



LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL



TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERS OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL 2ND SEPTEMBER 2019

1ST JULY 2019 - 30TH JUNE 2024

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Leitrim County Council, under the provisions of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, is required to prepare and adopt a new Traveller Accommodation Programme for the five year period 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2024. The new Programme will replace the current 2014-2018 Programme which is due to expire on 31st December 2018.

In July 2018 Minister Damien English T.D. Minister for Housing & Urban Development issued Circular 35/2018 under Section 10 of the 1998 Housing Act directing that the current TAP 2014 - 2018 would be extended to June 30th 2019 and the new Traveller Accommodation Programme should be for a five year period from **1st July 2019 to 30th June 2024**.

Under the 1998 Housing Act Leitrim County Council has certain obligations in relation to the preparation, adoption and implementation of a Traveller Accommodation Programme.

In summary, Leitrim County Council is required to:

- ❖ prepare and adopt an Accommodation Programme to meet the existing and projected accommodation needs of Travellers in County Leitrim
- ❖ allow for public input to the preparation and amendment of the Programme.
- ❖ take appropriate steps to secure implementation of the Programme.
- ❖ include objectives concerning Traveller Accommodation in the County Development Plan.

In Circular 35/2018, the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government has set the latest date for the adoption of the Accommodation Programme as **30th September 2019**. The Minister has also directed that a review of this Accommodation Programme should be carried out not later than **31st December 2021**.

1.2 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

In accordance with the provisions of Section 21 and 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) 1998 Act, a *Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee* has been established to facilitate consultation between the Local Authority and the Local Traveller community. The Committee meets on a quarterly basis to advise Leitrim County Council on the provision and management of accommodation for Travellers.

The Consultative Committee plays an important role in the development of the Traveller Accommodation Programme and the views of the Committee, including in relation to the assessment of needs, have been taken into account in the preparation of this Programme. Implementation of the Programme will be monitored by the Committee and issues arising addressed. Membership of the Leitrim Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee comprises four Traveller representatives, six Elected members of Leitrim County Council and three County Council Officials.

1.3 County Profile

County Leitrim has three electoral areas, Carrick-on-Shannon, Manorhamilton and Ballinamore. Leitrim has a population of 32,044 according to the last census in 2016. At the end of November every year Leitrim County Council through the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, facilitates an annual Traveller census. In November 2018 there were 75 Traveller families resident in the county, which breaks down in accommodation types as follows;

- 27 Standard Local Authority Housing (incl. Approved Housing Bodies)
- 18 Traveller Specific Accommodation.
- 21 Long term Accommodation schemes (SHLI, RAS, HAP, R/S)
- 9 Other

Leitrim has one Traveller Group Housing Scheme / Halting site at Rosebank in Carrick-on-Shannon which has fourteen accommodation bays.

2. Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 - 2018

2.1 Background

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018 was adopted by the members of Leitrim County Council on 13th January, 2014. In drawing up and adopting this Traveller Accommodation Programme, in accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988, as amended, and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Leitrim County Council assessed and identified the accommodation needs of Traveller families to be met during the period of this Programme, from 1st January, 2014 to 31st December, 2018.

2.2 TAP 2014 -2018 Targets and Outputs delivered;

The five year target set in the TAP 2014 -2018 was **46 units** of accommodation over a range of accommodation types including Standard Local Authority Housing, Traveller Group

Housing Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SHLI), Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

A total of 54 No. actual Units of Accommodation have been delivered over the period of the Traveller Accommodation Programme (2014 – 2018/19). Out of a Target of 46 No. Outputs as set out in the TAP 2014 – 2018, this amounts to 118% Delivery. This means that the full target of 46 No. actual Units of Accommodation will have been achieved and exceeded by the end of the current TAP which has been extended to 30th June 2019.

Table 1. TAP outputs 2014 – 2018/19

Accommodation Type	Outputs 2014	Outputs 2015	Outputs 2016	Outputs 2017	Outputs 2018/19	Total Outputs from Jan 1 st 2014 to 31 st March, 2019
Group Housing Scheme - Existing	1	1	0	1	1	4
Service Block - Existing	1	0	2	0	0	3
Local Authority Standard Housing	2	5	5	2	6	20
Rental Accommodation Scheme (incl. renewals)	4	7	2	0	0	13
Long Term Leasing (incl. renewals)	0	2	0	0	0	2
Housing Provided by an Approved Housing Body	0	0	1	1	2	4
Housing Assistance Payment	0	0	0	1	6	7
Mobility Aids Grant	1	0	0	0	0	1
	9	15	10	5	15	54

2.3 Additional works on Traveller Accommodation 2014 - 2018

In addition to the accommodation outputs achieved, further projects were carried out and are on-going in relation to the enhancement of accommodation and integration of Traveller households in County Leitrim.

2.3 (1) Fire Safety Works at Shannonside View Halting Site, Rosebank, Carrick-on-Shannon.

A Fire Safety Appraisal of the Shannonside View Halting Site was completed by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer of Leitrim Fire Services in December 2015.

Following this Appraisal, Leitrim County Council has been engaged in on-going essential fire safety enhancements on all of the housing units at Shannonside View Halting Site.

Following the completion of the most urgent fire safety issues, a full Electrical Periodic Inspection of all fourteen units was carried out with any necessary upgrades completed.

A range of Fire Safety Equipment was provided to each unit and all residents were given the opportunity of training in the use of such equipment.

Provision of 2 No Demountable Dwellings.

Leitrim County Council provided two demountable dwellings, one with living room, toilet and sleeping facilities and the other with two sleeping room facilities.

Wall Mounted Fire Cabinets with Hose, Stand Pipe and associated Fittings

Following extensive consultation with the residents of Shannonside View one of the concerns highlighted was the need for Stand-pipes /Fire Hoses in order to arrest and control any fire outbreak prior to the arrival on the scene of Leitrim County Fire Services.

It was agreed by Leitrim County Council in conjunction with Leitrim Fire Services to provide this life-saving equipment to the residents. Training in the use of these Fire Hoses was provided by Leitrim Fire Services under supervision on the 26th of May 2016.

Six Shannonside View residents took part in this training. Residents also accepted responsibility for the care and maintenance of this fire-fighting equipment.

Periodic Electrical Inspection Reports on Shannonside View Halting Site.

A Periodic Electrical Inspection Report on all housing units at Shannonside View with the completion of any necessary repairs or upgrades arising. New Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide Alarms, Fire Blankets and Fire Extinguishers were provided.

Fire Safety Training

Fire Safety Training was made available to all residents on the Shannonside View Halting Site. This Training was provided on site at Shannonside View by County Leitrim Fire Services. The training was held on two consecutive days to facilitate maximum attendance.

Fuel Storage Sheds

Although this did not form part of the Fire Safety Appraisal carried out in December 2015, Leitrim County Council in consultation with the residents of Shannonside View agreed to provide each unit with a steel fuel storage shed to ensure the dry and safe storage of solid fuel and thereby prevent damage to stoves and chimney as a result of wet/damp fuel.

Leitrim County Council recognises the contribution and co-operation of the Shannonside View residents in the implementation of these essential fire safety measures and the continued maintenance of the live saving fire safety equipment provided.

2.3 (2) Closure of St Patricks Park Traveller Group Housing Scheme, Tawlaughtmore, Mohill.

In February 2014 Leitrim County Council began the process of closing and demolishing St Patricks Park Traveller Group Housing scheme due to the unfit living conditions, lack of demand for accommodation units and elements of anti-social behaviour. The remaining families were successfully re-housed in the local area. The site was returned to a green field site on completion of the works.

2.3 (3) Refurbishment Works on Traveller Specific House at Tawlaghtmore, Mohill

This project involves the substantial refurbishment of an unfit Traveller Group House at Tawlaghtmore, Mohill. The family involved have been re-located from this House and have been accommodated on site in 2 No. three bedroom Demountable Dwellings. The transfer of this family was carried out with minimum disruption and they are now satisfactorily housed in these 2 units of temporary accommodation until the completion of the works to their house.

2.3 (4) Urban Horse Project / Pony Riding & Animal Welfare Project

In May 2015 the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney launched the Urban Horse Welfare Project. This project was to provide funding for progressive measures in relation to equine welfare and education and training of unemployed persons in equine care and management. The scheme was opened to applications and is administered by Local Authorities. It was hoped that the number of stray and abandoned horses would be reduced by this equine welfare and owner education initiative. The scheme is viewed as a progressive and novel approach to resolving the stray horse issue in Ireland.

2.3(5) Horse Shelters / Stables

This project was completed at Shannonside View Halting site and involved the construction of 4 semi-permanent horse stables with ancillary feed and manure storage facilities. Additional works included road access, fencing, hedging of the site and provision of piped water and lighting. A site to the rear of the existing halting site at Rosebank was identified and fenced off. The accommodation has greatly enhanced horse welfare in particular during winter months and decreases the risk of stray horses. The development also enhances the visual aspect of the halting site.

2.3 (6) Leitrim Pony-Riding & Animal Welfare Project:

Leitrim Pony-Riding & Animal Welfare Project was co-funded and delivered by Leitrim County Council, with various funding partners including the Dept of Agriculture & Food, Leitrim Sports Partnership, Leitrim Development Company, Sports Ireland, TUSLA, and SICAP. The aim of the project is to introduce young people from Traveller and disadvantaged backgrounds aged between 11-17 to horse-riding, horse management skills and animal welfare. The project began in 2017 with 18 students and was a resounding success. On foot of this success the course was expanded in 2018 to cater for 42 students (three groups of 14 students) including the introduction of non-national children from the Leitrim Refugee Resettlement Programme. At the conclusion of the programme all the participants were presented with Certificates of Achievement for completing the programme by Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council and the advanced students were presented with certification from *The Irish Horse Welfare Trust* for completing their online Programme.

3. Assessment of Need / Projected Need

In accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988, as amended, and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Leitrim County Council assessed and identified the accommodation needs of Traveller families to be met during the period of this Programme, from 1st July, 2019 to 30th June, 2024.

This assessment relates to the existing accommodation need and the projected need estimated to arise across the range of Traveller Accommodation options, including Traveller group housing, standard local authority housing, Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SHLI), Approved Voluntary Housing, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme.

The assessment of need is based on the following:

- Annual Count of Travellers recorded on Friday 30th November, 2018
- Housing Needs Assessment completed as at Wednesday 30th January 2019 – which involved a written invitation to each Traveller family to attend for an interview / meeting with the Traveller Liaison Officer to discuss their specific family housing and accommodation needs. These interviews have informed the projected need over the period of this Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024, including the estimate of new family formations, and the accommodation proposals to meet that projected need.

3.1 Traveller Families in County Leitrim

A total of 75 Traveller families were residing in County Leitrim and form part of Leitrim County Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme as of 31st March 2019.

The breakdown of the 75 households by accommodation type is outlined below:

Table 2 ; Households in County Leitrim by Accommodation Type

ACCOMMODATION TYPE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES
Standard Local Authority Accommodation	27
Local Authority Traveller Group Housing	18
HAP / RAS / SHLI / RENT SUPPLEMENT	21
OTHER	9
TOTAL	75

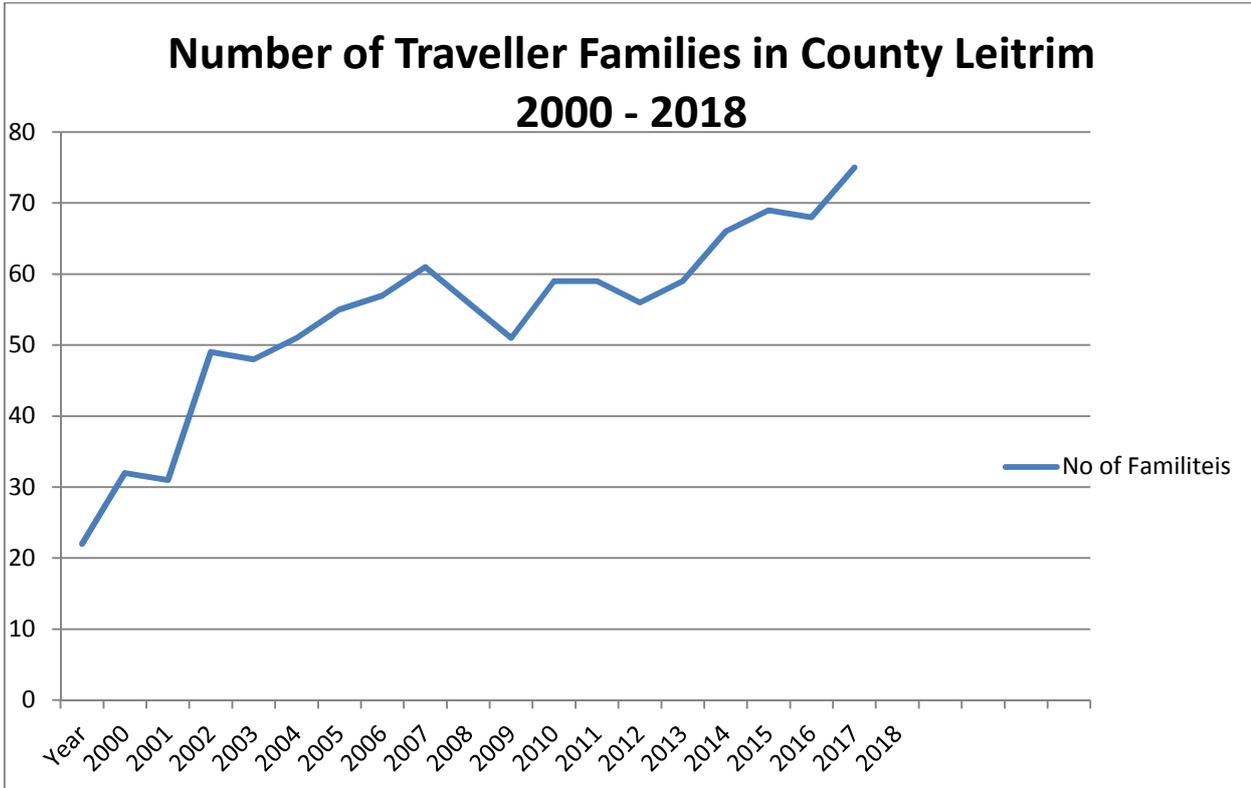
3.2 Projected Need

The Council is obliged to make an assessment of the number of Traveller households who will require accommodation within the lifetime of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019–2024. The figures from the Annual Traveller Count show that Leitrim's Traveller population has increased significantly over the past 18 years, from 22 households in 2000 to 75 households in 2018.

The increase in the local Traveller population since the early 2000's is largely attributable to a significant number of emigrants returning to Carrick-on-Shannon over that period. There has also been a considerable level of new household formations with many of these new households, who would traditionally have emigrated or moved away, now opting to remain in Leitrim, and predominantly in Carrick-on-Shannon.

The table below shows the rate of increase of the Annual Traveller Census for County Leitrim from the year 2000 to 2018.

Table 3: Traveller Household Census from 2000 to 2018 in County Leitrim.



Currently there are seventy five (75) Traveller family units resident in County Leitrim. The majority of Leitrim Traveller families reside in the South of the County, predominantly in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Forty five (45) households **60%** have had their housing need provided for with permanent Local Authority tenancy contracts by Leitrim County Council.

A further twenty one (21) households **28%**, are housed with long-term tenancy agreements through RAS, SHLI, HAP and Private rented accommodation with Rent Supplement.

The remaining nine (9) **12%** households have had their housing need assessed by Leitrim County Council and are all deemed to have demonstrated a housing need in accordance with the provisions of *Section 20 of the Social Housing Assessment Regulations*.

Based on the profile of the families currently resident in County Leitrim it is anticipated that there could be approximately twenty six No. (26) new family formations over the life-time of the new Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024. It is difficult to predict how many of these new households will remain in the County but for the purposes of this Programme it is estimated that 50% of the new household formations, thirteen No. (13) will remain in County Leitrim.

Based on the above the total projected need over the period of this Accommodation Programme is twenty five no. (25) households, broken down as follows:

Table 4: Projected Needs 2019-2024

Category	Number of Households
Households assessed as having a current housing need	12
New Household Formations	13
Total	25

The level of need and the range of accommodation required will be kept under review on an ongoing basis

3.3 Current Accommodation and Requirements

As outlined in Table 2 above Travellers in County Leitrim are currently accommodated in Standard Local Authority accommodation, Local Authority Traveller Group Schemes, Local Authority Permanent Halting Site and in the private rented sector under Long Term leasing (SHLI), HAP or RAS contracts or with support under the Rent Supplement Scheme.

There are no families living in County Leitrim in unauthorized sites or roadside encampments.

The expressed accommodation preference of the majority of Traveller housing applicants is for standard local authority housing or private rented accommodation. With the exception of a small number of households who wish to be accommodated on the existing Rosebank Traveller Group Housing Scheme in Carrick-on-Shannon no demand or requirement for additional Traveller-specific accommodation has been expressed or identified.

It is anticipated that the housing need will be met over the period of this Accommodation Programme predominantly through the provision of Standard Local Authority Housing and through the Rental Accommodation Scheme and the newly introduced Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

4. Public Consultation Process

Leitrim County Council, in accordance with the requirements of Section 8 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, gave public notice on 26th September 2018 of its intention to prepare a Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme for the period 2019 - 2024 and to carry out an assessment of existing and projected accommodation needs of Travellers in County Leitrim.

4.1 Public Notice

Notice of Leitrim County Council’s intention to prepare a Draft Accommodation Programme was also given in writing on the 19th September 2018 to the following:

- Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)
- The Elected Members of Leitrim County Council
- Local area Oireachtas Members (TDs, Senators)
- Adjoining Local Authorities.
- Leitrim Inter Agency Traveller Services Group (TIG)
- Community Groups
- Traveller Organisations and Support Groups.

4.2 Submissions

Submissions were invited for consideration for inclusion in the new Programme.

A total of 5 No. submissions were received before the closing date for submissions of Friday 19th October 2018. Submissions were received from the following:

- Irish Traveller Movement
- HSE – Public Health Nurse, Traveller Health
- HSE – Social Inclusion Office.
- Pavee Point
- North West Simon Community
- LDC - Traveller Development Worker

The contents of these submissions have been noted and taken into consideration in the preparation of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.

Consultation has also taken place with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and with individual Traveller families as a result of the assessment of needs relating to their accommodation.

5. Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

5.1 Objectives and Targets 2019-2024

	Objectives	Dates / timescale	Progress / Status
1.	Completion of House Refurbishment, Tawlaughtmore Mohill	July 2019	Work on-going nearing completion
2.	Enhancement of Shannonside View	2019 - 2020	Consultation stage with

	Traveller Group Housing Scheme, Rosebank, Carrick-on-Shannon.		residents.
3.	Consider Maximising occupancy of existing Traveller Specific Accommodation at Rosebank, Carrick-on-Shannon.	2019 - 2021	Project proposal at pre-planning stage
4.	Continued Fire Safety enhancements at Shannonside View Halting Site.	2019 - 2024	Annual follow up Fire safety inspections conducted by Leitrim Fire Services.
5.	Provide 25 units of accommodation over five year period under TAP 2019-2024	2019- 2024	New TAP 2019-2024 due for implementation July 2019
6.	Continued tenancy sustainment / support through annual maintenance programme and close administrative involvement of Traveller Liaison Officer.	2019 - 2024	Ongoing progress through co-operation of local Traveller Community and Housing Dept.
7.	Continued progress on projects arising throughout the course of the new TAP 2019-2024 eg, Disability works, refurbishment works, remedial works etc	2019 -2024	Progress dependant on needs arising during new TAP 2019 -2024.

6. Measures for Implementation

Leitrim County Council will report regularly on developments and progress on the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 with regular reports being made available to The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC), Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. (DECLG)

7. Policy

7.1 Overview

Leitrim County Council recognises Travellers' identity as a minority ethnic group, some of whom are nomadic. It is the policy of the Council to have meaningful consultation based on Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government Guidelines with Travellers about their accommodation needs and to provide, where appropriate, Traveller specific accommodation.

A key objective of Leitrim County Council is to develop the County in a manner which contributes to the positive well being and quality of life for all citizens. Leitrim County Council endeavours to meet the needs of Travellers using the range of accommodation options available to the Council – including Group and Standard housing, Long term leasing (SHLI) and Rental Accommodation Schemes (RAS), Housing assistance Payment (HAP) and permanent residential halting sites. This provision takes place in consultation with the Traveller community, the settled community and with the various other statutory and voluntary agencies delivering services to Travellers as required.

7.2 Travellers Distinct Needs

Recognizing Traveller's distinct culture and needs, Leitrim County Council has provided Traveller specific accommodation at Rosebank Group Housing / Halting site in Carrick on Shannon and Tawlaughtmore in Mohill, in consultation with local Travellers and Traveller Support Groups. While the Assessment of Needs has not identified any requirement for additional Traveller specific accommodation in the county, the design of any future such schemes will continue to reflect the needs of Travellers and will also take account of technical, fire and public safety requirements. All accommodation provided will comply with the directions and guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

7.3 Long-Term Accommodation

The Council will have regard to the full range of housing options available in the provision of long-term accommodation for Travellers including Standard lettings in Local Authority Estates, Group Housing, Residential Halting Sites, Voluntary Housing, Long Term Leasing (SHLI), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). Applications for accommodation will be assessed and reports requested from other Local Authorities and statutory agencies.

7.4 Assessment

The Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 set out the manner in which a housing authority will determine a household's qualification for social housing support and the description and classification of its' housing need. All applicants for social housing support must be assessed in accordance with these regulations.

7.5 Transfer of Tenancy

Existing tenants of Leitrim County Council accommodated in Standard Local Authority Accommodation, Group Scheme Dwellings, Permanent Halting Site accommodation or households accommodated in dwellings under the Rental Accommodation Scheme, the Long-Term Leasing Scheme (SHLI) or Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) can apply for a transfer to alternative local authority accommodation. Each transfer application will be assessed on its

own merits having regard to the particular household circumstances, and in accordance with the Council's Transfer Policy.

7.6 Surrender of Tenancy

Where tenants surrender their existing local authority accommodation, other than in an approved transfer situation, their tenancy will be terminated and they will no longer be eligible for reassessment for inclusion on the Housing Waiting List and/or to access Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme for alternative private rented accommodation, on the basis that their housing need has previously been addressed by the local authority. In any such circumstances tenants will be informed of the serious implications of surrendering their tenancy before a surrender of tenancy form will be accepted by Leitrim County Council. Where former tenants proceed to surrender their accommodation they will be deemed responsible for meeting their accommodation needs from their own personal resources.

7.7 Abandonment of Tenancy

In the event that properties are abandoned by a tenant and the property is not occupied by the household as their normal place of residence for extended periods of time, proceedings will be initiated to recover possession of such properties and the properties will then be re-allocated to qualified applicants on the Housing Waiting List in accordance with the Council's Allocations Scheme.

7.8 Transient Sites

The incidence of roadside or unauthorised encampments is relatively infrequent in Leitrim with no discernible pattern arising. Facilities for visitors to tenants of permanent Traveller specific accommodation have been provided by Leitrim County Council. It is considered that transient accommodation suitable to meet the needs of nomadic families would best be provided on a regional basis with appropriate caretaking, maintenance and management services delivered. The Council will work in conjunction with adjoining Local Authorities in relation to such provision should that need arise. Consideration will also be given to reassigning existing service block facilities to provide transient facilities should service blocks become vacant during the course of this Programme and not be required to meet identified Traveller accommodation needs.

7.9 Unauthorised Encampments

Unauthorised encampments present difficulties in relation to health and safety and can be hazardous to road users. Leitrim County Council will consult with relevant parties to address issues arising. The Council will however utilise powers available under the legislation to remove caravans/temporary dwellings when deemed appropriate and necessary.

7.10 Emergency Accommodation

Existing procedures for meeting emergency housing needs will continue to be used for emergency Traveller housing needs. This may include sourcing temporary emergency accommodation where a bona fide housing need has been established.

7.11 Housing Allocation Policy

Traveller applicants will be considered in conjunction with all other eligible applicants for suitable accommodation vacancies arising in accordance with the Council's Allocation Scheme.

7.12 Transfer and Succession of Tenancy Policy

Existing tenants, including tenants of dwellings provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative, Rental Accommodation Scheme, Housing Assistance Payment or by Approved Housing Bodies, may apply for consideration for a transfer to alternative accommodation in the following circumstances:

- down-sizing requirement,
- exceptional medical/disability or compassionate grounds, or
- where there is over-crowding.

Leitrim County Council will not consider transferring a tenant because of unsatisfactory relations with a neighbouring tenant or because of dissatisfaction in general with the estate or the neighbourhood.

Tenants seeking a transfer must also comply with all the general provisions of their tenancy agreement, including the requirement to have a clear rent account.

7.13 Back Up Services and Support.

(a) Traveller Liaison Officer

In 2015 Leitrim County Council appointed a full-time Traveller Liaison officer whose role is to work closely with the Traveller Community in County Leitrim and assist them with a range of issues related to their housing / accommodation requirements and needs.

This role was made permanent in February 2019 thereby further demonstrating the commitment of Leitrim County Council to the local Traveller Community and guaranteeing a dedicated interface between the Traveller community and the local authority.

(b) Maintenance

Housing Maintenance Staff are available to deal with maintenance issues in relation to Traveller specific accommodation. Leitrim County Council's Traveller Liaison Officer also

works closely with the Traveller families and interfaces with the housing technical team to resolve any issues.

The Rosebank Traveller Development Group also plays an important support role in the provision of services to Travellers. Leitrim Integrated Development Company's Traveller Development worker plays a significant role in liaising with council staff on a wide range of issues including maintenance requests and their assistance in the delivery of Traveller accommodation services is acknowledged.

(c) Inter-Agency Approach (TIG)

It is the policy of Leitrim County Council to adopt an inter-agency approach in the provision of services and accommodation to Travellers. This approach is critical, particularly in relation to addressing any special needs accommodation and support requirements. The HSE Public Health and Occupational Therapy services are central to this process.

The inter-agency approach adopted in relation to addressing the accommodation needs of the Mohill Traveller families, and facilitating their successful transition from Halting Site accommodation to standard local authority housing in 2014 was very significant and this approach will be ongoing in relation to ensuring that these new tenancies are sustained. This approach will be replicated as necessary over the course of the 2019-2024 Traveller Accommodation Programme.

The Traveller Inter-Agency Group (TIG), established in Leitrim in 2006, works in consultation with Travellers to enhance the provision of services and supports and to secure better outcomes for Travellers across the County. Regular progress reports are provided to the Inter-Agency Group from the Accommodation Working Group.

8. Strategy Statement

8.1 Implementing Authority

Leitrim County Council is the authority responsible for implementing the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024. The Local Authority co-operates with a variety of other agencies as well as adjoining local authorities to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers. In particular, a number of groups have an important role to play in assisting in the implementation of the programme including:-

- The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)
- The Housing and Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
- Leitrim Development Company (LDC)
- Local Traveller Development/Support Groups
- Leitrim Inter Agency Travellers Group (TIG)
- Health Services Executive (HSE)

- An Garda Siochana
- Department of Social Protection (DSP)
- Department of Education and Science
- Voluntary Housing Groups

It will be the responsibility of Leitrim County Council to seek the co-operation of the above groups to ensure the implementation of the Programme. Progress in relation to the 2019-2024 programme will be monitored by the *Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee*.

8.2 County Development Plan

Provisions contained in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 are sufficient to realise the Traveller accommodation objectives set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024. Appropriate provisions will also be incorporated into the next Leitrim County Development Plan 2021 – 2026 when it is being developed.

8.3 Development of Proposals / Implementation of Programme

Where a new accommodation project is being provided directly by Leitrim County Council the accommodation proposal will be subjected to a local consultation process with Travellers and the Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, consultation and approval by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and adherence to requirements of the Part VIII Planning Procedure.

The Council will avail of the full range of housing options available having regard to expressed accommodation preferences and working within the existing budget for capital funding. The Council will endeavour to provide housing through casual vacancies arising in existing local authority housing stock and possibly, subject to resources, a limited number of acquisitions. The Long Term Leasing Scheme, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), will also be utilised as a means of addressing long term housing needs.

8.4 Financial Resources

The successful implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 will be dependent on the provision of capital funding from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

8.5 Management and Maintenance of Accommodation

The effective management and maintenance of accommodation is crucial. Traveller accommodation will be managed on the same basis as all other housing stock. Leitrim County Council will endeavour to ensure maximum tenant participation to manage and maintain accommodation schemes to a high standard.

9. Conclusion

Leitrim County Council acknowledges the commitment, co-operation and support of local Travellers, Traveller representatives, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC), the Rosebank Traveller Development Group and members of the Leitrim Inter Agency Traveller Services Group (TIG) in assisting the Council in the delivery of its successive Traveller Accommodation Programmes.

The targets set out in this Programme have been developed having regard to the existing and projected need for Traveller accommodation. The delivery of this Programme requires a commitment from all stakeholders to work together and is also dependent on the availability of necessary funding.

The Council recognises that the provision of appropriate associated supports is also a critical factor in ensuring that the accommodation solutions delivered for individual families are successful. We will continue to work closely with Travellers, their representatives, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Traveller Support Groups, Leitrim Inter Agency Traveller Services Group and other relevant agencies in this regard. We will also continue to actively seek, in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate, to identify and access potential funding opportunities to progress initiatives in relation to Traveller development, support and integration.
