



Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council



# TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2025 - 2029



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## Acronyms/Glossary of Terms

<b>AHB</b> Approved Housing Body	<b>AHO</b> Area Housing Officer
<b>ASW</b> Area Social Worker	<b>CAS</b> Capital Assistance Scheme
<b>DHPLG</b> Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	<b>HAP</b> Housing Assistance Payment
<b>HLO</b> Housing Liaison Officer	<b>LTACC</b> Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
<b>RAS</b> Rental Accommodation Scheme	<b>TAP</b> Traveller Accommodation Programme
<b>TIG</b> Traveller Interagency Group	<b>SI</b> Statutory Instrument
<b>WCC</b> Wexford County Council	<b>WLECP</b> Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan
<b>CPG</b> Corporate Policy Group	<b>SPC</b> Strategic Policy Committee
<b>WLD</b> Wexford Rural Development	<b>PPN</b> Public Participation Network

### Traveller Group Housing

A scheme of two or more houses specifically built for members of the Traveller Community.

### Transitional Site

A transitional site provides basic facilities for families awaiting permanent accommodation.

### Permanent Halting Site

A permanent halting site has individual bays with a full range of services provided in a small structure on each bay.

### Temporary Halting Site

A temporary halting site has individual bays consisting of a yard with basic services.

### Single Site

A house or site on its own grounds.

### Transient Site

A transient halting site is a site providing basic facilities for short-term use by families pursuing a nomadic way of life or visiting relatives.

## Section 1 – Introduction

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The Housing (Traveller Accommodation Act, 1998) requires Wexford County Council to prepare and adopt a 5- year Traveller Accommodation Programme to meet the existing and projected accommodation needs of members of the Travelling Community within its administrative area.

Directions for the preparation of a New Programme were issued on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 by the Minister for Housing and Urban Development in Circular 46/2023 together with Guidelines for the preparation, adoption and implementation of Local Authority Traveller Accommodations Programme.

In accordance with Section 10 of the 1998 Act, the Minister has directed that the next Traveller Accommodation Programme will cover the period from the 1st January 2025 to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2029. The Minister has specified that the latest date for the adoption of accommodation programmes is the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Wexford County Council will, as part of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029, assess the current and projected accommodation needs for Traveller families in County Wexford over this period and outline specific proposals to ensure that this need is met. The programme will have regard to all relevant legislation.

Wexford County Council is committed to ongoing consultation with Travellers through the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC).

The sixth Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 shall be reviewed no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027. However, a review of this programme can be carried out at any time if considered necessary by Wexford County Council.

The existing TAP will continue to operate to end 2024 while Wexford County Council prepares for the adoption by end 2024 of the Sixth Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2025-2029. The Minister's objective is to ensure that the incoming elected members will have full ownership of the new TAP including implementation, which is also in line with the advice of the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (NTACC).

## Section 2 – Policy Framework and Considerations

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The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 has been prepared in accordance with the directions issued by the Minister for Housing and Urban Development in Circular 46/2023 and the guidelines for the preparation, adoption and implementation of TAP 2025-2029. It has also been prepared in accordance with the provisions set out in the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 hereafter referred to as the 1998 Act.

Wexford County Council is committed to the following as per Part II of the 1998 Act:-

- Assess the accommodation needs of Travellers (section 6).
- Prepare and adopt an accommodation programme by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (section 7) for a 5-year period (2025-2029) and will provide for a range of accommodation to meet the identified needs (section 10).
- Section 16 deals with the steps necessary to implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029.
- The programme will be reviewed in each 3 year period or at such time as directed by the Minister (section 17). Wexford County Council shall review this programme no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027.
- WCC shall appoint a Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) (section 21) to advise on the provision and management of Traveller accommodation.

Part III of the Act deals with miscellaneous provisions including:-

- Power of the Chief Executive Officer to act in an emergency (section 24).
- Instigation of a caravan or site loan scheme (section 25).
- Amending planning legislation to require local authorities to account for Traveller accommodation in the County Development Plan (section 26 and 27).
- Provisions on anti-social behaviours to halting sites (section 34).
- Stronger powers for local authorities to deal with unauthorised temporary dwellings (section 35).

Wexford County Council commits to the ongoing review of the council's alignment of the TAP with NTRIS (National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II 2024 – 2028) and to new guidance issuing from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

## 2.1 Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 has been prepared with regard to the Housing Strategy contained within the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028. Implementation will be in accordance with the current County Development Plan and its successor.

*Section 4.8.4 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 details Wexford County Council's approach to Housing for Members of the Travelling Community which is supported by Objectives SH31 and Objective SH33. Section 5.2.24 of the County Housing Strategy provides the policy background for Wexford County Council's approach to the provision of specialist housing including Traveller accommodation, and this is supported by Objective PO11.*

## 2.2 Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

One of the high level goals in the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028 is:-

*Goal 5: Wellbeing, inclusion, equality, and diversity will be at the heart of County Wexford's communities. Accessible spaces and amenities, and arts and cultural opportunities which support the development of community spirit and enhance the physical and mental well-being of residents will be provided. New arrivals will be embraced and integration promoted.*

### 2.2.1 Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) - Wexford

Wexford Traveller Interagency Group works to ensure that the relevant statutory agencies and state supported initiatives involved in providing the full range of services to Travellers focus on improving the integrated practical delivery of such services.

Wexford Traveller Interagency is facilitated by the Community Development Section of Wexford County Council with the support of The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. TIG members include representatives from the Traveller community and a wide variety of agencies, including; Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS), Tusla, Wexford



County Childcare Committee, Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board, Wexford County Council, Wexford Local Development, An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service, The Department of Social Protection, and the HSE.

*Traveller Needs Analysis 2018 -*

*Wexford Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) adopted the 2018 Needs Analysis of the Traveller Community in County Wexford on the 16 November 2018. The Needs Analysis provides an analysis of Travellers living in County Wexford, and their baseline needs. The analysis was carried out by highly respected social researcher, Mr Brian Harvey, under the aegis of the TIG, with the support of Wexford County Council. TIG members, agencies and local communities played a crucial role in accessing information and building relationships with Travellers across the county. The Traveller community had a pivotal role at all stages in this piece of research, from setting of the terms of reference through to presentation of the findings. This work was funded and supported by the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform and Wexford County Council. The information captured in relation to the Traveller Community in County Wexford will be used for service planning and future development of the WTIG in order to secure better outcomes for Travellers and improve the use of resources allocated across Government Departments for Traveller specific measures.*

## **2.3 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 all their functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and protect human rights of staff, members, policy beneficiaries and people availing of their services. Section 42(2) requires public bodies to give effect to this Duty by undertaking an assessment of equality and human rights issues for the identified groups that are relevant to their functions, identify the plans, policies, and actions to address these issues, and to report annually on progress in this regard.

Wexford County Council has undertaken an assessment of equality and human rights issues for the identified groups relevant to all its functions and prepared an implementation plan for the ongoing implementation of the Duty. A cross-organisational working group is convened to drive and support this work and the ongoing implementation of the Duty. Implementation of the Duty with regard to the Traveller Accommodation Programme has involved: using the assessment of equality and human rights issues undertaken to establish those issues for Travellers that are of relevance to a Traveller Accommodation Programme; and completing a template to check that the draft programme had adequately and appropriately addressed these issues, introducing any changes found to be necessary on foot of this.

The ongoing implementation of the Duty will be a focus in the work of the LTACC which will receive annual reports on progress made in addressing the equality and human rights issues, and will be a focus in undertaking the mid-term review of the programme. It will, further, be a focus in the review and issuing of contracts to all organisations contracted by WCC to play roles that relate to Traveller accommodation. WCC staff working on housing issues will receive training on the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

*Wexford Local Authorities are committed to the reasonable accommodation of diversity in the provision of our services. Wexford Local Authorities create a culture of equal opportunity by avoiding the use of discriminatory language in all documentation and portray activities in a non-discriminatory way where pictures or other illustrations are used. There will be no express or implied discrimination against any customer at any stage. Staff will not make assumptions about the eligibility of individuals for certain services on grounds of gender, marital or family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller community. All questions asked will be directed solely towards assessing the eligibility of customers for the service based on pre-determined criteria.*

In terms of the implementation of the Public Sector Duty in the context of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 the following actions have been undertaken or are ongoing.

- In order to ensure that the application process for Social Housing Supports is understood by the Traveller Community, sessions will be carried out at local level for Traveller groups where the Area Housing Officers and Housing Liaison Officers will attend to explain the process and assist with any queries. This has already been offered through LTACC and at the next meeting these sessions will be finalised in terms of where, time that suits and what items that need to be included on the agenda.
- In terms of future proofing the programme to take into account the needs of members of Traveller families that will turn 18 over the period of the programme and may need their own accommodation, a provision for this was made – see Section 8.
- Housing staff have recently undertaken anti-racism training and Public Sector Duty training is planned for staff and also we be offered to members of LTACC.

## 2.4 IHREC Equality Review Process

Wexford County Council is cognisant of the recommendations of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Equality Review. WCC is committed to working with members of LTACC and relevant agencies in progressing the recommendations outlined by the IHREC. Work has been undertaken in this area in preparation of this Programme and is ongoing.

### **Consideration of Cultural Needs of Travellers**

Wexford County Council continue to develop culturally specific responses to the housing needs of Travellers. The Council recognises that there are very real barriers that have been built over a long period of time in relation to building trust with the Traveller community.

## 2.5 Equality Legislation

Wexford Local Authorities are committed to ensuring full compliance with the provisions of the Equal Status Acts. As such, there will be no express or implied discrimination or harassment against any customer at any stage. Staff will not make assumptions about the eligibility of individuals for certain services on grounds of gender, marital or family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller community.

All questions asked will be directed solely towards assessing the eligibility of customers for the service based on pre-determined criteria. Systemic issues that might disadvantage Travellers are kept under review and addressed where and when identified. A culture of equal opportunity is sustained by avoiding the use of discriminatory or stereotypical language in all documentation and portray activities in a non-discriminatory way where pictures or other illustrations are used.

## **2.6 Integration**

WCC supports an intercultural integration in communities that include Travellers and in communities where Traveller specific accommodation is located, based on principles of equality, cultural diversity. WCC will explore and develop approaches to intercultural integration, taking steps to promote positive intercultural interactions, and to enable intercultural competence and collective identity within these communities.

## Section 3 – Policy Statement

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It is the policy of Wexford County Council to provide accommodation appropriate to the needs of Traveller households who are approved applicants for accommodation by Wexford County Council. These are included in the assessment of need in the preparation of this Programme. The overall aim of Wexford County Council is to enable every household to have available to them an affordable dwelling of good quality, and as far as possible at a tenure of their choice. Wexford County Council recognises Travellers' identity as a minority ethnic group and endeavours to provide accommodation suitable to their specific needs.

Housing options such as group and standard housing (including one off houses) as well as halting sites and temporary/emergency sites are provided in recognition of Travellers' cultural identity as a minority group.

Wexford County Council is committed to addressing the accommodation needs of housing applicants throughout the county. There are dedicated housing teams throughout the county comprising of a social worker, housing liaison officer and an area housing officer. One of the social workers sits on LTACC in an advisory capacity and has a specific remit in terms of Traveller Accommodation. Wexford County Council has a contract with Focus Ireland to provide a Tenancy Sustainment Service for individuals and families. This service is available to assist them accessing and maintaining either private rented, local authority accommodation or accommodation provided by the Approved Housing Bodies.

### 3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

In the interests of good estate management, Wexford County Council will have due regard to its Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2018-2024.

If a tenant is evicted from Wexford County Council accommodation due to anti-social behaviour they will be deemed to have rendered themselves homeless and may not be provided with another home by the council. They will not be considered for another allocation for a probationary period of 3 years or until such time that WCC is satisfied that

the evicted tenant is capable of living and agreeable to live in the community, without causing further anti-social behaviour.

### **3.2 Traveller Specific Accommodation**

Recognising Travellers' distinct culture and needs, Wexford County Council has provided Traveller specific accommodation consisting of halting sites and Traveller group schemes. It is the policy and practice of Wexford County Council to provide Traveller specific accommodation in accordance with the assessment of need and subject to feasibility.

### **3.3 Unauthorised Encampments**

The incidence of roadside or unauthorised encampments is relatively infrequent in Wexford. They present difficulties in relation to health and safety and can be hazardous to road users. Wexford County Council engage with unauthorised encampments on an individual basis.

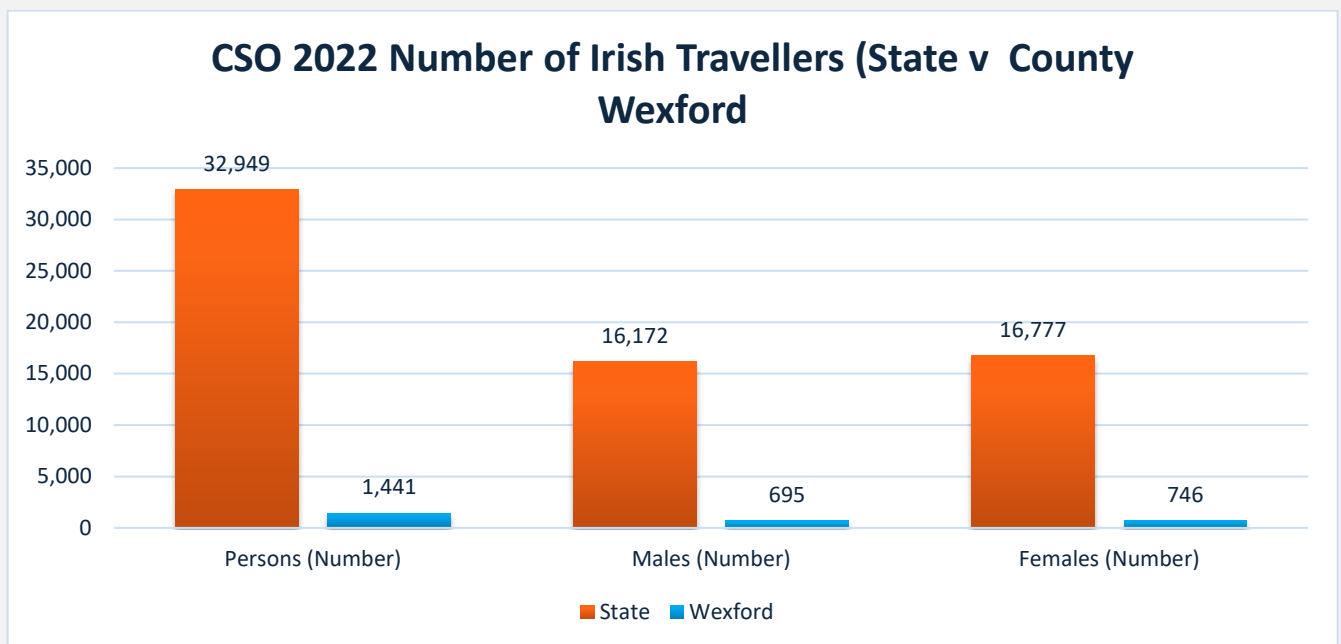
## Section 4 – County Profile – Statistics

Wexford has a population of 163,919 recorded in Census 2022. This has increased by 9% since the Census in 2016.

The number of Irish Travellers living in the State and counted in Census 2022 was 32,949; an increase of 6% from 30,987 in the 2016. This shows that in Census 2022, 6.5 out of 1,000 total population in the State were Irish Travellers.

According to the 2022 Census, County Wexford has a higher than national rate of Travellers. The rate of Irish Travellers in Wexford is 8<sup>th</sup> highest in the state at 8.9 per 1,000 with the national rate at 6.5.

A total of 1,441 Travellers were recorded as living in the County which is a decrease of 4% on the 2016 Census figure (1,508).



The highest concentrations of Travellers live in the areas of Bunclody, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Taghmon, New Ross and surrounding areas.

## Traveller Populations in Census Towns, Co. Wexford 2022

<b>Town of Usual Residence of Usual Residence</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Enniscorthy, Co Wexford</b>	243
<b>New Ross, Wexford &amp; Kilkenny</b>	243
<b>Bunclody, Counties Wexford &amp; Carlow</b>	171
<b>Gorey, Co Wexford</b>	125
<b>Wexford, Co Wexford</b>	110
<b>Castlebridge, Co Wexford</b>	11
<b>Rosslare, Co Wexford</b>	5
<b>Rosslare Harbour, Co Wexford</b>	3

*Source CSO 2022*



## Section 5 - Assessment of Need

### 5.1 2024 Assessment of Need

An assessment of housing need was carried out as per Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government guidelines (DHPLG) by the Area Housing Officers in May 2024 to establish the existing and projected accommodation needs of the Traveller community in County Wexford who have applied for Social Housing Supports. This process involved assessing each Traveller applicant who qualified for Social Housing Supports in each municipal district to determine the overall need.

Seventy one Traveller family applicants were identified through this process and the following table gives a breakdown of their accommodation requirements:-

Municipal District	No of Families	Transfer	HAP	No. Beds	Accommodation Type	Special Needs
Enniscorthy	22	10	5	4x1 3x2 14x3 1x4	Social Housing	8 households require ground floor
Gorey	8	2	1	3x1 1x2 2x3 2x4	Social Housing (7 Households) Traveller Site (1 household)	
New Ross	17	8	3	7x2 9x3 1x4	Social Housing Traveller Site (1 site)	2 households require ground floor
Rosslare	5	2	0	2x2 2x3 1x4	Social Housing (5 Households)	1 household require ground floor
Wexford	19	4	1	5x1 6x2 7x3 1x4	Social Housing (14 Households) Traveller Group Housing (5 households)	3 household require ground floor
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>			

Families can only be included in the assessment of need and therefore considered for accommodation if the appropriate application forms are completed and submitted to WCC.

Once submitted the AHO will assess them to determine the accommodation need in accordance with the statutory assessment regulations.

Families will be supported in this process and the onus to complete and submit the appropriate forms is on the applicants themselves.

It should be noted that there are a number of families living in social housing tenancies where the applicants consider that their current accommodation no longer meets their needs. They have applied for housing transfers to more suitable accommodation. These families will have their ongoing accommodation needs addressed as part of Wexford County Council's housing allocation and will be considered as part of the overall assessment of accommodation need.

## 5.2 Current Profile in Co Wexford

In December 2023 as part of the annual National Traveller Estimate a total of 759 families were identified in County Wexford. Six hundred and sixty-seven are currently accommodated and 92 families are without accommodation. The table below shows the breakdown by municipal districts.

**Table 1 – Families with Accommodation**

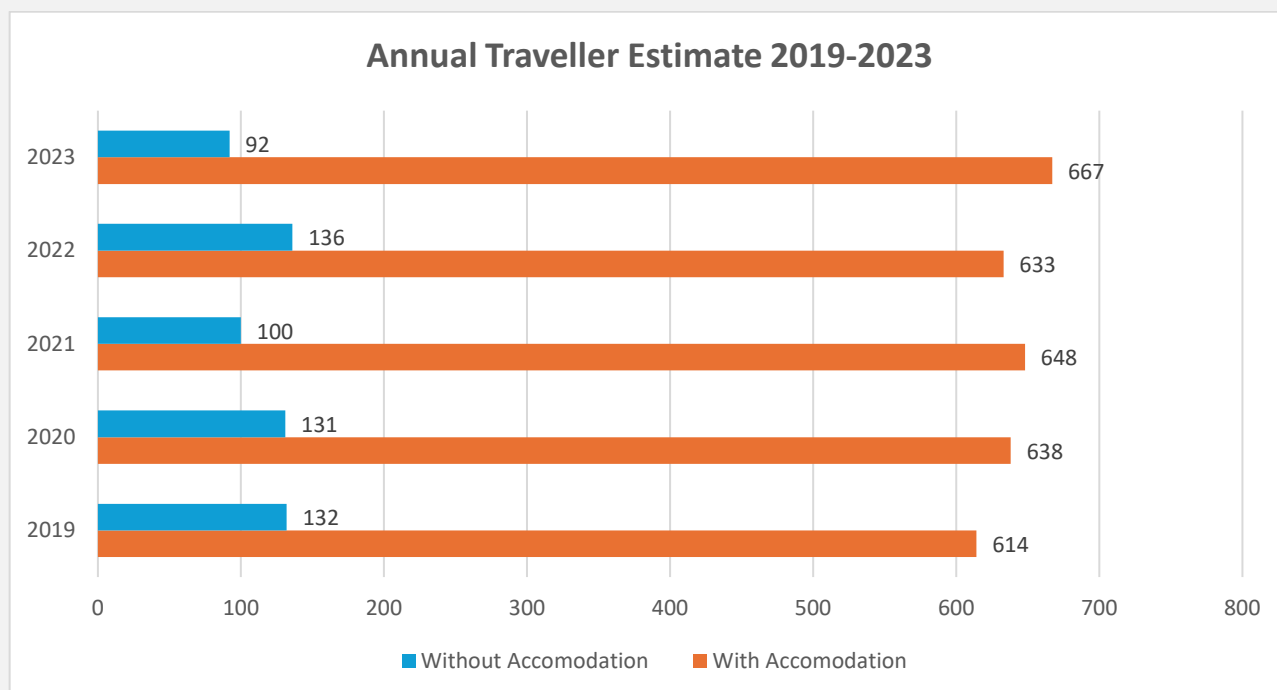
Type of Accommodation	Municipal District					Total
	Enniscorthy	New Ross	Wexford	Gorey	Rosslare	
Standard Social Housing	47	55	45	24	23	194
Local Authority Group	31	12	2	0	1	46
Private LA Assist	10	9	3	2	1	25
Other Private Houses	95	89	21	25	26	256
Private Rented	20	22	25	14	8	89
Voluntary Housing	10	3	9	18	0	40
Official Halting Sites	6	6	0	0	0	12
Other	1	1	2	0	1	5
<b>Total Families with Accommodation</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>667</b>

**Table 2 – Families without Accommodation**

Type of Accommodation	Municipal District					Total
	Enniscorthy	New Ross	Wexford	Gorey	Rosslare	
Sharing with relatives	7	9	8	11	0	35
Unauthorised Sites	13	11	9	15	9	57
Transient Sites	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadside Caravans	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Fixed abode	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Families without Accommodation</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>92</b>

### 5.3 Analysis of Annual Traveller Estimate

The graph below shows the results of the Annual Traveller Estimate from 2019-2023. From the Estimate of Traveller families it is noted that there is an decrease of 1.31% from 2022 to 2023. A total 759 families were identified in 2023 as residing in County Wexford and of the total, 667 are categorised as with accommodation. This is an increase from the start of the previous programme in 2019 of 8.2%. Throughout the programme we have seen year on year apart from 2021 an increase in the number of families with accommodation.



## Section 6– Role of Wexford County Council

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Wexford County Council has a responsibility for meeting the accommodation needs of the Traveller Community through the adoption and implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029. All housing applications will be considered in accordance with the Housing Allocation Scheme and Scheme of Letting Priorities. Applications must be made by means of the standard social housing application form. Advice and assistance will be provided to applicants and/or their representative, if requested by the applicant, to address any difficulties that may arise in completing the application form.

### 6.1 Accommodation Types

The Council will promote a range of and enable access to social housing options for Traveller families which are set out hereunder:-

- Standard Local Authority Housing
- Traveller Group Housing
- Halting Site
- Specially Adapted Housing
- Transient Sites
- Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme
- Housing Aid for Older People
- Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability
- Long Term Leasing
- Voluntary or Co-Operative Housing
- Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

### 6.2 Consultation

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 requires that an extensive consultation process underpins the preparation and implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. All Traveller Accommodation Programmes are required to be prepared in consultation with other adjoining local authorities, Health Service Executive, local Traveller

organisation and groups, individual Travellers, the local LTACC and other relevant community groups and the public in general.

As part of the consultation process Wexford County Council wrote to the following stakeholders on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 giving notice of the intention to carry out the Assessment of Need and inviting submissions for the preparation of the draft TAP 2025-2029 as per Section 8 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998.

Waterford City & County Council	Carlow County Council
Wicklow County Council	Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
Kilkenny County Council	Wexford Local Development
Tuath Housing	Co-operative Housing Movement in Ireland
Oaklee Housing	Focus Housing Association
Cluid Housing	Social Inclusion Office HSE
Irish Traveller Movement	Health Service Executive
Traveller Interagency Group	Respond Housing Association

Five submissions were received, and these were noted and considered in preparation of the draft Programme -see Appendix 1.

Once the draft programme was prepared and brought to LTACC and full Council on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 it was agreed to proceed to full public consultation. An advertisement was placed in the newspaper on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and the consultation process was open until the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Two further submissions were received during this period which are also include in Appendix 1. All submissions have been responded to by management and none necessitate a change in the programme at hand.

### **6.2.1 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)**

The Wexford LTACC has 12 members which includes elected members and Traveller representatives. The committee gives advice on the provision and management of accommodation for Travellers under Section 21 of the Traveller Accommodation Act, 1998. Membership of the LTACC provides for 5 Traveller positions, Elected Members of the Council and council staff. The committee aims to meet on a quarterly basis.

The Committee is chaired by the Chairman of Wexford County Council. WCC has appointed the following elected members to LTACC at their Annual General Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024:-

Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council (ex officio) – Cllr Pip Breen

Chair of the Housing and Community SPC (ex officio) – Cllr Jim Codd

Cllr Tom Forde

Cllr Lisa McDonald

Cllr Aoife Rose O' Brien

Cllr George Lawlor

Members representatives from the Traveller Community are elected through the Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN).

The LTACC will, further, give advice on equality and human rights issues and on accommodating cultural diversity, and play a role in the ongoing implementation of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty in the context of TAP. Training will be provided on an ongoing basis to the LTACC and its members to ensure effective participation by all, create a working environment of mutual respect, and enable shared cultural competence.

### **6.2.2 Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN)**

The PPN is a network of Community and Voluntary groups, clubs and organisations working at local level throughout County Wexford. Wexford PPN is involved in informing, developing and representing its member groups and is the structure through which the community voice and local expertise can be fed into a number of local decision making bodies. Public Participation Networks came into effect with the Local Government Reform Act 2014 – Section 46.

### **6.3 Housing Teams**

County Wexford has dedicated housing teams consisting of an Area Housing Officer, Housing Liaison Officer and Social Worker. This team assists in the development of housing strategies, including homelessness, disability and anti-social behaviour, accommodation advice and allocation services within County Wexford. They work in

partnership with other agencies to secure the best housing outcomes for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

### **6.3.1 Area Housing Officer (AHO)**

The Area Housing Officers assess clients for Social Housing Supports in County Wexford. They nominate clients for vacancies in their areas of choice. They create and maintain files and records of service users, ensuring that information is recorded in iHouse in a timely and accurate manner. They service a weekly housing clinic whereby clients can make appointments to see the AHO who can provide information and assistance to them on a range of housing issues. The AHO also works with Residents Associations within WCC estates. They also undertake residential housing inspections. In conjunction with the social workers they allocate emergency accommodation as appropriate.

### **6.3.2 Choice Based Letting**

Choice Based Letting was introduced in Wexford County Council in 2023. This was a new system of allocating properties which allows applicants to have more choice in terms of the type of accommodation and location where they prefer to live. This has reduced the level of refusal for offers of social housing significantly. The introduction of Choice Based Letting has had a significant impact on the rate of refusal across all types of accommodation offers. Again, in order to ensure that the introduction of this new system of allocations did not affect the level of accessibility to this process by Traveller families, an information / training session on the system / process was offered at LTACC. Although no specific session has been held for the Traveller community which can be arranged at any stage, advocates for specific groups of clients including travellers have been offered and attended these sessions. The particular barriers experienced by Travellers with regard to the housing allocation system will be a subject for review and consideration with a view to developing initiatives that might be effective in addressing any such barriers.

### **6.3.3 Traveller Identifier**

Applicants for social housing supports can identify as 'Traveller' on the Social Housing Supports application form (National form). Steps will be taken, in conjunction with Traveller organisations, to build an understanding of this option among Travellers, ensure an

appreciation of its potential to establish and improve with accuracy the situation of Travellers.

### **6.3.4 Information Provision Targeted on Traveller Community**

In order to ensure that the application process for Social Housing Supports is understood by the Traveller Community, sessions will be carried out at local level for Traveller groups where the Area Housing Officers and Housing Liaison Officers will attend to explain the process and assist with any queries. This has already been offered through LTACC and at the next meeting these sessions will be finalised in terms of where, time that suits and what items that need to be included on the agenda.

### **6.3.5 Housing Liaison Officer (HLO)**

The Housing Liaison Officers carry out pre-tenancy meetings for all new tenants. They establish contact and liaise with all tenants of WCC throughout the county. They foster good working relationships between local communities and WCC. They liaise with other agencies to prevent anti-social behaviour and promote good estate management. They work closely with the Social Workers and Area Housing Officers. They also undertake residential housing inspections on both WCC housing and on private rented houses. They record and investigate complaints including breaches of tenancies and anti-social behaviour. They serve warning letters and statutory notices when required. They attend court to give evidence.

### **6.3.6 Social Worker**

Local Authority Social Workers uphold the principles of CORU's Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers and provide a professional social work service to Housing Department service users. This service ranges from providing housing advice and information to the provision of targeted social work intervention and support. They also carry out assessments with a view to making recommendations to the Housing Department that facilitates the matching of resources to the needs of service users, identifying and addressing service users' needs and supporting social inclusion and community development.



The social worker also engages in both case and project based inter-agency work, providing a link between local authorities and external agencies.

They also participate in the development of policies. Some other issues that a social worker can assist with include mental health issues, domestic violence, child protection and financial issues.

Within the Social Work Team, there is one Social Worker who attends LTACC in an advisory capacity who is assigned specifically to advise on Traveller Accommodation related projects with a focus on the social and cultural needs of Travellers.

### **6.3.7 Pre-tenancy meetings**

The Housing Liaison Officers (HLO) conduct pre-tenancy meetings prior to the allocation of all types of accommodation units. These courses are very informative and assist in the prevention of anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy agreements. The course examines the Tenancy Agreement and explains the consequences of breaching the terms of same. The obligations of tenants (e.g. payment of weekly rent, maintenance of dwellings etc) are outlined. The HLO issues the new tenant with tenant and maintenance handbooks which outlines what services WCC offer, how to access them and the tenant's role.

### **6.3.8 Tenant Participation and Estate Management**

Wexford County Council encourages tenant participation in the management and maintenance of Traveller specific accommodation, social housing or in private rented properties. The Area Housing Officers meet various residents associations on site and provide funding for equipment for the upkeep of estates.

A model of culturally appropriate estate management will be explored and developed in relation to Traveller specific accommodation. This will build on the work done with the WLD Traveller Health Programme in the previous TAP. Barriers to Traveller tenant participation in social housing estates will be examined and efforts made to encourage participation.

### **6.3.9 Emergency Accommodation**

In the event of an emergency or family crisis Wexford County Council may provide appropriate emergency accommodation on a short term basis to meet the needs of the individual or family concerned. In addition, WCC offer a HAP Place Finder service which will support homeless persons in Wexford to find a private rented tenancy using HAP. An integrated Homeless Service Centre (HSSU) was opened in Wexford in 2019. The centre offers homeless supports, advice and services in one location, with an emphasis on homeless prevention and supports. This is a collaborative initiative by Wexford County Council working in partnership with the HSE and Focus Ireland. Some of the main services are being provided through the HSSU working in partnership with external state agencies and NGO's

Steps will be taken to support and ensure cultural competency across these providers and roles, to establish culturally specific needs of Travellers experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and to identify and develop approaches to accommodate cultural diversity within homelessness services.

A Homeless Co-ordinator role was created in Wexford County Council in 2019 to manage the homeless teams and report on homelessness levels. This team includes social care workers who provide support to clients experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and also a social worker who provides assistance in cases involving Traveller families.

### **6.3.10 Building relationships of Trust**

McDonagh (2018) found that Travellers often had a mistrust in services and were concerned about the lack cultural knowledge within services. Wexford County Council are committed to breaking down these barriers by continuing to engage with Traveller families, by listening to Traveller Representative and by working with Traveller specific supports in the community.

## **6.4 Maintenance**

Wexford County Council has a responsibility for the management and maintenance of all types of local authority accommodation units in partnership with the tenants to achieve an excellent two-way working relationship. The aim of this is to supply these services effectively. Tenant and maintenance handbooks are issued to all tenants which outlines what services are offered, how to access them and the tenant's role. They aim to provide

the tenant with a user friendly manual on what services are offered by the Housing Department and how the tenant can access them

<b>Traveller Accommodation Units / Maintenance (Group Housing Schemes and Halting Sites)</b>	<b>Expenditure*</b>
2024 to June	262,147**
2023	452,099
2022	444,634
2021	472,468

\* Please note this expenditure excludes maintenance works carried out on standard social housing allocated to Traveller Families.

\*\*As part of the Caravan Loan Scheme a number of new or replacement mobile homes were located at sites across the county. At Marshmeadows site in New Ross a complete clean up of the site was carried out as part of this, this explains the higher spend to date in 2024.

### **6.4.1 Fire Safety**

It is the policy of Wexford County Council to maintain appropriate fire safety standards at all local authority housing units which includes Traveller specific accommodation.

It is recognised that fire safety is a shared responsibility of both WCC and its tenants.

Wexford County Council will continue with the following programmes initiated in 2016:-

- Ensure all accommodation units are fitted with working smoke alarms.
- Ensure accommodation on halting sites are maintained to a standard to prevent fire spread between units.
- Ensure fire hazards on halting sites are monitored and reduced to a minimum.
- Ensure pre-incident planning visits are carried out for required sites by the fire service.
- Continue with a process of engagement with the Traveller community through the various groups to promote improved awareness on fire safety issues.
- Continue with the guidance as set out in the recommendations contained in the National Directorate Fire and Emergency Management – “Report on Review of Fire

Safety in Local Authority Provided Traveller Accommodation” published September 2016.

#### **6.4.2 Fire Safety output**

- All accommodation is periodically checked for working smoke alarms in conjunction with response maintenance calls and augmented as necessary.
- A detailed program of annual inspection of all Traveler accommodation properties is underway to ensure that they have working Smoke & CO alarms and fire blankets fitted.
- Sites are monitored and accumulation of flammable material are removed as necessary.

## Section 7 - Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

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The existing programme (*Wexford Local Authorities Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024*) which took effect on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 will continue to operate until the end of 2024.

The Minister's objective in terms of the extended time period is to ensure that the incoming elected members will have full ownership of the new TAP including implementation, which is in line with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee advice.

A mid-term review was carried out of the 2019-2024 Programme in 2022. As part of this review an assessment of housing need was carried out in August 2022 which identified families in need of accommodation. This statutory assessment of need assessed all applicants seeking assistance with accommodation. The number of approved Traveller families seeking accommodation at this time was 73 families. To take into account this revised assessment of need estimate, the target figures for the final two years of the programme were increased by 26.

<b>Year July to June</b>	<b>Target TAP 2019-2024</b>	<b>Revised Target following Mid Term Review</b>
2019 – 2020	20	20
2020 – 2021	20	20
2021 – 2022	20	20
2022 – 2023	20	33
2023 – 2024	20	33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>126</b>

## 7.1 Progress Achieved to date - TAP 2019-2024

Wexford County Council has assisted Traveller families to find suitable accommodation over the period of the 2019-2024 programme. WCC has endeavoured to meet the targets set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024; the table below shows the accommodation units offered over the lifetime of the programme.

Although at this point in time we are 17 units under target as the programme will continue until year end we estimate that at least a further 6 units will be allocated to Traveller families by then. It should also be noted we increased the targets in 2022 following the mid-term review and we have surpassed the 100 units the target under the original adopted programme.

<b>Year July to June</b>	<b>Target per Adopted Programme 2019-2024</b>	<b>Target following Mid-Term Review</b>	<b>Accommodation Offers made &amp; accepted (Including Housing First &amp; HAP)</b>
2019-2020	20	20	18
2020-2021	20	20	14
2021-2022	20	20	23
2022-2023	20	33	29
2023-2024	20	33	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>109*</b>

\* It is expected that at least 6 more units of accommodation will be offered to traveller families by the end of 2024 thereby increasing the delivery to 115.

In terms of 109 accommodation offers made only 11 were Traveller Specific Accommodation. Therefore the other 98 were funded through the Social Housing Programme and were not eligible specific funding under Traveller Accommodation.

It is also worth noting that all offers of accommodation were not accepted for various reasons.

## 7.2 Housing Output

During the period of the 2019-2024 programme, 52 families were housed in local authority built houses / turnkey developments, 4 were housed in Traveller specific houses, 34 were housed by Approved Housing Bodies, 12 families were supported through HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) and 7 at sites.

## 7.3 Specific Traveller Accommodation Units

The following Traveller Accommodation Units were delivered during the lifetime of the Traveller Accommodation programme 2019-2024:

Location	Delivery Stream	Cost
New Ross Municipal District	1 House Acquired	€187,627
Wexford Municipal District	1 House Built	€300,856
Rosslare Municipal District	1 House Acquired	€361,042
	1 Extension	€127,980
Enniscorthy Municipal District	1 House Built	€294,508

\* A further proposal for a house in the New Ross Municipal District is progressing and at this time has been submitted to the Department for approval.

## 7.4 Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme

This scheme which operated throughout 2023 and until the end of March 2024 was promoted through LTACC and through our social workers. We issued 13 applications to interested families and received 8 applications.

Wexford County Council was initially allocated 4 loans under the scheme, however, this was increased to 5 due to a request for an increase to match the number of eligible applications received.

Replacements	Additional Units
1	4

This Scheme proved very successful and if there is further interest in same it may be run again.

The mobiles that were funded under this scheme were at Marshmedow's site, New Ross and Bunclody.

## 7.5 Group Housing Scheme Progress

The need for a Group Housing Scheme was identified in the 2019-2024 Programme and progress on this project has been made.

The following steps have been completed to date:

- Cena (Culturally Appropriate Homes Limited) - an Approved Housing Body that is working for and with Travellers to address critical accommodation needs, were engaged to do a feasibility study with the families who requested the Group Housing Scheme to ensure that what Wexford County Council is designing will meet their accommodation needs including any cultural specific requirements of the families.
- The elected members in the relevant Municipal District have been consulted with on several occasions and a facilitator was engaged to carry out workshops with them around the plans for a Group Housing Scheme in their Municipal District. This proved very positive.
- At this point the scheme is being designed by Wexford County Council informed by the report of CENA following engagement with families. This will hopefully result in a design which is deliverable whilst taking into account the family's needs (including cultural specific around accommodation). Due to the nature of the preferred site there is a requirement under the Planning and Development Act to submit the application directly to An Bord Pleanala which is the next stage once design is finalised following further consultation with the families.



## 7.6 Improvement Works at Marshmeadow's Site

CENA was engaged following a request for quotation process to carry out a facilitation piece with the residents at the site.

The key objective of this piece of work is to provide training and support to assist the residents at the site in tenancy sustainment and development of their community to ensure that a positive environment is maintained at the site. Initial engagement with the family has taken place and this project is ongoing.

A request for feedback at LTACC in terms of what the residents at the site themselves wanted was made which was used to inform the facilitation process.

Items Raised included:

- Painting of Bays
- Replacement of Floor Covering
- Play Area for Children
- Gate at Entrance
- Community Building – back to original use
- Fire Assembly Point identification
- Control of Vermin
- General improvement of Hand Ball Alley.

Coupled with the facilitation work, the caravan loan scheme resulted in 4 new / replacement mobiles homes at the site. Wexford County Council's maintenance team lead by the Senior Executive Engineer in Housing whilst assisting with the removal of old mobiles, carried out a very large clean up of the site. Some of the works above identified by the residents were carried out as part of this process or are being considered as part of a planned maintenance programme for the site where appropriate. Wexford County Council are continuing a programme to return the community building to its former use. Work to date includes, removing horses, cleaning out and securing the building, repairs to the roof. Internal works include provision of toilets and kitchen.

The next stage here is to continue the engagement with the residents to ensure that the newly refurbished site maintains this positive environment and put supports or linkages in place with relevant staff or other agencies to ensure this occurs.

**Picture 1 – Marshmeadows before and after works took place.**



## 7.7 Other Projects

- Wexford Council Council have undertaken work in collaboration with the WLD Traveller Community Health Programme and residents from Bunclody Site. The residents have now formed a committee to work collectively and to advocate on behalf of Site residents, with the view to addressing issues relating to health, fire safety and other wider social and economic factors using a solution focused approach. This committee is supported by WLD via SICAP and the Traveller Community Health Programme in terms of networking, empowerment and building capacity.
- The Traveller Inclusion Project managed by FDYS aims to work with the Traveller communities throughout County Wexford to build Traveller capacity by providing support, information and referrals through culturally appropriate needs-based services and programmes. The community house at Drumgoold Group Housing Scheme houses the TIP service for this area and this location within the community adds to the success of the project.

## Section 8- Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

Wexford County Council will endeavour to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers who are approved housing applicants within the 5-year period of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029. The dedicated housing teams active throughout the county are complimented by a Homeless HAP Place Finder worker to assist in sourcing private rented accommodation. Together they provide an integrated approach to addressing the accommodation needs of the Traveller Community. While the targets reflect the preferred options, WCC will work with applicants to explore all options of meeting their accommodation needs either in a temporary or permanent basis.

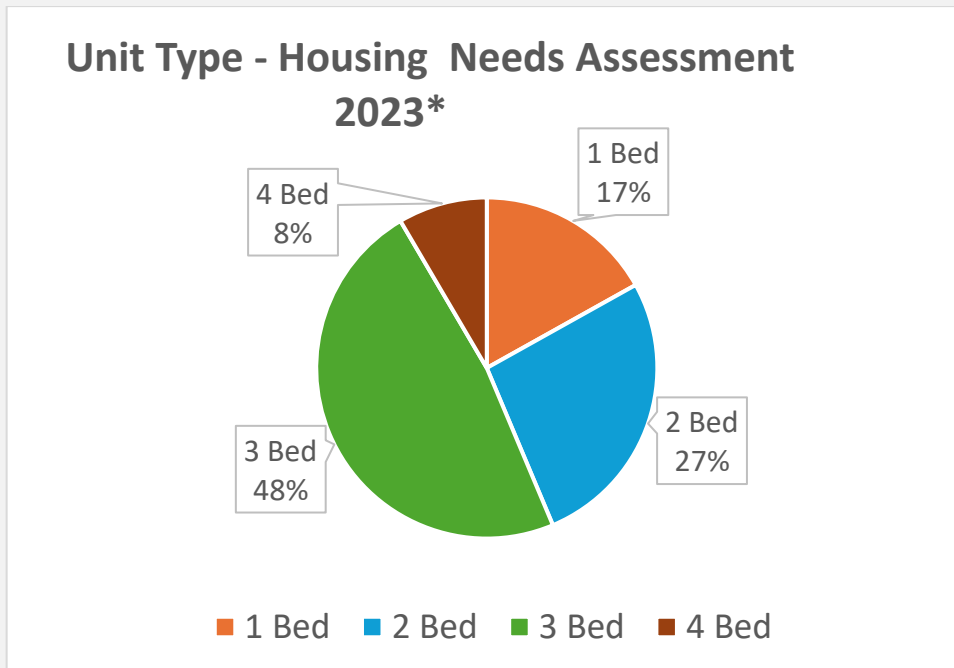
### 8.1 Analysis of Assessment of Need

An assessment of housing need was carried out as per Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government guidelines (DHPLG) by the Area Housing Officers in May 2024 to establish the existing and projected accommodation needs of the Traveller community in County Wexford. This process involved assessing each Traveller applicant who qualifies for Social Housing Supports in each municipal district to determine the overall need.

Seventy One Traveller family applicants were identified through this process and the following table gives a breakdown of their accommodation requirements:-

Municipal District	No of Families	Transfer	HAP	No. Beds	Accommodation Type	Specific Needs
Enniscorthy	22	10	5	4x1 3x2 14x3 1x4	Social Housing	8 households require ground floor
Gorey	8	2	1	3x1 1x2 2x3 2x4	Social Housing (7 Households) Traveller Site (1 household)	
New Ross	17	8	3	7x2 9x3 1x4	Social Housing Traveller Site (1 site)	2 households require ground floor

Rosslare	5	2	0	2x2 2x3 1x4	Social Housing (5 Households)	1 household require ground floor
Wexford	19	4	1	5x1 6x2 7x3 1x4	Social Housing (14 Households)  Traveller Group Housing (5 households)	3 household require ground floor
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>			



\* 44% of applicants require 1 or 2 bed units.

48% of applicants require 3 bed units

8% of applicants require 4 bed units

While Traveller specific accommodation will be provided where possible, the main source of accommodation units over the lifetime of this programme will be standard social housing in its current context, which includes RAS, Leased Accommodation, Approved Housing Bodies and also supported Private Rented Accommodation.

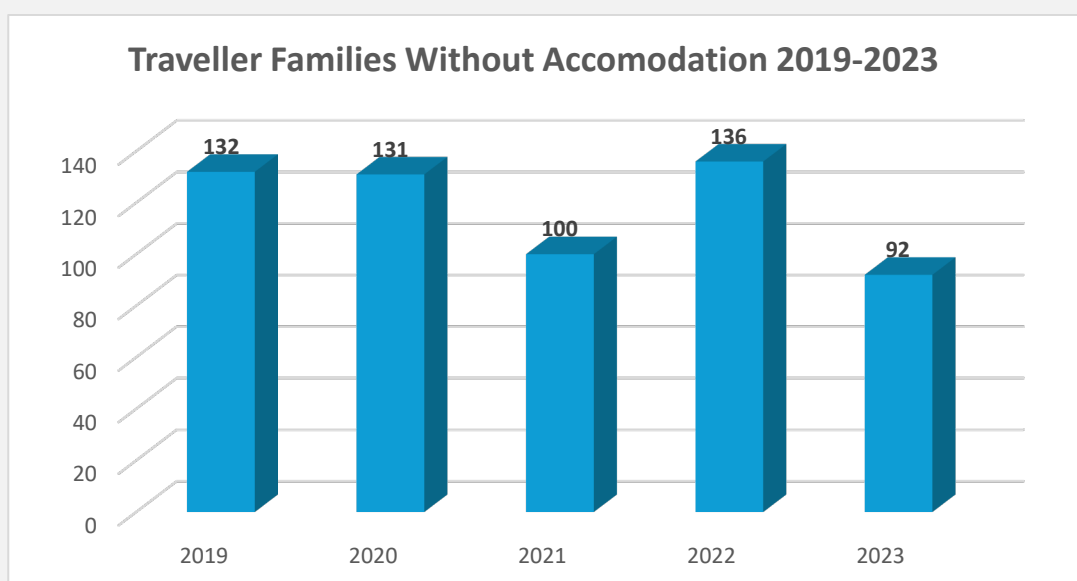
Families can only be included in the assessment of need and therefore considered for accommodation if the appropriate application forms are completed and submitted to WCC. Once submitted the AHO will assess them to determine the accommodation need in accordance with the statutory assessment regulations. Families will be supported in this process and the onus to complete and submit the appropriate forms is on the applicants themselves.

It should be noted that there are a number of families living in social housing tenancies where the applicants consider that their current accommodation no longer meets their needs. They have applied for housing transfers to more suitable accommodation. These families will have their ongoing accommodation needs addressed as part of Wexford County Council's housing allocation and will be considered as part of the overall assessment of accommodation need.

The assessment of need identified that 14 families require ground floor accommodation / special needs accommodations. A group has been established in the Housing Section to monitor and review applications where specially adapted housing is needed to ensure a delivery stream is identified early on. This includes staff from Capital delivery, Allocations, Housing representative on the Housing Disability Steering Group and Senior Executive Officer.

## 8.2 Projected Accommodation Needs 2025-2029

In addition to the analysis of assessment of need, consideration has also been given to the projected need for accommodation during the period of this Programme 2025-2029. The 2022 Census indicated an decrease of 4% on the 2016 Census figure of the number of Traveller Families in County Wexford. The annual Traveller count in December 2023 shows a decrease of 38.5% between 2022 and 2023 of the number of traveller families without accommodation.



The assessment of need identified 71 families and although there was a decrease shown both in the census figures and in the annual estimate in terms of families who are in need of accommodation, the overall population of the county increased by 9% from 2016-2022. Therefore it would be prudent to factor in potential growth in terms of the assessment of need at 5% or 3 additional units.

According to the recent CSO 2022 figures the Age Profile of County Wexford Traveller Population is as follows:

### Co Wexford Traveller Population Age Profile – Census 2022

	Number	Percentage
<b>Total population</b>	1441	100%
<b>Under 18</b>	522	36%
<b>18 – 25</b>	117	11.8%
<b>18 – 64</b>	834	57.8%
<b>Over 65</b>	85	5.8%

To ensure the programme is future proofed in terms of potential new Social Housing Applicants that may apply due to turning 18 during the lifetime of the programme, an analysis of these potential applicants was carried out as part of the assessment of needs.

The analysis carried out by the Area Housing Officers identified 73 children of applicants or occupants of tenancies that are currently 16-18 years old. Not all of these children will require housing in this period as they may find their own; form their own family units or move out of the county. However, to take this cohort into account a provision for 30% of this will be included in the target figures to take this into account which is 22 additional units needed. It is proposed that during the mid-term review we will carry out a similar exercise for those children of applicants and occupants who at this point are between 14-16 years old.

## 8.3 Annual Targets

In order for Wexford County Council to meet the projected accommodation need during the lifetime of this programme, it is considered that the best option is to spread the targets evenly over the 5-year period.

The Council will build, purchase and liaise with Approved Housing Bodies and the Private Sector to meet the accommodation need of families whose preferred choice is standard social housing. The projected need taking into account the assessment of needs carried out in May 2024 (71), projected population growth (4% or 3 units) and future proofing exercise carried out to identify children turning 18 during the first half of the programme (22) is 96 units.

Year	Target
2025	19
2026	19
2027	19
2028	19
2029	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96</b>

As part of the assessment of need it was noted that only 7 families expressed an interest in Traveller Specific Accommodation. As this only represents 7% of accommodation needs, the remaining 93% of the Councils Traveller Accommodation provision is not eligible for specific funding.

## 8.4 Implementation Strategy

The assessment of need and projected growth indicates a need to provide 96 units of accommodation during the lifetime of this programme. While the targets reflect the preferred options, WCC will work with applicants to explore all housing options with a view to meeting their housing need. It is acknowledged that true preferences are difficult to ascertain in contexts of shortages of all forms of accommodation, and WCC will explore and develop further means of engaging with Traveller families and Traveller organisations to review and assess data on true preferences in relation to accommodation needs. The

LTACC will advise on and keep such approaches under review and links on this issue could be explored with CENA. The Council will avail of the full range of housing options through the following methods:-

### 8.4.1 Private Rented

The Long Term Leasing Scheme, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), will be utilised as a means of addressing long term housing needs. It is acknowledged that there are issues arising in relation to the availability of private rented accommodation. The Homeless HAP Place Finder will assist Traveller families with the threat of becoming homeless in sourcing suitable private rented accommodation.

### 8.4.2 Standard Social Housing

Standard Local Authority accommodation remains the preferred accommodation option for households in Wexford. It is envisaged that the need will be met through the housing construction programme. As casual vacancies become available WCC will strive to accommodate families according to need.

### 8.4.3 Traveller Group Housing

Four families expressed an interest in Traveller Group Housing in the Wexford Municipal District Area during the assessment of need. At present Wexford County Council has 7 group housing schemes throughout the county in the following locations:-

Location	No of units	Location	No of units
Drumgoold, Enniscorthy	14	Na Coillte, Bunclody	7
Clonleigh, New Ross	2	Palace East, New Ross	2
Marconi Park, Enniscorthy	9	An Caislean Mhaol, New Ross	2
An Cluain Huigheid	4		



Steps will be taken to examine and implement approaches to retrofitting existing Traveller specific accommodation, and ensuring energy efficiency in new Traveller specific accommodation. Current and future provision kept under review to ensure quality of this provision and its capacity to meet the cultural needs of those living there

#### **8.4.4 Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)**

Wexford County Council supports housing delivery of units by Approved Housing Bodies and during the 2019-2024 TAP, fourteen traveller families were housed through this delivery stream.

Steps will be taken to support and ensure cultural competency within AHBs and to compliance with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty passed on in an appropriate form.

#### **8.4.5 Reasonable accommodation of Cultural Diversity**

Wexford County Council is committed to the reasonable accommodation of cultural diversity in the provision of our services and will continue to develop culturally specific responses to the housing needs of Travellers. This extends to consideration of and action on:

- Provision of Traveller specific accommodation, with attention to design that is culturally appropriate, wherein new guidance being developed at national level will be implemented.
- Anti-Racism and cultural competence training for staff.

#### **8.4.6 Caravan Loan Scheme**

WCC will seek and support applications from interested Traveller families in relation to the new preferential National Caravan Loan Scheme for Travellers.

## 8.5 Review of TAP 2025-2029

Wexford County Council shall review the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027. However, a review of this programme can be carried out at any time if considered necessary by WCC. Revised targets, if necessary, will be set for the following years based on the outcome of the review.

Steps to meet the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty will be reviewed as part of the Mid-Term Review in accordance with the WCC Implementation Plan for the Duty.

## 8.6 Funding

The capital provision for Traveller specific accommodation identified in TAP 2025-2029 will be sourced from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) under the Annual Capital Funding Allocation for Traveller Specific Accommodation.

Wexford County Council will submit proposals to:-

- Progress Traveller Accommodation projects already approved.
- Submit further details of Traveller Accommodation projects approved in principle.
- Submit new projects for Traveller Accommodation for consideration as they arise.

Housing acquisitions will be submitted to the DHPLG under the Social Housing Capital Investment Programme (SHCIP) and the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) as with all social housing acquisitions.

## 8.7 Traveller Organisations

WCC acknowledges the value and importance of well-resourced Traveller organisations with a capacity to organise within their community and bring forward the collective voice of their community. WCC seeks to enable and engage with effective Traveller organisations and their participation in making progress on providing culturally appropriate accommodation.

## Section 9 - Conclusion

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The estimated number of accommodation units required to meet the needs of the Traveller Community within the lifetime of this Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 is 96 housing units. This programme outlines the existing and projected need for Traveller Accommodation and how Wexford County Council will meet this need. It outlines the policies in relation to Traveller Accommodation strategy for implementation and targets.

Wexford County Council is committed to working with Travellers, Traveller representatives, local communities and other agencies to deliver the programme and provide quality accommodation for members of the travelling community through LTACC. The implementation of this programme requires a commitment from all involved to work together. The proposals contained in the programme are also subject to the necessary funding being available.

## Appendix 1 – Submissions

During the consultation process submissions were invited from the public in terms of the draft Programme. There were 7 submissions received in total set out hereunder. Each submission has a management response, and where they relate directly to the Programme they have been considered in the response.

<b>Submission No 1 Name: MABS</b>	
<b>Summary of Issues</b>	<b>Chief Executive's Response</b>
That local authorities incorporate an accessible and transparent application process and should signpost all potential applicants to their local MABS for free independent financial advice as well as providing a deduction at source mechanism for repayments.	In terms of the application form this is a national form and we will refer this matter to the Department for consideration. We will make applicants aware of MABs services.
That the trailer loan amount on offer should be increased to between €60,000 and €80,000.	The Caravan Loan Scheme is a national scheme and we will refer this matter to the Department for consideration
That Traveller Accommodation Programmes introduce a caravan rental scheme for families who are not in a position to finance the purchase of a residential standard trailer.	We will refer this to the Department for their consideration.
National Traveller MABS recommends that all local authorities support Travellers to access residential standard trailers and that all units provided to Travellers by the local authority be residential standard.	Under the Caravan Loan Scheme, the family selects their own mobile home. The supplier has to be registered under this scheme.
Local authorities should facilitate energy efficiency information initiatives for Travellers living in mobiles.	WCC facilitate this through our Residents Day which is held annually and has information available for all tenants regarding energy efficiency. Also this can be reviewed in terms of climate change programmes / projects which may be available in this area and can be communicated through the Housing Liaison Officers.

Local authorities should include more practical demonstration and pilot activities with regards energy efficiency measures focused on Travellers in the Traveller Accommodation Programme.	WCC facilitate this through our Residents Day which is held annually and has information available for all tenants regarding energy efficiency. Also this can be reviewed in terms of climate change programmes / projects which may be available in this area and can be communicated through the Housing Liaison Officers.
That a full and robust consultation with the Traveller community in the local authority's area take place.	WCC consult with LTACC on matters relating to Traveller Accommodation.
That the Public Sector Duty be fully embraced by local authorities in the drawing up of the Traveller Accommodation Programme.	See 2.3 of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2024-2029
<b>Submission No.2</b> <b>Name: Joint Submission from Irish Traveller Movement, National Traveller Women's Forum and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre.</b>	
The local authority should ensure that equality reviews be adapted into the Traveller Accommodation Programme as per the IHRC recommendation.	See 2.3 of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2024-2029.
Adherence to Guidelines: DHLGH (2023) Guidelines For The Preparation, Adoption And Implementation Of Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2025-2029 be fully endorsed by Each Local Authority	This guides the process we have undertaken in terms of the TAP 2025-2029.
Community Consultation: It is imperative that the TAPs are prepared and reviewed with adequate consultation and oversight. Circular 35/2018 stated, local authorities should collaborate closely with representative bodies of the Traveller community. By involving the Traveller community	LTACC is the consultative committee that provides input into the preparation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. See 7.5 and 7.6 of the programme.

and their representatives, first hand lived experiences and insights will greatly contribute to the success of the programme.	
Determining Need: Traveller Accommodation Programme must relate to both 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 caravan/trailer, and transient sites. There must be clear and measurable targets.	In the TAP 2025-2029 we have provided for an increase in need taking into account a percentage of the cohort of children that will turn 18 during the programme and projected growth in population.
Inclusion in Development Plans: County, City and Local Area Development Plans must include objectives for the provision of accommodation for Travellers and the use of particular areas for that purpose.	Projects undertaken are considered in line with County Development Plan which includes any proposed developments. We will refer this to Planning for consideration.
Alignment with Housing Strategies: Traveller accommodation should be planned in an intersectional way, informed by Housing for All, The National Housing Strategy(s) for Disabled People 2019 – 2027, The Action Plan on ‘Housing Options for our Ageing Population’, Housing First (Homeless Strategy) and the National Youth Homeless Strategy.	Our Programme is prepared within the framework of all these strategies.
Adoption of Equality Reviews: The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission report of Equality Reviews recommended the implementation of these should form the next TAPs.	See 2.3 of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2024-2029
Acceleration of Accommodation: We call for prioritisation of provision to Traveller families in shared and overcrowded accommodation & for overcrowding to be phased out as a matter of urgency.	Under our Allocation Policy Wexford County Council may consider application for transfer from one Local Authority accommodation to another where such transfer would relieve serious overcrowding, under occupancy, in accommodation or relieve a serious medical condition.

<p>Budgets: Each local Authority should provide costing for the full implementation of the Traveller Accommodation programme 2025-2029, including Maintenance, Capital Projects and any other allocations to support TAPs.</p>	<p>We will include an estimate of projected spend when the programme is adopted. However in terms of Maintenance and Delivery of Units as only 6.5% of the target need is for Traveller Specific Accommodation, 94.5% of the funding to deliver this programme will come from Social Housing Funding / Revenue Budget of the Council in terms of maintenance.</p>
<p>Alignment with Health Determinations: We endorse recommendations of The Traveller Health Unit to the Eastern Region to inform the drafting by the Local Authorities of the Traveller Accommodation Plans 2025-2029. Health Impact Assessments should be a prerequisite in the design of Traveller accommodation. They should also be undertaken on existing accommodation and reviewed during the lifetime of the TAP.</p>	<p>This will be considered in conjunction with any proposals.</p>
<p>Map Traveller Accommodation in the TAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each TAP should reflect the OPR's recommendation as referred in the DHLGH Circular 28/2022 Case Study Paper 'Traveller Accommodation and the Local Authority Development Plan, that local authorities improve linkages between the Traveller Accommodation Programmes, whether existing or amended, and their Development Plans.</li> <li>● Map sites in the TAP for the purpose of transient provision.</li> </ul>	<p>The County Development Plan always includes any proposals for Traveller Specific Accommodation.</p>
<p>Public Sector Duty: The TAP should state the Council's statutory obligation under the Public Sector Duty to eliminate discrimination and promote equality. The cultural needs of Travellers should be considered and assessed during the course of the consultation process.</p>	<p>See 2.3 of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2024-2029</p>

<p>The indigenous requirement should be reviewed to ensure there is no discrimination when compared to the requirements of the wider community in accessing social housing, i.e. it should be discretionary, rather than conclusive, to prevent potentially unlawful discrimination against Travellers.</p>	<p>See 2.3 of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2024-2029</p>
<p>An Environmental Health Framework: Environmental and Climate Change considerations should be factored into the planning of Traveller Accommodation and include prioritised energy retrofits with new developments built to the highest energy standards with the newest energy technologies to address energy poverty.</p>	<p>Wexford County Council new builds are all nZEB standard. Existing accommodation will be considered for retrofit based on BER rating.</p>
<p>Play facilities should be provided in Traveller specific accommodation in line with Action 61 in NTRIS1.</p>	<p>WCC will consider in consultation with Planning and Community.</p>
<p>A Human rights-based Approach to Traveller Accommodation to be implemented, including Anti-Racism Training for local authority staff and public representatives.</p>	<p>WCC staff have participated in anti-racism training and ongoing training on public sector duty is planned.</p>
<p>A General Ethnic Identifier should be used within the social housing application, as is best practice within a human rights framework, rather than a Traveller only question, and data should be collected specifically in each council for Travellers experiencing homelessness and reported via PASS.</p>	<p>We will refer this to the Department for consideration.</p>
<p>LTACC: There is a need for each LTACC to have an independent chair. Each LTACC should produce an annual report, and have TAP as a standing item, including progress reports.</p>	<p>The current chair is the Cathaoirleach as per Wexford County Council Standing Orders. The production of an annual report and including the TAP as a standing item on the agenda will be put in place.</p>



Midterm review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme should take into consideration the development of the future TAP Programme 2030-2034, with an awareness and understanding of future and projected need.	Wexford County Council will consider under the Mid Term Review when required.
<b>Submission No. 3</b> <b>Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan</b>	<b>Submission No. 3</b> <b>Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan</b>
From dealing with people from the Travelling Community there is a demand for single houses in the country with a small plot of land. Can this be looked at to include in the Programme.	In terms of the Assessment of Need only 7 families have requested Traveller Specific Accommodation. 5 of these are looking for a Group Housing Scheme and two families require accommodation on a halting site.
<b>Submission No. 4</b> <b>Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee</b>	
More halting sites should be purchased in the county if the need shows it.	This item will be considered with needs Assessment.
<b>Submission No. 5</b> <b>Irish Coalition to End Youth Homelessness</b>	
Develop and implement homelessness prevention programmes for young people.	WCC are currently engaging with travellers in temporary accommodation through Social Worker and the HSSU (Homeless Support Services Unit).
Enhance connectivity between local authorities and Tusla, to ensure that appropriate supports can be provided.	This is also referred through the social worker team.
Work with the LTACCs to consider and put in place any additional supports that are required at a local level to assist young Travellers who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.	This is also referred through the social worker team and a social worker sits on LTACC in an advisory capacity.
Ensure the specific inclusion of young people in Regional Homelessness Action Plans, with consideration given to those who have been identified in the Strategy as vulnerable cohorts.	The SE Regional plan is adopted and covers 5 counties in terms of homeless service delivery.
Establish Youth Tenancy Support Programmes.	Support networks are available through Barnardos. Tenancy Sustainment and Support. Aftercare supports.
<b>The following 2 submissions were received following the period of public consultation from 10/7/24 – 20/09/24. These submissions were considered but no changes were made to the Programme as the recommendations listed below were already factored into the Programme.</b>	

<b>Submission No. 6</b> <b>Cena</b>	
Develop and implement homelessness prevention programmes for young people.	WCC are currently engaging with travellers in temporary accommodation through Social Worker and the HSSU (Homeless Support Services Unit).
<p>We are asking that you acknowledge this opportunity in your TAP, and ask that you reflect your willingness to consider establishing or strengthening a Cena working relationship in one or more of the following ways</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Firstly, in engagement with specific Traveller families with a view to <i>assessment of individual accommodation needs</i> in the longer term. This engagement will be undertaken on a Traveller-to-Traveller basis, in partnership with trained Cena outreach workers who are all members of the Traveller community. We see this process as being important in efforts to ensure that accommodation solutions are appropriate, future-proofed and sustainable in the longer term – whether resulting in the acquirement of specific properties or in the development of group housing responses.</li> <li>2. Secondly, in planning, designing and developing <i>new accommodation</i>. The partnership with Cena will ensure full involvement of Traveller families in the process and in the development of good practice in provision of Traveller-appropriate accommodation. A successful starting point, in some local authorities already, has been in the redevelopment of existing halting sites. Such redevelopment has been, and will always be, planned in accordance with results of a ‘feasibility study’. Cena will carry out the study – based on in-depth consultation with all residents.</li> <li>3. Thirdly, in undertaking a more extensive, local authority-wide, <i>assessment of accommodation needs</i>. Cena has already undertaken such assessments in Clare (across the county) and in Longford (covering all of Longford town). Even though this is a more time and resource intensive process, we firmly believe in</li> </ol>	<p>WCC has engaged the services of Cena in two areas recently:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To liaise with families in terms of design of a Group Housing Scheme to ensure that consultation and participation in decision making in terms of the design was / is carried out. This will ultimately lead to a design that will meet the specific needs of the families which was provided to our design team by way of a report from CENA.</li> <li>2) We also engage CENA in the facilitation of work at a Halting Site in the county in order to improve the environment thereon and we have completed some works at the site and are now looking to establish a resident’s group to maintain this practice environment.</li> <li>3) We are arranging a discussion with traveller group in October around the Housing Application Form, HAP, Choice Based Letting. This will comprise of a number of relevant housing staff explaining the process and answering questions in terms of same.</li> <li>4) In this programme to ensure the future needs of travellers in county Wexford looking for Social Housing Supports is considered, an allowance for those persons who will turn 18 before mid-review point in the program has been included in overall assessment of need figures. Again, in the programme it is recommended that this process is carried out again at midterm review stage.</li> </ol> <p>This will not change the programme as this work has commenced or has already been factored into the programme.</p>

the value of the exercise. We have consistently experienced shortcomings in the more traditional ('paper-based') means of assessing Traveller accommodation needs. A more in-depth engagement with Traveller households (undertaken by Travellers trained in outreach) yields a much more reliable and realistic understanding of accommodation needs and wishes. While the process is more resource-intensive, we are fully convinced that results from such a needs analysis can provide a solid foundation for strategic planning – not only to underpin the current Traveller Accommodation Programme, but as a baseline from which future TAPS can be planned.

4. Fourthly, in addressing specific challenges involved in *Traveller homelessness*. Cena are prepared to enter into Service Level Agreement arrangements (supported under Section 10 funding) to undertake a joint structured programme to establish:
  - a. The extent and nature of Traveller homelessness in your catchment area.
  - b. Feasible and appropriate ways in which emergency provision can be made
  - c. Feasible and appropriate ways in which pathways out of homelessness can be plotted
  - d. Joint working agreements through which solutions can be brought forward.
5. Fifthly, ways in which *other Approved Housing Bodies* can become actively involved in delivery of appropriate accommodation for Travellers. Following on from recommendations contained in the Expert Review Group on Traveller Accommodation (2019), and subsequent support from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Cena are now cooperating with a number of other AHBs who are committed to delivery in a partnership way<sup>1</sup>. This Cena-led

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<sup>1</sup> These include Circle Housing, Respond, Cluid and Simon Community

<p>partnership can also be specified as an approach to addressing particular accommodation challenges identified in your Traveller Accommodation Programme.</p>	
<p><b>Submission No. 7</b> <b>Wexford Local Development</b></p>	
<p>That there should be a concerted effort to <b>improve living conditions in existing Traveller specific schemes</b> – look to models of best practice around the country to ensure that halting sites in particular are safe, fully completed, maintained on an ongoing basis and future proofed from an energy and climate perspective.</p>	<p>This relates to the ongoing management and maintenance of sites and work has started at the sites where improvements have been made and visits with technical, tenant liaison and social work have taken place to listen to and advice regarding ongoing issues. Some work has been carried on by CENA in term of ensuring a positive environment is maintained where improvement works have happened, and it planned to look at the community engagement element in the next phase. This does not necessitate any changes to the programme at hand and will continue going forward.</p>
<p>Specific efforts should be made to <b>ensure that accommodation options are easy to understand and apply for</b>. The extent of difficulties in literacy/digital literacy within the community would be recognized and alternative approaches taken to ensuring that applicants and residents can understand and access supports available. Presently WLD SICAP and TCHP staff are spending significant time assisting Travellers in filling out forms and following up on queries, time that should be spent on health, personal development, education and employment issues within the community.</p>	<p>Sessions with relevant Housing Staff have been offered on several occasions through LTACC to traveller groups in terms of explaining Housing Application process / form, Social Housing Supports, Choice Based Letting. These will now commence with one scheduled for early October. This does any changes to the programme at hand but will be completed before mid-term review.</p>
<p>There should be <b>more group housing schemes</b> – single storey dwellings catering for extended family groups with consideration for the needs of young couples and those with health needs and/or disability and safe and adequate outdoor spaces for recreation and play.</p>	<p>In this Traveller Accommodation Programme there is a need identified for one Group Housing Scheme which is progressing and is at design stage. The programme is considered and developed around the assessment of need.</p>
<p>Perhaps the most important theme, one that permeated all of the groups and subsequent meetings was that above all, <b>Travellers fervently wish to be listened to by officials and policy makers and to have their concerns fully heard and responded to in a timely manner</b>.</p>	<p>Sessions with relevant Housing Staff have been offered on several occasions through LTACC to traveller groups in terms of explaining Housing Application process / form, Social Housing Supports, Choice</p>

<p>This goes well beyond anti-racism and cultural awareness training (however necessary these are) and into the impact of this cultural awareness training on how things actually work. In other words, the effectiveness of efforts to communicate sensitively with this very marginalised and maligned community should not be measured by the amount of training or measures taken to mitigate this but rather by <b>the impact of this training and those measures from the perspective and lived experience of Travellers themselves.</b></p> <p>This is not an initiative which would cost anything in monetary terms but which has the potential to restore trust and repair a damaged historic relationship between Travellers and the State creating the conditions for much more positive work going forward. This would be tangible both at the level of individual officials who work with the community and in the structures and procedures surrounding the accommodation process such as how forms are designed, how people are supported to understand and complete them and the availability of clear points of contact for specific issues such as safety on halting sites. The implementation of plans agreed as well as protocols around communication suggested above would be the focus of this work, an essential component of building trust and laying the foundations for greater collaboration between the Travelling community and the Local Authority going forward.</p>	<p>Based Letting. These will now commence with one scheduled for early October.</p> <p>Some housing staff have in the last year completed Traveller Culture Awareness training and certainly where more is on offered it will be availed of by other relevant staff.</p> <p>Meeting have been arranged also on Halting sites to listen to the residents' issues.</p> <p>Again this process has begun and will not necessitate any changes in the programme at hand.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allied to this, the <b>Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee</b> is a valuable statutory structure that allows members of the community to engage with elected representatives and officials to monitor and advise on the ongoing implementation of the TAP. WLD is committed to supporting the community representatives on this committee to ensure that they can work effectively for the benefit of all Travellers in Co. Wexford. For this work to be effective, we recommend that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the <b>minimum of four meetings per year take place over the lifetime of the TAP</b> with full quorums.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>These matters can be raised and considered at LTACC and an annual plan will be agreed by the committee.</p> <p>This will not necessitate any changes in the programme at hand.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that a <b>minimum of one month notice be given before each meeting</b>, with a detailed <b>agenda</b> of items for discussion and any associated materials, to allow the representatives to meet and prepare their input as well as to make practical arrangements for care for children and elderly relatives and their own transportation. Wexford Local Development will support this process with Traveller community representatives, but prior notice is an essential pre-requisite. Ideally an annual schedule could be agreed at the start of each calendar year.</li> <li>• that the <b>selection of representatives of local Travellers to the LTACC</b> is an open, supportive and transparent process and that Wexford County Council liaises with Wexford Local Development in relation to the selection of Traveller representatives for the LTACC. Wexford Local Development will in turn commit to developing an inclusive, supportive and transparent process in collaboration with local Traveller groups and other support organisations such as the FDYS Traveller Inclusion Project and local Family Resource Centres. We do not recommend that the Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN) is an appropriate nomination structure to achieve meaningful representation of Travellers at this point in time.</li> <li>• that an <b>allowance</b> be paid to non-working Traveller representatives for attendance at LTACC meetings to cover costs associated with transport and caring commitments.</li> <li>• that <b>specific targets and actions be agreed, documented and monitored</b> for progress over the lifetime of the plan.</li> </ul>	
<p>Finally, Wexford Local Development supports and endorses the recommendations put forward by national Traveller organisations, including the submission from the coalition of The Irish Traveller Movement, Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and the National Traveller Women’s Forum, as well as the regional and national Traveller Health Units of the HSE in their submissions to Wexford County Council and the new LTAP and looks forward to further engagement with the Council once the plan is finalised and implementation begins in 2025.</p>	

<p><b>Procedural Recommendations for the duration of the TAP 2025-2029:</b></p> <p><b>Consultation:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits arranged to both Halting Sites and at least one group housing scheme by LTACC members each year</li> <li>• All members of the LTACC receive Traveller Cultural Awareness Training in the first year of the new TAP</li> <li>• An agreed programme of outreach to Traveller specific housing in collaboration with support organisations be agreed each year</li> <li>• Plans for provision to new family formations be reviewed in 2027, with consideration for family members from age 15 years upwards</li> <li>• Methods used to establish need are clearly communicated at time of assessment and Traveller representatives are made aware of when assessments are taking place</li> </ul>	<p>Visits to Halting Sites can be arranged for new LTACC members and would be beneficial for other Housing Staff also to attend.</p> <p>An agreed programme of outreach to Traveller specific housing in collaboration with support organisation can be considered by LTACC.</p> <p>Plans for provision to new formations is provided for in the TAP 2025 – 2029.</p> <p>This will not necessitate any changes in the programme at hand and methods used to establish need will be considered at mid-term review point.</p>
<p><b>Representation:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of 4 full quorum meetings of the LTACC take place each year</li> <li>• An annual schedule of LTACC meetings set out at the start of each calendar year</li> <li>• Nomination of Traveller representatives be carried out in collaboration with WLD &amp; other Traveller support organisations</li> <li>• Monitoring of accommodation preferences of Travellers on an ongoing basis through the LTACC</li> </ul>	<p>A minimum of 4 full quorum meetings of LTACC to take place every year will be considered by LTACC.</p> <p>An annual schedule of LTACC meetings will be considered by LTACC.</p> <p>Nomination of Traveller representatives be carried out in collaboration with WLD and other Traveller support organisation will be considered by LTACC.</p> <p>Monitoring of accommodation preferences of Travellers on an ongoing basis through LTACC will be considered by LTACC. However, the Assessment of Needs will guide the development of any programme.</p> <p>This will not necessitate any changes in the programme at hand.</p>

<p><b>Recognition of Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ethnic identifier be used on housing forms to determine membership of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Tracking and monitoring of Travellers living in emergency accommodation (homeless) and reporting of these numbers to the LTACC</li> <li>• Tracking and monitoring of data in relation to a breakdown of preferences by accommodation type as targets and outputs by accommodation type, including HAP/RAS.</li> </ul>	<p>Regarding the ethnic identifier, as many of our forms are national forms, this can be sent to the Department for consideration.</p> <p>Regarding tracking and monitoring in relation to emergency accommodation, homeless figures are reported on through the region and at this point there is no specific reporting for Traveller families in emergency accommodation.</p> <p>Regarding tracking and monitoring of the breakdown of preferences by accommodation type, this is part of the TAP process.</p> <p>This will not necessitate any changes in the programme at hand.</p>
<p><b>Access to Information: -</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Specific dedicated support within Wexford County Council to assist Travellers to understand their options, including culturally specific preference options, when filling out housing application forms &amp; when accessing choice-based letting services.</li> <li>2. Due regard is given to literacy issues, including digital literacy.</li> <li>3. Clear points of contact for specific maintenance issues be established and updated as needed.</li> <li>4. Clear points of contact in relation to accommodation applications be established and updated as needed.</li> <li>5. Clear points of contact for services in relation to HAP and Homeless services for Travellers be established.</li> <li>6. Clear points of contact in relation to process for disability adaptations established.</li> <li>7. Specifying in detail how the TAP will ensure all accommodation preferences are communicated and understood by Travellers.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sessions arranged for October with relevant staff can be held more frequently with groups to explain these processes. These sessions have been offered through LTACC on several occasions with no previous take up.</li> <li>2. Sessions arranged for October with relevant staff can be held more frequently with groups to explain these processes. These sessions have been offered through LTACC on several occasions with no previous take up.</li> <li>3. Maintenance issues are logged through the Customer Service Unit.</li> <li>4. Area Housing Officers are the contact for Social Housing Support Applications, reps of this group will attend any sessions organised.</li> <li>5. There is a HAP Unit within Housing and a Homeless Unit these are the points of contact for these respective areas reps from these areas will attend sessions organised.</li> <li>6. The Grants Section are the points of contact for this area reps from this areas will attend sessions organised.</li> </ol>



	<p>7. This will be an ongoing process alongside TAP and again is one of the reasons why these sessions have been offered and now organised.</p> <p>This relates to operational issues and does not necessitate any changes to the programme at hand.</p>
<p><b>Access to Related Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular outreach to Traveller specific housing schemes &amp; halting sites to engage verbally with residents in relation to ongoing maintenance and living conditions.</li> <li>• Clear and documented outline of maintenance responsibilities of both tenants and of Wexford County Council be communicated to Traveller tenants, to the LTACC and to support organisations.</li> <li>• Comprehensive plans be developed for improvement works on both Halting Sites, informed by best practice models from other parts of the country as identified by the LTACC.</li> </ul>	<p>A regular outreach process has started and will be considered further.</p> <p>Clear and documented outline of maintenance responsibilities can be an item included in the sessions organised. It is the Tenant Liaison Officer that deals with these matters and there is a Tenants Handbook available.</p> <p>Comprehensive plans for improvement works will be considered by LTACC.</p> <p>This relates to operational issues and does not necessitate any changes to the programme at hand.</p>
<p><b>Climate Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specific programme of retrofitting be developed for existing Traveller specific housing stock, including on Halting Sites, to combat energy poverty.</li> <li>• An accessible education and awareness resource be developed specifically for Traveller in relation to retrofitting and energy efficiency, including about replacement home heat systems such as air to water heat pumps. This is essential in advance of any works.</li> </ul>	<p>Education and awareness sessions are carried out at our Residents Awards day and further sessions can be considered.</p> <p>This relates to operational issues and does not necessitate any changes to the programme at hand.</p>

<p><b>Health, Environment &amp; Fire Safety</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual fire safety assessments take place at all Traveller specific accommodation.</li> <li>2. Fire safety reports be monitored by the LTACC.</li> <li>3. Risk assessments take place at all Traveller specific accommodation.</li> <li>4. Provision is included for development of safe, outdoor play areas for children living on Halting Sites and other Traveller specific accommodation in line with Action 61 in NTRIS.</li> <li>5. Disability adaptations for Travellers are prioritised in line with recommendations of Traveller Health Unit.</li> <li>6. Health Impact Assessments are carried out on both existing Halting Sites.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. These are carried out by Fire Service and Maintenance Section.</li> <li>2. For consideration by LTACC</li> <li>3. Unclear what this relates to.</li> <li>4. For consideration by LTACC</li> <li>5. For consideration by LTACC and referred to the HSE.</li> <li>6. This will be referred to the HSE</li> </ol> <p>This relates to operational issues and does not necessitate any changes to the programme at hand.</p>
<p><b>Public Sector Duty &amp; Equality Reviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations from the IHREC Equality Review are built into the TAP and processes related to the provision of Traveller specific accommodation services.</li> </ul>	<p>See report.</p>
<p><b>Budgets &amp; Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation plan for the TAP be developed with timelines.</li> <li>• Costed budget of the TAP to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maintenance</li> <li>○ Capital Projects</li> <li>○ Other supports to implementation of the TAP</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>This will be considered by LTACC.</p>

## Appendix 2 – Committees

The following is the current list of membership of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC):-

WCC Chairperson (Ex-Officio)	SPC Chair (Ex-Officio)
Biddy Connors, Traveller Rep.	Maggie Connors, Traveller Rep.
Elizabeth Berry, Traveller Rep.	Mary Connors, Traveller Rep.
Nan Moorehouse, Traveller Rep.	Marie Louise Byrne, WLD
James Connors, Traveller Rep.	Cllr. George Lawlor
Cllr. Lisa McDonald	Cllr. Tom Forde
Cllr. Pat Kehoe	Cllr. Aoife Rose O'Brien
Ms. Anita McLoughlin, A/SEO	Ms. Carolyne Godkin, DOS
Ms. Sharon Ryan, SSO (secretary)	Mr. Stephen Sheehan, Social Worker (advisory)
Mr. Ray Colfer, HLO (advisory)	

## Membership of Wexford TAP project team:-

- Ms. Anita McLoughlin, A/Senior Executive Officer
- Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer
- Mr. Stephen Sheehan, Social Worker
- Mr. Ray Colfer, Tenant Liaison Officer
- Ms. Sharon Ryan, Senior Staff Officer

