

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in the Oriel Room on 16th September 2024

In Attendance: Cllr. Kevin Meenan (Chairman)
Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Cllr. Sean Kelly
Ms. Mary McDonagh, Traveller representative

Officials: Mr Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Mr. John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Danielle McMahon, Social Worker
Ms. Arja Cullen, Social Worker
Ms. Tara Maguire, Clerical Officer

Apologies: Ms. Bridget Maguire, Traveller representative
Ms. Margaret McDonagh, Traveller representative

1. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th of May 2024 were proposed by Cllr. D Minogue and seconded by G Murphy.

2. Matters Arising

The Traveller Accommodation Programme in County Louth was explained to new committee members.

Members queried details regarding the Caravan Loan Scheme. The scheme closed in March 2024. It was agreed to email members the details of the Caravan Loan Scheme.

3 places are available on the committee for Traveller representation and all members are encouraged to identify potential representatives.

3. Update on implementation of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

- Total of 87 allocations since the beginning of the programme in July 2019.
- 77 of those have been Standard Social Housing and 10 have been to Traveller-specific accommodation (2 Group Housing Scheme re-lets and 8 Halting Site allocations).

Two Traveller Group Housing Schemes are progressing:

Clontygora, Dundalk – estimated delivery 2025

Derryveigh House, Dundalk – estimated delivery 2025

Outstanding Energy Upgrades: St. Anthony's Park (to be confirmed) and Barton Park (1 Dwelling) (due for completion by 30th of November 2024)

5 caravan loans have been approved during the programme (Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme from Department which closed in March 2024); more demand for this scheme from residents on halting site

Traveller First time House Purchase Grant awarded - €3810 to one applicant

Dormant Account Funding: The council applied for funding for the development of a playground on the green space at the entry to the halting site and approval was granted in June 2024. However, due to recent significant operational issues at the site, the team will unfortunately not be progressing this project at this time and have notified the Traveller Accommodation Unit in the Department.

4. Fire Safety

- No concerns/issues raised.

5. Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

Draft Programme was available for public consultation and submissions in July and August. One submission was received on the 29th of August from CENA Approved Housing Body.

A section on Fire Safety is to be included in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029. Cllr. Kelly proposes this fire safety section 2nd by Cllr. Minogue.

Key dates and Summary of Implementation of the 6th Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 outlined for new members.

Date	Action
December 2023	Provide 1 months' notice to stakeholders before making an assessment of need.
Jan/Feb 2024	Conduct assessment of estimated existing and projected need during the period of the programme and types of accommodation required
March/April 2024	Analysis of results of assessment of need
May/June 2024	Preparation of draft Traveller Accommodation Programme
1 st July 2024	Publish notice in newspapers that draft programme is available for inspection and circulate draft programme to all stakeholders
30 th August 2024	The latest date for receipt of written submissions on draft programme
1 st October 2024	Submission of draft programme to Council members for adoption (3 months before the latest date for adoption i.e. 31/12/2024)
31st December 2024	The latest date for adoption of the programme
21 st January 2025	Latest date for adjournment of Council meetings
21 st February 2025	If there is failure to adopt the programme by elected members a further 1 month is allowed before the programme, as may be modified, is adopted by Chief Executive's Order
Following adoption	Publication and submission to the Minister of the adopted programme.
30 th June 2027	A review of the 6 th Traveller Accommodation Programme must be carried out no later than 30/06/2027.

- Traveller usage of CBL has increased from 42% in 2018 to 78% in 2024.
- Outline of the assessment and findings regarding Traveller household preferences and needs for accommodation was outlined.

6. **A.O.B**

- Committee member and Traveller representative Mary Matthews sadly passed away in July 2024 and her work and membership was acknowledged and commended.
- Next Meeting to be held on Monday the 16th of December 2024 at 3pm.

Signed: 
Chairman Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Date: 20/01/25

