



Cavan

Comhairle Contae an Chabháin
Cavan County Council

Traveller Accommodation Programme

2019 – 2024

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Section 1: INTRODUCTION

County Cavan, known as 'The Lakeland County' borders six counties: Leitrim to the west, Fermanagh and Monaghan to the north, Meath to the south-east, Longford to the south-west and Westmeath to the south. Cavan shares a 70 km border with County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland. The national census figures in 2016 list the population of Cavan as 76,176 with some 10,914 (14%) residing in Cavan Town. The county has experienced a growth in population of 39% over the past twenty years reflecting the fact that Dublin's commuter belt has extended into the southern parts of the County as housing is more affordable than in the capital.

Census 2016 recorded that there is a total of 30,987 traveller individuals living in Ireland and 480 of these are resident in County Cavan making up 6.3% of the total population of the county. The local authority annual count carried out in November, 2018 indicated that there are now 144 traveller households (490 persons) resident in the County. Over 42% of the traveller community in Cavan are aged 14 or under.

The socio economic status of the traveller population is of relevance when determining accommodation needs e.g. the census shows that 10,654 travellers in Ireland were included in the labour force, however 80.2% were unemployed compared with 12.7% of the general population; 13.3% of traveller females were educated to upper secondary or above compared with 69.1% of the general population; nearly 57.1% of traveller men were educated to at most Primary level in sharp contrast to the general population 13.6%; almost 1 in 8 (11.3%) travellers indicated they were unable to work due to a disability, nearly three times the equivalent rate for the general population (4.3%); household sizes are bigger – more than 1 in 4 comprised 6 or more persons compared with less than 1 in 20 households in the state overall; just over 1 in 10 were living in one person households compared with almost 1 in 4 in the general population; 23% of travellers aged 15 – 24 were married compared with just 1% of the general population; 58% of travellers resident in Ireland were aged 25 or under compared with 33% of the general population and just 932 were aged 65 or over.

According to the 2018 local authority annual count the majority (76%) of traveller households avail of accommodation provided by the local authority i.e. standard social housing, traveller group housing and RAS, 16% living in private rented accommodation, 7% share accommodation with relatives and .5% in the other category.

No. of Families	Accommodation Type
69	Standard Local Authority Social Housing
21	Traveller Group Houses
19	RAS & Leasing
4	HAP
19	Private Rented Accommodation
11	Sharing with relatives
1	Other

There is a total of 22 units of traveller specific accommodation in County Cavan; 17 units in Cavan Town, 4 units in Pottleboy and one other single rural dwelling. No immediate need was identified for the provision of a halting or a transient site in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018.

1.1 Legislative Background

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 came into effect on the 10th September, 1998. Its primary purpose is to provide a comprehensive legislative framework which requires housing authorities to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers normally resident within their administrative areas. The provisions of the Act play an integral part in promoting social inclusion and equality and counteracting discrimination that may be experienced by members of the traveller community.

A summary of the main provisions of the 1998 Act is outlined as follows:

- to provide for the carrying out of a housing needs assessment in respect of travellers resident in the county

- to provide that each housing authority must prepare and have adopted a programme of Traveller accommodation in their area.
- to provide that the adoption of programmes will be a reserved function, but in the event that the members fail to do so, the Chief Executive will be required to adopt the Programme by way of Chief Executive Order.
- to provide for an extensive public notification and consultation process in respect of the preparation of a Traveller Accommodation Programme.
- to require housing authorities to take reasonable steps to secure the implementation of Traveller Accommodation Programmes.
- to provide for the establishment of a Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to facilitate consultation with Travellers.
- to provide the requirement to include objectives concerning the provision of traveller accommodation in County and City Development Plans and Local Area Plans.
- to extend to halting sites the powers available to local authorities under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1997, relating to anti-social behaviour and estate management.

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government has issued a number of directions under the Act, the most recent of which is contained in Circular 35/2018 with Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption and Implementation appended which requires housing authorities to prepare and adopt a 5-year Traveller Accommodation Programme from 1st July, 2019 to 30th June, 2024 by 30th September, 2019.

1.2 Initiating the process for preparation of new Programme

The notification of intention to prepare a Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme issued on 21st September 2018 to adjoining housing authorities, the HSE, approved housing bodies, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Cavan Traveller Interagency Group, Cavan Traveller Movement and other local representative groups, community and interest groups.

Seven (7) submissions were received in response to the notification, all of which have been considered in the context of the preparation of the Draft Programme.

Separate notice of intention to carry out an assessment of need for Travellers in the County issued to the same parties on 25th October 2018 inviting comment or observations they may wish to make in relation to the carrying out of an assessment of need for Travellers in the County.

It is a requirement that the Draft Programme be completed, is available for inspection, is circulated to relevant stakeholders and published in the local press by 1st April 2019

1.3 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

Under Section 21 and 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees (LTACC) were established to facilitate consultation between Housing Authorities and Travellers and to advise on any aspect of accommodation for Travellers, and to advise on the preparation and implementation of any accommodation programme.

The membership of the Cavan LTACC comprises of 12 members with 4 Local Authority Members, 4 Traveller Representatives and 4 Local Authority Officials making up the LTACC membership.

The Cavan LTACC plays an active and pivotal role in both the preparation and implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme in County Cavan.

1.4 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018

The accommodation need identified in the Assessment of Need for the 2014 – 2018 was predominantly for standard social housing provided by either the local authority or an Approved Housing Body or RAS. A total need for accommodation to be provided for 46 families was identified and to date 45 families have been granted tenancies (43 by LA, 2 by AHB). As the date for the implementation of the Programme was extended to 1st July, 2019 it is the intention of Cavan County Council to meet the agreed target over the lifetime of the programme.

Four (4) families indicated their choice of accommodation as standard housing or traveller specific accommodation and it was agreed that such requests would be accommodated where vacancies arose or by other alternative housing options or by construction or purchase of traveller specific units. No additional traveller specific units have been provided however given the sensitivities additional units were provided under the standard Social Housing Investment Programme.

In addition, the Council undertook refurbishment works at both Traveller Group Schemes at a total cost of €146,978. Works included external works, replacement of stoves in some of the units, bunded oil tanks and new burners.

The Assessment did not identify a need for either a halting site or a transient site to be provided in the County.

Section 2: POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of Cavan County Council to provide suitable accommodation for traveller households in its administrative area, in accordance with the Assessment of Need carried out under the Act, in consultation with the travelling community, Traveller's Organisations, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Public Representatives, the wider community and other Statutory and Voluntary Bodies.

2.1 Provision of Accommodation

The Council recognises Travellers' identity as a distinct group with their own customs, traditions and culture. It is the policy of the Council to have meaningful consultation, based on Department of the Housing, Planning & Local Government Guidelines, with Travellers and their representatives, about their accommodation needs, and to provide, where appropriate, Traveller specific accommodation. However this may not always be available to each applicant and other options will be explored and offered. Cavan County Council will not accept responsibility for providing accommodation for Traveller families (including traders) who from time to time move into the area and for those who continue to avail of accommodation in the functional area of another local authority.

Applicants for social housing support, including traveller specific accommodation are required to submit a valid housing application together with all required documentation in accordance with the Social Housing (Assessment of Need) Regulations, 2011. Any specific family circumstances e.g. disabilities will be considered in determining the most appropriate social housing solution.

The full range of social housing supports available will be used to achieve optimum accommodation solutions for Travellers included in the Programme approved for permanent accommodation, including

- Standard social housing
- Group Housing
- Units provided by an Approved Housing Body
- The Rental Accommodation Scheme
- the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme
- Rebuilding Home Loan Scheme

When allocating properties Cavan County Council will have regard to the provisions of the Allocation Scheme, estate management issues, an appropriate social mix within areas, compatibility of families, anti-social behaviour and house size requirement. Family circumstances including health, family size, length of time in district, family history in an area, integration into that area etc. will also be taken into account. Separate waiting lists will not operate for the travelling community.

2.2 Homelessness

Individuals or families who present as homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless can avail of the Homeless services available in Cavan County Council. A full homeless assessment will be completed, and the most appropriate course of action will be established.

2.3 Estate Management

All council housing stock, including traveller specific accommodation, is managed in accordance with the Council's policy for the Management and Maintenance of rented housing stock. Together with this all tenants are required to sign a tenancy agreement which outlines the terms and conditions of the tenancy including tenant responsibilities for maintenance, anti-social behaviour etc. Each tenant has a responsibility to ensure that the terms of the tenancy are met in full and the Council will ensure that the terms are enforced.

Working with Residents Groups in the enhancement of their estates' forms part of the work of Cavan County Council and every effort will be made to promote

- The involvement of traveller tenants in the development of participation programmes, and,
- anti-discrimination policies to ensure that traveller tenants are not excluded, purely because they are travellers

Estate management also includes securing the interest of tenants in the enjoyment of the house and the avoidance, prevention and abatement of anti-social behaviour in the housing estates. Therefore, Cavan County Council shall, in the interests of good estate

management, use all legislative powers at their disposal to control anti-social behaviour on the part of all of its tenants and applicants approved for social housing support.

2.4 Temporary Dwellings

The Council will implement its procedures to ensure a co-ordinated response, when temporary dwellings are identified, in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation as appropriate:

- Section 10 of Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 as amended by Section 32 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998
- Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2002
- An Order of the District Court
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
- Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1948
- The Roads Act 1993
- Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 (as amended)
- Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878 as amended by Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992.

A temporary dwelling means any tent, caravan, mobile home, vehicle, other structure or thing (whether on wheels or not) which is capable of being moved from one place to another, and is or was used for human habitation, either permanently or from time to time or was designed, constructed or adapted for such use. Public place means any street, road or other place to which the public have access whether as of right or by express or implied permission and whether the subject to or free of charge and any property or other land owned or occupied by or leased to a public authority. A Council Officer will investigate the circumstances of the household in the temporary dwelling and take appropriate action.

Section 3: STRATEGY STATEMENT

3.1 Implementing Authority

Cavan County Council is the implementing authority for the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 and has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Programme in its functional area. Specific responsibility for the provision of suitable, cost effective, good quality accommodation and the implementation of the programme lies with the Housing Departments.

3.2 Provision of Accommodation

It is the aim of Cavan County Council to provide accommodation, in so far as is possible, that responds to the different needs of Travellers using the full range of social housing supports and various forms of social housing delivery including; standard local authority housing provided under the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP), leased units provided by either the authority or an Approved Housing Body under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP), traveller specific accommodation or private rented accommodation supported through the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP).

The identification of suitable sites for provision of Traveller Group Housing continues to be a challenge. Sites owned by the Council may be used for this purpose together with the acquisition of additional sites if required and subject to the availability of funding.

Loans under the Rebuilding Ireland Loan Scheme are available to travellers who wish to provide their own accommodation subject to the normal terms and conditions of the scheme.

3.3 Resourcing the Programme

Funding is made available by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (the Department) for the provision of housing under the Social Housing Capital Investment Programme (SHCIP) and allocates funding for social housing capital projects, acquisition of houses including those acquired under Part V and Compulsory Purchase Orders. All such housing provision is subject to the availability of funding.

Together with this the Department provide separate funding for the provision and refurbishment of Traveller Specific accommodation and any such projects are subject to the availability of funding from the department.

All staff employed in the Housing Department are involved in the implementation of the programme as necessary. This includes both technical and administrative staff and includes assessment staff, tenant liaison officers, staff dealing with rents or anti-social behaviour, the homeless social worker or tenancy sustainment officer services currently provided by Dublin Simon

together with the staff employed in the maintenance and management of accommodation as required.

3.4 Co-operation with Approved Housing Bodies

Cavan County Council continues to work with the various Approved Housing Bodies operating in the county for the delivery of the various social housing options funded under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP), the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF).

3.5 Allocation of Accommodation

The allocation of properties is based on the Scheme of Letting Priorities as outlined in Cavan County Council's Allocation Scheme. Nominations are also provided to Approved Housing Bodies from the Council's housing list for their tenancies. Separate waiting lists do not operate for members of the travelling community.

Special needs dwellings and older persons dwellings are allocated to housing applicants based on their specific needs. Traveller Group housing is provided, within the available resources of the Council, to Travellers who have requested and agreed to be accommodated together.

3.6 Interagency Consultation and Collaboration

The Council will continue to work with other agencies concerned in the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme including Approved Housing Bodies, Cavan Traveller Interagency Group, Health Service Executive, Tusla, An Garda Síochána, Education Services, Social Welfare Services, CENA Culturally Appropriate Homes Ltd., MABS, Simon, adjoining local authorities including cross border and any other agency identified as the need arises.

The HSE submission references a previous model which has worked well, an interagency partnership approach focusing on supporting a family or number of families with complex needs. The submission notes that each agency representative brings a different perspective and resources to the table and the joined up approach makes a greater impact than when each agency is working separately. The Council recommends the continuation of a partnership approach when dealing with complex and difficult family cases and circumstances.

The HSE submission also considers that the active Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) is a very beneficial move in developing effective interagency collaboration with respect to meeting Traveller need, including that of accommodation.

3.7 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

The role and distinct expertise of LTACC membership is recognised in relation to the successful implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. In cases of specific urgent or crisis situations arising and where deemed necessary, the Chairperson (or any committee member) of the LTACC may convene emergency meetings in such situations.

3.8 Back up Services and Support

Tenancy training will continue to be delivered and supports will be provided for traveller families who are allocated housing. Together with this the services of the Tenancy Sustainment Officer will be available to help families secure accommodation in the private rented market and sustain tenancies as necessary. The Council will continue to work on an inter-agency basis, where possible, to accommodate traveller families with complex

needs – this approach is critical to identify any specific accommodation requirements and required supports.

Traveller individuals or families can avail of the Homeless Services available in Cavan County Council should they find themselves homeless or are at risk of homelessness. A full homeless assessment will be completed, and the most appropriate course of action will be established.

The services of the two caretakers employed for the operation and maintenance of traveller specific accommodation (including Group Housing) will continue to ensure the proper management and maintenance of accommodation. Together with this the Council will continue to develop services and supports to the travelling community through the Cavan Traveller Inter Agency Group under the Social Inclusion Unit during the period of the Programme.

3.9 County Development Plan

Provisions contained in the Cavan & Environs Development Plan 2014 – 2020 are sufficient to realise the Traveller accommodation objectives set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2023. This will be re-examined when the new Plan is being developed.

3.10 Monitoring Arrangements

The implementation of the programme will be monitored as follows:

- Review of Progress – monthly Housing Team meetings
- Progress report will be presented at each meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
- A progress report will be presented to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee at the end of each year of the programme
- Through the Annual returns to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- A Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme will be carried out in accordance with Circular 35/2018 in 2021 and no later than 31st December, 2021

Section 4: ASSESSMENT and IDENTIFICATION of ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

Section 6 (as amended) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009 requires Housing Authorities, for the purposes of preparing a programme, to make an assessment of the accommodation needs of Travellers who are assessed under Section 20 of the said Act as being qualified for social housing support, including the need for sites. Such assessment will have regard to; the estimate of the number of Travellers for whom accommodation will be required during the course of the programme; the Annual Summary of Social Housing Need as it relates to Travellers; the need for transient sites and consideration of the views of the Local Traveller Consultative Committee.

The Local Traveller Consultative Committee endorsed the methodology for carrying out the assessment to form the basis for the projections for the need for the 5year programme at its meeting on 10th December 2018.

4.1 Initiating the process for carrying out the Assessment

On 25th October 2018 the Council issued notification to the statutory agencies including the HSE, adjoining housing authorities, approved housing bodies, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Cavan Traveller Interagency Group, Cavan Traveller Movement and other local representative groups, community and interest groups advising of the intention to carry out an assessment of the need for accommodation for Travellers in County Cavan.

Information gathered from both the Annual Housing Needs Assessment completed in June 2018 and the National Annual Traveller Count in November, 2018 was used as a base point in the preparation for the assessment of the accommodation needs of travellers in County Cavan.

4.2 Identified Need

The Annual Estimate of Traveller families completed on 28th November, 2018 identified 144 traveller households residing in County Cavan as follows:

- 93 households have secured tenancies in standard social housing provided by either the Council or an Approved Housing Body or in a Traveller Group Scheme Housing.

- 16 households have RAS tenancies, 11 of which are approved for a transfer to an alternative type of social housing support. Two of these households have secured tenancies in 2019. Therefore, the social housing needs of 100 households have been met.
- 44 households who are either residing in private rented accommodation or are sharing with relatives require a long-term housing solution. It should be noted that 12 of these are single adult households.

Of the 44 households all have identified standard social housing only as their preferred option to meet their accommodation requirement as outlined in table below.

Location (1st choice)	No. of Households	Accommodation Type Preferred
Bailiboro	3	Standard Social Housing
Ballinagh	3	Standard Social Housing
Ballyconnell	2	Standard Social Housing
Belturbet	5	Standard Social Housing
Cavan Town	29	Standard Social Housing
Coothill	2	Standard Social Housing
Total	44	

1 of the above applicants had their application suspended for a period of one year as they declined an offer of permanent social housing support on two occasions within a 12-month period.

No additional households were identified in the submissions received during the assessment process and no new applications for social housing support have been received in the intervening period.

In line with the direction from the Minister, that 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 and having regard to the information and figures above, 44 households are identified as in need of social housing support.

4.2 Reported Disability Need

There is a total of 3 applicants on the social housing waiting list who are listed as having a particular housing need due to a disability or a medical condition. All of these are included in the disability category on the waiting list and their specific needs will be considered as part of the allocation process.

One tenant has been identified as requiring adaptations to meet the accommodation needs of a child with a disability.

4.3 Projected Need

It is difficult to predict with any degree of certainty the projected need and the level of traveller household formation over the next five years. However, an analysis of the 44 households identified above as having a need for social housing support indicates that 24 children will reach the age of 18 during the lifetime of the programme. An analysis of the tenant household profiles indicates that an additional 38 children will reach the age of 18 during the period making a total of 62 additional adults in the county.

The numbers identified as in need of social housing support in each of the three previous years in the Annual Traveller Count were: 2015: 68 no, 2016: 63 no. and 2017: 49. This demonstrates a decline in household need each year, however based on the age profile it would seem reasonable to provide for an additional 30 traveller households over the 5 year period. While it has not been possible to establish the type of accommodation preferred for this group, it is envisaged based on the previous findings above that the majority of preference is for standard social housing support.

4.4 Total Need for inclusion in Traveller Accommodation Programme

The total long-term social housing need for 74 households has been identified for inclusion in the Programme and based on household profiles a target of 50 standard social units are required to be provided.

4.3 Permanent Halting Site Accommodation

The assessment did not identify a need for a permanent halting site in the County.

4.4 Transient Halting Site

The assessment did not identify any demand for the provision of a transient site in the County. The Council will work in conjunction with adjoining local authorities in relation to the identification of the need for a transient site on a regional basis, should this arise.

The increase in traveller population and number of units and range of accommodation required will be kept under review on an ongoing basis throughout the lifetime of the 2019 – 2024 Traveller Accommodation programme in consultation with all the relevant agencies.

Section 5: MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Standard Social Housing

50 units will be provided over the lifetime of the programme i.e. 10 per year over the 5 year period, the majority of which will be located in Cavan Town as being the area of largest need.

5.1.1 Traveller Group Housing

The need for this type of accommodation has not been identified in the assessment process, however this will be re-examined as part of the Annual Housing Needs Assessment process.

5.1.2 Permanent or Transient Halting Sites

The Assessment did not identify a need for either a halting site or a transient site to be provided in the County.

5.2 Additional Housing Supports

There are a range of other housing supports available to Travellers in addition to social housing provision as follows:

5.2.1 HAP – Housing Assistance Payments

A traveller household who is approved for social housing support may seek accommodation in the private rented sector and apply for support under the HAP scheme. If approved the local authority will pay a contribution towards the monthly rent and the recipients will be charged a differential rent based on their household weekly income in accordance with the Differential Rents Scheme in operation by the Council. As this is a form of social housing support the accommodation needs are met, however, the HAP recipient can elect to remain on the transfer waiting list and be considered for standard social housing support as outlined previously. The tenancy is governed under the Residential Tenancies Acts.

5.2.2 RAS – Rental Accommodation Scheme

A traveller household who is approved for social housing support may seek accommodation in the private rented sector and if the landlord is interested can apply to have the property taken into the RAS scheme. This is a three way agreement whereby the local authority

leases the property under a Residential Tenancy Agreement for the tenant and agrees to pay an agreed monthly rent to the landlord for the property on condition that the tenant continues to pay a differential rent to the authority by way of a Rent Contribution Agreement. As this is a form of social housing support the accommodation needs are met, however the RAS recipient may apply for a transfer to standard social housing support as outlined previously.

5.2.3 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Rebuilding Home Loans is a Government backed mortgage scheme for first time buyers who are unable to get a loan from a bank or building society and who meet the terms and conditions of the scheme. The loan is available for the purchase of a new or second- hand house or to build a new property. The maximum loan available is €225,000 in County Cavan.

5.2.4 First-time House Purchase Grants for Travellers

A grant of €3,810 is available to travellers who purchase a private house for themselves, for the first time. The grant is paid by the local authority and must be claimed within 3 years of the purchase. The grant is not available to travellers who are tenants of a local house or any other house where the local authority has aided by way of discounts, e.g. the incremental purchase scheme.

5.2.5 Caravan Loans

A loan of up to €6,350 is available to approved applicants for social housing support for the purchase of a new or second-hand caravan. The repayment period is 1 to 5 years. The local authority must satisfy itself that the caravan to be purchased will be located on a bay or other site provided by the local authority.

5.2.6 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

The Tenant (Incremental) Purchase scheme is available to tenants of one year or more, who meet the eligibility criteria, to purchase their house at a discount based on household income. The tenant must remain living in the house as long as they own it. An incremental purchase charge, equal to the discount, is placed on the house and will remain for 20, 25 or 30 years (depending on the discount). The charge is reduced by 2% each year and if the

house is resold before the end of the charge period, the value of the outstanding charge must be paid back to the Council. The scheme does not apply to all properties e.g. apartments, houses specially designed for older people or providing for people with disabilities, traveller group housing, RAS units or houses provided under Part V.

5.2.7 Grants for People with a Disability

Grants are available to assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. They are available to both tenants of council houses and to private house owners. Applications will be considered in accordance with the terms and conditions of the scheme and are subject to funding availability. Tenants should note that the Council will always consider the most cost-effective option to address the housing needs of the disabled person, which includes transferring to a more suitable dwelling.

5.2.8 Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant

The Scheme of Housing Aid for Older People is available to assist older people 66 years of age (or over) living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out. Grants assistance is means-tested, is provided on a priority basis and is subject to funding availability.

5.2.9 Housing Transfer

Tenants of the Council may apply for a transfer to move to more suitable accommodation in certain circumstances e.g. under occupancy, over-crowding or where a house no longer meets their needs if they have a disability. Their rent account must be up to date.

Section 6: CONCLUSION

The preference in County Cavan over the previous Traveller Accommodation Programme to meet the accommodation needs of travellers has been for standard social housing and this trend continues into the new Programme.

The assessment did not demonstrate a need for the provision of a permanent or transient halting site or traveller group scheme housing.

The majority of social housing required to meet the accommodation need of the travelling community resident in County Cavan is in Cavan Town.

The provision of 50 units of standard social housing during the course of the new Programme (2019-2024) is to be achieved through the allocation of newly built, leased and any vacancies which may arise in both the Council and Approved Housing Bodies stock.

The socio-economic status of the traveller population demonstrates that members of the travelling community have a wide variety of needs in addition to accommodation – the Council recognises therefore the importance of working together with the relevant stakeholders in a partnership approach to deal with the complex needs or circumstances presenting to ensure all necessary supports are provided. It is intended that the working relationship will continue and be further developed as necessary over the course of the new Programme.

It is expected that the provisions of this Traveller Accommodation Programme will serve to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers over the period 2019 – 2024. In order that the Programme continues to reflect the accommodation needs, a review will be undertaken in 2021.

The Council acknowledges the significant contribution of all relevant stakeholders in the successful implementation of the Traveller Accommodation programme together with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and the Members of Cavan County Council who have a pivotal role to play in its implementation.