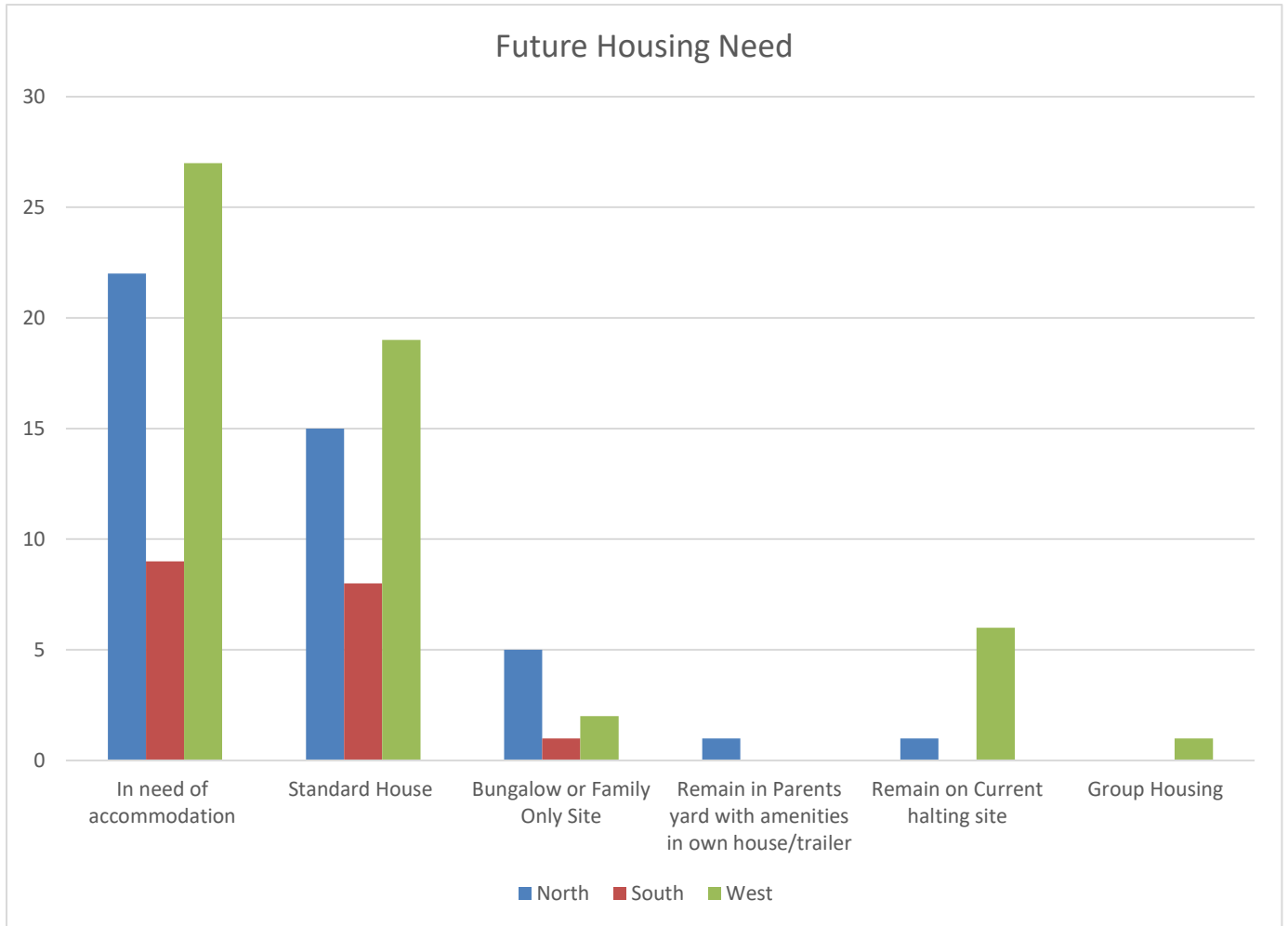
(a) Standard Housing & Location

(b) Group Housing & Location

Do you identify as a Traveller?

12. ANY OTHER COMMENTS:

Appendix 4: Results of Data Analysis



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