



Cork City Traveller Accommodation Programme

TAP 2025-2029

DRAFT for Public Consultation

This document was prepared on behalf of Cork City Council by HW Planning, in partnership with the Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU), the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) and the Traveller Community through their participation in the assessment of need process and members of the Traveller Advocacy Groups.

Cork City Council wish to extend our sincere thanks to all involved, in particular to the many children who participated in the consultation workshops, whose artwork is included throughout this document.

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01 Introduction

01.1 Legislative Background

Under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, each Housing Authority must prepare and adopt a 5-year Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP). The TAP seeks to assess and address the accommodation needs of Travellers within each Local Authority's functional area. This TAP is for the period between 2025 – 2029 and will replace the previous 2019 to 2024 programme, which will lapse in December 2024. This will be the sixth successive TAP prepared by Cork City Council.

In December 2023 the Minister issued '*Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption and Implementation of Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2025 – 2029*', to guide Local Authorities in their efforts to deliver appropriate accommodation for the Traveller Community in Ireland. The Cork City Council TAP has been prepared in full accordance with these Guidelines and also has regard to other expert guidance.¹

01.2 Existing Context

The previous TAP 2019-2024 recognised the specific pressures that arise in Cork City, with respect to accommodating a Traveller population that was traditionally rural and largely retains rural accommodation preferences. This pressure has increased in the preparation of TAP 2025-2029, which is now set in the context of a national housing and homelessness challenge, to which sections of the Traveller population are especially vulnerable. The extension of the Cork City boundary in 2019 has presented both opportunities and constraints with regard to the city's Traveller population. There are challenges incorporating some families with strong county affiliations into a metropolitan area.

Consistently through all the previous TAPs, the Council has sought to identify measures that would improve the lives of the Traveller Community across Cork City in recognition of the serious and complex challenges they face. The TAP 2025-2029, builds upon the aims and objectives of the previous plans and seeks to address the ever-changing Traveller environment.

Travellers are an ethnic minority group within Ireland, that have their own distinct lifestyle, cultural beliefs, language and traditions that have been documented throughout Irish society for centuries. The formal recognition of Travellers as an ethnicity further reflects the distinct and specific needs of this minority group. Cork City Council is committed to promoting the equality and inclusion of Travellers, the Council has an Equality Action Plan and will implement the recommendations of the plan without delay. As such, the TAP 2025-2029 aims to bring together national and local policies to support this important ethnic group in our community.

01.3 The Traveller Population in Ireland

Accurate demographic information is the key to successful planning for any population and a TAP is no exception. However, inconsistencies exist between available census data regarding the Traveller population and the Annual Count of Traveller Families carried out by Local Authorities². Improved communication between the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Units and Traveller organisations in the 2022 Census has led to improvements, but discrepancies still exist, making it more difficult to plan effectively and with certainty.

In the 2022 Census the Irish Traveller population in the state was recorded as 37,826³ persons, while the population identifying as "White Irish Traveller" ethnicity is recorded as 32,949⁴ persons. The 2022 Census records 9,448 Irish Traveller private

¹ Traveller Accommodation Expert Review Report 2019 and Programme Board Reports.

² Traveller Accommodation Expert Review Report 2019 and Programme Board Reports.

³ Table F5072 in the 2022 Census.

⁴ Table F5068 in the 2022 Census.

households in the state, compared to the 2022 Annual Count of Traveller Families⁵, where the total number of families is estimated at 12,183. These inconsistencies have ramifications in planning for Traveller future accommodation needs.

The census figures indicate that the average Traveller household size across the state is 4 persons per household, higher than the 2.74 figure for the total population, but significantly lower than traditional Traveller family sizes. This trend of reducing household size needs to be taken into consideration in the TAP 2025-2029.



Figure 1 National Traveller Population Statistics⁶

⁵ Compiled by Local Authorities for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLG&H).

⁶ 2022 figures used for comparative purposes. A review of 2023 Annual Count figures is included within section 04 of this report.

Age Profile

It is evident from both sources that the national Traveller population has increased in recent years with the 2022 Census reporting a 12% population increase and a 22% increase in household numbers nationally since 2011. This growth is also reflected in the Annual Traveller Count figures that show a 5.9% increase in Traveller households between 2021 and 2023.

Despite this growth the Traveller population has consistently represented 6.5 persons in every 1,000 persons nationally since 2011.

The Irish state population, with falling birth rates and a high life expectancy, is aging faster than anywhere else in Europe. By contrast the Irish Traveller population has a uniquely young demographic profile, with the average age of Irish Travellers being 27 years in 2022, significantly younger than the average age of 39 years for the total population.

In general, as illustrated in Figure 2, the Traveller population has higher fertility rates and lower life expectancies than the total population. In considering Traveller accommodation needs it is also important to note that in the 2022 Census 15% of Travellers reported having a significant, long-lasting medical condition, nearly twice the proportion in the total population.

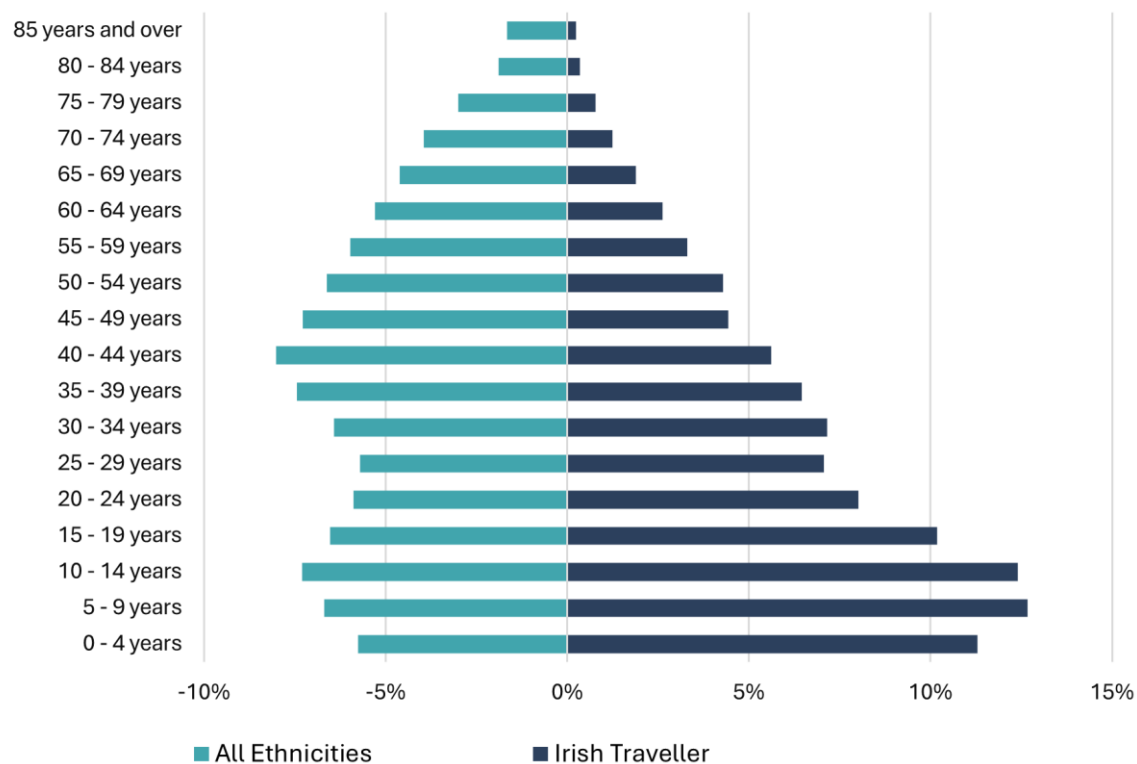


Figure 2 Age Profile of Irish Travellers Compared to Total Population (based on CSO Table F5064)

Accommodation

Of relevance to this TAP is the changing pattern of Traveller accommodation nationally, highlighted in Figure 3 and as evidenced in the Census 2022 data. This illustrates that permanent houses is the predominant form of Traveller accommodation. In addition, apartments now play an increasing important role in the permanent housing provision, while the number of households living in temporary housing, in the form of caravans and mobiles homes, has declined from 12% in 2016 to 7% in 2022.

A trend, however, is evident in the last 4 years of figures which indicates an increase in the percentage of families living on unauthorised halting sites from 4% to 5%, and a decrease in families living in private rental housing from 19% to 12%. The percentage of households living in shared housing remained relatively constant at 8%, while households accommodated using their own resources fluctuated from 5% to 8% and back to 7% between 2020 and 2023.

The Annual Traveller Count⁷ provides more granular detail in this respect, highlighting that Local Authority Accommodation or Assistance accounted for 66% of Traveller household accommodation in 2022, rising to 68% in 2023. This high figure highlights the importance of the TAP in supporting Traveller families in our community.

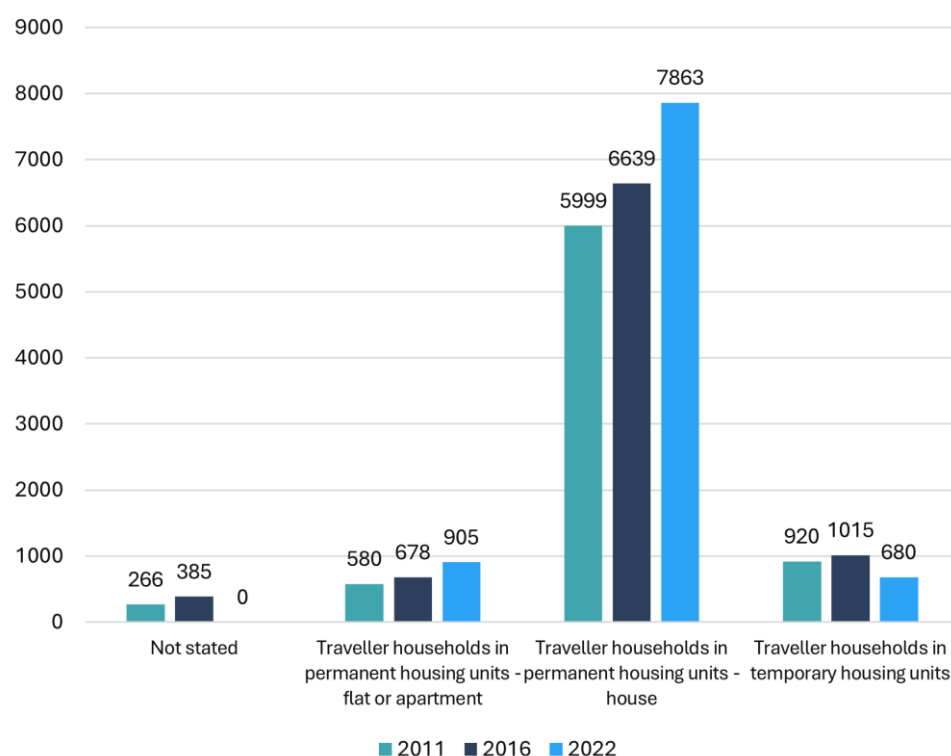


Figure 3 Accommodation Type of Traveller Households Nationally 2011 – 2022 (based on CSO Table F5064)

⁷ Household figures differ in 2022 Annual Count from 2022 Census so percentages are used here.

01.4 Cork City Traveller Population

2022 Census reported that there were 1,442 Travellers⁸ recorded in 381 private households, within the Cork City area. The average number of people per household was c. 3.78, slightly below the national average Traveller household size of 4.

The number of households is significantly lower than the 579 Traveller families recorded in the 2022 Annual Count of Traveller Families residing in Cork City. This difference may be attributed to a number of factors. While significant effort went into the 2022 Census to improve the return rate amongst Travellers, it remains likely that the Census figure is an underestimate, with an element of the community remaining 'hidden' from official records.

On the other hand, there may have been an aspect of inadvertent double counting in the Cork City Annual Traveller Count, with different members of the same family unit liaising separately with the Council. In addition, there is an issue in differentiating between household numbers and family numbers, as multi-generational households are more prevalent in Traveller households. This can lead to issues as Census records are based on households, while the Annual Traveller Count records the number of families.

Cork City Council have made extensive efforts to address these issues in the 2023 Annual Count data. The various data streams have been rigorously checked and cross-referenced. Upgrades to the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) recording system have led to a figure revision, with a reduction being recorded in the number of families in the city. At 510 families, this is now more in line with the 2022 Census household data.



Figure 4 Cork City Traveller Statistics

⁸ The Census 2022 generally returns a Traveller population figure combined with Cork County of 2376. However, different figures are reported in different CSO Tables for this, ranging from 2089 in FY26B & F5093 to 2975 in F50000072.

The Cork City Annual Traveller Count records show a 9% increase in the number of Traveller families living in Cork City between 2019 and 2022. Notwithstanding the figure correction for 2023, a high Traveller population growth rate has been recorded in Cork City.



Figure 5 Cork City Annual Traveller Count data for Traveller Families in Cork City.

Figure 6 indicates that at 79% the Local Authority Accommodation or Assisted Accommodation category⁹ is the predominant form of Traveller accommodation in Cork City and has increased its share of the accommodation provision over the last 4 years.

- Local Authority Halting Sites.
- Unauthorised Halting Sites.

The Annual Traveller Count also provides more detailed data about the subset of Traveller families living in the Local Authority Accommodation or Assisted Accommodation and Unauthorised Site category, broken down by the following types of accommodation:

- Standard Local Authority housing.
- Traveller Group Housing Schemes.
- Private Rental (supported by the Local Authority).
- Approved Housing Bodies/Voluntary Bodies (supported by the Local Authority).

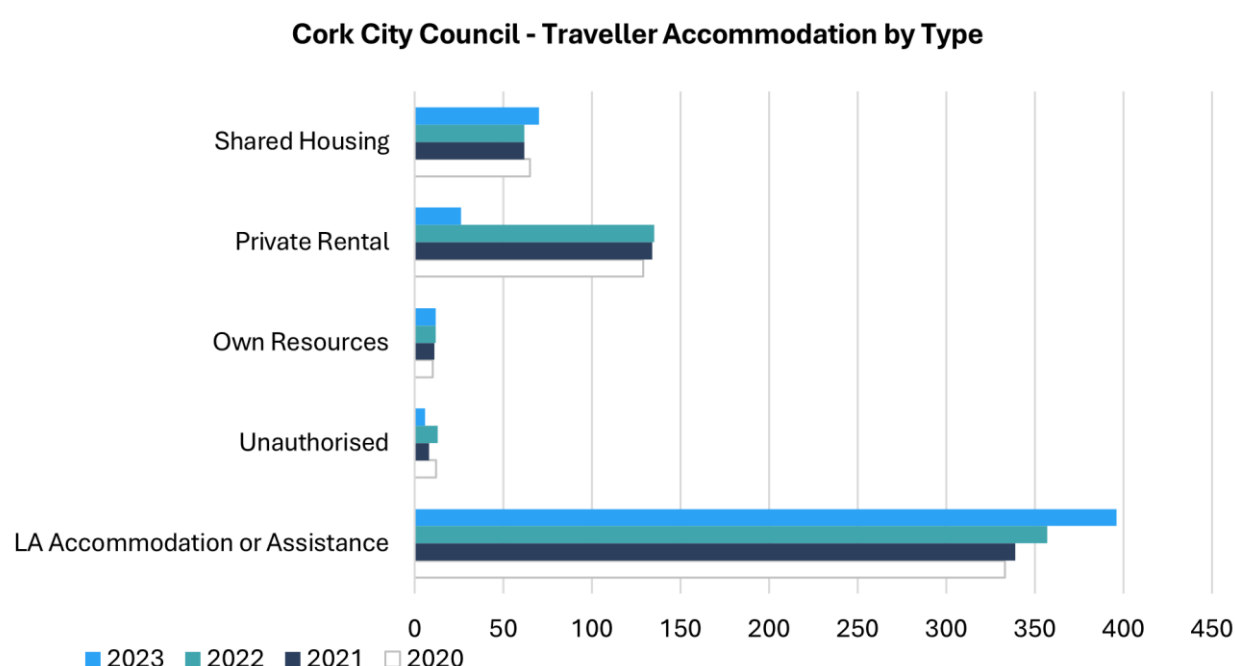


Figure 6 Cork City Annual Traveller Count – Accommodation Type

⁹ This figure includes unauthorised halting sites, it would be 78% if these were excluded.

Figure 7 demonstrates that there has been a continued increase in Traveller families being accommodated in standard Local Authority housing and halting sites between 2019 and 2023. At the same time the number of families in group housing schemes has remained stable. Accommodation provided by Approved Housing Bodies and in unauthorised sites has displayed a significant increase in 2023. While Traveller families recorded as living in private rental accommodation assisted by Local Authorities has dropped, this is largely due to improvements in the data recording system.

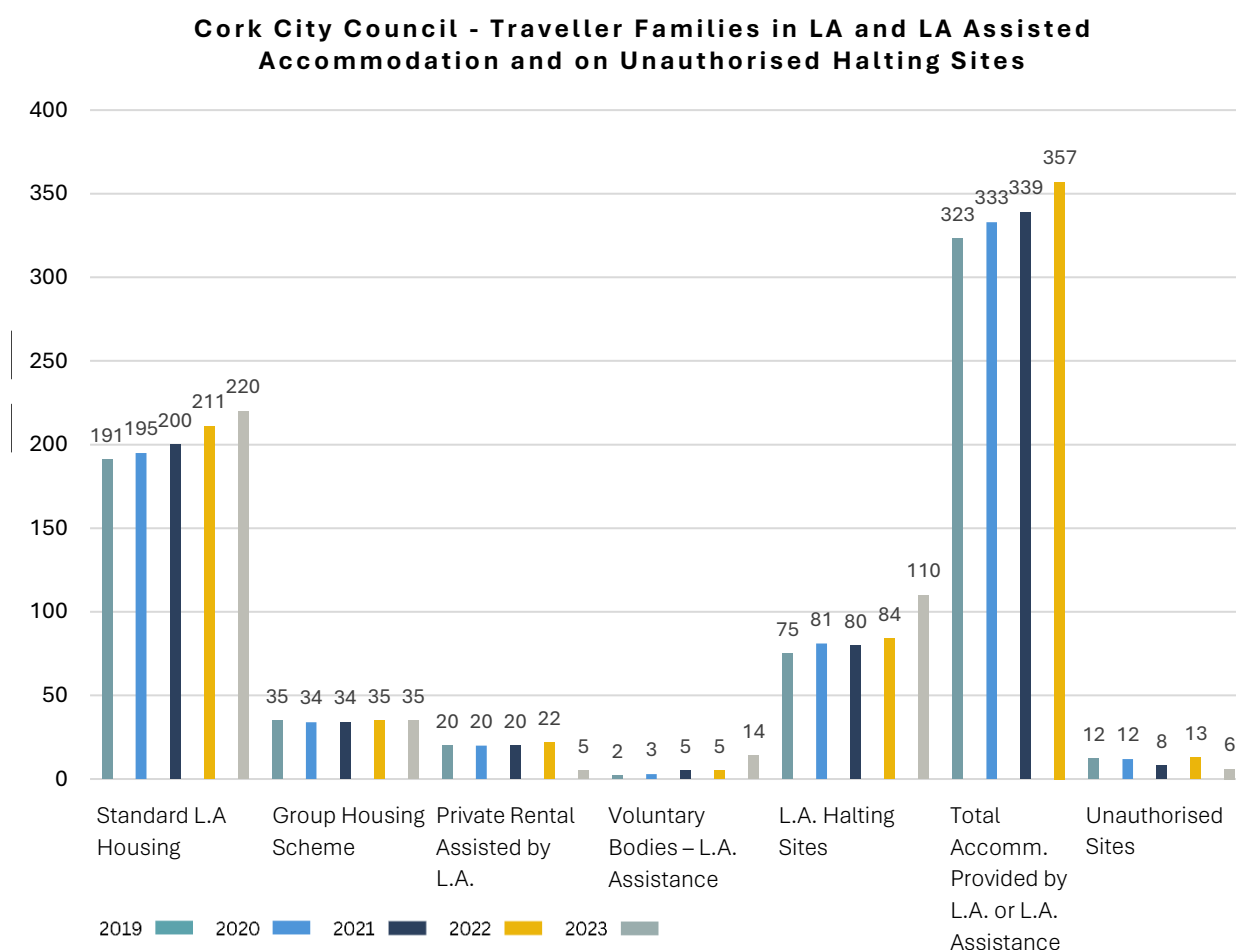


Figure 7 Cork City Annual Traveller Count – Local Authority Assisted Accommodation & Unauthorised Halting Sites



02 Current Provision and Review of Tap 2019-2024

02.1 Overview of Current Provision

Cork City Council's Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU) has responsibility for liaising with, and providing accommodation support services to, the Traveller Community in Cork City. The TAU currently has a staff of 6 personnel including the Administrative Officer, Traveller Liaison Officer (TLO), Traveller Engagement Officer, an Assistant Staff Officer and two Clerical Officers who work and engage directly with the Traveller Community. The TAU responds to the daily and ongoing accommodation needs of the Traveller Community.

The TAU has dedicated clinics to address Traveller accommodation needs and the TLO alone has dealt with over 6,000 engagements/contacts to date (over an 18 month period) and conducted 50 site visits in that period. In line with the TAU's commitment to meaningful engagement, the TLO has developed two key initiatives over the past 12 months: the Traveller Participation and Engagement Initiative and the Child and Youth Participation Initiative. Details of both of these initiatives are provided in Appendix A.

The unit is supported in its work by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) whose members are drawn from housing officials, public representatives and representatives of the Traveller community. A dedicated Traveller Liaison Officer and Traveller Engagement Officer work with Cork City Council and support Travellers seeking accommodation as required.

As outlined in Section 1, Cork City Council provides a range of housing options for members of the Traveller Community. In the 2022 Annual Traveller Count, it is estimated that there were 1,442 Travellers living within Cork City. This section of the TAP will provide:

- An overview of each type of accommodation provided by or with the assistance of the Council.
- An estimate of the number of families accommodated and details regarding each type of accommodation provided by the Council.

Standard Social Housing

Cork City Council owns properties in housing estates and apartment blocks across the city. Available properties are listed on the Council's Choice Based Letting (CBL) system, where housing applicants can express interest in available units.

The Council also operates a dedicated public counter to assist applicants with the CBL system, particularly those who may face difficulties accessing it. A staff member is available to help applicants log in and submit expressions of interest. This service is available from 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday. A dedicated Traveller Liaison Officer and Traveller Engagement Officer work with Cork City Council and supports Travellers with CBL applications as required.

Private Rented Housing

There are two types of supports available to eligible members of the public in the private rental market, which includes the Traveller Community. These options are listed below. Again, a dedicated Traveller Liaison Officer works with Cork City Council and supports Travellers with CBL applications as required.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is a social housing initiative designed to address the housing needs of individuals and families receiving long-term rent supplement. To qualify, applicants typically must have been on rent supplement for at least 18 months and be assessed as having a long-

term housing requirement. Through RAS, private rental properties offer an additional supply of quality housing for those who meet the eligibility criteria.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a social housing support offered by all Local Authorities. Through HAP, authorities provide housing assistance to households with a long-term housing need, including those who qualify for long-term Rent Supplement. HAP streamlines the existing social housing system and allows participants who secure full-time employment to remain in the scheme. Once approved, the Local Authority makes monthly rent payments to the landlord on behalf of the tenant, subject to specific rent limits and conditions. In return, tenants contribute towards their rent based on household income, calculated similarly to rents charged for local authority-owned housing.

Traveller Specific Housing

Traveller Group Housing Schemes

A Group Housing Scheme generally involves a housing development tailored for members of the Traveller Community. These schemes often accommodate families from the same family or those deemed compatible for communal living. At present, the Council currently oversees three group housing schemes: St. Anthony's Park in Hollyhill, Meelagh in Mahon and Hazelwood Grove on the Kinsale Road.

Halting Sites

A Halting Site is a facility specifically designed with designated bays to house mobile homes or caravans permanently. Each bay includes an individual or shared welfare unit offering cooking and washing amenities. The Council currently operates two halting sites: Carrigrohane Road Halting Site and Spring Lane Halting Site.

Unauthorised Halting Sites

An unauthorised halting site is a location where Travellers set up temporary and/or semi-permanent accommodation without the necessary permissions from a Local Authority. These sites typically lack access to basic services

and welfare amenities such as water, sanitation and electricity. Living conditions within these unauthorised sites are challenging for residents and pose significant health and safety risks. There are two unauthorised halting sites in Cork City, namely at Corkeran's Quay and Nash's Boreen.

Caravan Loan Scheme

Cork City Council has been part of the National Caravan Loans Scheme since 2021 and has administered 32 loans to members of the Traveller Community. These loans are for the purchase of a residential mobile/trailer for Travellers residing in halting sites in Cork City Council's administrative area. The scheme has been beneficial in giving families an option of purchasing their own mobile home on a preferential loan basis.



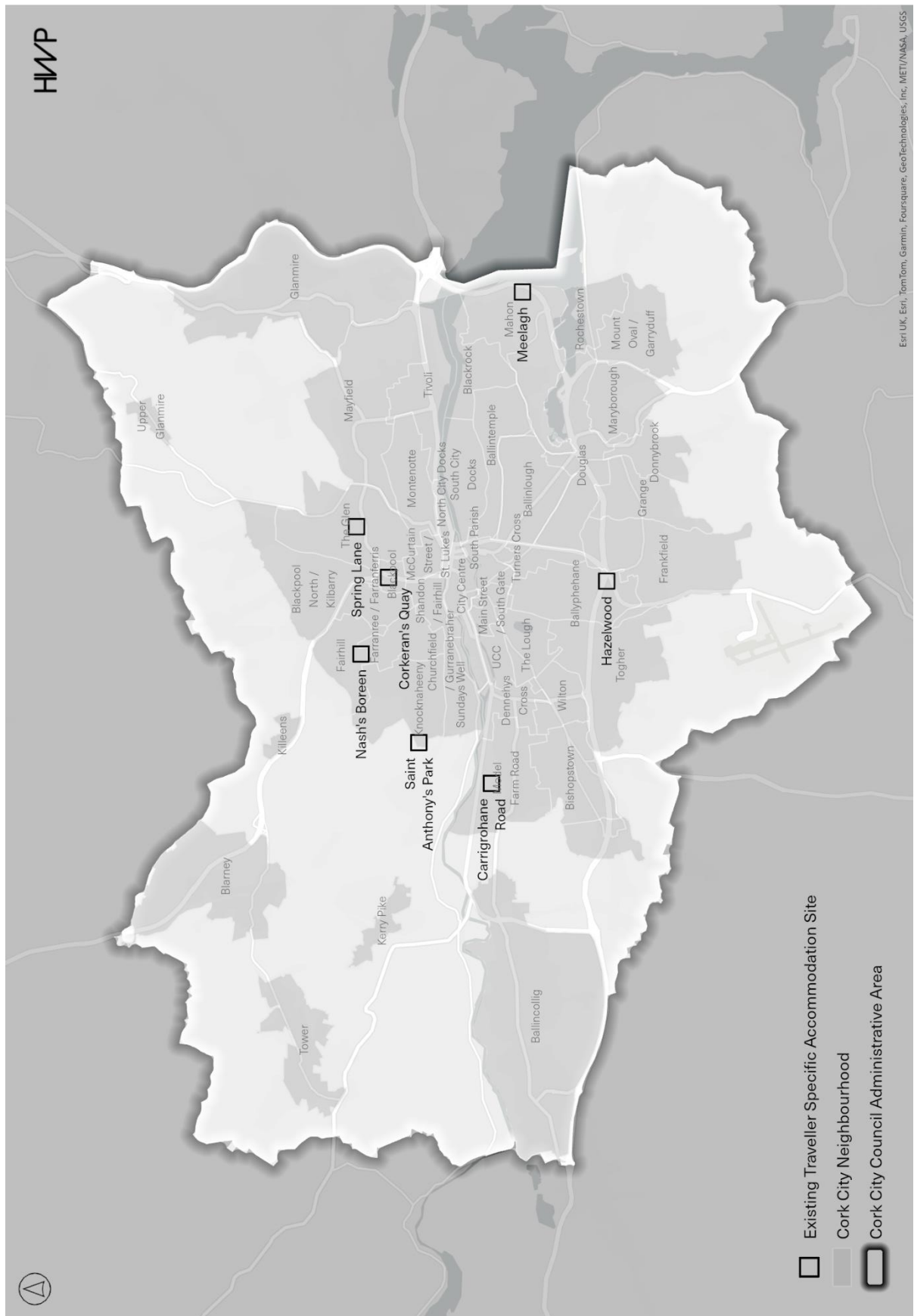


Figure 8 Distribution of Traveller Specific Accommodation in Cork City

Current Accommodation Provision:

A summary of the existing Traveller accommodation provided for by the Council is included in the table below:

Table 1 Current Accommodation Provision

Category	Current Sites	No. Existing Units
Standard Social Housing	– Numerous	– 61 houses (2019 – 2024)
Private Rented Housing - Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	– Numerous	–
Private Rented Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	– Numerous	–
Group Housing Scheme (GHS)	– Meelagh GHS – St. Anthony's Park (GHS) – Hazelwood Grove GHS	– 9 houses 3 bays – 7 houses 9 bays – 7 houses 3 bays
Halting Sites	– Carrigrohane Road – Spring Lane	– 12 bays – 29 bays
Unauthorised Halting Sites	– Nash's Boreen – Corkeran's Quay	– 5 – 6 Caravans/mobile homes

02.2 Progress on TAP 2019 – 2024 Deliverables

The Cork City TAP 2019-2024 outlined measures to be implemented during its term. These measures varied from active engagement with the Traveller community to developing and providing group housing schemes via the Part VIII planning process. The following table evaluates Cork City Council's progress on each specific action outlined within the previous TAP's implementation programme.

The Council have delivered on the majority of the actions identified in the TAP 2019. This was achieved against the backdrop of the Covid-19 global pandemic, a national housing and homelessness challenge.



**Table 2 TAP 2019-2024 Implementation Programme
Progress Update**

Name of Scheme / TAP 2019 Objective	2024 Progress
Spring Lane Halting Site	
Submit proposal for the development of Ellis's Yard as a Group Housing Scheme to include Part VIII planning process.	Completed – Part VIII planning application approved in May 2024.
Submit application to DHPLG for funding to construct a Group Housing Scheme. <i>This proposal is subject to approval of funding.</i>	Completed – Stage 1 approved on 4th August 2023 and Stage 2 funding approved on 29th January 2024.
Meaningful engagement with families, key stakeholders, and detailed design, construction of the group housing scheme.	Completed and Ongoing - Cork City Council engaged Stakeholder Engagement Specialists to work on a family-by-family basis. The Stakeholder Engagements have been Contracted by CCC since 2021 and this service will continue until this development is delivered.
Meelagh Group Housing Scheme	
Refurbishment of Scheme - <i>subject to approval of funding application</i>	Completed - Funding was secured in the amount of €127,455 approved in August 2019.
Proposal to be prepared for lands adjacent to the site. Part VIII process and funding application submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government. <i>This proposal is subject to approval of funding application</i>	Not progressed - This has not been progressed to date. This will be carried forward to the TAP 2025 – 2029.
Discussions with families, detailed design, construction, etc.	Not progressed - This will be carried forward to the TAP 2025 - 2029

St. Anthony's Park	
Submit a proposal for funding to DHPLG for families identified as suitable for an extension.	<p>Ongoing - Ongoing engagement with identified families has been undertaken. Once concluded, a design brief will be prepared and forwarded to the Architect's Department for preparation of a design.</p> <p>A funding application will be sought from the DHLG&H upon receipt of an approved design</p> <p>A funding application will be sought from the DHPLG upon receipt of a project design and costing from the City Architects Department.</p>
Carrigrohane Road Halting Site	
Site to be identified.	<p>Ongoing - Various options have been considered which have been determined to be unsuitable. CENA (an AHB) have been engaged to carry out a feasibility study with the families living on site to determine each family's preference and type of accommodation. The City Council will work in partnership with CENA and with the Residents on this site to meet the future accommodation needs of the Residents on this site over the lifetime of this TAP.</p>
Proposal to be put forward for funding to include Part VIII process. <i>Subject to approval of funding application, consultation with residents, Design and Construction.</i> If approved, construction to commence.	<p>Ongoing - The majority of the site's residents have shown a clear preference of accommodation after engaging with Cena. A plan will be implemented to meet the accommodation needs of the families involved. This plan will include collaboration between CCC, Cena, and the residents to provide the identified type of housing.</p>

Nash's Boreen

Identify suitable site for a small group housing scheme - 4 Houses.

Completed – Site identified for 4 modular type homes and 4 welfare units with bays to allow for future need.

Submit Proposal for Funding to include Part VIII Planning Process.

Ongoing – Pending feedback from the Residents of this site on design layout provided.

Subject to approval of funding, discussions with families, design, and commence works.

Ongoing - Design of proposal drafted. Awaiting feedback from Residents. Once approval is received, design will be amended to take any comments on board, funding application will then be submitted and once approval is received, Part VIII process will commence.

Transient Site

To be reviewed during the lifetime of this programme.

Not Progressed - Based on TAP survey results this service was not something the Traveller Families expressed a keen interest in, the survey completed in 2024 indicated similar results. At this time there does not seem to be a demand for a transient site from the Traveller Community.

02.3 Equality Review

Cork City Council were invited to undertake an Equality Review of the TAP 2019-2024 in June 2019 by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). The review process examined the equality of opportunity and potential discrimination concerning Traveller-specific accommodation within Cork City Council's jurisdiction. The review focused on auditing the Council's practices and procedures in allocating Traveller-specific accommodation and the associated capital funding utilisation. This inquiry aligns with the Council's obligations under the Equal Status Act (ESA).



The preparation of this TAP has considered the findings and recommendations of both the Council's Equality Review, and the Commission's assessment of same (ref Appendix B). Key improvements incorporated during the preparation of the TAP 2025-2029 include:

- Engaging a suitably qualified urban planning consultancy to prepare this TAP. The consultancy is a full-service planning and regeneration consultancy with expertise in socio-demographic and geographic information analysis.
- This TAP has outlines specific housing targets for each year of the programme. These targets have been informed by detailed analysis and consultation phases.
- Improved survey methodologies have resulted in the highest response and engagement rate to date.
- Extensive collaboration has been undertaken with the Housing Directorate.

03 Consultation

03.1 Consultation Process

An extensive programme of consultation has been undertaken by the TAU to ensure the completion of a robust and comprehensive blueprint for Traveller Accommodation across Cork City for this five-year period.

Notice

Local Authorities are required, under Section 8 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 (the Act) to give notice in writing to relevant stakeholders of their intention to prepare a Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) prior to doing so. Relevant stakeholders may include any relevant Approved Housing Body (AHB), the HSE, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) along with any other relevant local community bodies¹⁰. Cork City Council contacted the various stakeholders listing in Appendix C by a letter issued on the 26th February 2024 advising them that a draft TAP was being prepared, and inviting pre-drafting submissions.

Three submissions were received in response to the notice from:

CENA – an AHB working with and for Travellers.

This submission sought to establish a more structured working relationship between CENA and Cork City Council in relation to Traveller accommodation. It identified a number of opportunities where this could be achieved, including CENA future involvement in accommodation needs assessment, accommodation design, addressing homelessness and working in partnership with other AHB to address Traveller specific accommodation provision¹¹.

The Traveller Visibility Group (TVG)

This submission made a number of comments and raised issues in relation to the TAP 2019. Full regard has been had to these in the TAP 2025-2029.

National Traveller MABS.

This submission highlighted the need for fuel efficient, affordable, culturally appropriate accommodation. It recommended the need to increase the amount of the Caravan Loan Scheme to allow Travellers to purchase insulated, energy efficient residential standard trailer accommodation (in line with BS 3632). It asked that the TAP 2025-2029 signpost all potential applicants to MABS for financial advice in this regard. In addition, it suggests that a Caravan Rental Scheme should be proposed for families not in a position to purchase a unit.

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees (LTACC) were established under the Act to facilitate consultation between Housing Authorities and Travellers, to advise on any aspect of accommodation for Travellers and on the preparation and implementation of any accommodation programme. The membership of the Cork City LTACC comprises housing officials, public representatives and representatives of the Traveller community. The LTACC have been consulted throughout the TAP process.

Preparation of Survey

The Act also emphasises the importance of meaningful consultation with all relevant stakeholders in the preparation of TAPS. As part of the consultation process for Cork City Council's TAP 2025-2029, a TAP Survey was conducted with members of the Traveller community in Cork City to determine their accommodation needs and preferences. The Council engaged closely with

¹⁰ A list of all stakeholders written to as part of the consultation process is included within Appendix D.

¹¹ The Council subsequently engaged CENA to undertake a feasibility study with the Residents of Carrigrohane Road Halting Site and Corkeran's Quay unauthorised halting site.

relevant parties in finalising the format of the survey questionnaire.

The design of the questionnaire was carefully considered to ensure clarity for all participants. Visuals were used throughout, to assist in maximising accessibility (ref Appendix D – TAP Survey Questionnaire). The final survey consisted of ten sections covering a wide range of themes and issues that relate to the provision of Traveller accommodation. These reflected the requirements of the Act.

Stakeholder Engagement

The TVG building, along with other community locations across Cork City, were used as venues for conducting the survey. In total, ten separate site visits were undertaken by the Traveller Accommodation Unit to facilitate the completion of the survey.

For the TAP Survey, in order to capture an accurate representation of the needs and preferences of the Traveller community in Cork City, the TAU (Traveller Accommodation Unit) identified Traveller families who has been in contact with the Council regarding accommodation who they considered may have an accommodation need themselves or within their household. The accommodation needs of those families already housed in Local Authority housing were considered to have been met and they were not included in the TAP Survey. The 158 selected families¹² were contacted, with letters issued to 153 Traveller households across a range of accommodation types to inform them of the survey. This included households residing in standard accommodation such as that provided through AHBs or through HAP, halting sites, Traveller Group Housing Schemes, but also adult children of Travellers living in Local Authority housing. A further 5 households residing in homeless services were also surveyed

A series of art workshops were also held by the TAU with approximately 20 Traveller Children. The

themes explored in these workshops included what kind of environment they would like to grow up in or live in the future and what aspects of their home environment were important. A summary of the TAU's findings from these sessions is included as Appendix E.

Survey Process

The TAU made follow-up appointments with the 158 families initially contacted who expressed an interest in partaking in the survey. This resulted in a total of 104 surveys being undertaken, a response rate of 66%.

The TAU undertook the survey, taking the time to go through the questionnaire with each individual respondent. This ensured the accuracy of the completed questionnaires as respondents received clarification on any part of the survey where needed, as well as ensuring that respondents with literacy issues were not excluded from the consultation process.

These in-depth surveys undertaken by the TAU have resulted in the collection of an extensive body of quantitative and qualitative 'soft' information in relation to the distinct needs of the Traveller community of Cork City. Detailed TAP Survey findings are included in Appendix F.

Residents of Spring Lane

Separately, Cork City Council has been engaged in an intensive family-specific consultation process with Spring Lane residents over the last two years. A Stakeholder Engagement Specialist has been engaged to work directly with the Travellers of Spring Lane to identify their specific accommodation needs and to deliver collaborative solutions for a site-specific development plan for Spring Lane and Ellis Yard.

With plans already at an advanced stage to address the accommodation needs of many of the residents, only those residents of Spring Lane who

¹² Identified by the TAU as potentially having an accommodation need.

have ongoing open housing applications with the Council were included in the TAP Survey.

Public Consultation

In accordance with the Act the draft TAP 2025-2029 will be made available for public inspection with interested individuals or groups invited to make submissions about their views and comments on the content within a 2 month period. At the end of this period Cork City Council may make amendments to the draft TAP where required to take account of submissions made.

The Chief Executive's report in relation to the submissions, together with the draft TAP will then be submitted to the Council members for consideration and adoption, with any modifications that the Chief Executive may consider appropriate, subject to other overriding statutory requirements in relation to the preparation and contents of programmes.



04 Assessment of Need/Gap Analysis

04.1 Background and Approach

Section 4 of the TAP Guidelines notes that the Housing Authority, in making an assessment of the existing accommodation needs of Travellers and the projected need that will arise during the period of the programmes, will have regard to:

- The estimate of the number of Travellers for whom accommodation will be required during the course of the programme.
- The summary of social housing assessments prepared under section 21 (c) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 as it relates to Travellers (including Traveller Household Preferred Housing Options i.e. standard local authority and AHB housing, Traveller-specific accommodation (group housing schemes and halting sites) and private rented accommodation.
- The need for transient sites.
- Consideration by the housing authority of the views of the LTACC¹³.

In assessing the existing and future accommodation needs of Cork City Traveller population, the TAU existing accommodation information, (included in Section 2 of this report), in conjunction with feedback from the TAP Survey have been used to establish a baseline in relation to the capacity, type and quality of the existing supply. This baseline assessment includes consideration of pipeline developments, as outlined in Section 2, such as the €18 million redevelopment of Spring Lane and Ellis Yard halting site to include 27 no. Traveller specific residential units as well as a further 23 no. Traveller Specific Units in design stage and other

planned and proposed developments outlined in Section 2.

Building on this baseline ‘snapshot’ of the existing and planned situation, the TAP Survey explored the respondents’ assessment of the standard and suitability of the current provision. The TAP Survey also focused on evolving Traveller demographic trends and future accommodation requirements and preferences. Key to this element of the overall assessment is the qualitative assessment of the ‘soft’ information contained within the Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment.

The identification of additional factors that influence the attractiveness of accommodation to Travellers was sought, including such factors as locations that have a traditional resonance, proximity to family, supports and services, tenure and management issues, or ancillary factors such as availability of facilities for horses, dogs, hardstanding areas for caravans and mobile homes.

Arising from this, an analysis of gaps or deficits in current and planned city-wide provision was undertaken. This included consideration of the quantity of accommodation required, its distribution, type and quality and the deliverability of various sites. Emerging changes to accommodation requirements and preferences as noted in the TAP Survey are also taken into consideration.

04.2 Tap 2019-2024 Needs Assessment

The TAP 2019-2024 ‘Assessment of Needs’ was based on the feedback of the 47 respondent families living in halting sites and group housing schemes. Significantly increased ‘survey effort’ has gone into the preparation of the TAP 2025-2029 in which 158 families were canvassed across the full spectrum of Traveller accommodation

¹³ Local Traveller Consultative Committees (LTACCs)

types. Ultimately 104 families responded to the TAP Survey; a response rate of 66%.

04.3 Assessment Of Current Need

Cork City Traveller Accommodation Trends

At the outset the published Annual Traveller Count data was examined to establish trends over time in relation to the Traveller Community living in Cork City. Specific attention was given to the subset identified in the Annual Count as living in Local Authority Accommodation or Local Authority Assisted Accommodation and Unauthorised Halting Sites (Table 3).

Table 3 Cork City Annual Traveller Count – LA Supported Housing Disaggregated

Cork City Council							National	
Cork City Council	2020	2021	2022	2023	% of 2023 Total	% Change 2020 - 2023	% of 2023 Total	% Change 2020 - 2023
Standard Local Authority Housing	195	200	211	220	55%	13%	56%	17%
Local Authority Group Housing	34	34	35	35	9%	3%	10%	1%
Private Houses Assisted by LA	20	20	22	5	1%	-75%	6%	17%
Approved Housing Bodies – Voluntary Bodies	3	5	5	14	3%	367%	10%	64%
Local Authority Halting Sites	81	80	84	110	27%	36%	12%	6%
Homeless Services	-	-	-	12	3%			
Total L.A. / L.A. Assisted Accommodation	333	339	357	396	99%	15%	94%	17%
Unauthorised Sites (US)	12	8	13	6	1%	-50%	6%	23%
Accommodated by or with Assistance of L.A. and US	345	347	370	402	100%	17%	100%	18%

The following trends are evident in Table 3:

- 55% of this subset of Travellers reside in standard Local Authority housing, this is in line with the national average (56%). However, the national rate of increase in this figure between 2020 and 2023 at 17% is higher than the Cork City rate of 13%.
- 9% of Cork City families in this subset live in Group Housing Schemes, just slightly below the national average of 10%.
- The proportion of this subset of Traveller families in Cork City living in private housing assisted by the Local Authority, at 1% is significantly below 6% national figure.
- It is notable that only 3% of this subset of Cork City Traveller families reside in housing provided by Approved Housing Bodies. This is considerably lower than the national figure of 10%, however, there has been substantial growth in the provision by this sector since 2022.
- Local Authority Halting Sites accommodate 27% of Cork City Traveller families in this category compared to only 12% nationally. This difference is underscored by the fact that the number has increased by 36% in Cork City between 2020 – 2023, whereas nationally the increase was 6%.
- Conversely, only 1% of Cork City families in this category live in unauthorised halting sites, this this figure having decreased by 50% since 2020. Nationally 6% of this category of Traveller families live in unauthorised sites and this has increased by 23% since 2020.

Rationale Behind Target Population Assumptions

The Cork City Traveller Annual Count in 2023 returned a figure of 510 families living in the City. As indicated in Table 3, of these 402 were living in housing with some form of Local Authority support or unauthorised halting sites. The remainder consisted of:

- 12 families living on their own resources,
- 26 families living in private rental housing with no Local Authority assistance,
- 70 families living in shared housing with no Local Authority assistance.

It is considered that the majority of these 108 families, having not sought Local Authority assistance are therefore not by definition in need of accommodation support. Of the remaining 402 families, it was assumed that the 220 families already residing in standard Local Authority housing could largely be excluded from having a housing need¹⁴.

The remaining 182 families, includes families living in Traveller Group Housing Schemes, Private Housing with Local Authority assistance and AHB with Local Authority assistance as well as Local Authority and unauthorised Halting Sites. This figure provides a general indication of the maximum number of Traveller families who could potentially be experiencing some form of housing need. It is assumed that this number is an over-estimate and significantly in excess of the actual number of families with a housing need as a proportion of these would be satisfied with their current housing provision.

This view is supported and correlates well with the more refined figure arrived at in a separate exercise by the TAU in Cork City Council, discussed in Section 3. Based on local knowledge the TAU identified 158 families with a potential housing need. This is based on the 153 families in Cork City who had been in contact with the Unit

¹⁴ With the exception of Traveller children living in standard housing reaching adulthood and forming new households.

with regard to housing support or had an open housing application and included:

- 44 Traveller families in HAP supported private rental,
- 109 Traveller families in Group Housing Schemes or Halting Sites,

It also includes a further 5 Traveller families identified by the Council Homeless Services.

However, a conservative approach has been adopted in the TAP 2025 – 2029 with all calculations based on the larger Target Population of 182 indicating the maximum theoretical number of families with a potential current housing need.

As outlined in Section 3, the 158 families specifically identified by the TAU were contacted in relation to the TAP Survey, representing 87% of the Target Population. Based on responses, follow-up surveys were carried out with 104 families. This equates to a survey response rate of 66%¹⁵ and 57% of the total Target Population.

Table 4 TAP Survey Respondents Current Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	No. Respondent Families	%
Halting Site	56	54%
Standard	30	29%
Traveller Group Housing / Halting Site Mix ¹⁶	10	10%
Traveller Group Housing	8	8%

¹⁵ In the context of the wider Traveller population is equates to 27% of the Census 2023 household figure or 20% of the families in the 2023 Annual Traveller Count family.

¹⁶ Some survey respondents stated that their current accommodation was a combination of a Traveller Group Housing (TGH) Scheme and a Halting Site.

Satisfaction with Current Accommodation and Desire to Move

67% of the TAP respondents considered their accommodation was not suitable for their needs. This was most apparent in residents of halting sites where 70% thought their accommodation was unsuitable. Traveller Group Housing Schemes were the only current accommodation type which the majority of respondents considered to be suitable for their needs. However, 63% of the Group Housing Schemes residents thought the standard of accommodation was not acceptable, primarily due to overcrowding (ref Figure 9).

61% of respondents stated they intended to move within the next 5 years due largely to overcrowding, homelessness and family reasons. This is interpreted as an indication of the percentage of the respondent families with an existing housing need. Unexpectedly, a higher percentage of respondents living in Traveller Group Housing Schemes (75%) expressed a desire to move than any other group, citing the desire to downsize, concern about overcrowding or medical issues.

Of the 28 households that have moved in the last 5 years, 79% stated they had no option but to move to their current accommodation. 74% of the respondents are themselves or have a family member on a waiting list, 48% of these being on the waiting list for over 5 years. Only 17% of respondents had searched HAP and 38% had used CBL. 7 existing Council tenants have requested a transfer.

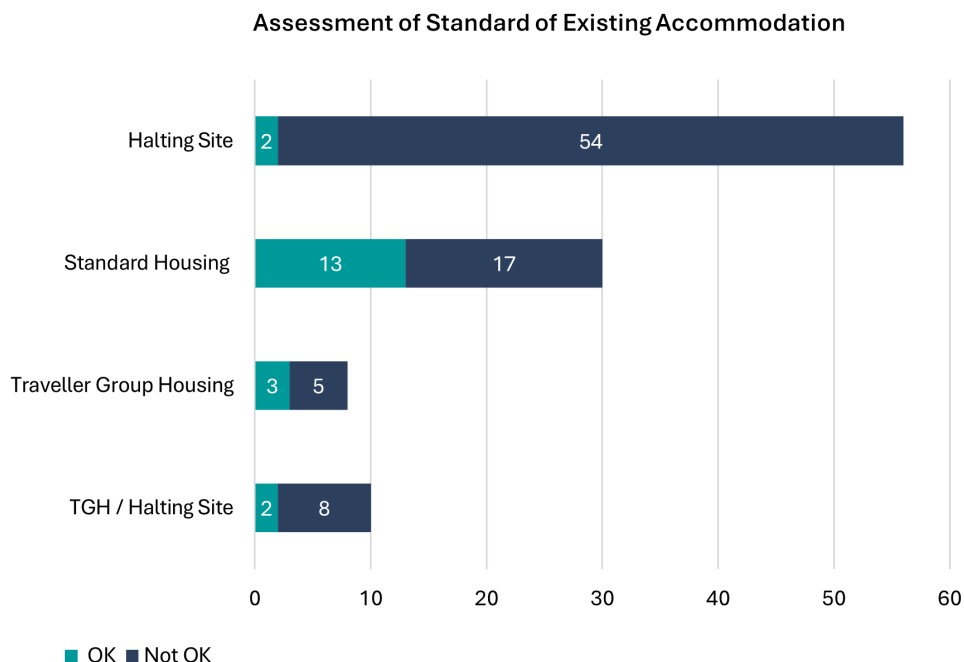


Figure 9 Survey Response Regarding Standard and Suitability of Current Accommodation

As the largest group of respondents are currently living in halting sites, overall the majority of those wishing to move (51%) are currently living in a halting site, followed by 29% in standard housing¹⁷. Within the TAP Survey an existing accommodation need was identified for 63 families. This has been extrapolated to the full target population of 182 families¹⁸ in Table 5.

Table 5 Current Accommodation Need by Current Accommodation Type

Current Accommodation Type	Respondent Families with Accom. Need	% of Overall Accom. Need by Current Accom. Type	% of Respondents Within Each Accom. Type with Need	Full Target Population by Accom. Type	No. Extrapolated to Target Population
Halting Site	32	51%	57%	98	56
Standard	18	29%	60%	52	32
TGH / Halting Site	7	11%	70%	18	12
Traveller Group Housing	6	10%	75%	14	10
Total Existing Need	63	100%	N/A	182	110

¹⁷ this includes HAP, RAS tenants, adult children of parents in Local Authority Housing and those in homeless services.

¹⁸ Defined in Section 'Rationale Behind Target Population Assumptions'.

04.4 Assessment of Accommodation Preferences

Preferred Accommodation Tenure

When asked which types of accommodation tenure they would consider moving to in the TAP Survey the respondents expressed a distinct preference for Local Authority Housing (64%) and Group Housing Schemes (52%). As Figure 10 demonstrates, only 4% of the respondents said they would consider moving to a halting site. This is in line with an on-going national and local trend evident in Figures 02 and 04 and commented on previously in the finding of the TAP 2019 – 2024.

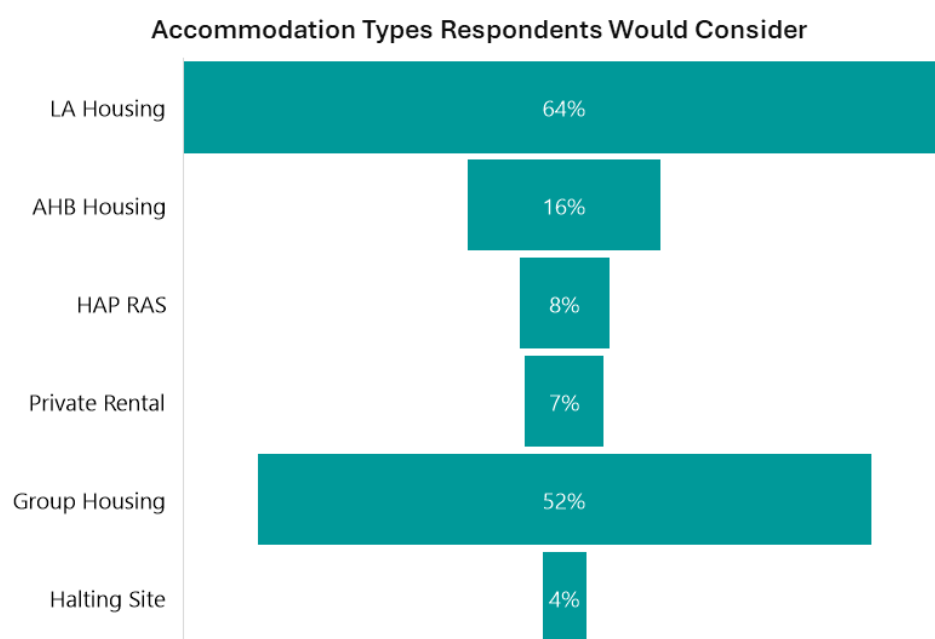


Figure 10 Accommodation Types Respondents Would Consider

The respondents' preferred tenure type was further explored in a question asking them to rank their preferred tenure type from 1 – 5 (Figure 11).

A similar pattern emerges with Local Authority and Group Housing Schemes making up the majority of the 1st and 2nd choices, with AHB (Approved Housing Body) Housing and Halting Sites also featuring in a smaller capacity.

While most 1st preferences were for Group Housing Schemes, Local Authority housing had the highest preference in the combined 1st and 2nd preferences. Preference for private rental and HAP/RAS Schemes was low.

There is also considerable variation evident in the preferences depending on current accommodation type. The majority of the halting site residents' 1st preferences were for Group Housing Schemes, whereas only 4% of the 1st preferences of residents in standard housing related to Group Housing Schemes. The majority of the latter group and those currently living in Group Housing Schemes opted for Local Authority Housing as their 1st preference.

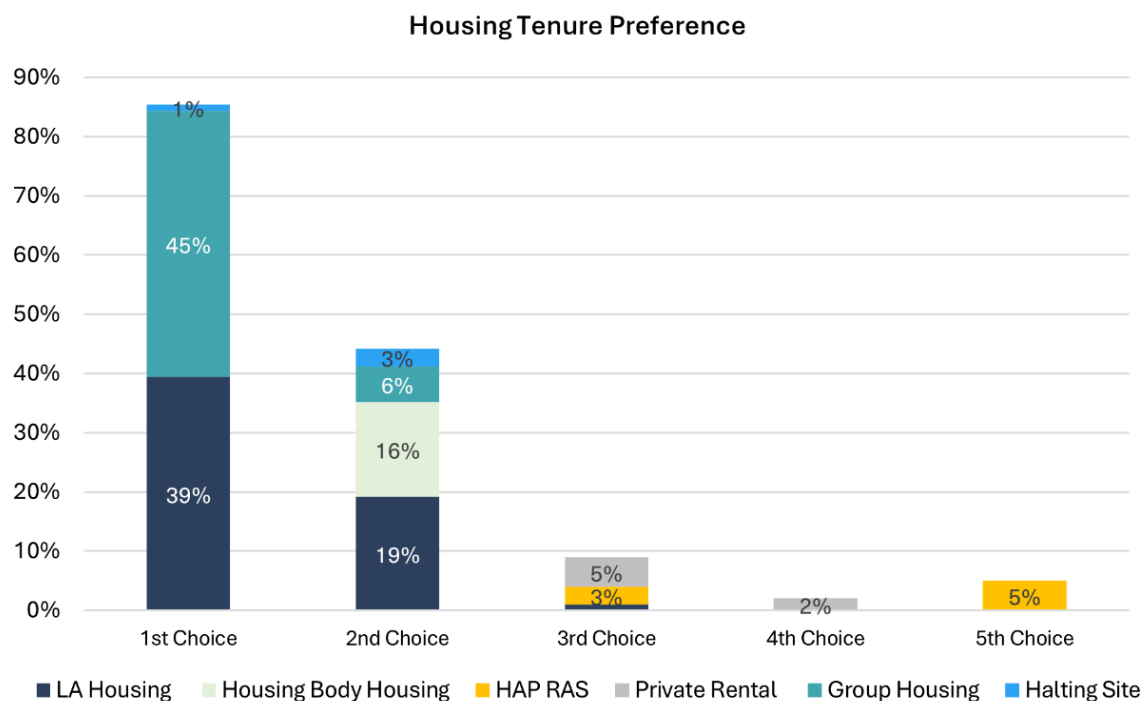


Figure 11 Accommodation Tenure Type in Order of Preference

Table 6 distributes the estimated number of families with accommodation need in the Target Population (identified in Table 5) across the various housing tenure options based on the aggregated average 1st and 2nd preferences expressed in the TAP Survey by residents based on their existing accommodation type.

Table 6 Current Accommodation Need Disaggregated by Tenure Type Preference

Current Accommodation Type	Housing Need Extrapolated to Target Population	LA Housing	AHB Housing	Group Housing	HAP/RAS	Halting Site
Halting Site	56	20	2	33	1	1
Standard	32	18	9	4	1	-
TGH / Halting Site	12	5	1	5	-	-
Traveller Group Housing	10	7	1	2	-	-
Total Current Need	110	50	13	44	2	1



Preferred Accommodation Size

Several of the TAP Survey respondents commented that Traveller families are in general getting smaller. This view is supported by the 2022 Census data indicating a national average Traveller household size of 4 persons per household, reduced from a figure of 5.3 in the 2016 Census. Within Cork City the average Traveller household size is smaller again at 3.78.

While this is still significantly higher than the national average for the total Irish population of 2.74 persons per household, and the Cork City total population average of 2.62 persons per household, it reflects a reduction in household size which must be reflected in future Traveller accommodation provision.

The average household size of the TAP Survey respondents, however, was 5.1 persons per household, with households ranging from 1 – 15 persons. Since the TAP Survey focused on the Target Population, a subset of the Traveller population identified specifically as households most likely to have a housing need, it is assumed that overcrowding and involuntary multi-generational occupancy of the same home has resulted in this higher than average household size figure.

This view is supported by the respondents' comments where overcrowding is repeatedly noted as an issue with the current accommodation, especially in Halting Sites. In the TAP Survey the average Halting Site and mixed Halting Site/Group Housing Scheme reported c. 3 – 4 families per household in comparison to c. 1 family per household in standard housing and Group Housing Schemes. Therefore, this household size is considered not to be representative of the optimal household size, but a factor of overcrowding and housing need.

This interpretation is borne out by the fact that the majority (59%) of respondents stated they would require 2 (30%) or 3 (29%) bedrooms in any future accommodation, with only 18% stating a preference for 4 bedrooms and 8% specifying 1 bedroom.



Figure 12 Number of Bedrooms Required by Respondents Classified by Current Accommodation Type

Preferred Accommodation Type

A series of photographs of different housing typologies were shown to the respondents in the survey where they were asked to rank in terms of preference. These included:

- Detached 2 storey house,
- End of terrace semi-detached house
- End of terrace townhouse
- 2.5 storey duplex
- 3 storey duplex
- Halting site with own welfare facility
- Halting site with shared welfare facility
- Halting site with own welfare facility including living space
- Group Housing Scheme bungalow
- Group Housing Scheme 2 storey house

These preferences are outlined Figure 13 and Table 7. It should be noted that in many instances the respondents gave the same preference rating to more than one accommodation option, so the combined preference percentages are greater than 100% in Table 7.

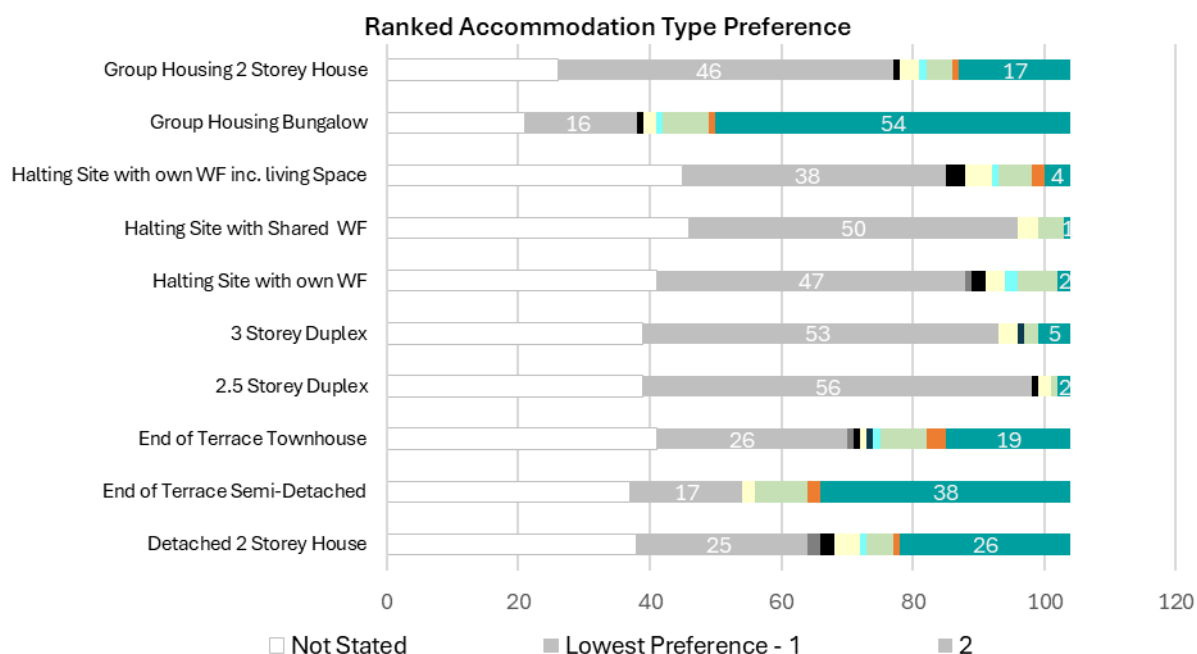


Figure 13 Ranked Accommodation Type in Order of Preference

Table 7 TAP Survey Respondents 1st Preference Accommodation Type¹⁹

Accommodation Type	% First Preference
Group Housing Bungalow	52%
End of Terrace Semi-Detached	37%
Detached 2 Storey House	25%
End of Terrace Townhouse	18%
Group Housing 2 Storey House	16%
3 Storey Duplex	5%
Halting Site with own welfare facility including living Space	4%
Halting Site with own welfare facility	2%
2.5 Storey Duplex	2%
Halting Site with Shared welfare facility	1%

¹⁹ The same preference ranking can apply to more than 1 accommodation type

Preferred Accommodation Location

The TAP Survey asked the respondents where they would prefer to move to (Figure 14).

A distinct pattern emerged of preference to live in areas to the North East, West and North West of Cork City. These are all relatively rural areas, reflecting the type of area that many of the respondents grew up in. It is noted from the City Development Plan that Blarney, Ballincollig and Glanmire are all earmarked for significant population growth in the 2022 Cork City Development Plan, in the form of the:

- Stoneview Framework Masterplan and Blarney East/Ringwood Expansion Area,
- South Glanmire Expansion Area and South Glanmire Framework Plan, and
- South Ballincollig (Maglin) Expansion Area.

The future development of these urban expansion areas may present opportunities to integrate new standard Council Housing for Travellers and small Traveller Group Housing Schemes.

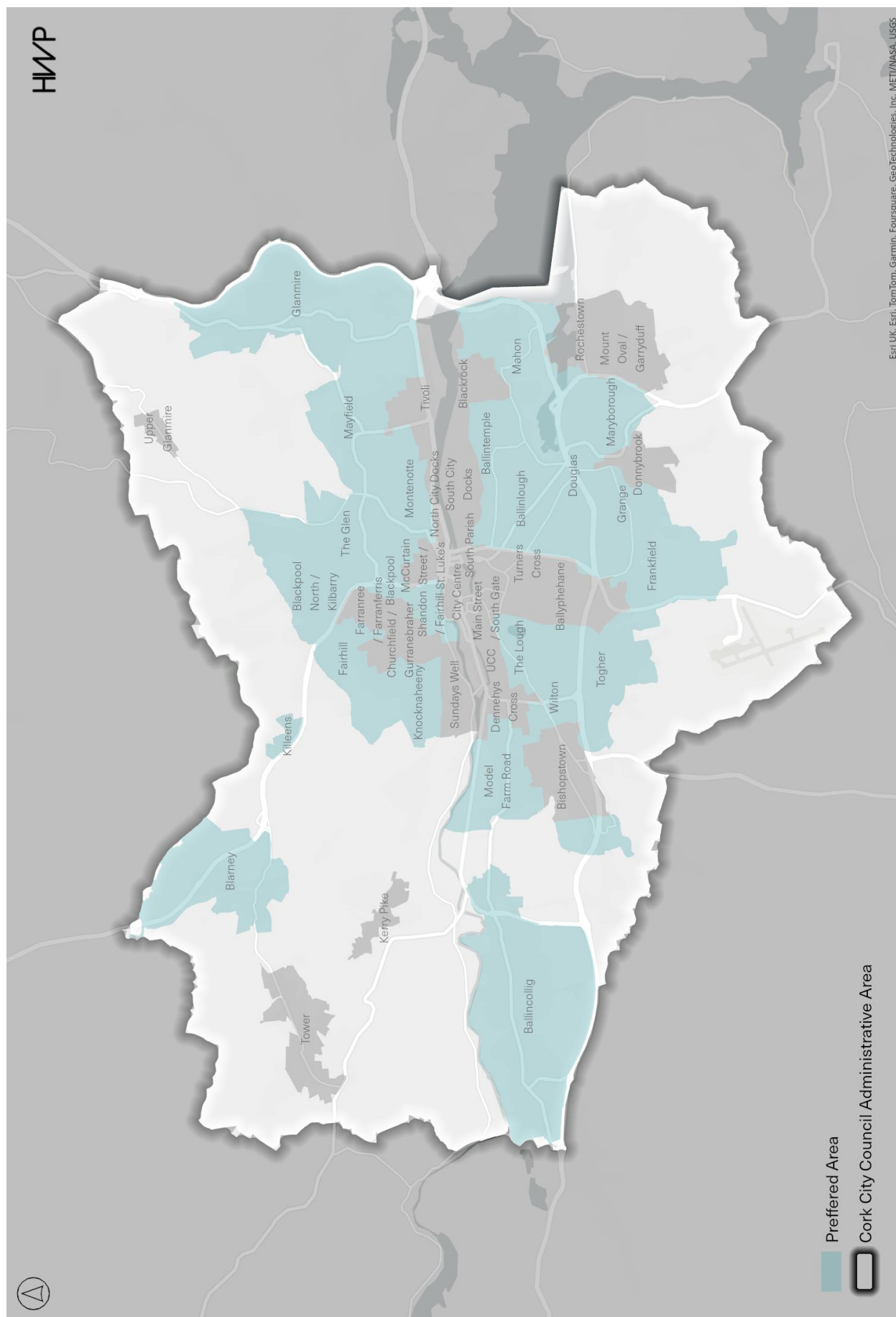


Figure 14 Location Preference



Current Accommodation Needs Conclusions

Group Housing Scheme

Throughout their comments the TAP Survey respondents made repeated references to a one-off cottage/bungalow in the countryside, with some space around it, as the optimal form of Traveller accommodation. While this was the traditional rural housing model in Ireland, unfortunately, the provision of such a typology of accommodation in an urban context within the Metropolitan Area of Cork City is contrary to national and local policies in terms of sustainable housing development. This form of development would not comply with the density targets set out in the *Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements - Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2024*, which range from 40 dwellings per hectare (dph) to 300 dph depending on whether the location is a suburban/urban extension, a city urban neighbourhood or in the city centre.

One-off bungalows were therefore not included in the accommodation type options in the TAP Survey. The strong preference for Group Housing Bungalows expressed in Table 7, therefore, may include these preferences for one-off bungalows, with the respondents stating a preference for a bungalow rather than a specific wish to live in a Group Housing Scheme.

There was some ambiguity within the TAP Survey responses with regard to Group Housing Schemes. While the concept seemed broadly attractive, in reality 37% of respondents who are currently living in this model of housing reported dissatisfaction with the standard of accommodation and a relatively high percentage wished to move, due to overcrowding, downsizing, issues with neighbours and health issues.

In many cases there appears to be a mismatch between the idea of Group Housing Schemes and the reality. However, a definite preference emerged for small clusters of housing up to 3 – 6 units, limited to housing one extended family rather than general Traveller Group Housing. Several respondents considered that a small cluster of the 2-storey semi-detached type house would make an attractive Group Housing Scheme. It was also commented that more Group Housing

Schemes were required so that where issues arose families could move to another scheme. In view of this feedback it is considered that there is scope for evolving the traditional model of Group Housing Schemes. This is considered further in Section 4.6 Gap Analysis.

It is noted also that the majority of the respondents (52%) had rural backgrounds, with c. 34% of the respondents growing up in County Cork, and a further 18% growing up in Counties Tipperary, Limerick, Waterford and Kerry.

Given the traditional movement patterns of Traveller families between Cork City and Cork County it is considered that the population would be more effectively planned for in an integrated manner. The Cork Joint Housing Strategy 2022 – 2028 sets out the existing and future housing requirements across both Cork City and Cork County local authority areas, based on an acknowledgement that housing needs and housing markets cross local authority boundaries, particularly across the wider Cork City region.

Local Authority Housing

It was flagged by many respondents that they were afraid of stairs and would only consider a single storey dwelling due to safety concerns for their children or mobility issues. Notwithstanding this, 22% of all respondents currently live in two-storey dwellings, which make up the majority (77%) of the standard houses in which the respondents live. Response rates to the images of 2-storey houses support the view that the concern relating to stairs is not uniform, with 37% of respondents rating the 2-storey, end-of-terrace, semi-detached house type amongst their 1st preference.

An aspect of this fear of stairs may be a factor of inexperience having lived in a bungalow or caravan all their lives. Traveller supports and pre-tenancy courses could be put in place to address this. Travellers moving from halting sites into standard Local Authority housing may encounter a number of issues. The role of the Traveller Liaison Officer is critical in supporting this transition.

Although some respondents were emphatic that they would not live in a housing estate, others stated a clear preference for living away from other Travellers and within standard housing. Concerns regarding feelings of isolation were voiced by some

respondents in relation to living in housing estates, while others welcomed the proximity to schools and services associated with housing estates. A model where two related families move together into 2 semi-detached houses at the end of a terrace may assuage these concerns regarding social isolation. A side entrance and access to the rear garden seemed to make this option more attractive.

Halting Sites

As a result of overcrowding, prevalence of anti-social behavior and the poor standard of accommodation, there was little appetite amongst the respondents to move to a Halting Site. This preference only features 1% of the combined 1st and 2nd preference options, where the respondent added the caveat that *'in the absence of a Group Housing Scheme it would be ok'*. Enhancements to Halting Sites are discussed in more detail in Section 4.6 Gap Analysis.

It is noted that the Carrigrohane Road Halting Site is located on a flood plain and will need to be relocated during the TAP 2025 – 2029 period. This is a 12 bay site. There is a need to find alternative accommodation for these families. Twelve of these families participated in the TAP Survey where their preferences for standard housing and group housing options were in line with the preferences observed generally in the TAP Survey. These requirements have been included in the overall existing accommodation requirements arising from the TAP Survey.

04.5 Assessment Of Projected Need

The assessment of projected Traveller housing need considers the household formation figures arising for the 5 year duration of the TAP. It is important that the earlier Traveller marriage age than the wider community²⁰ is reflected in household formation figures. There are a number of methods for undertaking this projection:

- Method 1 - divide the population cohort turning 18 during the TAP period, and therefore potentially forming a new household, by 2,
- Method 2 - extrapolate the household growth rates from a previous 5 year period growth to predict the growth rate during the TAP,
- Method 3 - use the information provided by the TAP survey respondents about their children's housing need in the next 5 years.

As discussed below, due to data gaps, none of these approaches are robust by themselves. Therefore, a combined approach has been adopted.

²⁰ The Transitional Housing Initiative detailed in Section 5 sets out to support these young families in finding accommodation.

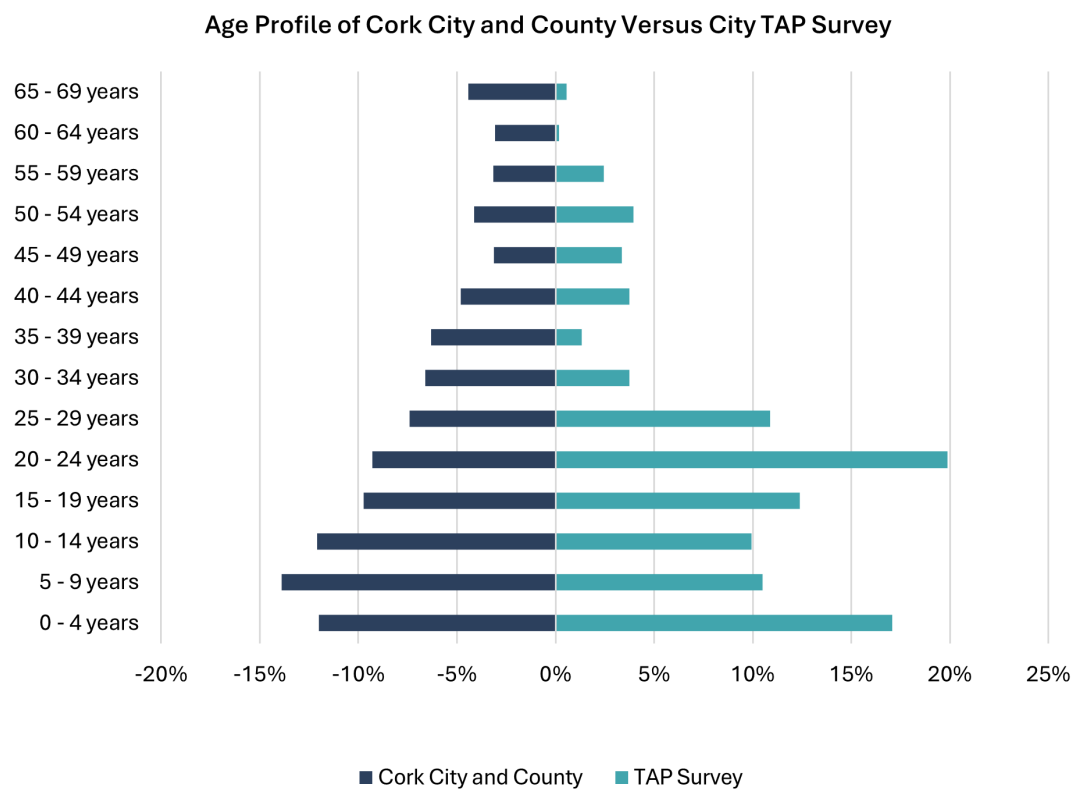


Figure 15 Comparison of CSO Cork City and County Traveller Age Profile against TAP Survey Age Profile

Method 1

A notable challenge in determining the number of Travellers reaching 18 years old during the TAP 2025-2029 period is the fact that the Census 2022 age profile data²¹ only provides combined figures for Cork City and Cork County. To overcome this data gap the proportion of the combined city and county population who will become 18 during the TAP was calculated and this proportion was applied to the Census 2022 Cork City Traveller population.

The number of 11 – 15 year olds in the 2022 Census who live within Cork City and County and will become 18 years old within the TAP period of 2025 – 2029 equates to 287 children. This is 12% of the total city and county Traveller population. Taking the 2022 Census figure of 1,442 for Travellers living in private households in Cork City alone²², it is estimated that 12% of this total equating 173 children will reach the age of 18 during the TAP period. If a 50% household formation rate is assumed for this Traveller age cohort this gives rise to 86 new households being formed during the TAP period.

Method 2

This approach starts with the 2023 Traveller Count family number for Cork City and extrapolates it to the year 2029 based on the average annual growth rate of the Cork City Traveller population of 0.5% between 2017 – 2023²³. This approach results in a projected Traveller household figure of 580 by 2029, an increase of 70 households.

Both Methods 1 and 2 project growth across the entire Traveller population within the city. The 2023 Traveller Cork City Annual Count shows us however that while 79% of Traveller households were in receipt of some form of Local Authority accommodation assistance or were on unauthorised halting sites, the remaining 21% were arranging their own accommodation without Local Authority intervention. It is assumed that a similar ratio will apply to the new household

formations, reducing the predicted housing need where Local Authority support is required to 68 households (method 1) or 55 households (method 2).

Method 3

As part of the TAP Survey the 104 respondents were asked to estimate the number of family members living in their household who would need their own accommodation in the next 5 years. The resulting estimate of 113 new households, however, includes adult children already identified within the current accommodation need category (ref Section 4.3) as well as projected need for younger children who will reach 18 years of age by 2029. This figure is therefore considered to be an overestimate in terms of projected need.

It is concluded therefore that the projected accommodation need for the TAP period will be between 55 households (method 2) and 68 households (method 1). The assessment is therefore based on the midpoint figure of 61 households, the averaged projection figure across method 1 and method 2. With regard to the different types and geographical distribution of the projected accommodation need, it is assumed the same preference breakdown will apply for the new families as was stated by the respondents of the TAP Survey.

²¹ CSO Table F5092.

²² Derived from CSO Table F5072.

²³ In the Annual Traveller Counts the population grew from 495 households to 510 households between 2017 - 2023, an average annual growth rate of c. 0.5%.

Table 8 Projected Need by Accommodation Tenure Type

Overall Accommodation Need	LA Housing	Housing Body Housing	Group Housing	HAP/RAS	Halting Site	Total
Preference %	45%	12%	40%	2%	1%	100%
Projected Need	28	7	24	1	1	61



04.6 Gap Analysis

The Gap Analysis examines the existing and forecasted future accommodation requirements in the context of the current annual delivery rates in the previous TAP period, to identify any potential gaps in the quantity, type and distribution of current and planned/proposed provision of Traveller accommodation.

In Table 9 the estimated existing accommodation requirement figures, as set out in Table 6, have been combined with the projected requirements outlined in Table 8. These are compared with delivery rates by accommodation tenure type in the following sections.

Table 9 Existing and Projected Housing Need to 2029 by Tenure Type

Overall Accommodation Need	LA Housing	Approved Housing Body	Group Housing	HAP/ RAS	Halting Site	Total
Existing Need	50	13	44	2	1	110
Projected Need	28	7	24	1	1	61
Total Existing and Projected Need to 2029	78	20	68	3	2	171

Council Housing

Table 10 indicates that c. 127 Standard Council Housing units were offered and c. 56 accepted by Traveller families in the 5 year period from 2019 – 2023, averaging 11 families being housed annually.

On average for every 2 offers made by Cork City Council 1 house is accepted by a Traveller family (50% refusal rate). 56 Traveller families were housed in standard Council housing during the TAP period²⁴.

There is some variance between years, with 2022 being noteworthy in that 20 families were housed with the offer- acceptance ratio at 1 acceptance for every 1.6 offers. In comparison although 41 offers were made in 2020 only 12 were accepted, at a ratio of 1 acceptance for every 3.4 offers.

When viewed against the targets set out in Table 9 for 50 families with an existing need and preference for Council Housing and 28 families with a projected need and similar preference, the Council annual delivery figures are positive. With the increasing numbers of social housing completions in recent years it can be assumed that the delivery of this target will be achievable within the TAP period. Further consideration may be required to improve the offer – acceptance ratio, having regard to the specific Traveller requirements outlined in Section 4.4.

Table 10 Standard Council Housing Offers and Uptake 2019 – 2023

Year	Offers Made	No. Housed
2019	11	5
2020	41	12
2021	19	9
2022	32	20
2023	24	10
Total	127	56

²⁴ Approximation based on 2019 – 2023 rather than 2020 – 2024 as 2024 data incomplete.

Approved Housing Body Housing

From the Annual Traveller Count (Table 3) it is evident that this housing tenure type is under-represented in Cork City Traveller accommodation, representing the accommodation type for just 3% (12) of families in comparison to 9% nationally.

It is anticipated in Table 9 that there is an existing need for AHBs to accommodate a further 13 families, with a further projected need for 7 additional units to 2029. Cork City Council are currently working with CENA in relation to potential alternative accommodation for the residents of Corkeran's Quay, Blackpool and Carrigrohane Road. This is at an early stage in the process and the location has not yet been established. The submission by CENA to the pre-draft consultation indicated their willingness to work in partnership with other AHB's in developing Traveller appropriate accommodation.

At the moment this tenure type does not feature prominently in the TAP Survey preferences. However, this is possibly a factor of Travellers not having an awareness of or direct experience of this housing form due to the small numbers involved to date. There is also a suggestion that they may be concerned that their tenure would not be as secure as it would be in Council housing. As this form of tenure becomes more widespread in the future it is likely it will contribute towards delivering the preferred Traveller Group Housing Scheme tenure type, discussed below, which has traditionally been provided by Local Authorities.

Traveller Group Housing Scheme

Table 11 lists the existing and planned Group Housing Schemes in Cork City, including 23 existing housing units. As outlined in Table 9 there is a target for the delivery of 44 Group Housing Scheme housing units to address the existing accommodation requirement and stated preference and a further 24 future units to cater for the predicted future demand to 2029. Table 11 outlines that the Council currently has either planning permission or is considering future proposals for c. 54 - 63 Group Housing Scheme housing units. This would deliver comprehensively

upon the existing need, and substantially deliver upon the additional projected need.

As noted previously Group Housing Schemes were amongst the preferred accommodation form recorded in the TAP Survey, particularly amongst halting site respondents. However, there appears to be a disconnect between the idea of a Group Housing Scheme and the reality, with 63% of respondents currently living in GHS considered the standard of accommodation was not acceptable.

Table 11 Group Housing and Mixed Group Housing and Associated Halting Site – Existing, Planned and Proposed

Group Housing Scheme/Halting Site	Existing Houses	Existing Bays	Future Plans / Options – <i>Extension to houses and bays proposed to address overcrowding where feasible</i>
St. Anthony's Park	7	9	Option to accommodate an additional 2 bays in place of Community Centre Building. Refurbishment - extension to houses and bays proposed.
Meelagh	9	3	Lands at rear of Meelagh Drive could possibly accommodate a further 3 (approx.) housing units.
Spring Lane/Ellis Yard	-	38	Part VIII in place for new development consisting of 27 housing units only. A further 15-unit Group Housing Scheme is proposed at an as yet undetermined location in the Northside of the city.
Hazelwood Grove	7	3	Council at early stage of designing 5 housing units.
Nash's Boreen	-	5	A site has been identified for a potential 4 modular homes and 4 welfare unit development.
Carrigrohane Road	-	12	3 families have moved to Standard Housing, 9 families working with CENA regarding future standard housing and Group Housing Scheme needs.
Total	23		Potentially 54 - 63 planned and proposed housing units

Critically, the traditional model of Group Housing Schemes is problematic for the City Council to deliver for a number of reasons. Principal amongst these is their inherent low-density nature, which is contrary to the compact growth policies of Cork City Council as a metropolitan area Planning Authority. Local resident opposition to such developments in established neighbourhoods can also significantly hinder the progress of such proposals.

To ensure a sufficient pipeline of this form of accommodation to cater for projected future need, a more flexible view as to the possible delivery mechanisms must be taken. As discussed, one such potential mechanism for delivering Group Housing Schemes is through AHB's provision²⁵. This sector has been traditionally underrepresented in Cork City and there is scope for expansion of their role in the future provision and management of this form of Traveller housing.

Another possible mechanism could be to co-locate small 2 - 6 unit clusters of Traveller housing in proximity to, but distinct from new housing developments. As outlined in Section 4.4 areas of Blarney, Glanmire and Ballincollig are earmarked for significant population expansion. There may be opportunities to integrate more standard housing for Travellers and small 2 – 6 unit Traveller housing clusters with larger housing schemes as these areas develop.

To accommodate a range of family stages and allow for greater flexibility these clusters would include single and two storey semi-detached houses.

It has been noted that 22% of all TAP Survey respondents currently live in two-storey dwellings. Similarly, a significant number of the families in Spring Lane opted for two-storey houses during the redevelopment consultation process. It is considered that to reflect the changes in household size experienced in Traveller families over time a wider mix of house sizes and typologies is needed within these schemes. The need identified in the TAP 2025-2029 is for the

majority of units to be 2 and 3 bedroom, while also including some 1 and 4 bedroom units allowing households within the extended family group to upsize and downsize as needed. It is also acknowledged that some element of single-storey homes or ground floor accessible units are required to cater for the needs of the elderly and to reflect the increased prevalence of long-term medical conditions amongst the Traveller community²⁶.

Halting Site

The Traveller community is a population in transition, with increasing number of Travellers growing up or spending periods of their lives in standard or group housing. The Traveller age profile in different accommodation types (ref Figure 17) and specifically the fact that the older Travellers in TAP Survey households predominantly live in halting sites, is a product of this transition.

Only 1% of the TAP Survey Respondents opted for living in halting sites as their first or second preference. Table 9 identifies 1 halting site unit is needed to address the existing accommodation need, based on the respondents' preferences of future accommodation type. It is also anticipated that 1 further space will be required to address the projected requirement to 2029.

A Part VIII scheme has been approved to redevelop the halting site in Spring Lane with 27 Traveller housing units, the delivery of a further 15 no housing units (on the existing Spring Lane Site and adjoining Ellis Yard Site) are proposed in the life of the TAP 2025-2029.

It is envisaged that as the existing residents in halting sites who have a preference to live in Local Authority Housing and Group Housing Scheme are rehoused, the current overcrowding issue should be resolved in the remaining halting site bays within St Anthony's Park, Meelagh and Hazelwood Grove Group Housing Schemes.

It is noted in Table 11 that there is a proposal to accommodate 2 additional bays in At Anthony's Park within the period of this TAP 2025-2029. In

²⁵ Possibly in partnership with Cena.

²⁶ In the 2022 Census 15% of Travellers reported having a significant, long-lasting medical condition, nearly twice the proportion in the total population.

addition, the Nash's Boreen residents are currently considering a potential design proposal for alternative accommodation which would include 4 modular housing units and 4 welfare units.

In tandem with the envisaged reduction in overcrowding, the TAP survey feedback indicated shortcomings in the available welfare facilities and services within the existing halting sites. As set out in Section 2, the TAU has a number of on-going proposals in this regard. In the halting site bays attached to St Anthony's Park, it is planned to undertake a programme of refurbishment, including the incorporation of bedrooms into the welfare facilities to address issues of overcrowding subject to the necessary approvals and availability of funding.



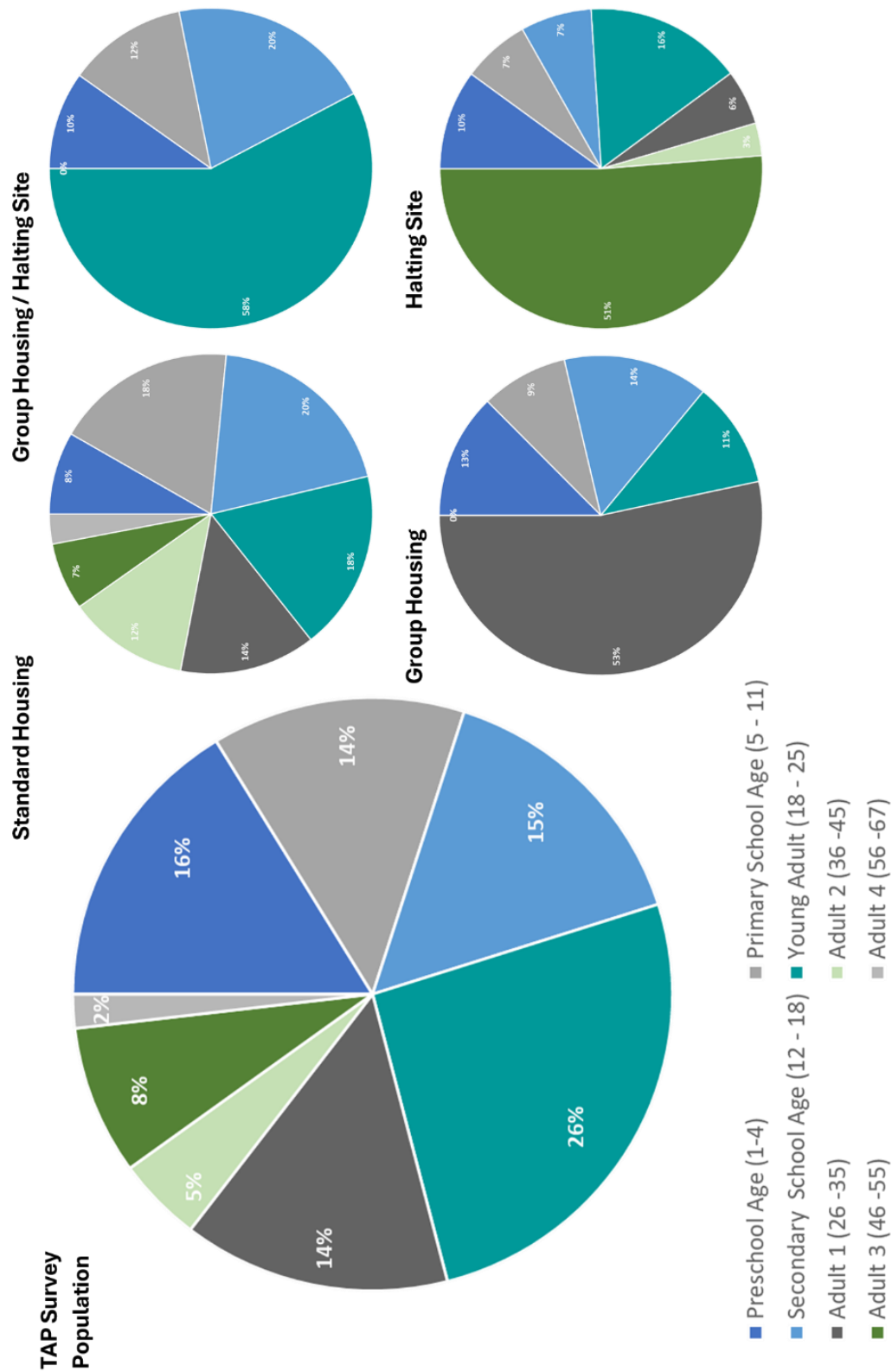


Figure 16 Age Profile of TAP Survey Family Members disaggregated by Accommodation Type

Caravan Loan Scheme

As noted in Section 2, Cork City Council has administered 32 loans under this scheme to members of the Traveller Community since 2021. However, the pre-draft submission by Traveller MABS is acknowledged and it is noted that while the maximum loan available under the scheme is for €40,000, the cost of purchasing a residential standard caravan/mobile, suitable for year around living, and that conforms to British Standard BS 3632 in terms of energy efficiency and thermal insulation is between €60,000 and €70,000. It is noted that the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is currently undertaking a review of the pilot caravan loan scheme whose recommendations, Cork City will take account of once advised.

04.7 Transient Sites

The TAP Survey included questions in relation to the use of transient sites. These explored whether the respondents or other members of their household travel and have ever used or envisaged a need for transient sites.

Table 12 Transient Site Survey Responses

Transient Sites – TAP Survey Responses	
Why Needed	Why Not Needed
Visiting family	People will stay permanently – become overcrowded
To ensure traditional travelling way of life continues legally	Trouble arising from different groups mixing
Would be good for holidays – have been refused from holiday parks	More urgent to focus on housing
Every county should have 1 – but with a time limit	-

Does a lack of Transient Sites stop you from travelling?		Are Transient Sites needed?		Has anyone in your household ever used a Transient Site?	
YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
19%	81%	25%	75%	10%	90%

Only 25% of respondents considered transient sites were needed, and only 10% had themselves or had a family member use them. In general, concerns were expressed that they would be poorly managed and become used as overflow for standard halting sites. Some considered that there should be a basic network of such sites to allow those who wished to travel easily.

As outlined in the following Policy Statement while it is recognised that there is a requirement to provide a network of transient sites for Travellers the TAP Survey indicates limited demand for this proposal, in the short-term amongst the Cork City Traveller population.



05 Policy Statement

This TAP has been prepared in accordance with Housing Circular 46/2023 dated 18 December 2023, including the “Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption and Implementation of Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAP) 2025-2029”.

A detailed consultation process was undertaken as part of the preparation of the TAP 2025-2029 with engagement from various stakeholder groups including internal consultation within Cork City Council, Traveller advocacy groups and crucially members of the Traveller community themselves.

Cork City Council is actively committed to providing high quality, Traveller-specific accommodation. It is an objective of the Council to:

- Meet the annual delivery targets for Traveller accommodation;
- Carry out a Mid-Term Review of this Traveller Accommodation Programme no later than 30 June 2027.

Table 13 New and Extended Traveller Accommodation Sites - based on Table 3.7 of the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028

Community	Development Type	Area of Cork City
Spring Lane	Existing	North-East City
Ellis's Yard	Extension	North-East City
Nash's Boreen	New	North-West City
Saint Anthony's Park	Extension	North-West City
Meelagh GHS	Extension	South-East City
Carrigrohane Road	New	South-West City / Hinterland
Transient	New	Based on the TAP Survey responses there is currently no preference indicated for Transient Sites. This will be reviewed as part of the mid-term review

05.1 Cork City Development Plan

Provision of Accommodation for Travellers

In support of this TAP, the Cork City Council Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (CDP) sets out that the Council will:

‘renew its determination to meet the needs of the Traveller Community by working with those constituent communities to implement the projects defined in the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024. The development plan will be updated to incorporate specific development proposals and updated objectives following the adoption of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2024-2029.’

Table 3.7 sets out the developments identified for delivery in the Plan period. This will include development of residential sites with ancillary communal facilities, as required, to meet the particular housing needs of the community. Private planning applications by the Traveller Community for development will be assessed on their merits against Objective 3.12: Special Categories of Housing and Objective 11.7: Traveller Accommodation and other relevant objectives.’

Furthermore, the CDP sets out the following policies and objectives:

‘Objective 3.12 - Special Categories of Housing:

Cork City Council will actively seek to meet the housing need of special categories of housing by:

- a) To directly provide and also support the development of suitable accommodation to meet the particular housing needs of Cork City’s Traveller Community through the planning process and development of new sites, the extension of existing sites and the refurbishment of existing sites in*

accordance with the needs identified in the Travellers Accommodation Plan. Specific development locations are specifically identified in Table 3.7 and accommodation for Travellers will also be suitable on lands zoned for purposes that accommodate residential uses, including the ZO 1: Sustainable Residential Neighbourhoods and ZO 20 City Hinterland land use zoning objectives;’

Provision of Traveller-Specific Accommodation

It is a policy of the Council to provide high-quality accommodation for the Traveller community reflective of the distinct needs of this minority group. Traveller accommodation may include permanent, emergency, temporary or transient accommodation and traditional halting sites, remaining conscious of this community's varied needs.

Meeting Traveller's Distinct Needs and Family Circumstances

It is a policy of the Council to be respectful of the cultural practices and traditions of the Traveller community in the provision of Traveller accommodation. The Council recognises that Travellers as a community may need provision for additional forms of community infrastructure in order to support cultural practices and traditions. This is reflected within the objectives of the current Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028:

The Council also recognises that given the low rate of internet access of Travellers, further issues of disadvantage and exclusion to accessing services can arise. It is an objective of the Council to review the need for providing additional resources to support Travellers who wish to apply for social housing or access the Council’s Choice Based Letting (CBL) System.

Unauthorised Encampments

Unauthorised encampments fall under the remit of the following legislation:

- Roads Act 1993
- Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998
- Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992
- Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1948
- Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002

While the Council do not support unauthorised halting sites, basic welfare facilities are provided on a case-by-case basis. The Council will continue to work with residents of unauthorised sites to identify suitable alternative accommodation.

Support for those Waiting for Accommodation

The TAU will work with Travellers awaiting accommodation and advise them, on an ongoing basis, of HAP/RAS, CBL and Homeless Services options. Members of the TAU will support any family who requires assistance with applying for these accommodation options.

There are several options available to Travellers who find themselves in crisis accommodation situations or homeless. In addition to the option set out above, the TAU and Homeless Services section of the Council will work with homeless families to assist them by utilising the Placefinder scheme.

The Placefinder scheme is a scheme which is available to persons who are registered with the Council as Homeless that allows the Council to support families who wish to move into private rented accommodation by providing financial support with the deposit and first month's rent.

Traveller-Specific Transitional Housing Initiative

As outlined in detail in Appendix F – the TAU recognises the unique and significant challenges faced by young Traveller families in accessing

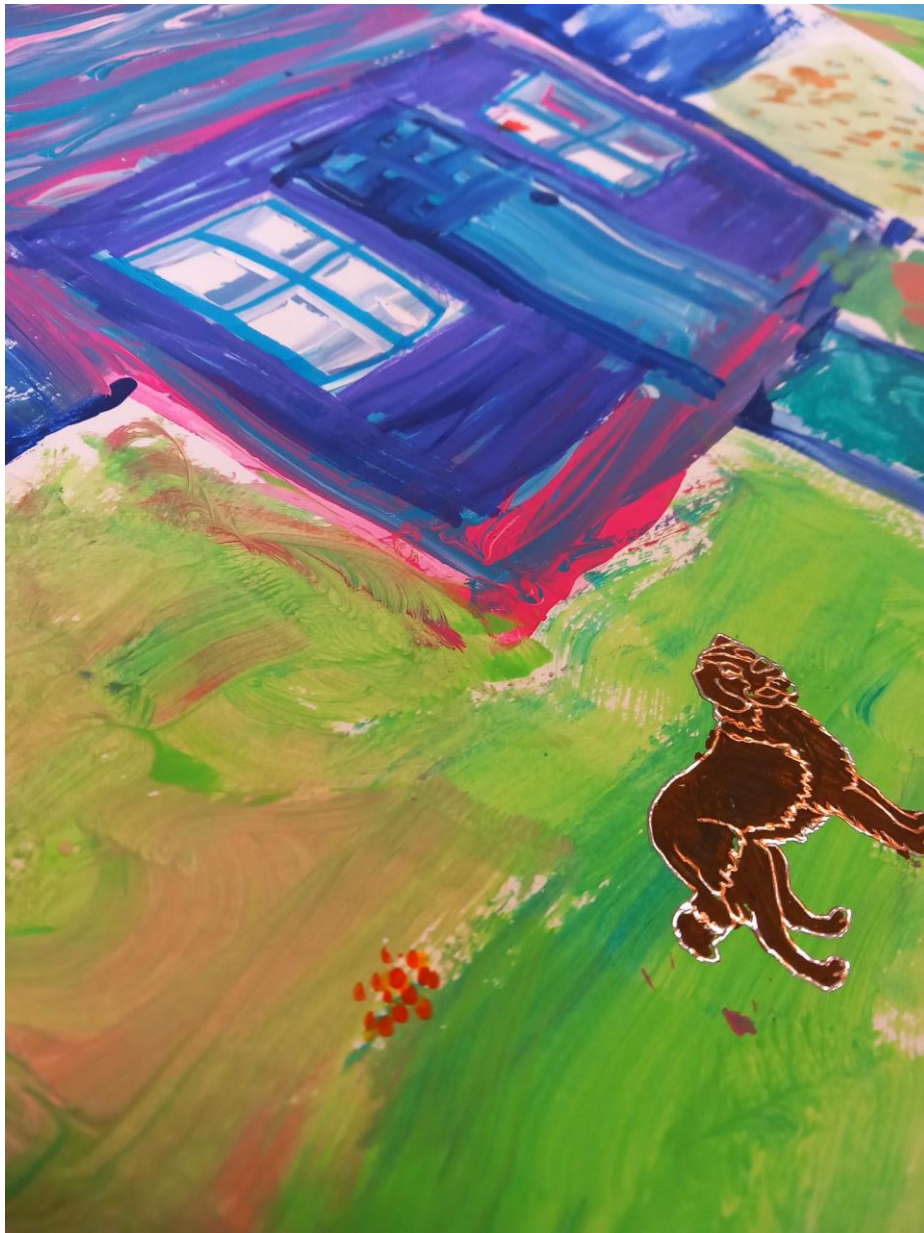
accommodation. The Traveller-Specific Transitional Housing Initiative is being proposed to offer support to these young Traveller families to move from homelessness or overcrowded accommodation to secure housing. Young Traveller families who find themselves in such circumstances will be prioritised for transitional housing and be provided with temporary, supportive housing utilising a specified number of vacant local authority (LA) housing stock while they await permanent solutions.

Transient Sites

It is recognised that there is a requirement to provide a network of transient sites for Travellers in the context of recognising nomadism as a feature of Traveller culture, this has to be developed on a regional basis in conjunction with other Local Authorities. Table 3.7 of the CDP commits to the delivery within the plan period of a site for nomadic Travellers, on a site to be identified. However, as detailed in Section 4.7 of this report, feedback from the TAP Survey indicates limited demand for this proposal in the short term. The Council intends to initiate a further review of the need for Transient facilities in Cork City. The review will be initiated as part of the mid-term review of the TAP 2025 – 2029, in consultation with the LTACC.

05.2 Traveller Culture

Irish Travellers have their own distinct language (CANT), and display and take part in their own defined cultural values and beliefs. As identified in the Equality Authority's Report on Traveller Ethnicity, the Traveller community is largely self-perpetuating. Irish Travellers' shared cultural features and behavior patterns distinguish them from other ethnic groups present in Ireland. Cork City Council have engaged in child-led art workshops where participants were invited to explore how their culture is reflected and their own sense of identity as part of ongoing efforts to support the welfare and wellbeing of the Traveller community.



05.3 Traveller Accommodation Unit

The Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU) is a dedicated unit of the wider Housing Directorate of Cork City Council for the management of issues specifically relating to Traveller accommodation needs. The TAU is responsible for the implementation of the TAP. The Council's TAU comprises of six full-time staff members who work with the over 500 Traveller families within Cork City. The unit has had its own dedicated Traveller Liaison Officer in place since February of 2023.

05.4 Recognition of Traveller Ethnicity

Travellers were formally recognised as a distinct ethnic group within Ireland in the Dáil Éireann on the 1st of March 2017. It is a policy of the Council to provide high quality accommodation based on the distinct needs of this ethnic minority. The formal recognition of Travellers as an ethnicity further reflects that Travellers are a community within Irish society that face specific challenges that require specific, thoughtful solutions to be meaningfully addressed. Cork City Council were the first local authority in Ireland to support the recognition of Irish Travellers as an ethnic group, and the Council are dedicated to their continued support of the Traveller Community.

05.5 Public Sector Duty

As set out in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, under the

Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty ('the Duty'), all public bodies in Ireland are obligated to:

- Eliminate discrimination;
- Promote equality of opportunity and treatment for staff and persons to whom it provides services; and
- Protect the human rights of staff and services users.

The Public Sector Duty requires a public body, having regard to its functions, purpose, size and resources available to it, to:

- **Assess** - set out in its strategic plan an assessment of the human rights and equality issues it believes to be relevant to the functions and purpose of the body;
- **Address** - set out in its strategic plan the policies, plans and actions in place or proposed to be put in place to address those issues;
- **Report** - report on developments and achievements in its annual report.

Implementation of the Public Sector Duty will have regard to the functions of Council in relation to the preparation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025- 2029.

06 Strategy Statement

06.1 Accommodation Delivery Mechanism

Cork City Council's policy of considering qualifying Traveller households in the allocation of Local Authority tenancies will continue in accordance with the Council's Allocation Scheme. This will include support in the form of:

- Rental tenancies in the Council's own properties.
- Rental tenancies in the private sector through RAS and HAP.
- Provision of specific accommodation for homeless people.
- The Council also nominates applicants from the Council waiting list for the tenancies of AHB housing stock.

The Traveller Accommodation Unit is fully committed to the coordination of the delivery of the Traveller accommodation targets, as set out in the TAP 2025 – 2029.

The Council recognises the significant role played by the AHB and the voluntary sector in the provision of social housing in Cork City. The AHBs will be encouraged and facilitated to play an increasing role to accommodate Traveller families.

The Council is committed to working with CENA and other AHB's to address the specific accommodation needs of Traveller Families. The Council will also continue to work with the LTACC and the various advocacy groups to improve accommodation needs for Traveller Families

06.2 Development of Accommodation Proposals

A methodology for progressing Traveller-specific accommodation is set out in Objective 11.7 -

Traveller Accommodation of the CDP. This states that:

'Development proposals for Traveller accommodation will be assessed against the following criteria:

- a) *Sites have adequate accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport to facilities and services including shops, healthcare, education and employment;*
- b) *Sites have safe vehicular access, adequate vehicle parking, services and there is adequate access for emergency services;*
- c) *Sites have adequate space to meet the accommodation needs of the Traveller Community;*
- d) *There is adequate access to or provision of facilities and servicing, including water supply, electricity and disposal facilities for sewage and waste;*
- e) *The development site is not a biodiversity site, not on the Record of Recorded Monuments and Places or public open space;*
- f) *Sites are not located in Flood Zones A or B;*
- g) *The proposed development will not cause undue adverse visual impacts."*

06.3 Public Awareness and Consultation

The Traveller Accommodation Unit is committed to the continued consultation with the various statutory and community development agencies that have an interest in the accommodation of the Traveller community. In addition, the Council will

continue to work with the LTACC and the various advocacy groups to improve accommodation needs for Traveller Families.

The established partnership between the Traveller Accommodation Unit and the Traveller community will continue to work towards appropriately addressing their accommodation needs.

The Traveller Accommodation Unit will liaise with the Traveller community and the general public through awareness information and consultation exercises. The Council is committed to promoting Traveller tenant participation in estate management across all housing developments and halting sites.

06.4 Management and Maintenance

The TAU is responsible for the delivery of services to the Traveller specific accommodation in Cork City and provides the following:

- Support and advice to assist tenants and applicants with the housing application process,
- Caretaker service for Traveller specific accommodation,
- Traveller Specific Accommodation refurbishments and upgrades,
- Halting Site management,
- Co-ordination with relevant departments on capital developments.

Estate Management

The TAU engage with Traveller families on a daily basis. Should problems arise the TAU may be required to have regular direct contact and visits with Traveller families. This contact should be used as an opportunity to build relationships and confidence in the local authority. During these visits a fair, friendly, direct and clear approach should be adopted. Gradually local authorities should move away from this approach and Traveller families should be encouraged to have

greater participation in the management of their accommodation.

Traveller tenants will be encouraged to appoint a representative / delegate which would involve liaison and consultation with the local authority on accommodation management issues.

Horses

The Council acknowledges the importance of horse ownership for members of the Traveller community. This needs to be balanced against requirements for public safety in a urban context and ensuring that stray horses are not left in public areas. It is the intention of the Council to collaborate with relevant the Community Directorate and agencies with the aim of developing a solution that would benefit members of the Traveller community and would also provide the necessary reassurances to the public at large that horses will be cared for in a controlled environment.

In Objective 3.22 of the CDP Cork City Council undertakes to support the development of a Traveller Horse Project in Cork City.

Traveller Specific Support Requirements

Significant challenges can face Travellers moving from halting sites to houses in Group Housing Schemes, with these challenges potentially being amplified if the move is into standard housing. Inexperience of the day-to-day requirements and responsibilities associated with living in a house or in a settled neighbourhood can cause difficulties between the new residents and the existing community.

The role of the Traveller support staff is critical in supporting this transition. Pre-tenancy training classes should be arranged to familiarise Traveller families with any potential issues that may arise and how to overcome them. Continued tenancy support where appropriate and in transitional housing initiatives. Traveller advocacy group representation on local residents' association will be encouraged in these cases.

06.5 The Future of Halting Sites

While a future need for halting sites is not reflected in the accommodation preference recorded in the TAP Survey, with the proposed redevelopment of the Spring Lane and Carrigrohane Halting sites, there will be a significant decrease in this form of Traveller specific accommodation provision. In light of this the Council considers that the TAP

2025-2029 Mid-Term Review in 2027 presents an appropriate mechanism to further review whether there remains a requirement for more provision of this form of accommodation. The review process will be commenced in tandem with the review of Transient Site accommodation.



07 Proposals to Meet Annual Targets

07.1 Measures Carried Over from the TAP 2019-2024

Table 14 Measures Carried Over from the TAP 2019-2024

Name of Scheme / TAP 2019 Objective	TAP 2025 - 2029 Item
1 - Spring Lane Halting Site	
Meaningful engagement with families, key stakeholders, and detailed design, construction of the group housing scheme.	Completed and Ongoing - Incorporated into Item 3 in Table 14. Cork City Council engaged Stakeholder Engagement Specialists to work on a family-by-family basis. The Stakeholder Engagements have been Contracted by CCC since 2021 and this service will continue until this development is delivered.
2 - Meelagh Group Housing Scheme	
Proposal to be prepared for lands adjacent to the site. Part VIII process and funding application submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government. <i>This proposal is subject to approval of funding application</i>	Incorporated into Item 3 in Table 14.
Discussions with families, detailed design, construction, etc.	Incorporated into Item 3 in Table 14
3 - St. Anthony's Park	
Submit a proposal for funding to DHPLG for families identified as suitable for an extension.	Incorporated into Item 3 in Table 14 - Engagement with families identified has been undertaken. A proposal will be sent to City Architects Department. Once approved design in place, the Council will proceed to seek funding for this project.
4 - Carrigrohane Road Halting Site	
Site to be identified.	Incorporated into Item 1 and 2 in Table 14 - Various options have been considered which have been determined to be unsuitable. CENA have been engaged to carry out a feasibility study with the families living on site to determine each family's preference and type of accommodation.
Proposal to be put forward for funding to include Part VIII process. <i>Subject to approval of funding application, consultation with residents, Design and Construction.</i> If approved, construction to commence.	Incorporated into Item 1 and 2 in Table 14 - The majority of the site's residents have shown a clear preference of accommodation after engaging with CENA. A plan will be implemented to meet the accommodation needs of the involved families. This plan will include collaboration between CCC, CENA, and the residents to provide the identified type of housing.

5 - Nash's Boreen

Submit Proposal for Funding to include Part VIII Planning Process.

Incorporated into Item 3 in Table 14 – Pending feedback from the Residents of this site on design layout provided.

Subject to approval of funding, discussions with families, design, and commence works.

Incorporated into Item 3 in Table 14 - Design of proposal drafted. Awaiting feedback from Residents. Once approval is received, design will be amended to take any comments on board, funding application will then be submitted and once approval is received, Part VIII process will commence.

6 - Transient Site

To be reviewed during the lifetime of this programme.

To be revisited at the mid-term review

07.2 Annual Targets

The Guidelines specify that to facilitate monitoring of progress on the implementation of the programme, annual targets should be included in programmes. The targets should include details of

the number of units of accommodation proposed to be delivered for each of the five years of the programme for Traveller specific accommodation (group housing, bays on halting sites, including the need for transient sites), both new and refurbished as well as standard housing. The overall five-year targets are set out in Table 15.

Table 15 Traveller Accommodation Annual Delivery Programme

TAP Program	TAP Overall Target	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Annual Total	Housing Delivery Breakdown by Type			Proposed Delivery Mechanism
								Standard Housing	Clustered Housing	Group Housing Scheme	
LA Housing	78 (50 existing need, 28 projected)	12	14	16	18	19	79	47	32	0	Ref Item 1
Approved Housing Body	20 (13 existing need, 7 projected)	2	4	6	4	6	22	6	16	0	Ref Item 2
Existing Model Group Housing Scheme	68 (44 existing need, 24 projected)	4	27	15	9	8	63	0	0	63	Ref Item 3
HAP/RAS	3 (2 existing need, 1 projected)	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	0	0	Ref Item 4
Halting Site	2 (1 existing need, 1 projected)	2	9 *	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	Ref Item 5
Total	171	21	46 & 9 *	38	32	34	171	58	48	63	

07.3 Specific Implementation Proposals

Item 1

An average annual rate of 11 Traveller families were housed by the Council in standard housing schemes between 2019 - 2023, rising to 20 in 2022. Based on the fact that the number of Local Authority new builds has increased year on year since 2021, this annual target of 14 rising to 20 is considered achievable. The Council's Traveller offer recording system should be refined to identify offers that subsequently fell through to provide a more accurate picture of the acceptance rate. Further consideration may be required to improve the offer – acceptance ratio, having regard to the specific Traveller requirements outlined in Section 4.4

Specific end of terrace, semi-detached units with side entrances in housing scheme completions could be set aside as single units or clusters of 2 - 6 units for Traveller accommodation. Clusters of 3 – 6 units comprising a mix of unit typologies could be co-located in future housing scheme designs as a form of Group Housing Scheme, to cater for a range of related family household sizes.

Table 16 TAP 2025-2029 Item 1

Item 1 - Actions	Responsibility	Funding Resources	Regulatory Compliance:
Proposals to be carried out as part of Part VIII and Part V social and affordable housing delivery mechanisms.	Cork City Council, private developers	Part VIII funding application submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government. Private development funding through Part V agreement.	Adherence to local and national planning regulations.

Item 2

In the 2022 Traveller Annual Count, AHBs accounted for only 3% of Traveller housing in Cork City, compared to 10% nationally. The Social Housing Delivery Output data by Local Authority Area shows that AHB's completed 882 units in Cork City between 2019 and 2023. To date, this housing has been provided for in the form of standard housing. However, the Council are currently liaising with CENA in relation to future Traveller accommodation developments in relation to the families living in Carrigrohane Road Halting Site (ref Section 7.1 Measure 4) and the unauthorised halting site at Corkeran's Quay.

Over the lifetime of the TAP it is expected that AHBs will continue to increase their engagement with and provision of Traveller accommodation to come into line with the national figure. This will continue to be in the form of single units within standard housing but also increasingly in clustered 2–6 unit Traveller housing, co-located within housing schemes. Planning risk and delays due to the planning process may act as a constraint on the achievement of these annual targets.

Table 17 TAP 2025-2029 Item 2

Item 2 - Actions	Responsibility	Funding Resources	Regulatory Compliance:
AHB delivery as part of standard social and affordable schemes and as Traveller specific housing schemes.	AHB in conjunction with Cork City Council,	Proposal to be carried out as part of the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) funding model.	Adherence to local and national planning regulations.

Item 3

As outlined in Table 11 Cork City Council have planning permission or proposals (some involving AHB) to deliver 54 – 63 Group Housing units in the short to medium term – the delivery of this development is carried over from TAP 2019-2024 (ref Section 7.1 Measure 1, 2, 3, 5). However, while it is estimated in Table 15 that 44 units are required to meet the existing requirement, a further 24 units will be required to meet future projected need during the TAP 2025-2029 period. While the traditional model for delivering Group Housing Schemes will substantially deliver upon this target, it is considered that it is unlikely to deliver it fully within this timeframe. It is proposed therefore that this shortfall be addressed through 2-6 clustered housing provision within or co-located with Council or AHB housing schemes as discussed in Item 1 and 2.

Table 18 TAP 2025-2029 Item 3

Item 3 - Actions	Responsibility	Funding Resources	Regulatory Compliance:
Proposals to be carried out as part of Part VIII delivery mechanisms.	Cork City Council	Part VIII funding application submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.	Adherence to local and national planning regulations.

Item 4

It is anticipated that HAP - RAS accommodation, while not featuring highly in the TAP Survey preferences, will increase slowly over time, supplementing other forms of Traveller housing.

Table 19 TAP 2025-2029 Item 4

Item 4 - Actions	Responsibility	Funding Resources	Regulatory Compliance:
TAU and the Council Housing Directorate to continue to support Traveller families in their application for HAP and RAS.	Housing Directorate, Cork City Council	Rental support payments administered by the local authorities.	Adherence to scheme eligibility criteria.

Item 5

The proposed redevelopment of Spring Lane, Nash's Boreen, future redevelopment of Corkeran's Quay, future development of a small scheme at Hazelwood Grove and the phased closure of Carrigrohane Road halting sites are all planned/proposed within the lifetime of the TAP. The Council are also proposing to increase the provision of St Anthony's Park by delivering 2 additional units in place of the former Community Centre to assist on addressing overcrowding on this site. * The upgrading/refurbishment of the identified Welfare Units at St Anthony's Park to include bedrooms is also proposed within this TAP period.

Table 20 TAP 2025-2029 Item 5

Item 5 - Actions	Responsibility	Funding Resources	Regulatory Compliance:
Proposals to be carried out as part of Part VIII delivery mechanisms.	Cork City Council	Part VIII funding application submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.	Adherence to local and national planning regulations.

07.4 Mid-Term Review

A Mid-Term Review of the TAP 2025-2029 will be carried out not later than 30 June 2027. Following a review, any amendment to the proposed accommodation programme will be made within seven months.

07.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

Cork City Council, through the offices of the TAU, will be responsible for establishing a framework for monitoring the TAP 2025-2029 implementation, including the preparation of quarterly reports and annual reviews.

Reports on the delivery of the programme will be submitted to the LTACC on an annual basis. A summary of the activities in relation to Traveller accommodation will also be included in the Annual Report of the Council. Monitoring returns will be submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as required.

Evaluation Criteria used to assess the success of the programme, will include such as the number of units delivered against annual targets, satisfaction rates among the Traveller community, and adherence to timelines taking into account challenges and justified delays/barriers to implementation.



08 Recommendations

08.1 Mechanisms for Implementation

The involvement of AHB in the provision of Traveller accommodation in Cork City, currently at 3% is under-represented compared to the national figure of 10%. While Cork City Council are currently collaborating on a number of projects, the Council will engage with a broader range of AHB's to address this shortfall in provision. It is noted that Council provided accommodation has been the preferred option to date in Cork City. However, it is envisaged that the delivery of Traveller specific schemes through CENA-led or other AHB partnerships would overcome this traditional ambivalence toward this accommodation mechanism.

Group Housing Schemes and Local Authority Housing were the preferred housing tenure type. As noted in the feedback from the TAP Survey respondents who currently live in Group Housing Schemes, there are significant issues related to this model of housing. This is largely in relation to overcrowding, and scheme size leading to issues between unrelated families. A preference was noted for smaller Traveller housing schemes of fewer than 6 units, housing related families only. Other Travellers stated a preference to live in standard housing away from other Travellers. Challenges have traditionally been experienced by Cork City Council in delivering these schemes. There may be an opportunity to deliver small (1 – 6 units) clusters of Traveller homes co-located with standard housing developments.

The TAU recognises the unique and significant challenges faced by young Traveller families in accessing accommodation. The Traveller-Specific Transitional Housing Initiative is being proposed to offer support to these young Traveller families to move from homelessness or excessively overcrowded accommodation to secure housing. Temporary, supportive housing utilising a specified number of vacant local authority (LA) housing

stock will be made available to support this group while they await permanent housing solutions.

08.2 Collaboration

It is noted also that the majority of the respondents (52%) had rural backgrounds, with c. 34% of the respondents growing up in County Cork, and a further 18% growing up in Counties Tipperary, Limerick, Waterford and Kerry.

The Cork Joint Housing Strategy 2022 – 2028 sets out the existing and future housing requirements across both Cork City and Cork County local authority areas. This is based on an acknowledgement that housing needs and housing markets cross local authority boundaries, particularly across the wider Cork City region. It is noted ²⁷ that 34% of the TAP Survey respondents grew up in Cork County, and that there is significant movement between the two Local Authority areas. Consideration should be given to greater coordination between Local and Regional Authorities in the preparation of future TAPs to reflect this Traveller population movement.

08.3 Housing size and Form

In recognition of the decreasing Traveller family sizes, it is considered that 2 and 3 bedroom accommodation is the most appropriate and preferred housing size for Traveller families (required by 59% of respondents), with appropriate provision also being made for 1 and 4 bedroom units (ref Section 4.4).

In Traveller Housing clusters it is recommended that a mix of housing sizes is provided to allow flexibility for family members to upsize and downsize across different family stages (ref Section 4.4).

Many respondents stated they would only consider a single-storey dwelling due to safety concerns for their children or mobility issues.

²⁷ Appendix D page 16 - TAP Survey Detailed Survey.

Notwithstanding this 22% of all respondents currently live in two-storey dwellings, so this concern is not uniform. Single-storey developments exclusively would no longer comply with recent national Guidelines on density requirements²⁸. Therefore, Traveller accommodation should incorporate a mix of house typologies including one and two storeys, with duplex apartments offering scope for multi-family occupancy.

Notwithstanding the house typology, a uniform Traveller requirement exists for a side entrance and drive to cater for a tourer to reflect their cultural preference, with enclosed garden area for children to play in.

08.4 Targets

Flexible Responses – having regard to the impact of Covid 19 on the delivery schedule of the TAP 2019-2024, the importance of flexibility in the programme is highlighted to address unforeseen changes or challenges, such as demographic shifts or funding adjustments.

08.5 Locational Factors

In addition to pipeline proposals itemised in Section 2, Local Authority Traveller standard housing provision will be distributed across the city. However, in line with the locational preferences expressed in the TAP Survey, Blarney, Ballincollig, Ballyvolane and Glanmire are all earmarked for significant population growth in the 2022 Cork City Development Plan. There may be opportunities to integrate new standard Council Housing for Travellers and small Traveller Group Housing Schemes as these areas develop.

08.6 Consultation and Support

Many Traveller concerns about standard housing may be a factor of inexperience having lived in a bungalow or caravan all their lives. Traveller supports and pre-tenancy courses should be put in place to address this. Travellers moving from halting sites into standard Local Authority housing may encounter a number of issues. The role of the Traveller Liaison Officer is critical in supporting this transition and ongoing supports as necessary.

The Traveller population in Cork City is in transition. As the TAP Survey indicated there is a significant desire to move into standard housing away from halting sites. The Traveller Accommodation Unit will consult closely with the Traveller community and other stakeholders to ensure that this transition has successful outcomes for all concerned.

08.7 Information Availability

Continued collaboration is required between the CSO and the Local Authorities to resolve remaining discrepancies between the 2022 Annual Traveller Count figures and the Census 2022 data (ref. Sections 1.3 and 1.4).

Census age profile data is required for calculating projected household numbers. In the Census 2022 this data appears to be only provided as a combined figure for Cork City and Cork County (CSO Table F5092). For future TAP reviews this data should be disaggregated by Local Authority area (ref Section 4.5).

08.8 Mid-term Review

The Council undertakes to carry out a Mid-Term Review of this Traveller Accommodation Programme.

²⁸ Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements - Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2024.

Appendix A – Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU) & Traveller Liaison (TLO) Initiatives

TAU Community Participation & Engagement Initiative

Overview

Since the recruitment of the Traveller Liaison Officer (TLO) position within the TAU in 2023, the Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU) has launched a comprehensive community outreach program aimed at strengthening engagement with the Traveller community. The TLO has expanded clinic availability at City Hall to four days per week, operating by appointment. Additionally, outreach clinics are held directly within the community, and to date, 50 site visits have been conducted.

The TLO has facilitated over 6,000 interactions through a variety of channels, including dedicated mobile and landline services, community meetings, estate management meetings, site visits, group sessions, and clinics. This multi-faceted approach has significantly enhanced communication and support for the Traveller community.

In line with the TAU's commitment to meaningful engagement, the TLO has developed two key initiatives over the past 12 months: the Traveller Participation and Engagement Initiative and the Child and Youth Participation Initiative. These initiatives aim to address issues affecting the Traveller community in relation to housing and broader community concerns.

The TLO has also collaborated with the Traveller Mediation Service (TMS) to address specific challenges faced by the unit. TMS focuses on facilitating constructive relationships and peaceful outcomes where conflict or the threat of conflict has happened. This partnership aims to mediate and resolve disputes, facilitate constructive dialogue, and support conflict resolution within the Traveller community, particularly in relation to housing and community matters. The TMS has proven to be a valuable resource in fostering better communication and understanding between all parties involved, further enhancing the effectiveness of the TAU's outreach and engagement efforts.

The TLO has been actively engaging with Traveller Teams across various UK councils to explore best practices in halting site management. This research has involved gathering insights from local authorities with well-established halting site policies, focusing on areas such as site maintenance, resident engagement, conflict resolution, and service delivery. The TLO has participated in virtual meetings, and knowledge-sharing forums to understand the challenges and successes of different approaches. This comparative analysis aims to identify innovative and effective strategies that can be adapted and implemented locally to improve the management, sustainability, and community relations at halting sites within our own jurisdiction. The findings from this research will inform future policy development and enhance service delivery for Traveller communities.

The TLO also plays a key role in conducting housing welfare assessments for the Traveller community. These assessments are crucial in identifying the specific housing needs, welfare concerns, and support services required by Traveller families. This proactive approach helps the TAU provide more effective support and resources, ensuring that the Traveller community's housing and welfare needs are addressed in a comprehensive manner.

Furthermore, the TAU successfully secured significant dormant account funding to support the delivery of the TLOs various programs across the city. These include tenant participation programs, a school's initiative, and a Participatory Budgeting scheme. The details of these programs are outlined below.



TLO Child & Youth Participation and Engagement Initiative

Child-led Creative Workshops at The Living Commons, Cork (2023)

A series of child-led workshops were held at the Living Commons, a creative community space on Shandon Street, aimed at children from the Spring Lane site. The workshops were designed around themes of identity and belonging, focusing on developing a positive sense of self and fostering the feeling of being valued as part of a family and community. It was crucial for the children to feel comfortable in this new environment and to develop a sense of ownership and agency within the shared space.

The workshops encouraged the children to take the lead in decision-making, particularly around activities. They were provided with various arts and crafts options, allowing them to choose what they enjoyed. Specific activities, such as constructing homes from shoeboxes and materials, were continued over several weeks. The children also expressed interest in learning to use a sewing machine and subsequently created bags, bunting, and other items for themselves and their families.

Working alongside support workers and artists, the children enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere where they could freely express their thoughts and experiences. The workshops emphasized the value of their contributions, reinforcing their role in community spaces.



St. Aidan's Workshops (March – June 2024)

In collaboration with Cork City Partnership, the TLO worked with a Socially Engaged Researcher/Practitioner and the Behaviour for Learning and Level 2 Learning Co-ordinator in St. Aidan's to support the engagement of young people from Spring lane in the schools programme. The "Self-Empowerment through Collaborative, Creative Learning" workshops developed and facilitated by a researcher/practitioner in social engagement, at St. Aidan's involved students from the Traveller community. This student-led approach allowed the participants to take control of their learning, discussing and determining the themes they wanted to explore, the methods they preferred, and how their outputs would be represented and understood. The focus was on fostering longer-term, self-organised, collaborative efforts.

The workshops provided a quiet, reflective space for the participants to explore themes of personal power and well-being in relation to themselves, their community, and wider society. Through creative journaling and painting, the girls examined how their relationships with others impacted them, and how they might exert more control over their self-representation. They produced a series of paintings, commemorating family members lost to illness and suicide, and experimented with abstract painting and collage techniques.

St. Aidan's Workshops (September – December 2024)

In collaboration with teachers and support workers, a series of four weekly creative workshops were designed for teenagers from the Traveller community at St. Aidan's school. Each workshop group was divided by age, and the themes focused on "visual literacy," self-expression, and self-representation.

The younger participants explored how to visually represent aspects of themselves, their communities, and the environments that support them. The older groups engaged in more advanced techniques, including photography, collage, and drawing. They were introduced to zine-making and encouraged to create their own zines on topics of their choice. The culmination of this work will be exhibited at the end of the year.

As part of the programme at St Aidan's, Print Van Go, a travelling print studio, played a pivotal role in engaging Traveller teenagers in a series of printmaking workshops. These workshops, focused on self-expression and visual literacy, offered the students an accessible and hands-on way to explore identity and representation through creative processes. Print Van Go brought professional printmaking tools and equipment directly into the school environment, ensuring that the teenagers could engage with a range of traditional printmaking techniques, from rubber stamps to screen printing on textiles. The participatory nature of these workshops aligned with the core principles of the programme, using art as a tool for community engagement and social change. By allowing the students to lead and collaborate on their projects, the workshops fostered a sense of ownership, agency, and empowerment, contributing to their broader development of self-expression within the context of their community.





TLO Community Participation and Engagement Initiative

Meelagh Tenants Participation Programme (March – November 2024)

The Meelagh Tenants Participation Programme, coordinated with the TLO and Cork Traveller Women's Network (CTWN) and facilitated by a socially engaged practitioner/researcher from the Living Commons, involved a group of women residents at Meelagh Housing Estate. The programme began by exploring the women's interest in self-organising to gain more control over their needs and access to support systems. It also provided an opportunity to explore alternative methods for addressing their needs and building stronger relationships with the City Council through the TLO's tenancy participation programme.

Weekly meetings were held where the women engaged in peer-to-peer learning, co-facilitating discussions on housing issues and collective problem-solving. The programme aimed to produce professional outputs that could serve as clear communication tools with the City Council.

Meelagh Women's Traveller Committee (Ongoing)

Following the success of the participation programme, the women at Meelagh Estate established the Meelagh Women's Traveller Committee (MWTC). The committee worked on branding, creating a logo and visual media outputs to raise their profile within existing and future consortiums. The group collaboratively produced a report, with the assistance of a graphic designer, to present their first issue to the TAU for discussion and resolution.

The committee has committed to adopting a community-of-care approach, focusing on the upkeep of the estate and improving the quality of life for its residents. They are also working on visual literacy, particularly designing a Traveller tenancy handbook to make it more accessible to their community, including those with limited literacy skills.



St. Anthony's Park (Ongoing)

Traveller Tenant Participation Programme

Developed by the TLO the Traveller Tenant Participation Program is a community-driven initiative designed to support the Traveller community in Cork City by enhancing their tenancy sustainment and promoting active engagement in their living environments. The programme is delivered by a researcher/practitioner in social engagement from the Living Commons and they focus on providing tailored training, resources, and support to help Travellers better understand their tenancy rights and responsibilities, develop leadership skills, and participate in decision-making processes related to their housing schemes and halting sites.



The program also fosters community cohesion by creating platforms for Travellers to share experiences, voice concerns, and collaborate on improving their living conditions. Ultimately, this initiative aims to empower the Traveller community, reduce tenancy-related issues, and build stronger, more inclusive communities within Cork City. Women from St. Anthony's Park have begun exploring the formation of a committee similar to the Meelagh group.

Community Cultures of Care Programme

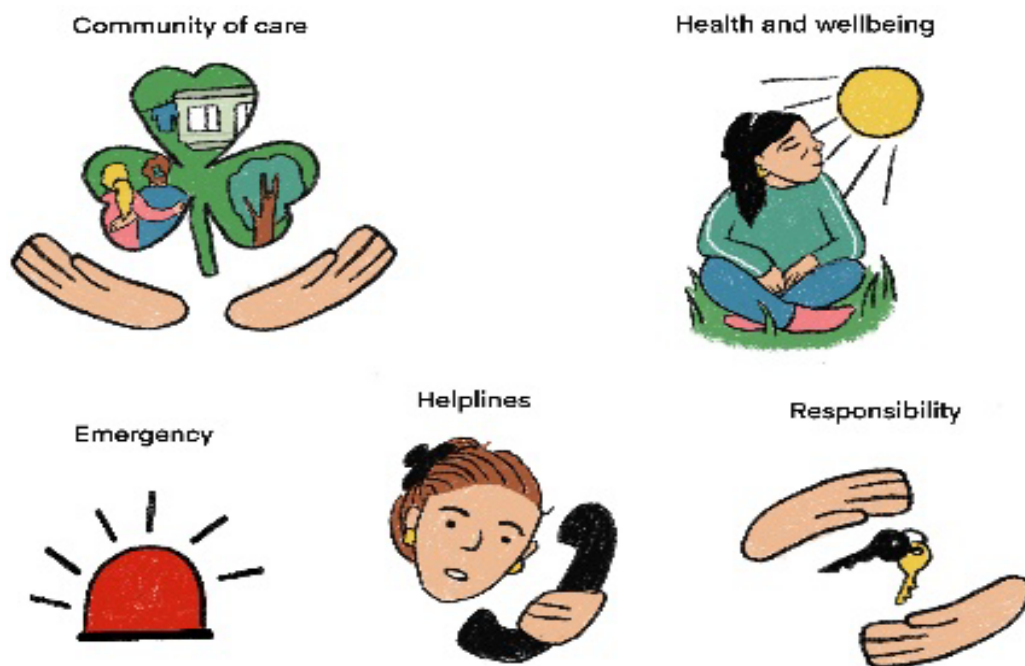
The Community Cultures of Care is a programme led by a socially engaged researcher/practitioner including a horticulturalists and participatory artists from the Living Commons, and supported by the TLO. The programme within the Meelagh and St. Anthony's Park tenant participation initiatives is centred on fostering a holistic approach to community well-being, where environmental sustainability and collective responsibility intersect with social empowerment. Grounded in participatory practice, this programme embraces a framework that encourages tenants to engage in self-organised, peer-to-peer learning, reinforcing the idea that care for oneself is intrinsically linked to care for the broader community.

Drawing on the principles of social practice art and participatory methods, the programme aims to cultivate a culture where community members take ownership of both the physical environment and the social fabric that binds them together. By positioning care as a communal value, the initiative supports tenants in addressing issues like waste management and environmental sustainability through collaborative, creative processes. The focus is not solely on practical outcomes but on fostering a deeper sense of agency, belonging, and empowerment among participants.



At its core, the Cultures of Care programme views the community as a co-creator of its own solutions. It engages tenants in a participant-led approach, allowing them to shape the direction of workshops, discussions, and collective actions, thereby aligning the programme's activities with the immediate and long-term needs of the community. By encouraging sustainable practices and collective responsibility, the initiative promotes a sense of stewardship over shared spaces, contributing to a more resilient, self-sustaining community that values both individual and collective well-being.

This approach is deeply rooted in participatory theory, which recognizes the power of communal agency and the potential for creative processes to act as a catalyst for social change. The Community Cultures of Care programme, therefore, not only addresses material concerns such as the environment and waste management but also nurtures a sustainable model of care that is self-replicating and adaptable to future challenges.



Participatory Budgeting

The Participatory Budgeting for the Traveller Tenant Participation Program seeks to empower Traveller communities in Cork City by allowing them to take an active role in deciding how funds are allocated to improve their living environments. The programme facilitated a participatory process where residents collaborate to identify, decide upon, and implement community-driven projects that address their most pressing needs, such as maintaining their community, and waste management.



The initiative aims to strengthen community leadership, foster sustainable and culturally relevant improvements, and build ownership over the changes made. Through workshops, and direct involvement in implementation, the residents will not only enhance their living conditions but also develop the skills needed for future community-led initiatives. This initiative highlights the importance of empowering Travellers with the tools and

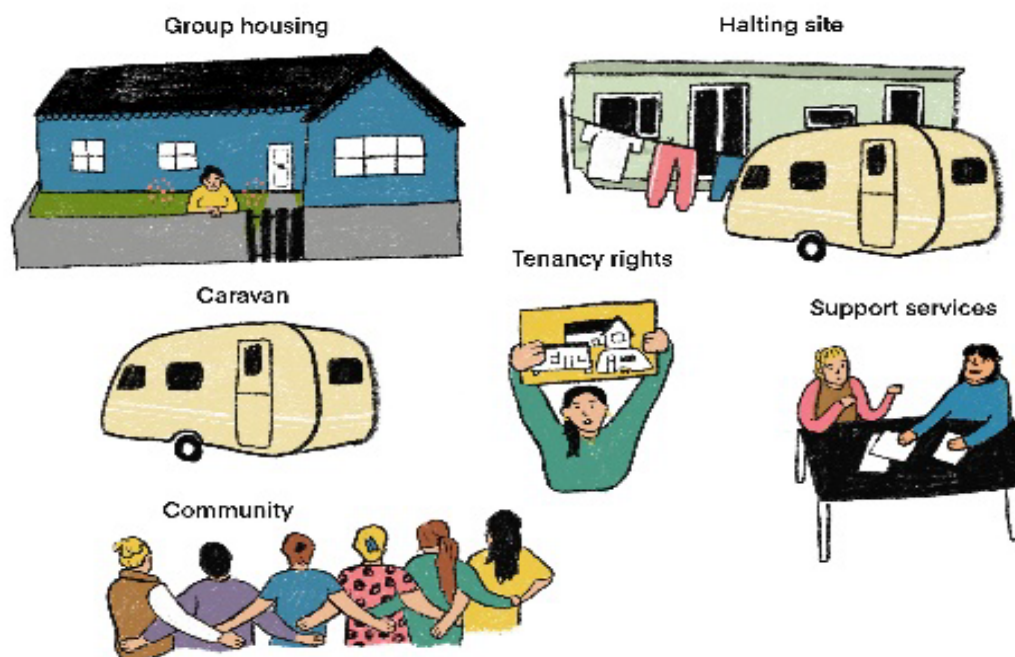
knowledge to shape their environments, promoting long-term sustainability and community cohesion. The PB initiative ensures that the process reflects the priorities of the Traveller communities, ultimately supporting their growth and self-determination.

To date a horticulturist and landscaper, focused on fostering community engagement through garden design and landscaping, aligning with the Cultures of Care framework. In both St. Anthony's Park and Meelagh, the practitioner's work aimed to create physical improvements while driving social change through community participation. This participatory approach encourages a sense of ownership and responsibility, empowering the community to maintain and care for their shared spaces long after the initial work is done. The project not only improves the physical environment but also fosters a stronger sense of community and collective care.

This approach, rooted in collaboration and shared responsibility, supports the Cultures of Care ethos by promoting long-term social cohesion, skill-building, and empowerment within the community. Through these participatory landscaping efforts, the practitioner helps create spaces that reflect the values and needs of the residents, while encouraging sustainable community-driven care.

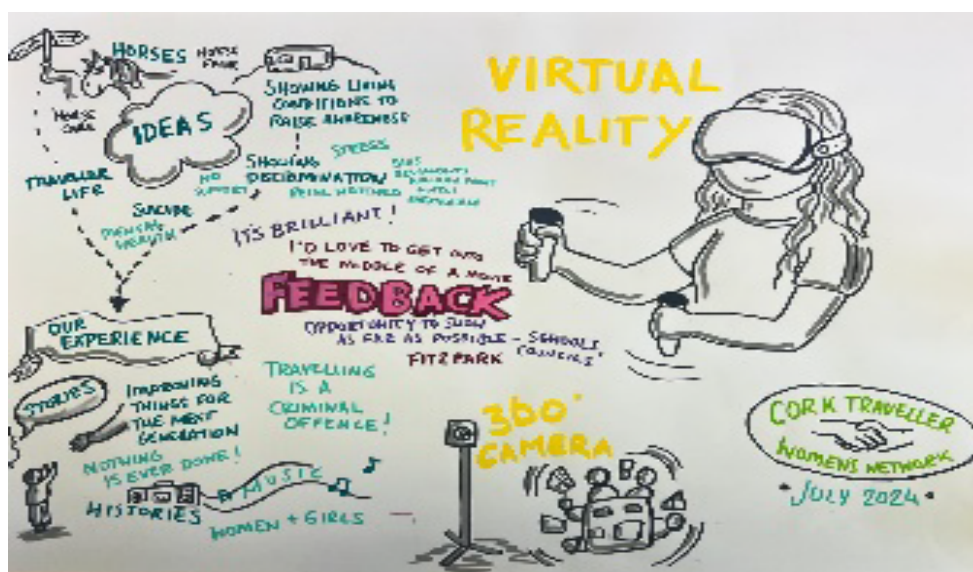
Cultural Inclusive Tenant Participation Handbook for the Traveller Community

The TLO is developing a Tenant Participation Handbook for the Traveller Community, the workshops with the Traveller community are delivered by a socially engaged practitioner/researcher from the Living Commons. An artist is also working with Traveller young people from Spring Lane in St. Aidan's, Traveller residents living in Meelagh, St. Anthony's Park and the wider community, as well as Traveller organisations. The culturally appropriate handbook is being developed for people living in Traveller specific accommodation with low literacy levels to ensure important information about accommodation, community resources, rights, and responsibilities is accessible to everyone, regardless of their literacy level or cultural background. To empower residents to understand their rights, navigate services, and participate more fully in their community and to facilitate effective communication between residents, staff, and service providers, reducing misunderstandings and barriers to accessing support.



Creating Connections Participatory Arts Initiative

The Creating Connections project is a participatory arts initiative led by the TLO, artists & producers from Immersive Ireland, a heritage consultant/folklorist and Cork Traveller Women's Network. It aims to explore the relationship between cultural identity and engagement within the Traveller community. Using a rights-based, user-led approach, the project seeks to empower Travellers by involving them directly in shaping how Cork City Council's Traveller Accommodation Unit delivers its services. Through a series of creative collaborations, participants co-created a virtual reality (VR) film, currently in post-production, aimed at raising awareness and promoting a deeper understanding of Traveller culture. The project focuses on providing an immersive experience for policymakers, planners, and the general public, highlighting key aspects of Traveller traditions such as communal living, intergenerational knowledge transmission (horse care), the cultural importance of singing tradition within the community and the central role of family networks.



The VR film is designed to challenge misconceptions about the Traveller community and encourage a more informed and empathetic approach to accommodation development. By offering a closer look at the cultural practices that shape Traveller life, the film will help stakeholders better understand the community's specific needs when it comes to housing, particularly the importance of culturally sensitive features like communal spaces and flexible living arrangements.

Once completed, the VR film will serve as a valuable resource in fostering dialogue between the Traveller community and those involved in planning and development, helping to ensure that future accommodation is more inclusive and aligned with Traveller values and ways of life.



Appendix B – Equality Review Recommendations

Equality Review Recommendations

Overview

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) made the following recommendations, having considered Cork City Council's assessment of their provision of traveller-specific accommodation services in 2019:

1. Address policy and procedures to respond fully to the recommendations set out in the Equality Review, including:
 - i. that the assessment of need in future TAPs include an estimate of the number of Traveller families and households for whom accommodation will be required at the commencement and conclusion of the programme, and the need for sites as required in the legislation;
 - ii. to ensure accurate statistical data, future surveys should be carried out with peer researchers (Travellers) assisting in the survey and giving respondents the option to take part in locations other than the local authority offices in order to increase response rates;
 - iii. forward planning based on household formation rates and other demographic indicators should be undertaken to estimate future accommodation needs of Travellers within the jurisdiction of the Council and inform future TAPs;
 - iv. that the impact of targets within the TAP be estimated in terms of the number of additional families housed within Traveller-specific housing or through other means;
 - v. that further goals be set to extend Traveller-specific accommodation within Cork City, in particular to alleviate the overcrowding in halting sites;
 - vi. the process of identifying locations for smaller halting sites situated around the city should be progressed; and
 - vii. that the Council and the Traveller community engage with each other in a manner that is based on recognition of the need for safe working and living conditions for all concerned.
 2. Address policy and procedure for:
 - i. ensuring a respect for Traveller culture and identity in the provision of accommodation services to Travellers, and specifically in relation to horse ownership;
 - ii. assessing, tracking and independently verifying the preferences of the Traveller community in relation to type of accommodation;
 - iii. establishing appropriate processes for Traveller tenant participation in estate management on Traveller-specific accommodation;
 - iv. implementing the local connection requirements for Travellers moving into the jurisdiction to have access to Traveller-specific accommodation;
 - v. establishing and developing a response to the needs of Travellers who are nomadic within and through the city functional area, through the provision of transient halting site bays;
 - vi. responding to the practical implications of Traveller ethnicity, in the provision of standard housing, in particular for supporting and sustaining integrated diverse communities;
 - vii. tracking the experiences of the Traveller community in seeking to secure accommodation in the private rented sector and addressing the issues identified;
 - viii. developing culturally specific responses to the needs of Travellers experiencing homelessness; and
-

-
- ix. implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty in the next review of the TAP
3. Establish and implement an ethnicity identifier in data gathering and analysis in relation to the provision of social housing and homelessness services and include all Traveller-specific accommodation options in housing applications (i.e. allow applicants identify themselves as a member of the Traveller community if they wish and for the sole purpose of identifying accommodation needs and include a list of needs/preferences any or all of which may be ticked, including, but not limited to permanent/transient halting site, group housing, outdoor space for dogs/horses and preference to be accommodated close to family members).
 4. Develop a more transparent recording of the methodology of collection and data obtained in the annual count of members of the Traveller community (for example by survey, setting out the steps taken to ensure all members of the Traveller community were reached and including such questions as multiple accommodation preferences and difficulties in accessing such preferences or other accommodation in the past).
 5. Consider the possibility of employing a Traveller Liaison Officer, who should have a drop-in or phone clinic by which members of the Traveller community can voice any concerns they may have in respect of their accommodation directly. This officer could also make efforts to engage with members of the Traveller community on any other issues arising. They could also assist with online applications where members of the Traveller community have no access to the internet. The Traveller Liaison Officer should have regular meetings with members of the Council mandated with housing issues to ensure regular feedback on accommodation issues raised by members of the Traveller community.
 6. Carefully assess the contents of the report it was due to receive from CENA on 21 October 2019 and publish any steps taken to address the concerns of residents of the halting sites in question and to address the safety issues arising more generally.
 7. Record data on both expenditure incurred for Traveller-specific accommodation and general accommodation to help inform the Council to ensure that there is no less favourable treatment of Travellers in the provision of accommodation. Account may be taken of the true preferences of members of the Traveller community whose accommodation needs are met through general housing funds and of the fact that some forms of accommodation are more expensive than others.
 8. Adopt a broad equality policy incorporating discrimination on all prohibited grounds and all staff should receive training on this policy.
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Appendix C – Stakeholders Contacted in Advance of Drafting of the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2025-2029

Stakeholders Contacted in Advance of Drafting of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

- Department of Education & Science
 - Social Welfare Local office Cork
 - An Garda Siochána, Anglesea Street
 - Traveller Visibility Group
 - Mahon Community Development Project
 - Cork City Partnership
 - We The People
 - Cork Diocesan office
 - Cork Business Association
 - Cork Education and Training Board
 - Cork Traveller Women's Network
 - St. Finbarr's Hospital- Social Services Section
 - The Chief Executive-County Hall
 - Edel House
 - Probation Service
 - HSE South's Traveller Health Unit
 - Tusla
 - Irish Traveller Movement
 - Tuath Housing
 - Clúid Housing
 - Carbery Housing
 - Respond Housing
 - Co-Operative Housing Ireland
 - Threshold Housing
 - Galtan Housing
 - Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre
 - Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre
 - Homeless Services
 - Community Culture and Placemaking
 - UCC School of Applied Social Studies
 - CENA Housing
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Appendix D – TAP Survey Questionnaire

TAP 2024

Travelling Community -Accommodation Survey Cork City Council Area

The following questions aim to inform future Traveller Accommodation Policy in Cork City Council by establishing a better understanding the Traveller community's needs and preferences. However, the questions and images below are for research purposes only. Cork City Traveller accommodation provision will be in line with existing national standards and guidelines.

Do you wish to identify as a Traveller? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please complete the attached form – This form will be issued to Housing Allocation to update your status on our housing system.

Note: All information contained in this survey will only be used by Cork City Council Housing Operations to inform policy in addressing the accommodation needs of Travelers.

1. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Which of the following describes your status?

Single	Married	In long-term relationship	Widow/Widower	Divorced	Separated

Where did you grow up

Is your household made up of a single family or an extended family group? – please give number of separate families or unmarried adults in your household

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Specify Adult or Child – No names to be inputted.	Gender	Age	Relationship with Respondent	Disabled – requiring property with adaptations
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

2. CURRENT ACCOMMODATION

What type of accommodation are you currently living in? (select from a or b)

(a) Standard Bricks and Mortar

Description of current accommodation:

Detached

☐

semi-detached

☐

terraced house

☐

apartment

☐

Number of floors (single, two, three?)

Number of bedrooms?

Do you also have a mobile/caravan on-site?

If so how many?

Is it used for accommodation?

Tenure Type

- Council Tenancy

☐

- Own Resources

☐

- Private Rented Tenancy

☐

- RAS

☐

- HAP

☐

- Leasing

☐

- Approved Housing Bodies (Such as CENA, TUATH,
 - etc – please specify)

- Homeless Services

☐

Type of Homeless Accommodation i.e. emergency such as B&B, Hostel, Supported accommodation such as family hub, Edel House or other transitional accommodation such as apartments etc.

How long have you been residing in Homeless Accommodation?

Traveller Group Housing



- ☐ Number of floors?
- ☐ Number of bedrooms?_
- ☐ Number of tourer bays?

Are group housing schemes a suitable type of accommodation for Travellers?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what works well in group housing schemes?

If no, what does not work well in group housing schemes?

- Halting Site

Bays with Welfare Unit

Temporary Bay - No welfare Unit

Unauthroised Bay







How many units does your family have on this bay?

- Number of mobile homes?
- Number of caravans?

Does your household have access to their own/a communal/or no Welfare Unit?

Which of the following to you have access to:

1. Water Supply

Own
Communal
None

2. Shower
3. Electricity/Generator
4. Central Heating
5. Laundry facilities
6. Clothes drying facilities
7. Recycling facilities
8. Kitchen – cooking facilities
9. Waste removal facilities
10. Green area/play area for children

Is this your household's main place of residence – if not where is?

Yes _____

No _____

--

Has anyone in your household made use of the Caravan Loan Scheme?

Yes _____

No _____

If yes how long ago? _____

3. CURRENT ACCOMMODATION

How long have you lived here? If you have moved in the last 5 years where did you move from?

Years	Months	Previous Accommodation

Do you live here by choice or because there was no other option? If there was no other option, why was this the case?

Choice	No Option	Why?

Is your current accommodation suitable for your household's needs? If so why and if not why? (For example close to schools, relatives, friends, work, healthcare?)

Yes	No	Reasons – please specify

Is the standard of your current accommodation satisfactory? Yes _____ No _____

Reasons – please specify

4. **FUTURE NEED**

How many families or unmarried adults (18 years old and over) living in your household would you estimate that will be in need of their own accommodation in the next 5 years?

Number please specify.

If they live here now, will they want to stay here or move to another location or different type of accommodation – please specify?

Number	Location	Type of Accommodation

5. **SOCIAL HOUSING WAITING LISTS**

Are you or any member of your immediate family on the Housing waiting list? Yes _____ No _____

How long have they been on a waiting list?

6-12 Months	12 to 18 Months	18 months - 2 Years	2 to 5 Years	5+ Years

Have you searched for a HAP property? Yes _____ No _____

Have you used CBL (Choice Based Letting) Yes _____ No _____

Do you require support to access housing Yes _____ No _____

Please note any further information in the box below:

--

6. FUTURE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

Do you plan to move from your current accommodation in the next 5 years? If so why? (if not skip to section 9)

Yes/No	Reasons – please specify
--------	--------------------------

If you were to move which of the following forms of housing would you consider?

Type of Housing	<u>Please Tick</u>	Order of Preference 1, 2, 3 etc.	Reasons why you would like this type of housing:
Standard Housing – Local Authority Owned	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Standard Housing - Approved Housing Body	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Supported Rented through the Local Authority HAP/RAS	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Privately rented or privately owned property	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Traveller Specific Accommodation (Group housing scheme where Traveller Families live together and in many cases space for a touring caravan will be facilitated to cater for the travelling element of Traveller Culture)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Traveller Specific Accommodation – Halting Site accommodation (This type of accommodation would provide a bay and a welfare unit only – no caravan or mobile home would be provided by the Council.	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If you are a Council Housing Tenant have you applied to Cork City Council for a transfer?

Yes _____

No _____

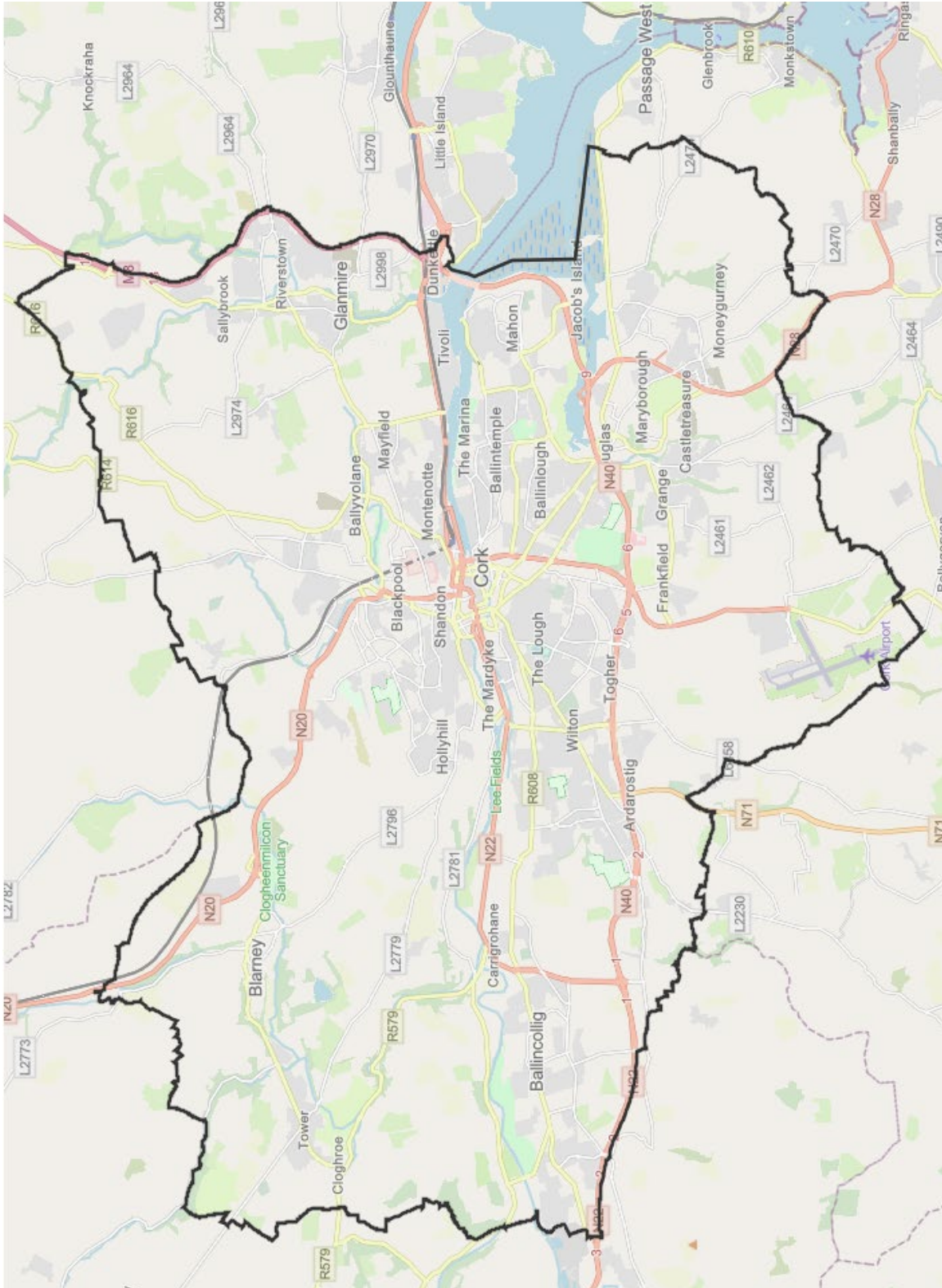
Reason for transfer _____

FUTURE ACCOMMODATION CONT'D

If you were to move what size of accommodation in terms of bedrooms would your family require?

1 bedroom	<u>2 bedroom</u>	3 bedroom	4 bedroom
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you plan to move within Cork City where would you consider moving to? Please circle all areas on map below:



FUTURE ACCOMMODATION CONT'D

In order to help shape future policy please rate the following types of accommodation in terms of suitability for your family.

STANDARD ACCOMMODATION TYPES

<p>Detached 2 storey house in housing scheme</p> <p>Rate how suitable this is for your family from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and reasons why?</p>			
<p>Score 1-10</p>	<p>Reasons – please specify</p>		

End of Terrace Semi-detached house in housing scheme

Rate how suitable this is for your family from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and reasons why?

Score 1-10	Reasons – please specify
---------------	-----------------------------



End of terrace 2 storey townhouse/terrace house within housing scheme

Rate how suitable this is for your family from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and reasons why?

Score 1-10	Reasons – please specify
---------------	-----------------------------



Two and 1/2-storey Duplex –ground floor apartment and larger duplex unit in 1st and 2nd floors.

Rate how suitable this is for your family from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and reasons why?

Score 1-10	Reasons – please specify



Three-storey Duplex – small ground floor apartment and large duplex unit in 1st and 2nd floors.

Rate how suitable this is for your family from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and reasons why?

Score 1-10	Reasons – please specify



TRAVELLER SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION TYPES

Halting Site Bay with Welfare Facilities (Shower/Toilet/Washing Facilities)
Note: Mobile Homes/tourers would not be provided by the Council

Rate how suitable this is for your family from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and reasons why?

Score 1-10

Reasons – please specify



Halting Site with Welfare facilities Shared with Neighboring Bays
Note: Mobile Homes/tourers would not be provided by the Council

Rate how suitable this is for your family from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and reasons why?

Score 1-10

Reasons – please specify



Halting site Bay with Welfare Unit including living space.

Rate how suitable this is for your family from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and reasons why?

Score 1-10	Reasons – please specify



Group Housing bungalows

Rate how suitable this is for your family from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and reasons why?

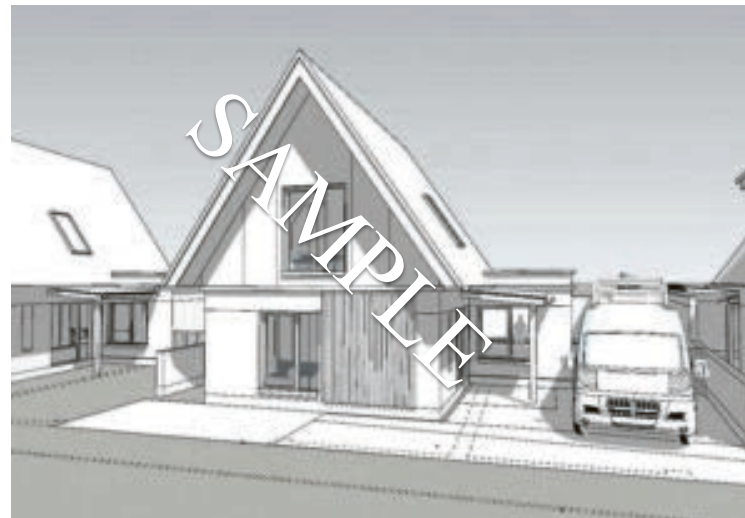
Score 1-10	Reasons – please specify



Group Housing 2-storey houses

Rate how suitable this is for your family from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and reasons why?

Score 1-10	Reasons – please specify



7. IMPROVEMENTS TO HALTING SITES

HOMES

While caravans/mobile homes/chalets are not provided by the Council they can be purchased through the Caravan Loan Scheme. The following questions aim to explore the possible future development of such schemes and halting sites in general.

In general which of the following would be most suitable for Traveller families living in a halting site?

<p>Mobile Homes</p> <p>Static Caravan (up to 14ft / 4.3m wide) to New BS 3632 standard</p> <p>This includes improved insulation, ventilation, heating and fire safety</p> <p>Score 1 – 3 and give reasons why?</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="213 898 557 1232"><thead><tr><th data-bbox="213 898 338 972">Score 1-3</th><th data-bbox="338 898 557 972">Reasons – please specify</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="213 972 338 1232"></td><td data-bbox="338 972 557 1232"></td></tr></tbody></table>	Score 1-3	Reasons – please specify			
Score 1-3	Reasons – please specify				
<p>Chalets/Lodges (up to 22ft/ 6.7m wide)</p> <p>2 – 4 bed</p> <p>Approx. 70m2</p> <p>Score 1 – 3 and give reasons why?</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="213 1588 557 1883"><thead><tr><th data-bbox="213 1588 338 1662">Score 1-3</th><th data-bbox="338 1588 557 1662">Reasons – please specify</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="213 1662 338 1883"></td><td data-bbox="338 1662 557 1883"></td></tr></tbody></table>	Score 1-3	Reasons – please specify			
Score 1-3	Reasons – please specify				

<p>Modular Houses</p> <p>45m2 2 bed</p> <p>Score 1 – 3 and give reasons why?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 416 333 759">Score 1-3</td> <td data-bbox="333 416 485 759">Reasons – please specify</td> </tr> </table>	Score 1-3	Reasons – please specify	
Score 1-3	Reasons – please specify		

WELFARE UNITS

Should welfare units include a day/living room, where possible? Yes _____ No _____

In overcrowded conditions would you be willing to consider your welfare unit to be extended, where possible, to include bedroom spaces? Yes _____ No _____

BOUNDARIES

What would be the preferred boundary between bays?

Preferred boundary size

Low Walls <input type="checkbox"/>	High Walls <input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------------

Preferred boundary material type concrete, fence, hedges

Concrete <input type="checkbox"/>	fence <input type="checkbox"/>	hedges <input type="checkbox"/>
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PLAY AREAS

Where it is possible to provide children's play areas, should these be:

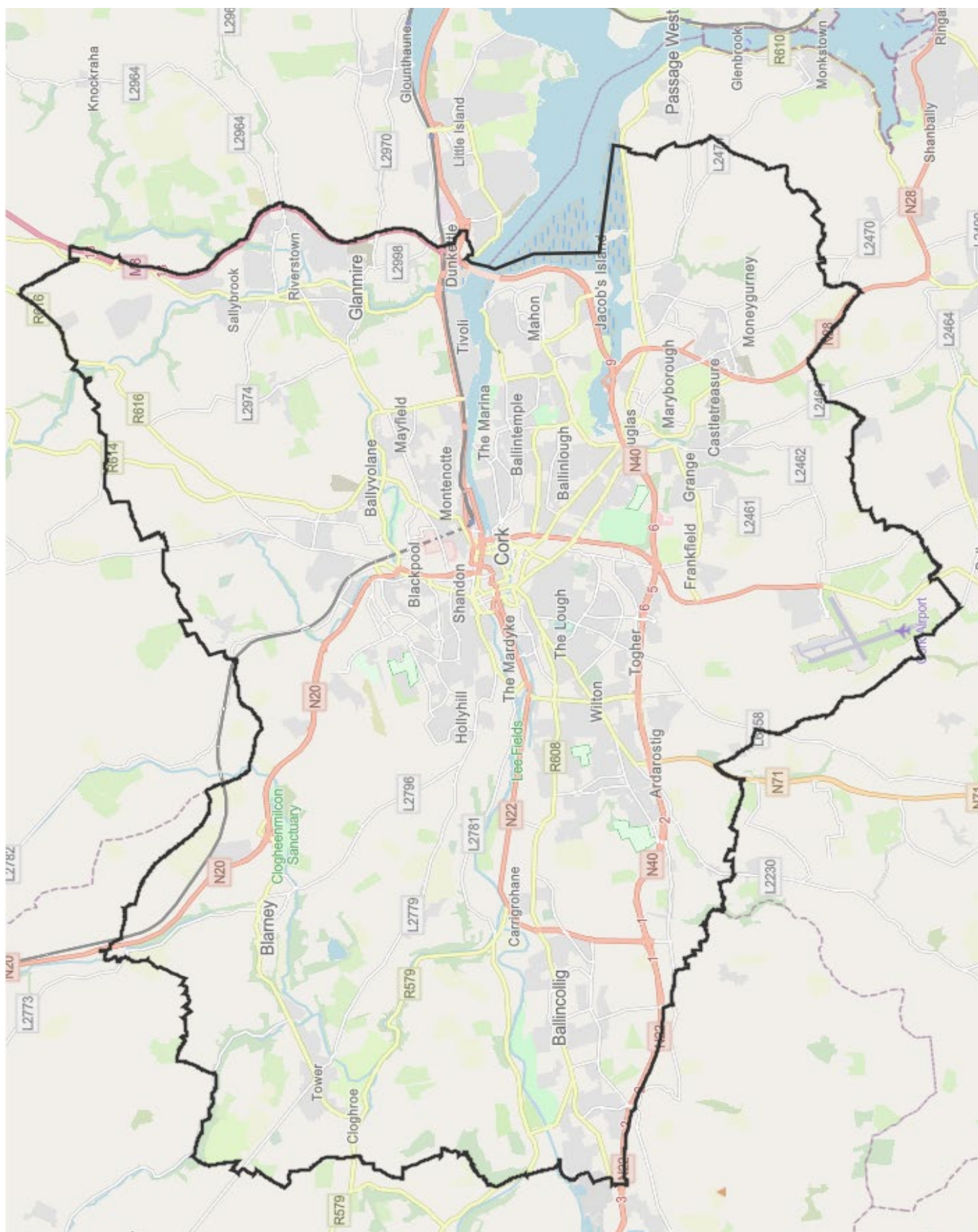
Hard surface <input type="checkbox"/>	Grassed Area <input type="checkbox"/>	General Open Space <input type="checkbox"/>
------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------

1 Large Central Area <input type="checkbox"/>	A few Smaller Areas <input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------

8. TRANSIENT SITES

Do you think a Transient site is required in Cork City? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, where should this be located – please mark in Map below:



Reasons why a transient site is required in Cork City?

Why?

Reasons why a Transient Site is not required in Cork City?

Why?

Have you ever used a Transient Site in another County while travelling for holidays or other event?

Yes ____ No ____

If no, why not?

Does a lack of a Transient Sites stop you or members of your extended family from Travelling?

Yes ____ No ____

Any further information regarding travelling, please outlined below:

The Housing Operations Directorate of Cork City Council provides accommodation to members of the Traveller Community based on their accommodation preference, the Housing Operations Directorate cannot accommodate animals other than domestic pets such as dogs/cats, etc. In order to allow City Council to support Travellers who wish to keep animals such as horses, in terms of supporting a City wide horse project, can you advise if the following apply to your household?

9. ANIMAL OWNERSHIP

QUANTITY:

Do you own horses?	Yes _____	No _____	_____
Do you own dogs?	Yes _____	No _____	_____
Do you own goats?	Yes _____	No _____	_____
Other animals?	Yes _____	No _____	_____

10. **ANY OTHER COMMENTS:**

Thank you for participating in Cork City Council's Traveler Accommodation Survey

I wish to confirm:

- I have read the privacy notice to the respondent of this survey; they have confirmed they understood the contents.
- I have explained the purposes of this survey which is required to inform the next Traveller Accommodation Program for 2025 to 2029.
- I have also advised that the data collected will be shared with a third party for the purposes of analysis the data and drafting the Traveller Accommodation Program for 2025 to 2029.
- If the Respondent wishes to identify as a Traveller, then only this information will be shared with Housing Allocation to allow them to update this information on the Respondents Housing File.
- The Respondent has confirmed that they understand this information and were satisfied to proceed.

Name of Surveyor: _____

Date Completed: _____

Note: Personal information collected by Cork City Council in this survey will only be used by Cork City Council Housing Directorate to inform policy and practice in addressing the accommodation needs of Travelers. The protection of your personal data is a key priority for the Council and your data will be processed in line with our Privacy Policy which is available on our website.

Appendix E – Engagement with Children Living in Group Housing Schemes, Halting Sites, and Standard Housing

Engagement with Children Living in Group Housing Schemes, Halting Sites, and Standard Housing

Overview

The Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU) has been gathering the views of Travellers as part of the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP). Young Travellers, aged 18-24, participated in surveys, while children aged 12-17 engaged in semi-structured interviews. Additionally, children under 10 years old took part in child-led creative arts activities.

Over the last 12 months, the Traveller Liaison Officer (TLO) has implemented community-based approaches to support Traveller children, including the "Schools Programme – Working with Traveller Children," which focused on the Spring Lane Development. This programme promotes self-empowerment through collaborative and creative learning. Using an ethnographic approach, it allows participants to set their own frameworks for understanding and exploring themes, drawing from disciplines such as sociology, cultural studies, and healthcare. The programme creates opportunities for marginalised children to define their developmental goals through creative self-expression.

Traveller children across the city have participated in creative arts activities that explored themes of identity and culture, examining how they perceive their cultural identity within their communities. Locations such as St. Aiden's Community College in Dublin Hill, Cork City Partnership in Knocknaheeny, and the Living Commons in

Shandon Street hosted these engagements. Themes covered included home,

family, community, and culture, with creative methods aiding children in expressing their experiences and perspectives.

For the TAP consultation, the TLO led six creative workshops with Traveller children in Farranree and Knocknaheeny, complemented by site and home visits. This report presents a thematic analysis based on the lived experiences of seven Traveller children (3 girls and 4 boys) residing in Cork City. Participants were from St. Anthony's Park, Meelagh Group Housing Scheme, Corkerans Quay Halting Site, and local authority homes in Farranree and Mahon. The analysis explores how different housing environments shape their preferences, needs, and well-being, focusing on key themes such as community ties, personal space, comfort, cultural identity, safety, and future aspirations.

Key Themes Across All Environments

01 Community and Social Bonds

Group Housing Schemes & Halting Sites:

Children in these environments emphasise the importance of community ties, particularly the proximity to extended family. The Traveller community's shared lifestyle and support network create a strong sense of belonging. This sense of closeness becomes particularly significant during important events such as funerals, where community support is vital.

Standard Housing:

Children in standard housing also value family proximity but place more emphasis on immediate family rather than the broader Traveller community. Social relationships within their neighbourhood are viewed positively, though there is less focus on living near other Traveller families.

Overall Need:

The centrality of family and community is critical for Traveller children. While extended family networks are more important in group housing schemes and halting sites, children in standard housing focus more on immediate family. Future housing solutions should consider the importance of these family and community bonds.

02 Personal Space and Privacy

Group Housing Schemes & Halting Sites:

A lack of personal space is a common concern. Children express frustration with cramped conditions and limited privacy, especially as they grow older. Many desire private rooms or trailers, associating privacy with independence and adulthood.

Standard Housing:

Children in standard housing also emphasise the importance of personal space, particularly having their own rooms. Privacy becomes increasingly

important during adolescence as they seek independence.

Overall Need:

Personal space and privacy are essential for Traveller children, particularly as they grow older. Housing solutions must provide adequate space for personal development, with recreational areas that allow for independence and reflection.

03 Basic Needs

Group Housing Schemes & Halting Sites:

Children in these settings often raise concerns about infrastructure, such as poor plumbing, inadequate heating, and general disrepair, which negatively impact their living conditions.

Standard Housing:

Children in standard housing tend to emphasise the comfort and stability of living in a house, particularly valuing warmth and privacy.

Overall Need:

Basic needs such as proper infrastructure and home maintenance are universal. Children in group housing schemes and halting sites require better facilities, while those in standard housing seek privacy and space within already comfortable environments.

04 Cultural Identity and Tradition

Group Housing Schemes & Halting Sites:

Children here express a strong desire to live among other Travellers to maintain cultural traditions, such as funeral rites and outdoor living.

Standard Housing:

While children in standard housing acknowledge the importance of cultural traditions, they tend to focus more on practical aspects of living, such as comfort and space, rather than visible expressions of Traveller culture.

Overall Need:

Cultural identity is more prominent for children in halting sites and group housing schemes. Housing solutions should allow for flexibility, incorporating traditional elements like trailers or yards for those who value them while recognising that not all children prioritise these features.

05 Safety and Security

Group Housing Schemes & Halting Sites:

Children express concerns about safety in overcrowded or poorly maintained environments. They fear family separation due to inadequate housing or relocation plans that might disrupt community ties.

Standard Housing:

Children in standard housing feel physically safe but are concerned about outdoor safety in their neighbourhoods. They value familiarity and proximity to family for security.

Overall Need:

Safety, both physical and emotional, is paramount for Traveller children. Housing solutions must ensure safe environments with reliable infrastructure while avoiding dislocation or isolation from family and community.

06 Future Aspirations and Housing Security

Group Housing Schemes & Halting Sites:

Children express anxiety about housing accessibility in the future, fearing a lack of culturally appropriate housing options.

Standard Housing:

In standard housing, children are more optimistic about their future housing, often aspiring to own homes with features like large gardens, though they still recognise the broader issue of housing shortages for Travellers.

Overall Need:

Housing insecurity is a common concern. Future developments must address the scarcity of housing

options for Travellers, ensuring long-term security and cultural appropriateness.

Conclusion

Traveller children across different living environments share common needs, including family proximity, personal space, safety, and comfort. However, their specific experiences are shaped by their housing conditions. Children in group housing schemes and halting sites face challenges with inadequate infrastructure and lack of privacy, while those in standard housing enjoy more comfort and security. Despite these differences, housing insecurity remains a significant concern for all. Addressing these challenges will require flexible, culturally sensitive housing solutions that balance modern conveniences with the preservation of Traveller traditions. Future developments must prioritise family cohesion, personal space, and safety while offering diverse housing options that respect the unique cultural identity of the Traveller community.

Appendix F – Traveller-Specific Transitional Housing Initiative

Traveller-Specific Transitional Housing Initiative

Introduction

Young Traveller families face unique and significant barriers when it comes to accessing housing. Early marriages, young parenthood, and cultural preferences for staying close to extended family, combined with limited time on social housing lists, discrimination, and difficulty navigating housing systems, contribute to a homelessness within the Traveller community. Many young Traveller families are living in overcrowded Traveller-specific accommodations or temporary housing arrangements, making them particularly vulnerable.

This proposal outlines the Traveller-Specific Transitional Housing Initiative, designed to provide temporary, supportive housing for young Traveller families experiencing homelessness. The initiative will utilise a specified number of vacant local authority (LA) housing stock to offer these families stable housing with the required tenancy supports while they await permanent solutions. By providing culturally sensitive, trauma-informed support, this initiative aims to empower young Traveller families to transition smoothly into permanent housing while improving their overall well-being.

Improved Outcomes

Transitional housing offers young Traveller families the stability they need to thrive. It provides them with the time and space to focus on essential aspects of life such as their children's education, employment, and family well-being, free from the stress of overcrowded or unsafe living conditions.

Additionally, the initiative will offer tenancy sustainment support to help young families develop the skills they need to maintain long-term housing. These supports will include financial planning, understanding tenant rights, and help with social housing applications. By providing this tailored support, the initiative ensures that families are more likely to transition

successfully into permanent housing and avoid recurring homelessness.

Furthermore, this trauma-informed approach recognises that many Traveller families have experienced displacement, discrimination, and unsafe living conditions. A trauma-sensitive model ensures they receive the necessary emotional and practical support to rebuild their confidence and trust in housing systems.

Prevention of Homelessness and Overcrowding

The initiative will also act as a preventive measure, helping young Traveller families avoid further entrenchment in homelessness. Families who are currently in overcrowded Traveller-specific accommodations will be prioritized for transitional housing.

Key barriers such as short time on social housing lists, limited access to Traveller-specific accommodation, and difficulties in the private rental market will be addressed through this model. Providing a culturally appropriate and supportive housing environment will help these families break free from the cycle of housing instability and homelessness.

Collaborative Partnerships

Collaboration between Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs), and local authorities will be essential for the success of this initiative. These partnerships will help address obstacles such as failed Garda checks, limited supported tenancy options, and other barriers that Traveller families often face.

By working together, this initiative will increase the availability of resources, improve access to Traveller-specific accommodations, and ensure that young families receive culturally appropriate housing solutions.

Long-Term Sustainability

This initiative is not only a short-term response but a long-term investment in Traveller families' self-sufficiency and stability. A time-bound approach will help families transition from temporary housing to permanent homes, reducing dependence on emergency accommodation. The initiative's trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approach ensures that Traveller families can move towards

sustainable housing solutions, contributing to the stability and resilience of the community.

The Traveller-Specific Transitional Housing Initiative offers a proactive and sustainable solution, helping young Traveller families move from homelessness to stable housing, ensuring long-term housing security and well-being.
