**Minutes of the Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee Meeting**

 **held on 10th December, 2018 @ 4.00 pm in the Council Chamber, The Courthouse Cavan**

Present: Cllr Paddy Smith, Chairperson

Cllr John Paul Feely

Cllr Daniel Downey

 Mr Thomas Maughan

Ms Theresa Mongan

 Ms Winnie McDonagh

 Mr Eoin Doyle, Director of Services

Ms Bridie McBrearty, Housing

Mr Michael Mussi, Housing

 Ms Emer Coveney, Community & Enterprise

Apologies: Cllr Damien Brady

 Ms Siobhan Donnelly, Social Worker

Mr John Wilson, Housing Construction

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

In the absence of Cllr Damien Brady, Chairperson, Cllr Paddy Smith took the chair,

declared the meeting open and welcomed the committee.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9thNovember, 2018 were proposed by Cllr John Paul Feeley, seconded by Cllr Daniel Downey and approved.

1. **Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2023 (TAP)**

Bridie McBrearty advised that in line with circular and guidelines issued 19th July 2018 the latest date for receipt of submissions on TAP had passed and circulated a summary of submissions received as follows:

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| **Submission received from:** | **Date** | **Summary or Submission** |
| **Pavee Point**(Traveller and Roma Centre) |  | * Outlines issues and challenges facing the traveller community under the headings; traveller accommodation; overcrowding and homelessness; lack of implementation on TAPs
* Outlines 6 recommendations for inclusion in the new Programme
* Provides a checklist of items to be used prior to finalising the TAP
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| **Minceirs Whiden**(Ireland only all Traveller Forum) | September 2018 | * Outlines issues and challenges facing the traveller community under the headings; traveller accommodation; overcrowding and homelessness; lack of implementation on TAPs
* Includes objectives of the National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021 as regards accommodation
* Outlines 12 key recommendations for the development of effective Traveller Accommodation Programmes.
* Outlines 3 key recommendations to ensure functioning of LTACC
* Asks that annual reports be developed to monitor progress on TAPs
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| **HSE**(Peter Walker, Social Inclusion Unit) | 18th October 2018 | * Address issues around difficulties experienced by Travellers accessing private rented accommodation
* Notes that Traveller Homelessness cannot be addressed by TAP and should be addressed in same way as the general population – develop links between working groups and organisations.
* Recommends interagency and partnership approach for families with difficult and complex needs
* Development of an active Traveller Interagency Group – HSE fully committed to participating fully on such a group
* Examine possibility to develop a similar project to that developed in Donegal using Peace III monies – Respecting & Connection Communities Project
* Includes extract from Traveller Strategic Plan for CHO Area 1 (recommendations)
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| **Northern Ireland Housing Executive Regional Services**(Keery Irvine Principal Officer, Land and Regeneration) | 18th October 2018  | * Outlines NIHE intention to commence research aimed at establishing the new housing requirements of Irish Travellers’ within Norther Ireland. Findings available Summer 2019 and programme for accommodation will be developed as necessary.
* Welcomes and is interested in sharing of information (subject to GDP) relating to any cross-border issues that may arise as part of our assessment.
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| **Fermanagh & Omagh District Council**(Kevin O’Gara, Director of Environment and Place) | October 2018 | * No submission to make at this time
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| **Irish Traveller Movement**(Bridgie Casey, Accommodation Officer) | October 2018 | * Sets out recommendations for the operation and membership of LTACCs; information to be included in the TAPs, how the assessment of needs should be undertaken; schemes of letting priorities; to deal with traveller families in crisis accommodation
* Identifies need to provide for nomadism – transient halting sites.
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| **Cavan Traveller Interagency Group**(Dr Emer Coveney) | 26th November 2018 | * Outlines difficulties experienced by travellers relating to accommodation and lists 11 different recommendations required to help alleviate these difficulties.
* Outlines 3 recommendations to ensure the functioning of LTACC.
* Outlines 2 other Plan specific recommendations
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These submissions would next be analysed and together with the Annual Housing Needs Assessment 2018 (SSHA18) and Annual Traveller Count 2018 enable projections for next 5 years forming the basis of the Draft Programme which must be available for inspection by 1st April 2019.

The existing TAP programme has been extended to June 2019 and it is intended to build on its success and meet targets set for next 5 years.

The Chairman thanked Ms Bridie McBrearty on her report and discussion followed the main points of which were:-

* underspend on national budget – all options for additional funding for Cavan County Council should be optimised
* long time on waiting lists same for traveller and settled community. The onus is on each applicant to keep Housing Section informed of any changes and respond to any correspondence received
* support available from Citizen Information, various agencies and advocates to assist with literacy needs
* Boarded up houses & apartments (lakeview) – legal issues regarding ownership currently being investigated (Paddy Connaughton) - houses to be identified
* Young families currently residing in caravans
* Shortage of houses nationally noted Cavan is no different
1. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7th March 2019 at 2.00 pm.

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Chairman**