

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

2025-2029



Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

Sligo.



SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL: COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH

4TH NOVEMBER 2024



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Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029

Introduction

Sligo County Council, in accordance with the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, is obligated to develop and adopt a new Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) for the period from 2025 to 2029. This new program replaces TAP 1st July 2019- 30th June 2024, which was extended to the 31st December 2024.

The direction for the five-year period and the specific start date of 1st January 2025 was given by the Minister of State for Planning & Local Government on 18/12/23 under Section 10(1) of the 1998 Act, - Circular Housing 46/2023 refers. This means that the Council is required to plan and implement accommodation measures for Travellers within the specified timeframe outlined in the directive.

The TAP involves strategies and actions aimed at providing suitable and adequate accommodation for the Traveller community in the region. It encompasses a range of initiatives, such as the development of sites, provision of facilities, and other measures to address the accommodation needs of the Traveller population.

The obligations of Sligo County Council under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, as summarised, include:

- The Council is required to prepare and adopt a TAP. This program should address both existing and projected accommodation needs of the Traveller community in County Sligo.
- The Council must allow for public input during the preparation and amendment of the Accommodation Programme. This emphasizes the importance of community involvement and feedback in the decision-making process.
- The Council is obligated to take appropriate steps to secure the implementation of the Accommodation Programme. This involves putting in place measures to ensure that the proposed strategies and objectives are actively pursued and realised.
- Objectives related to Traveller Accommodation must be included in the County Development Plan. This integration into the broader development plan ensures that the accommodation needs of the Traveller community are considered within the overall planning framework.

Additionally, according to Circular 46/2023 from the Minister for Planning and Local Government



Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029

- The Minister has set the latest date for the adoption of the Accommodation Programme as 31st December 2024. This provides a clear timeline for the Council to finalise and approve the program.
- A Mid-Term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme will be carried out not later than 30 June 2027. Following the review, any amendment to the proposed accommodation programme will be made within seven months. More frequent reviews will be carried out if required.

In summary, these obligations and directives highlight the legal and procedural framework guiding Sligo County Council in addressing the accommodation needs of the Traveller community. The emphasis on public input, implementation, integration into broader planning documents, and periodic reviews reflects a comprehensive and participatory approach to Traveller accommodation planning.



Section 1

Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 1st July 2019- 30th June 2024

Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) for the period from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2024, was adopted by Sligo County Council on September 2, 2019. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee discussed the TAP Mid Term Review as per Circular 28/2022 at its meeting on the 20th September 2022.

The decision not to conduct a complete review or amend targets before the end of the current TAP period shows a strategic approach, likely to maintain stability and continuity in the implementation of the programme. The decision at the mid-term review meeting to include a map showing the locations of Traveller-specific accommodation and lands with an objective for Traveller-specific accommodation is a positive step. Such a map provides transparency and aids in effective planning and utilisation of resources.

The Mid-Term Review Report issuance and agreement by the Members of Sligo County Council at their meeting on November 7, 2022, further demonstrate the collaborative effort in the decision-making process. It is essential to regularly review and adapt such programmes to ensure they remain responsive to the changing needs of the community and are in line with best practice and recommendations.

1.1 Achievements during TAP 1st July 2019- 30th June 2024

<u>Year</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Achieved</u>
July 19- June 20	11	27
July 20- June 21	14	8
July 21- June 22	13	9
July 22- June 23	11	9
July 23- June 24	17	13
Total	66	66

Sligo County Council was able to achieve 100% of the accommodation targets outlined in the TAP during the specified period despite the economic challenges and acute housing shortages in the county.

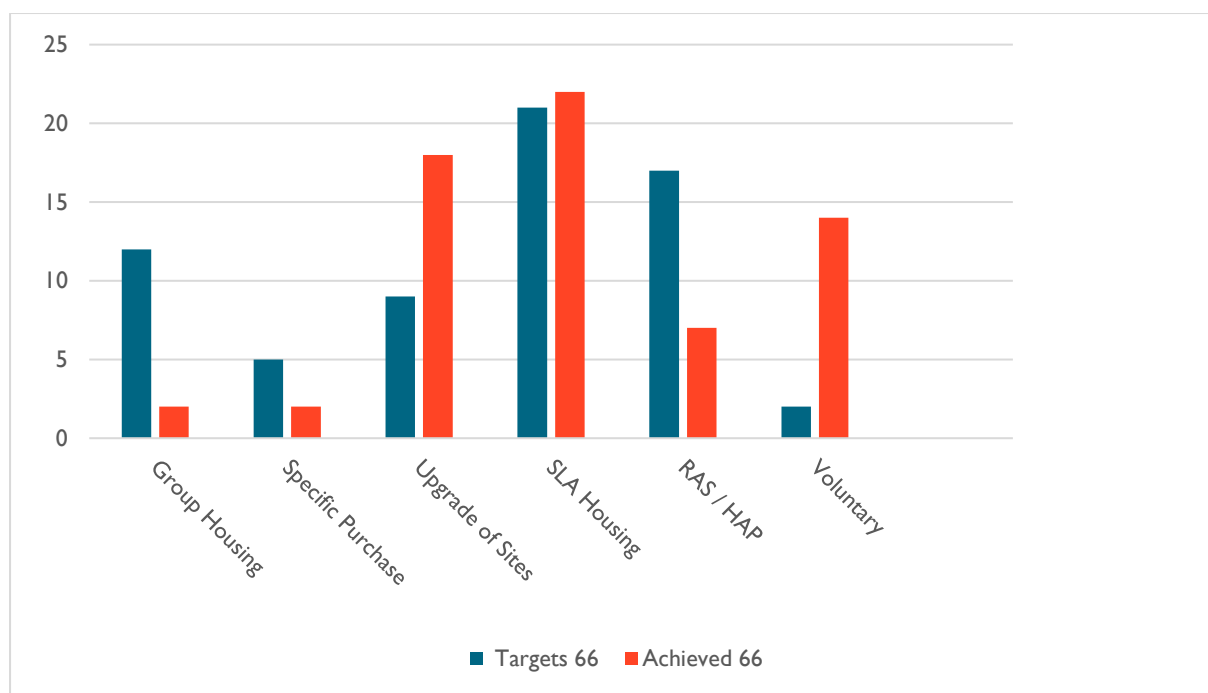
The Council adapted to national patterns such as the huge decrease in the availability of HAP/RAS properties to Traveller families, by forging new working relationships with



Approved Housing Bodies to ensure that any barriers to achieving the targets in one form of social housing support would be met through another avenue of support.

Overall, SCC has been actively working to address housing challenges, particularly for vulnerable populations, and has shown flexibility in responding to emerging issues including the COVID-19 pandemic. The commitment to fully meeting accommodation targets and implementing additional measures to alleviate overcrowding, reflects a dedication to improving the well-being of the Traveller community.

Tenure of Accommodation TAP 1st July 2019 - 31st June 2024



1.2 Completed Projects

1.2.1 New Glenview

As set out in TAP 1st July 2019-30th June 2024, Glenview Park was divided into two sites, Glenview Park, and New Glenview, where the 6 derelict welfare units and bays were. These units, which had been derelict for 10 years, were renovated and allocated to recently married young Traveller families. The Council were able to secure funding for a play facility¹ for the

¹ Submission: Sligo Traveller Support Group



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site² through Dormant Accounts Funding for 2022, which enables unclaimed funds from accounts in credit institutions in Ireland to be used to support small projects.

The site has remained in full occupation since the renovation, with a waiting list for any vacant bays that will arise.



New Glenview

1.2.2 Covid-19

The efforts made by the Council to address overcrowding issues during the global pandemic in 2020 are also noteworthy. The purchase of 10 mobiles for the sites at New Glenview, Ballyfree and Cloonamahon halting site to alleviate overcrowding on Council-managed halting sites demonstrates a proactive response to the challenges posed by the pandemic.



Unit purchased to alleviate overcrowding.

² Submission: Traveller Health Unit, HSE



1.2.3 Caravan Loan Scheme

Sligo County Council, with funding provided by the Traveller Accommodation Unit, has provided 9 loans under the caravan loan scheme (CLS). Although the scheme does provide supports for families in need of sleeping space in the site, the Council believes that the scheme could be improved and is currently being reviewed³ by the Traveler Accommodation Unit. The Council has been an active participant in this review.

1.2.4 Ballyfree Halting Site

A bay that was derelict for several years was renovated and allocated to a large family, who at the time were sharing an overcrowded bay.

Furthermore, the provision of three bedrooms to an existing halting site welfare unit is an additional measure that contributes to improving living conditions for the occupants.



Bedroom extension to welfare unit

1.2.4 Other Projects

- ❖ Provision of shower unit: Cloonamahon Halting Site
- ❖ Fire safety works: all sites.
- ❖ Refurbishment of Alma Terrace
- ❖ Repurposing of caretaker's hut: Glenview Park
- ❖ Addressing boundary issue: Ballyfree Halting Site

³ Submission: STSG



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- ❖ Recommissioning of redundant bay: Tubbercurry
- ❖ Provision of individual electricity MPRNs for tenants: Ballyfree Halting Site/ Alma Terrace Halting site.
- ❖ Provision of new Halting Site: Allingham

1.3 Table of Expenditure during TAP July 2019-June 2024

Projects	€
*Capital Projects	1,216,847.27
Caravan Loan Scheme	328,851.40
Site Maintenance	281,349.05
Dormant Accounts (Playground)	17,400.00
Electrical Upgrades	117,310.00
COVID Supports	272,396.72
House Purchases	465,268.00
House Purchase (AHB)	179,994.00
Emergency replacement Mobiles	135,760.25
Voids Programme	264,076.00
Total	3,252,253.99

*At: New Glenview development, Alma Terrace renovation, Ballyfree extension, Caretakers hut conversion Glenview Park, Shower facilities Cloonamahon, Fire safety works.



SECTION 2

2. Policy

It is the policy of Sligo County Council to:

- ❖ Provide for the accommodation needs of Travellers, as far as is reasonable and practicable, using the full range of housing options available to Sligo County Council and having regard to the TAP.
- ❖ Carry out an assessment for social housing support as required by statute and in accordance with the Allocation Scheme adopted by Sligo County Council.
- ❖ Consider submissions received in respect of the planning and design of accommodation schemes.
- ❖ Provide and manage halting sites in a manner compatible with the local environment and the needs of the Traveller community, based on management plans set up in co-operation with Traveller families. Good management of sites, however, relies on the residents taking the lead in the upkeep of the halting site.
- ❖ Deal with unauthorised encampments in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation, as appropriate. Each case will be dealt with on its own merits.
- ❖ Meet the distinct needs and family circumstances of Travellers.
- ❖ Assist families waiting for accommodation and also after the allocation of accommodation, provide training in conjunction with the Council's pre-tenancy training programme, and in conjunction with other agencies, support families to participate in tenant and community programmes.
- ❖ Manage Traveller Accommodation on the same basis as the Council's policy for the maintenance and the management of its other housing stock. Accommodation provided will be to a high standard.



Other requirements

- ❖ The requirements of National Guidelines will be considered in the construction, maintenance, and management of Traveller accommodation.
- ❖ All tenants will be required to meet their responsibilities as outlined in the Tenancy Agreement entered between themselves and the Council and will be subject to the conditions contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy of the Council.
- ❖ Failure on the part of tenants to comply with the requirements of the Letting Agreement, may lead to tenants being required to surrender their accommodation. If necessary legal proceedings will be initiated by this Council, for serious breaches, including applications for an excluding order.

2.1 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

Under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee was established. The structure, purpose and role of the Committee is set down in statute.

The LTACC plays an important role in the development and review of the TAP. The views of the Committee have been considered in the preparation of this Draft TAP. Implementation of the TAP will be monitored by the Committee and issues arising will be addressed.

2.2 County Development Plan

Provisions contained in the Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2024 – 2030 are sufficient to realise the Traveller accommodation objectives set out in the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025- 2029.

2.3 Inter-Agency Approach

It is the policy of Sligo County Council to work on an inter-agency basis, where possible, in the provision of accommodation to Travellers. This approach is critical in relation to addressing any special needs accommodation and support requirements to which the HSE is central. Sligo County Council also work closely with the Sligo Traveller Support Group, Tusla, and An Garda Síochána.



2.4 Public Sector Duty:

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty ('The Duty') is a statutory obligation for public bodies in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. Section 42(1) requires public bodies in the performance of their functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect human rights of staff and people availing of their services.

2.5 Recognition of Traveller Ethnicity

On 1st March 2017, there was a Statement of Recognition by the Irish State, of Travellers as an Ethnic Group and a formal recognition of Travellers as a distinct ethnic group within the Irish nation. Sligo County Council recognises Traveler's identity as a minority ethnic group and is committed to promoting equality and inclusion for Travellers living in Sligo.



SECTION 3

3. Public Consultation

Sligo County Council, in accordance with Section 8 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 gave public notice on the 20th December 2023 (by way of email) to relevant bodies, of its intention to prepare a Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029.

The Council undertook a survey of a cross section⁴ of the Traveller community, living in all types of accommodation across the County.

Two submissions⁵ were received before the closing date of 9th February 2024 - details as follows:

- ❖ Sligo Traveller Support Group
- ❖ National Traveller Health Implementation Group

The following submissions⁶ were received late, but due to the import of the contents the contents were reviewed:

- ❖ National Traveller MABS
- ❖ CENA
- ❖ Joint Submission: Irish Traveller Movement, National Traveller Women's Forum and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre
- ❖ Irish Coalition to End Youth Homelessness
- ❖ HSE: Traveller Health Unit

The contents of the submissions have been noted and taken into consideration in the preparation of the TAP 2025-2029.

⁴ CEAN/ joint submission

⁵ Appendix 2

⁶ Appendix 2



SECTION 4

4. Assessment of Need

The Minister of State for Planning and Local Government on 18th December 2023 directed that housing authorities make an assessment of the accommodation needs of Travellers, under Section 20 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 as being qualified for social housing support, including the need for sites. In making this assessment, housing authorities are required to have regard to:

- ❖ The estimate of the number of Travellers for whom accommodation will be required during the course of the programme.
- ❖ Summary of the Social Housing Assessment prepared under Section 21 (c) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 as it relates to Travellers (including Traveller Household Preferred Housing Options i.e. standard local authority and AHB housing, Traveller-specific accommodation (group housing schemes and halting sites) and private rented accommodation.
- ❖ The need for transient sites.
- ❖ Consideration by the housing authority of the views of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
- ❖ Submissions from local Traveller organisations along with statutory and voluntary bodies.

The Council identified the accommodation needs of Traveller families to be met under the new programmes. This related to the existing accommodation needs and the projected need that will arise during the period of the programmes across a range of accommodation options including standard and group housing, permanent residential sites for caravans and



transient sites provided directly by the housing authority or by approved housing bodies or individuals, with or without the assistance of the housing authority.

Visits were also made to existing Traveller halting sites and homes. The information was used to estimate future accommodation needs.

4.1 Current Traveller Population

The results of the census which took place on the 24th November 2023 accounted for 165 Traveller families living in various forms of accommodation within County Sligo. That marks an increase of 21% over the lifetime of TAP 2019-2024 and as detailed in Table hereunder.

Table

Accommodation Type	Census Figures	
	Nov 2018	Nov 2023
Standard Council	46	65
RAS/ HAP	22	20
Halting site	15	26
Voluntary Housing	6	17
Own Means-	25	11
Homeless Services	5	8
Roadside	4	1
Sharing	13	17
Total	136	165

128 (78%) Traveller households are currently accommodated through Social Housing Supports (SHS) in comparison with 89 at the beginning of TAP 2019- 2024. This is most notable in the increased accommodation in Halting sites and Voluntary Housing. It highlights the efforts that SCC have put into recommissioning derelict sites/ opening of a



new site over the lifetime of the TAP. This was in addition to forming strong ties with the Voluntary Housing sector where 11 new homes were provided in comparison with one during the lifetime of TAP 2014-2019. Focus should also be drawn to the large increase in the number of Travellers presenting as homeless, due to lack of private rented RAS and HAP properties as well as the number of new family formations.

4.2 Single Adult Traveller Population

The census identified the number of Travellers over 18 years still living at home - 42 no. and those who will turn 18 during the lifetime of the new TAP – 69 no. or 111 no. in total, as per Table hereunder.

Table

Over 18's on date of Census			18 years during the life of plan (January 25-June 2029)		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
20	22	42	35	34	69

4.3 Transient Sites

The incidence of roadside or unauthorised encampments is infrequent in Sligo with no discernible pattern arising. In the preparation of the new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 it is not considered that there is any identified need for the development of a new Transient Site, arising from the assessment of need.

4.4 Projected Traveller Accommodation Need 2025-2029

Sligo County Council recognises the distinct culture and lifestyle of the Traveller community and will endeavour to provide suitable accommodation for Travellers who are indigenous to the area, using the full range of housing options available, such as standard lettings in local authority estates, HAP, lettings in voluntary housing estates, group housing schemes, halting sites and single/stand-alone housing where required.



It is estimated, based on the needs assessment, that 81 families will need to be accommodated over the lifetime of the plan. This figure is broken down as follows,

a) 37 families have been approved for SHS. These include families currently sharing accommodation in either local authority, halting sites, transient bays or private rented who are awaiting more permanent accommodation.

b) There is a potential for 44 new family formations, over the five years of the new TAP i.e. 40% of 111 singles as referenced earlier under 4.2. In this regard Data from TAP July 2019-June 2024, showed that 40% of the single traveller population married during the lifetime of programme.

4.5 Future Local Authority Housing Developments

SCC, through its needs assessment and analysis of the current housing list, has recognised the need for the development of larger properties to accommodate Traveller families⁷ and with this in mind SCC Traveller unit will ensure that all future Local Authority housing developments will take into account, as per evidence through the areas of choice prescribed in the housing application, the need for 4/5-bedroom properties within the development area.

4.6 Homelessness

There has been a 40% increase since 2109 in the number of Traveller families presenting as homeless, the majority of whom are young newlyweds who have started families. The TAP recognises the tradition within Traveller culture to marry younger. The Council propose to work in conjunction with STSG establishing a Youth Tenancy Support Programme⁸.

⁷ Submission: Sligo Traveller Support Group

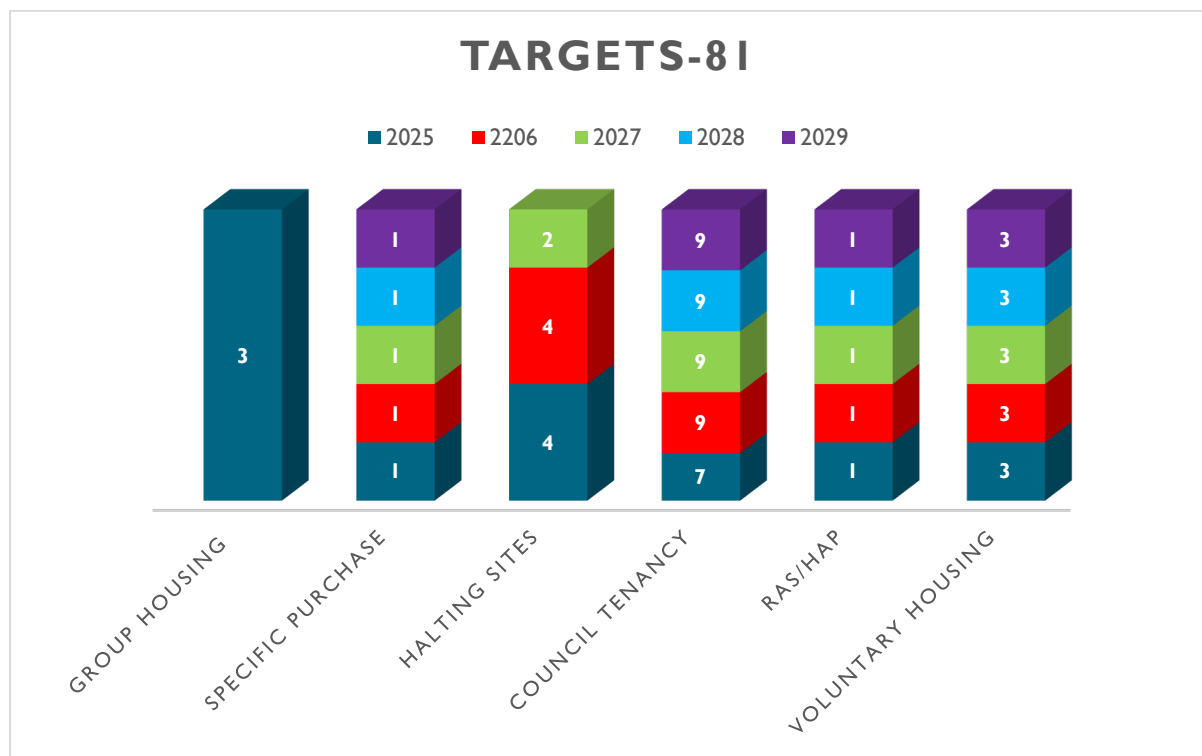
⁸ Submission: Irish Collation to end Youth Homelessness



4.7 Disability

Sligo County Council recognises that a significant proportion of Traveller families have lived experience of impairments such as autism, intellectual disability or physical impairments, including children, who face disabling barriers in relation to housing. Recognising the right of disabled Travellers to independent living and the need for universal design practices to provide accessible homes, Sligo County Council is committed to ensuring Travellers have access to suitable housing and accommodation. Sligo County Council commits to eliminating the intersectional discrimination, which is a barrier to Traveller families with disabled members who are seeking accommodation and to ensuring that the HDM1 form is made available and accessible to Traveller families that include disabled members when they first contact the Housing Department.

4.8 Accommodation Types and overall Targets for TAP 2025-2029- 81No.





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Table- Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Target	Location
Group Housing	3	Glenview
Specific Purchase	5	County
Upgrade of existing Halting sites	10	Ballyfree, Cloonamahon, Tubbercurry
Council Tenancy in existing or New Council Estates	43	County
RAS/HAP	5	County
Voluntary Housing	15	County
Total	81	

Table - Yearly Targets for Delivery

Accommodation Type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Group Housing Scheme	3					3
Specific Purchases	1	1	1	1	1	5
Upgrade of Existing Halting sites	4	4	2			10
Council Tenancy in existing or New Council Estates	7	9	9	9	9	43
RAS/HAP	1	1	1	1	1	5
Voluntary Housing	3	3	3	3	3	15
Total	19	18	16	14	14	81



SECTION 5

Proposed Traveller Specific Accommodation

5. Traveller Specific Accommodation.

Sligo County Council currently maintains 7 Traveller Specific Accommodation Sites, Ballyfree, Cloonamahon, Glenview Park, New Glenview, Alma Terrace, Allingham Finisklin and Tubbercurry, which is an increase of 2 sites during the lifetime of TAP 1st July 2019-30th June 2024

5.1 Glenview Park

Approval has been granted for the construction of a group housing scheme on the site, consisting of 3 homes. and it is expected to be complete in the first year of the plan.



5.2 Ballyfree

Funding approval was received from the Department for the connection to the mains sewage network along with 3 extensions. Due to delays experienced because of the Covid 19 and prolonged negotiations with Irish Water, work will be carried out on a phased basis, with works scheduled to be complete in year 2 of the new TAP.

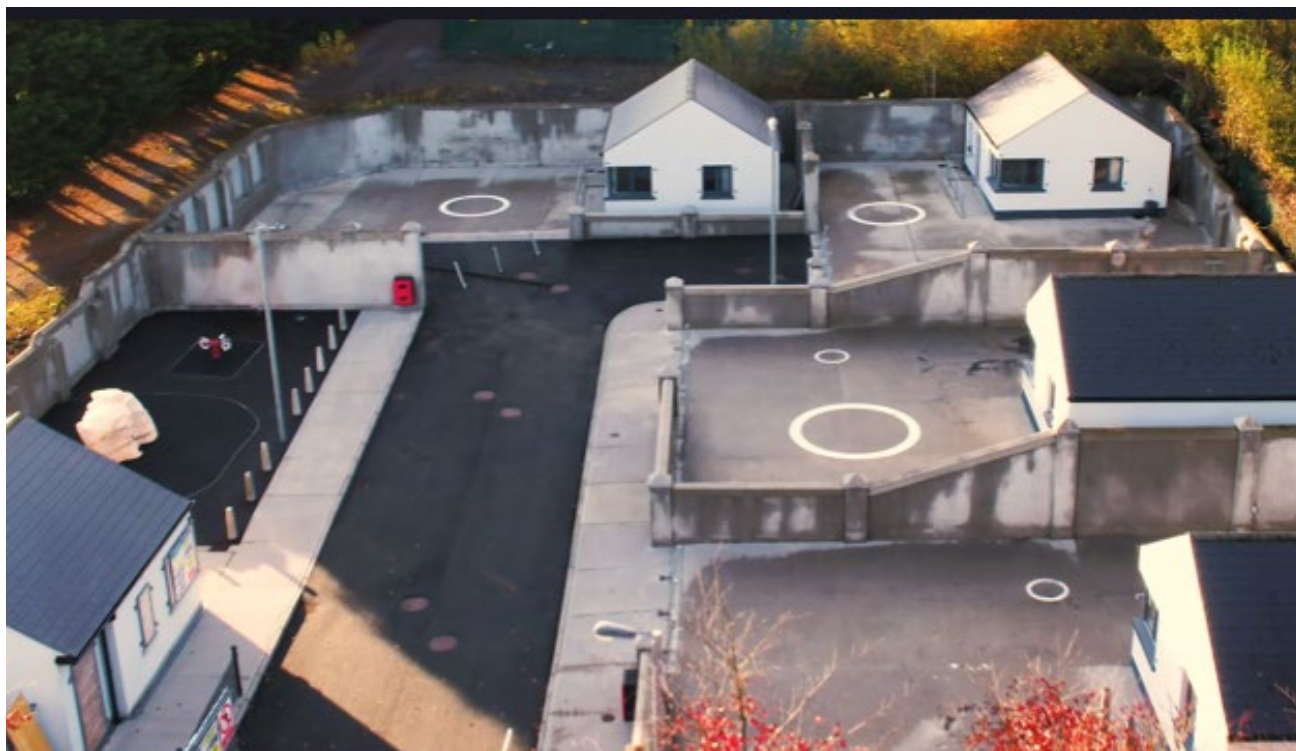


5.3 Cloonamahon

Funding from the Department was approved for the upgrade of Cloonamahon Halting site. Due to delays experienced because of the Covid 19 and prolonged negotiations with Irish Water, work has only commenced on the project. Families are to be decanted to a temporary site, adjacent to the existing site, with works scheduled to be complete in year 2 of the new TAP.

5.4 Alma Terrace

Alma Terrace was refurbished in 2019 and is fully occupied. Tenants availed of the Pilot Caravan loan scheme 2022 and there are no major changes to the site envisaged over the lifetime of this plan. Sligo County Council will continue to liaise with the residents in relation to the ongoing maintenance and management of the site and allocate any casual vacancies in accordance with its allocation policy.



Alma Terrace Halting Site



5.5 Tubbercurry

Sligo County Council will be carrying out improvement works to the site during the programme. An energy efficient project is being developed for the current property on the site, consisting of insulation, solar panels, and triple glazed windows along with other recommended works. Upon completion the property will be monitored to see if the project could be mirrored on other sites.

5.6 Potential New Sites

As part of the Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2024 – 2030, 3 sites have been maintained as having a Traveller Accommodation objective at Finisklin, Cleveragh and Shannon Eighter; not all are in the ownership of Sligo County Council.

5.7 Finisklin Site

The Council undertook a feasibility study with the approved housing body CENA and several traveller families regarding the development of the site. The Study concluded that the families did not want a separate group housing scheme but rather to be intermixed within the larger development. Plans are being advanced to include properties for traveller families within the site. This project is expected to be complete in the third year of this plan,

5.8 Replacement of mobile units and the Caravan Loan Scheme

SCC will endeavour to ensure that all replacement caravans and caravans purchased as part of the Caravan loan scheme shall meet the BS: 23736 for residential units. The Council has continuously engaged with the Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU), in the Department around policy changes in the provision of caravans/ mobiles for the Traveller community and will endeavour to strive for best practice within the guidelines set out by the TAU.



5.9 Reduction of Energy Poverty

SCC have been at the forefront in its commitment to reduce energy poverty for those families living in caravans, halting sites, and group housing. It has been part of a multi-agency group looking at ways of reducing energy poverty and is working closely with ATU Sligo in their research into retrofitting old mobile units⁹.

⁹ Submission: National Traveller MABS



Section 6

Strategy for Implementation of the Programme

6.1 Accommodation Type

The provision of Traveller Accommodation will be provided as follows:

- ❖ Standard Local Authority Housing
- ❖ Group Housing Schemes
- ❖ Halting Sites
- ❖ Individual Halts
- ❖ Nominations to Voluntary Housing Bodies
- ❖ Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
- ❖ Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)
- ❖ Long Term Leasing (LTL)

The Standard Local Authority housing approach provides for the inclusion of Travellers in mainstream housing programmes. The Council's policy of considering qualifying Traveller households in the allocation of local authorities' tenancies will continue in accordance with Sligo County Council's Allocation Scheme. The Council also nominates applicants from Council waiting list for the tenancies of Approved Housing Bodies.

It is also government policy to promote the provision of accommodation through other forms of accommodation such as Voluntary Housing, Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Long Term Lease (LTL) etc. Sligo County Council will continue to utilise these schemes in the provision of accommodation for Traveller households.

6.2 Financial Resources

The successful implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 will be dependent on the provision of capital funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

6.3 Structures for the Development of Accommodation Proposals

Where a new accommodation project is being provided directly by the Council the accommodation proposal will be subject to a local consultation process with Travellers and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, the approval by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and an adherence to the requirements of Planning.



6.4 Arrangements for the Management and Maintenance of Accommodation

All new Traveller accommodation will be managed and maintained on the same basis as all other accommodation. The Council will endeavor to ensure maximum tenant participation to manage and maintain accommodation schemes to a high standard. A Halting site caretaker is employed to undertake day to day upkeep of Halting sites. Issues with waste management are ongoing and it is important to reference same.

A Traveller Liaison Officer is also employed by the Council. He is a dedicated point of contact for Travellers and an important member of the Council team who deal with Traveller accommodation.

Standards in respect of waste management will be upheld and be fully enforced by Sligo County Council. This includes legislation relating to domestic waste; the collection and storage of metals; scrap metals; waste vehicles and End of Life Vehicles (ELV's) and any other transgression of standards relating to waste.

Sligo County Council is happy to work with the representatives of the Traveller community who are prepared to assist the various parties involved in the delivery of Traveller accommodation.

6.5 Procedure for Resolving Difficulties

Council personnel involved in the provision of Traveller accommodation will be available to provide assistance in the event of any difficulties arising regarding the accommodation programme. Where difficulties cannot be resolved through local consultation and dialogue, appropriate mediation services will be availed of. The assistance of the LTACC will continue to be availed of during the lifetime of this programme and standard Council complaints procedures will be adhered to.

6.6 Mechanisms for Monitoring Progress

The Council will report regularly on developments and progress on the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029, with reports being made available to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and the Department of Housing. Reports are submitted annually to Department of Housing, on the outputs achieved by the Local Authority in the implementation of their Traveller Accommodation Programme.



6.7 Approved Housing Bodies, Private Rented Accommodation (HAP) and other Accommodation

Sligo County Council will provide assistance to Approved Housing Bodies in respect of the provision or management of accommodation for Travellers. Sligo County Council will continue building on the strong working relationship which exists between Sligo County Council and all AHBs.

The Accommodation Programme will take account of Traveller families who wish to provide their own accommodation with or without the assistance of the local authority.

The Council will inform Travellers, support groups and other voluntary organisations concerned of all the options available including supports available to support tenancies in the private rental sector through the Housing Assistance Payment, local authority housing etc.

Travellers who wish to undertake the provision of their own accommodation may access supports such as home loans and grants.

Travellers and/or organisation's wishing to provide sites or accommodation without the assistance of the Council will be advised to consult the planning authority before land is purchased or application for planning permission is made.

Information/awareness and consultative exercises will be carried out during the lifetime of the Plan between and with Travellers and the public.



Conclusion

The Council has an excellent record in the provision of accommodation and integration of Traveller families into the community, and with the continued commitment of the Council, the assistance of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and Sligo Traveller Support Group, it is hoped that this success will continue. This will be subject to the availability of all required resources.

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 success of the programme also depends on Travellers and support agencies recognising the current constraints on accommodation provision and accepting that applicants will have to be flexible about locations if their housing need is to be met.

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. The Council will continue to work closely with Travellers, their representatives, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Traveller Support Groups, and other relevant agencies in this regard.

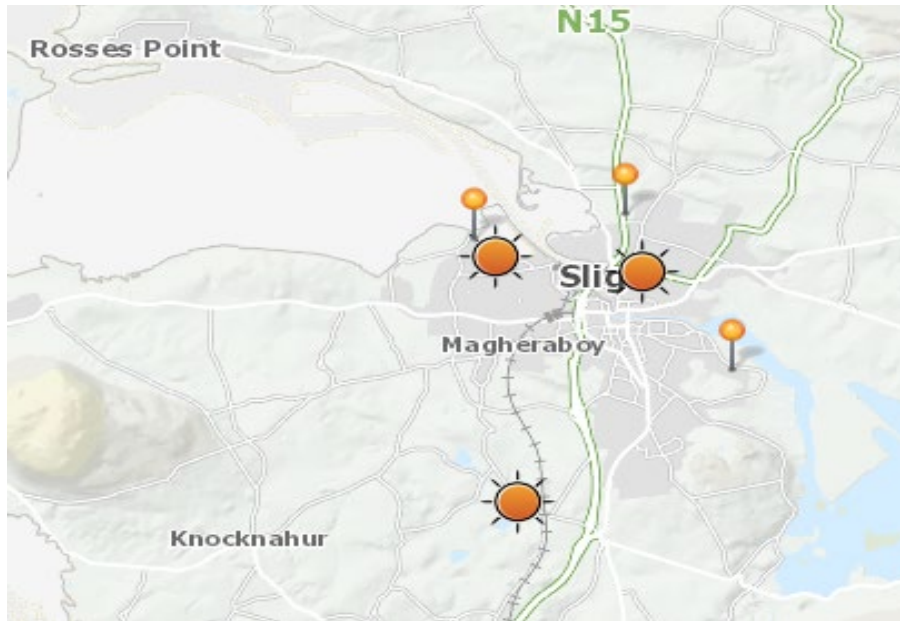
The Council will also continue to actively seek, in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate, to identify and access potential funding opportunities to progress initiatives in relation to Traveller development, support and integration.



The Council is also committed to further investment in existing sites and group schemes during the period of the TAP 2025 – 2029. This investment programme will be informed by the stock survey currently being progressed by Sligo County Council.

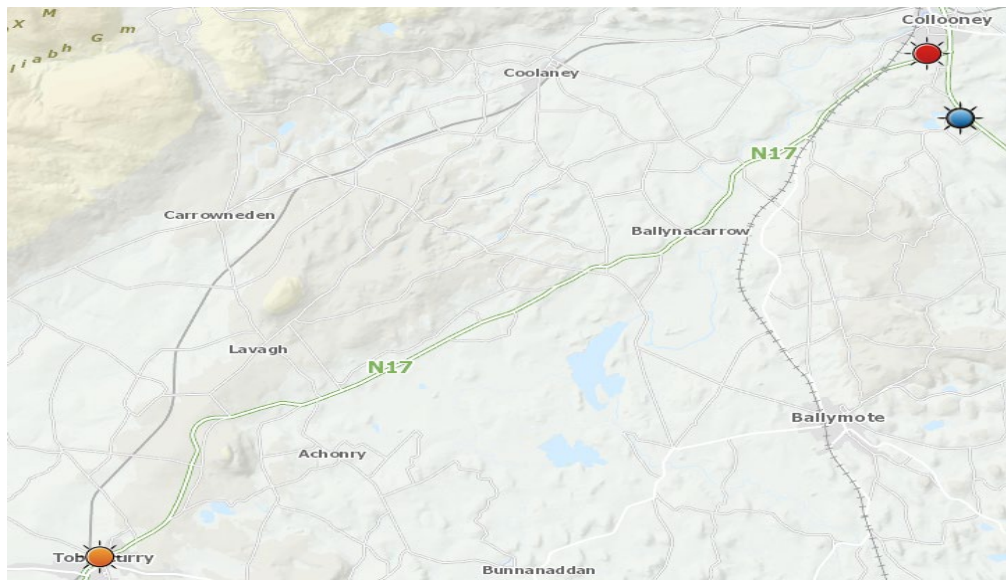





Appendix 1

Maps of locations of Traveller specific Accommodation



-  Traveller Specific Accommodation Halting Sites,
-  Residential Zoned lands with a Traveller Objective



-  Traveller Specific Accommodation Halting Sites,
-  Traveller Group Housing
-  Traveller Specific Accommodation transient Site



Appendix 2

Submissions¹⁰ received on the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029.

1. Sligo Traveller Support Group
2. National Traveller Health Implementation Group
3. National Traveller MABS
4. CENA
5. Joint Submission: Irish Traveller Movement, National Traveller Women's Forum and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre
6. Irish Coalition to End Youth Homelessness
7. HSE: Traveller Health Unit

¹⁰ Copies of submission are available if required.