

**LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL**

**TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

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Minutes of meeting held in Louth County Council on Wednesday,  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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**In Attendance:** Cllr. L. Reilly (Chairman)  
Cllr. A Campbell  
Ms. B Maguire  
Ms. D Boyle

**Officials:** Mr. P Donnelly, Director of Services  
Ms. A Lawler, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. D McMahon, Social Worker  
Ms. A Cullen, Social Worker

**Also in attendance:** Ms. Sinéad Meehan (Minutes)

**Apologies:** Ms D. Boyle  
Ms J Maguire

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**1. Minutes**

- Minutes of meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were proposed by Cllr. L. Reilly and seconded by Cllr. A Campbell.

**2. Matters Arising**

- No matters arising.

**3. Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024**

- The members were advised that all agreed targets for this Programme can be seen on page 26. The members were informed that the figures for Standard Social Housing are an average, based on applicant's time on the list. The targets in this programme are changeable and Choice Based Lettings could drive up targets. Members advised that there is a need for more information / education. The new programme does not include 2018 figures.
- The members were informed that within the lifespan of this programme the Local Authority is hopeful that two Group Housing Schemes will be completed. Members were advised that this programme will be reviewed in its third year (2021). The need for a transient halting site will be reviewed after the first year of the Programme.

- Members were informed that additional supports available to the travelling community include:
  - HAP
  - Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan
  - Caravan Loan
  - Tenant Purchase Scheme

Opportunities and financial resources are open to all housing applicants; however, engagement from travellers is lower than others.

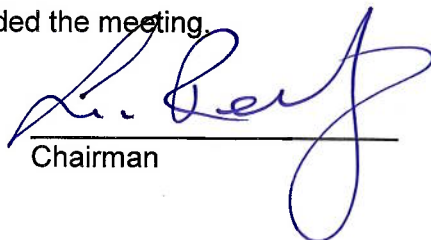
- Members agreed that a draft version of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 will go on public display on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. It will remain on public display for 8 weeks and all official bodies are to be notified as well as the Housing Strategic Policy Group and all Councillors. The closing date for submissions is the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019 with the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 being the last day the programme must be adopted. Any submissions received may generate change to the programme.
- Members briefly discussed the need for a fire safety officer on the Woodlands Halting Site. It was confirmed that in 2017 a fire warden had been nominated and a survey of the site had been carried out.
- Members enquired if land purchase for Group Housing would be an option under TAP, they were advised that the Council has land in its ownership and purchase of further lands is not currently required. Members made enquiries about the upgrade of Naughton Close, it was confirmed this will be funded through TAP.
- Cllr A Campbell confirmed she would not endorse this Programme as is, due to the programme not being ambitious enough.
- Officials advised that there are challenges around the provision of Group Housing and delivery dates cannot be specific. The Local Authority is hopeful that two GHS will be delivered by 2024. It was confirmed that funding is available for same; it is a four stage process.
- The members asked the LA officials to reduce the delivery time for GHS to 2021 & 2022. LA officials agreed to make such amendments to the programme.
- All committee members agreed to go to public consultation with the draft version of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024; with the amended delivery times for Group Housing Scheme.

4. A.O.B

- The next meeting will take place in Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 4.30 pm.

That concluded the meeting.

Signed:

  
Chairman

10/7/19  
Date

