

## **TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2005 – 2008**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Mayo County Council has over the past number of years together with the Town Councils of Ballina, Castlebar and Westport expended considerable energy and resources on the provision of Traveller specific accommodation. At the time of the making of the first draft of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005 – 2008 a total of one hundred and eleven families are accommodated throughout the county. Over the period of the last Traveller Accommodation Programme 2000 – 2004 a total of forty eight units of accommodation were provided in County Mayo for Traveller families. A further twelve units of accommodation will come on stream in the near future.

There are however significant challenges still to be dealt with. A total of forty three families awaiting accommodation on the roadside, together with the demands which will be created by additional family formations up to the year 2008 constitute a considerable challenge for everyone involved. The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005 – 2008 outlines the targets and strategies which will be necessary for all of us to respond to this challenge.

## **(01.) BACKGROUND / CONTEXT**

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 amends and extends the existing Housing Acts and places a statutory obligation on Mayo County Council in relation to, inter alia, the following;

- To provide and adopt a four-year programme, subject to periodic review, for the provision of Traveller Accommodation in the county.
- To provide for a public notification and consultation process in respect of the preparation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme, including an opportunity to comment on draft programmes.
- To take reasonable steps to secure the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme in the county.
- To provide for the establishment of a Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to facilitate consultation with Travellers about the preparation and implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Section 7 of the Act requires each relevant housing authority to adopt the Traveller Accommodation Programme by a date specified by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The Minister has specified the 30th April 2005 as the date by which the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005 – 2008 must be adopted.

Section 10 of the Act specifies that an Accommodation Programme be made in respect of a five year time period as was Mayo County Council's previous Traveller Accommodation Programme 2000 – 2004. Provision has also been included in this section however that the plan be prepared in respect of a shorter period as the Minister may direct. The Minister has directed that this Programme be for a four year period 2005 – 2008.

To progress the implementation of the Programme, the Council in accordance with the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1992 has established a Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, which was duly set up in November 2004. The Committee includes representatives from the Traveller community, Local Elected Representatives and officials of Mayo County Council. The membership of the Committee is given at Appendix 2 and it should be noted that provision is included for alternates.

On the basis of the Assessment of need and projections on population increase for the period 2005 – 2008, a Traveller Accommodation Programme has been formulated to meet the Council's statutory requirements. Notice of the formulation of the Draft Accommodation Programme was advertised in the local papers. The Draft Programme was also be circulated to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, any adjoining housing authority, members of Mayo County Council, the Health Services Executive - Western Region and any other relevant bodies with an interest in Traveller Accommodation issues.

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## **POLICY**

### **• General Policy**

*It is the Policy of Mayo County Council to provide for the accommodation needs of Travellers as far as is reasonable and feasible using the full range of housing options available to the Council. In the provision of accommodation, priority will be given to members of the Traveller community who were born in Mayo and who have lived in the county continuously, or who, having returned to the county have lived here for a period of one year or who having moved into the county have lived for a period of not less than three years.*

### **Corporate Objectives**

#### **Corporate Plan - 2005 – 2009**

In Mayo County Council's Corporate Plan 2005 – 2009 advancing the implementation of the provisions contained in the Traveller Accommodation Programme is listed as a Corporate Strategy. This Strategy is included to ensure the delivery of a Corporate Objective, which is "to ensure that every Mayo family can live in a dwelling of good standard, located in an acceptable environment at a price or rent they can afford."

#### **County Development Strategy - 2003 - 2013**

Addressing the Accommodation needs of Travellers is listed as a Strategic Action in Mayo County Development Board's ten year Integrated Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural development of the county. One of the key Operational Actions listed to achieve this is to review and deliver the Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Programme.

#### **County Development Plan – 2003 – 2009**

Under current legal provisions the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2000 – 2004 automatically became part of the County Development Plan 2003 – 2009. The Development Plan states that it is an objective of the Council to provide Traveller accommodation in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme and any subsequent reviews. This therefore includes provision for the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005 – 2008 to replace the previous Traveller Accommodation Programme 2000 - 2004.

### **Policy**

The Council's Policy in relation to the following matters is;-

#### **• Housing**

The Council recognises and will have regard to the distinct cultural identity of Travellers in the provision, maintenance and management of accommodation for the Traveller community.

Accommodation in Social Housing will be allocated transparently and equitably on the basis of need and in accordance with the Council's scheme of Letting Priorities. The Council will have regard to the specific housing needs of Travellers in the design of Social Housing Schemes.

In order to meet the housing needs of Travellers identified in the Programme, a minimum of one in eight houses in new Social Housing Schemes over eleven units in size, and one in five units in new Social Housing Schemes of up to ten units will be allocated to Traveller families in areas where the need exists.

Casual vacancies in Social Housing will be allocated on the basis of the Council's Scheme of Letting Priorities.

The programme will also provide social housing for Traveller families through:

- Group Schemes specifically developed for Traveller families
- Shared Ownership loans
- Once-off housing
- Social houses provided through the Voluntary Housing Programmes.

The Council will also actively encourage and facilitate Travellers who wish to avail of privately funded accommodation through Affordable Housing and Shared Ownership Programme. The Council will similarly promote the provision of housing for Travellers by voluntary Housing groups where appropriate.

New families forming within the county will be expected to make reasonable efforts to secure accommodation from within their own resources.

Families returning to live in the county will also be expected to make reasonable effort to secure accommodation.

#### • **Refusal of Housing Offers**

It is the policy of Mayo County Council to set a limit regarding the offering of local authority accommodation following refusals. Mayo County Council propose to allow two refusals of offers of accommodation, following which the needs of other applicants on the waiting list will be accorded higher priority.

#### • **Transient Accommodation**

To satisfy the requirements of the legislation, two transient sites are required and will be developed, one for East Mayo and one for West Mayo. It is envisaged that these sites will satisfy the requirement to accommodate transient Travellers in any location of the county. Provision of these sites will enable enforcement of court orders to deal with illegal occupation.

#### • **Halting Sites**

Based on a survey carried out in May 2002 the expressed preference of the vast majority of Travellers is for accommodation in standard housing. This finding was confirmed by a further survey in March, 2005. It is the policy of Mayo County Council that their needs be met through the provision of standard housing, from the full range of sources as follows:

- Housing provided as part of the council's Social Housing Programme
- Group Schemes specifically for Traveller families
- Once-off housing
- Shared Ownership loans
- Social houses provided through the Voluntary Housing Programmes.

In the event that the projected need for any area of the County Council cannot be met by conventional housing from these sources, serviced Halting Sites will be provided.

### **(03.) ASSESSMENT OF NEED**

Section 6 of the Housing Act requires that Mayo County Council, make an estimate of the number of Traveller families and households for whom accommodation will be required within the functional area for the four year period 2005 – 2008.

#### **• Current Need (Appendix 3)**

An assessment of current need was undertaken. The assessment identified the following:

- Travellers currently accommodated by the four housing authorities; ie Mayo County Council, Ballina Town Council, Castlebar Town Council and Westport Town Council.
- The number of Traveller families currently on the roadside in Mayo.
- The number of Travellers currently renting private accommodation in Mayo.

#### **• Projected Need (Appendix 4)**

An assessment of projected need was also undertaken. It should be noted that the assessment of Traveller numbers for the period 2005 – 2008 is an estimate based on current Traveller numbers, which will be reviewed annually. This assessment identified:

The need arising from the projected growth in the Traveller population over the period of the Programme.

The projected need of returning families for the period 2005 – 2008.

#### **• Existing Traveller Families Accommodated**

A total of one hundred and eleven families are presently accommodated in Council houses/halting sites throughout the county. The breakdown of the numbers for each area is attached in Appendix 2.

#### **• Traveller Families on the Roadside and Privately Renting**

The number of Traveller families awaiting local authority accommodation at November 2004 is sixty three. This figure is subject to change but can be relied upon as an indicative figure for actual need at present. The breakdown of this figure is given in Appendix 3.

#### **• Additional Projected Accommodation**

A survey of the Traveller families in accommodation and on the roadside is used to predict the estimated number of families which will be seeking housing from the Council up to the end of the year 2008. The additional need is estimated at fifty-five and a breakdown is given in Appendix 4.

- **Total Requirement 2005 – 2008**

With the existing need and projected need, plus those in halting sites having been established, the total need for the next four years is estimated at one hundred and eighteen units of accommodation. The breakdown of this figure is given in Appendix 5.

- **Temporary Serviced Sites**

In addition to the obligation to provide units of accommodation for one hundred and eighteen families over the next four years the Council are required to establish the need for temporary serviced sites in areas where Travellers are allocated houses or are awaiting same and to provide serviced sites for the four year period.

It should be noted that it is the intention that the centres indicated in the assessment of need also include villages around the centre mentioned. It may be possible therefore to accommodate families within a reasonable distance of these centres.

## **(04.) IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### **Implementing Authorities**

Mayo County Council is the body responsible for the implementation of the proposals contained in this Programme. It is the intention of Mayo County Council to co-ordinate efforts with the Town Councils of Ballina, Castlebar and Westport and to ensure the success of the Programme for the statutory period. To ensure effective delivery of the Programme we envisage a comprehensive partnership approach to involve all of the agencies which have a role to play in the areas of Traveller Accommodation, Education, Health and Welfare, including;

- Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
- Mayo County Development Board
- Western Health Board
- Mayo Traveller Support Group
- Voluntary Housing Bodies
  - Sonas
  - Respond!
  - Cluid
  - Local Voluntary Housing Associations
- An Garda Siochana
- Local Community Groups
- Residents Associations.

Mayo County Council will work in co-operation with the above listed groups to secure the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. A consultation forum will be put in place to give all relevant bodies an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns regarding Traveller Accommodation.

### **• Programme Delivery**

- It is the intention of Mayo County Council to communicate the requirements of the Programme and to co-ordinate efforts with the Town Councils of Ballina, Castlebar and Westport to ensure the success of the plan for the statutory period.
- The Council will similarly promote the housing of Travellers by voluntary groups where appropriate.
- The projected cost of implementing the Programme is of the order of **€20m**. The success of the Programme will be dependent on the availability of appropriate resources throughout the course of the Programme.
- It is proposed that there will be an annual review of progress on the implementation of the Programme in addition to the statutory requirement for a three year review.
- It is proposed that a local monitoring committee be established in all Town Council areas in order to;

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- assist and liaise with local communities to solve problems if they arise
  - review the implementation and progress of the plan as it impacts on the community, in addition to statutory review over three years.
- The local monitoring committee will be made up of representatives from
- County and Town Council
  - Traveller representatives
  - Chamber of Commerce representatives
  - Resident Association representatives
  - Garda Siochana.

• **Communication**

In accordance with the requirements of the legislation and with directives issued by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, notice of the carrying out of the assessment of need and of the intention to prepare the draft Accommodation Programme was given to the following bodies:

- Members of Mayo County Council Housing SPC
- Town Councils of Ballina, Castlebar and Westport
- Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
- Western Health Board
- Voluntary Housing Groups
- Adjoining Local Authorities
- Community and Enterprise Department

In addition public comment was invited by advertisements in the local press.

By the relevant date a total of four submissions were received from –

- Mayo Traveller Support Group
- Irish Traveller Movement
- Annette Irving, Public Health Nurse, Traveller Health Mayo
- Mary Syron, Chairperson, Traveller Health Unit.

The content of these submissions has been considered and incorporated into the Draft Accommodation Programme 2005 – 2008.

## **(05.) MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ACCOMMODATION**

### **Policy**

The Council will encourage and facilitate the participation of Travellers in the management and maintenance of Traveller specific Accommodation. The Council will have regard to models of good practice in the maintenance and management of Traveller accommodation to inform this initiative.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

*Anti-Social Behaviour is defined in Section 1 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1997, as follows -:*

*(a) the manufacture, production, preparation, importation, exportation, sale, supply, possession for the purposes of sale or supply, or distribution of a controlled drug (within the meaning of the Misuse of Drugs Acts, 1977 and 1984),*

*(b) any behaviour which causes or is likely to cause any significant or persistent danger, injury, damage, loss or fear to any person living, working or otherwise lawfully in or in the vicinity of a house provided by a housing authority under the Housing Acts, 1966 to 1997, or a housing estate in which the house is situated and, without prejudice to the foregoing, includes violence, threats, intimidation, coercion, harassment or serious obstruction of any person;*

Under no circumstances will Mayo County Council, or Ballina, Castlebar and Westport Town Councils tolerate anti-social behaviour in any of the housing accommodation for which they have responsibility. Where instances of this occur, appropriate action will be taken to remove those tenants who engage in such anti-social activity. A tenant who is evicted from Council accommodation due to anti-social behaviour will be deemed to have rendered himself or herself 'Homeless'. Applicants on Mayo County Council's Housing lists who have previously engaged in anti-social behaviour will render themselves ineligible for local authority housing.

### **Mechanisms for Monitoring and Implementation**

It is proposed that there will be an annual review of progress on the implementation of the Programme, in addition to the statutory requirement for a review within each three year period. The Mayo County Council Local Consultative Committee will oversee the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme on Traveller Accommodation.

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**(06.) CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The estimated number of units required for the period 2005 – 2008 has been established at one hundred and eighteen.**

**It has been established by the Council that –**

**The current and projected need will arise in the areas outlined in the report over the course of the programme 2005 – 2008.**

**It is the expressed preference of the majority of the Traveller Community that their housing needs be met by way of standard or group housing where practicable.**

- If the full compliment of houses cannot be provided by way of allocation on social housing scheme, specifically designed group housing, single houses or voluntary or affordable scheme, then permanent residential caravan parks will be provided in any location in the county where this established need prevails.**
- In order to meet the targets in this Programme, it will be Mayo County Council's policy to encourage take-up of accommodation throughout the county. In the interest of balance and sustainability it is the intent of this Plan that all areas of the county will be available for Traveller Accommodation.**

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**Appendix 1**  
**Membership of Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

Cllr. John Cribben  
Cllr. Henry Kenny  
Cllr. Pat McHugh  
Cllr. Jarlath Munnely  
Cllr. Paddy McGuinness  
Cllr. Johnnie O Malley  
Cllr. Frank Chambers  
Cllr. Cyril Burke  
Cllr. Tim Quinn

Peter Hynes, D/S – Housing West Region  
Seamus Granahan, D/S – North East Region\*  
Ray Norton, D/S – South West Region\*  
John Coll, Director of Community and Enterprise\*  
Patsy McNulty, Traveller Accommodation Officer  
Orla Hughes, Social Worker  
Bernie Rowland, Social Worker

Patrick Conroy<sup>1</sup>  
Martin McDonagh<sup>2</sup>  
Bernadette Cumiskey  
Marie Allen  
Rosemarie Maughan  
Sandra Judge, Mayo Traveller Support Group<sup>3</sup>

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\* Or Nominee

1. Nominated Alternate.....(Bridget Maughan)
2. Nominated Alternate.....(Mary Margaret McDonagh)
  
3. Nominated Alternate.....(Louise O'Malley)

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**Appendix 2**  
**Families Currently in Local Authority Houses**

<b>Electoral Area</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Numbers (Families)</b>
<b>Ballina</b>		
	Ballina	41
<b>Ballinrobe</b>		
	Ballinrobe	21
<b>Castlebar</b>		
	Castlebar	20
	Balla	1
	Ballyvary	1
<b>Claremorris</b>		
	Claremorris	3
	Ballyhaunis	12
	Ballindine	1
<b>Swinford</b>		
	Swinford	3
	Charlestown	2
	Foxford	1
<b>Westport</b>		
	Westport	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>108</b>

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**Appendix 3**  
**Families on Roadside and Privately Renting**

Electoral Area	Location	Type of Accommodation			Numbers (Families)
		Roadside	Halting Site	Private rented	
<b>Ballina</b>					
	Ballina	4		9	13
<b>Ballinrobe</b>					
	Ballinrobe	6		2	8
<b>Castlebar</b>					
	Castlebar	13	3	6	22
	Balla	0		0	0
	Ballyvary	0		0	0
<b>Claremorris</b>					
	Claremorris	4		0	4
	Ballyhaunis	6		0	6
	Ballindine	0		0	0
<b>Swinford</b>					
	Swinford	1		0	1
	Charlestown	7		0	7
	Foxford	0		0	0
<b>Westport</b>					
	Westport	2		0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>63</b>

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**Appendix 4**  
**Projected Additional need to 2008**

<b>Electoral Area</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Away<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Projected Need<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Ballina</b>				
	Ballina	4	10	14
<b>Ballinrobe</b>				
	Ballinrobe	3	5	8
<b>Castlebar</b>				
	Castlebar	5	8	13
	Balla	0	0	0
	Ballyvary	0	0	0
<b>Claremorris</b>				
	Claremorris	2	1	3
	Ballyhaunis	4	3	7
	Ballindine	1	1	2
<b>Swinford</b>				
	Swinford	2	1	3
	Charlestown	1	2	3
	Foxford	0	0	0
<b>Westport</b>				
	Westport	0	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>55</b>

<sup>4</sup> Families Away - Based on an examination of Traveller families who have connections to County Mayo. Also with a prediction for levels of return based on experience from the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2000 - 2004.

<sup>5</sup> Projected Need - Based on 4% increase, as suggested in the Government Task Force Report on the Travelling Community in 1995.

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**Appendix 5**  
**Total Requirement 2005 – 2008**

<b>Electoral Area</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Total Over Plan Period</b>
<b>Ballina</b>		
	Ballina	27
<b>Ballinrobe</b>		
	Ballinrobe	16
<b>Castlebar</b>		
	Castlebar	35
	Balla	0
	Ballyvary	0
<b>Claremorris</b>		
	Claremorris	7
	Ballyhaunis	13
	Ballindine	2
<b>Swinford</b>		
	Swinford	4
	Charlestown	10
	Foxford	0
<b>Westport</b>		
	Westport	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>118</b>

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**Appendix 5a**  
**Annual Targets, by Electoral Area**

<b>Electoral Area</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Annual Target</b>
<b>Ballina</b>	27	6-7
<b>Ballinrobe</b>	16	4
<b>Belmullet</b>	0	
<b>Castlebar</b>	35	8-9
<b>Claremorris</b>	22	5-6
<b>Swinford</b>	14	3-4
<b>Westport</b>	4	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	118	29 - 30

Note 1:

In the delivery of units of accommodation at local level, consultation will be entered into with the families. Due regard will be had to their housing need and expressed preference of accommodation type, in as far as is practicable.

Note 2:

In order for the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2005 – 2008 to be effective it must be capable of ongoing modification and improvement over the period of the Plan. It is proposed that there would be an annual review of progress and a re-assessment of need which will be carried out at the same time as the Annual Count of Traveller Families in November each year. This will update the need as of 1st December in each year, and will set revised targets for accommodation provisions for the remaining years of the Plan, if appropriate.

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## **Appendix 6**

### **Submissions Received and considered in formulating the Draft Traveller Accommodation Plan 2005 – 2008 (Pre-Public Display)**

#### **1. Mary Syron, Chairperson, Traveller Health Unit, Western Health Board**

##### Recommendations

- Traveller Families are consulted with re the planning and design of their accommodation.
- Their particular needs as a family are taken into consideration.
- The resulting accommodation provided is in line with the current best practice building regulations.
- Where considered appropriate work in partnership with the Western Health Board staff to address relevant issues e.g. support and training for families moving to houses for the first time as provided by our Home Management Services.
- A structure is put in place to facilitate ongoing liaison with the Traveller Health Unit as outlined in the National Traveller Health Strategy 2002 – 2005.

#### **2. Annette Irving, Public Health Nurse for Travellers**

##### **Recommendations**

- Accommodation Plan would include section on the resourcing and facilitation of nomadism. Transient halting sites would provide areas that would include good sanitation, running water and safe environments for children.
- Provision of further temporary and permanent halting sites.
- Traveller families are consulted in the planning and design of their accommodation.

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- A system that assesses need of families taking into account health outcomes that has a clear structure and consultative process.
- Where problems arise with anti social behaviour and tenure difficulties that the process of conflict resolution and multi agency work be engaged to create a more unified approach.
- Adopting a notion of networking organisations, agencies and practitioners to develop skills of collaborative practice.

### **3. Mayo Traveller Support Group**

#### **Recommendations**

##### **Respecting and Resourcing Traveller Culture**

- Plan should include sections on how to resource and facilitate nomadism, the Traveller economy, keeping of horses and caravans, Traveller extended family structures, Traveller norms.
- MTSG suggest a study should be undertaken around patterns of nomadism and this study could be developed into a network of nomad friendly transient accommodation.

##### **Assessment of Need**

- The local authority should initiate a process of informed assessment of preference and need taking into account that not all Travellers want housing. In some instances alternative forms of accommodation should be explored.

##### **Allocation of Accommodation**

- Accommodation should be allocated on the basis of need, not identity.
- A points system of allocating houses should be adopted, not just Traveller specific but for all those on the housing list.

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### **Training**

- A section should be included in the Plan on provision of training on Traveller issues for the LTACC and all staff, but particularly those who are responsible for provision of services to Travellers or policy in that area.

### **Management and Maintenance of Traveller Specific Accommodation**

- The Plan should give details on how the Local Authority proposes to manage and maintain Traveller Specific Accommodation.
- MTSG advocate an approach that encourages tenant participation in such a process in order to foster a sense of ownership and interest in the accommodation.
- This approach could involve the development of local site committees with tenants, MCC and MTSG.
- A multi agency social work approach to anti social behaviour should become an explicit part of the new plan.

### **Emergency Accommodation**

- It appears that the Local Authority have no emergency accommodation stock. This should be clarified in the Plan and if it is the case the urgent steps that are required to be taken in order to have such a stock should be specified as part of the Plan.
- The Plan should detail how services will be provided to Travellers on the roadside while awaiting accommodation.

### **Support of L.T.A.C.C. Representatives**

- All reps should be provided financial supports to ensure their participation such as childcare, travel and a per diem Payment
- Each Traveller rep should have an alternate to replace them if they cannot be at meetings.
- Local traveller groups should be involved in the dissemination of information regarding the L.T.A.C.C. and Traveller organisations

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should be involved in the selection process regarding the election of Traveller reps.

### **Structures for development of Accommodation Proposals**

- The Plan should include these details.
- Possibility of adopting a family specific model which means Families in need of accommodation are identified, their individual needs are outlined and accommodation is provided on the basis of these needs.
- MTSG propose that the LTACC or a subgroup thereof should devise a template for this process.

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#### **4. Irish Traveller Movement**

##### **Consultation at a Local Level**

- All locations for the development of Traveller accommodation should be named and adopted during the stage where the Traveller Accommodation Programme is being developed.

##### **Operation and Membership of the LTACC**

- The ITM recommends the speedy establishment of the L.T.A.C.C. to allow sufficient time for the committee to develop equal working relationships.
- All reps on the LTACC should receive supports including travel and a per diem payment where appropriate.

##### **Policy Statement**

- All Programmes should include a policy statement, which has been devised by the L.T.A.C.C., which sets out equality commitments to Travellers.
- ITM recommend the discontinuation of the use of 'quota' systems for the allocation of Traveller accommodation and allocate equally on the basis of merit.
- ITM recommend that Section 10 of the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act 1992, as amended by Section 32 of the Housing (Traveller Accom.) Act 1998 and Section 21 of the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act 2002 are not enforced on families who are part of the local TAP.

##### **Assessing Traveller Accommodation Needs**

- Surveys and figures compiled by local Traveller groups and the Local Authority should complement one another to form the basis of the Accommodation Programme, which includes permanent and transient Accommodation.

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### **Sites with limited Facilities**

- Existing temporary sites should be phased out in line with the development of the Local T.A.P. No Traveller should have to live in 'emergency temporary provision' for a period longer than 2/3 years.

### **Provision of Transient / Traveller Specific Accommodation**

- The T.A.P. should include clear policies regarding the treatment of roadside families.
- Relevant Local Authorities should identify a number of sites that would be ready for occupation, from within its own stock of property and if necessary rent additional property from other sources, including the private business sector, other state funded bodies, voluntary bodies and church authorities.

### **The Indigenous Clause**

- The indigenous Clause is unacceptable and the ITM recommend that Travellers should have their Accommodation needs assessed whatever the length of time they reside in a Local authority area. Local Authorities can then apply established criteria such as length of time on the housing list in deciding priority.

### **Tenant Participation in Accommodation Development**

- Travellers should be involved in the development of accommodation options and should play a full and meaningful role in the management of such. This is central to building and sustaining a successful Accommodation Programme.

### **Section 24 of the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act, 2001**

- If the Local Authority does not take action to accommodate families, they should, in the interest of fairness refrain in making requests to Gardaí to evict families.

## **Appendix 7**

### **Submissions Received and considered in formulating the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2005 - 2008** **(As a result of Public Display)**

Pages 01 to 07 attached