

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

Adopted by Galway City Council [INSERT DATE]



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1. Traveller Accommodation Programme – Legislation

Galway City Council is required under the provisions of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 to prepare and adopt a five-year Traveller Accommodation Programme to meet the existing and projected needs of Travellers in its administrative area. Under Section 10 of the Act the Minister has directed that the current programme shall expire on the 30th of June 2024 and the new draft programme will cover the next five-year period commencing 1st January 2025. The latest date for the adoption of the TAP 2025-2029 is the 31st of December 2024. The Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2025-2029 is the sixth programme prepared by the Council.

2. Introduction – A Profile of Galway City

Galway City is the fourth biggest city in Ireland and the only city in Connacht.

Census 2022 states that the population of Galway city was 84,414 in April 2022, representing an increase of 7.3% since 2016.

Galway's 2023 population is estimated at 85,258 based on growth patterns. Galway has been the fastest growing city in Ireland over the past 50 years

Travellers are recognised as a distinct ethnic group within the Irish population since March 1st, 2017. Travellers are defined in Section 13 (1) of the 1988 Housing Act (as amended by the 1998 Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act as “persons belonging to the class of person who traditionally pursue or have pursued a nomadic way of life”. According to the CSO 2022 figures, there are 1,748 Travellers living in Galway City, an increase of 8.8% in the population since the last census. The Traveller community account for 2.1% of the population compared to 0.7% nationally. In Galway city 21 out of every 1,000 people are Irish Travellers. The table below classifies the Traveller population in the city according to gender.

Galway City Traveller Population

Year	Population	Males	Females	Irish Traveller Population per 1,000 of total population
2022	1748	853	895	21
2016	1606	790	816	21

Source: CSO Census 2022

Traveller Families in Local Authority Accommodation

According to the Local Authority Count 2022, It is estimated that 447 families reside at accommodation provided directly by or with the assistance of Galway City Council. The table below outlines the accommodation of Traveller families in Galway city.

Standard Local Authority Housing	Local Authority Group Housing	Private Houses assisted by Local Authorities	Voluntary Bodies	Halting Site	Unauthorised sites
62%	4.7%	5%	12%	14%	1%

Source: Local Authority Annual Count 2022

According to the CSO, the average number of people residing at a Traveller Household stands at 4.6 persons per household, almost twice the average of non-Traveller households.

2.2 Galway City Council Existing Traveller Specific Accommodation

Halting Sites

Location	Bays	Families	Families Sharing
St Nicholas's Park Halting Site, Doughiska	5	5	0
Carrowbrowne Transient Halting Site	20	20	3
Carrowbrowne Temporary Halting Site	13	13	4
Cúl Trá Halting Site, Salthill	6	6	9
Cuíl Sheoige Halting Site, Tuam Road	7	7	3
Circular Road Halting Site	5	TBC	0
Total	56	51	19

Traveller Group Housing

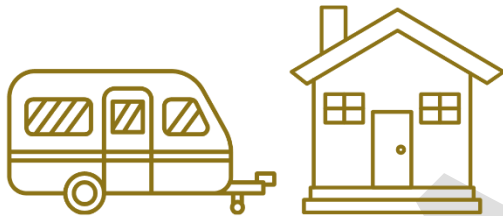
Location	Number of Houses	No of Families	Families Sharing
Beal Srutha	8	8	1
Fana Glas	8	3	0
Bothar na Gcoiste	3	3	0
St Nicholas Park Doughiska	3	3	0
Clos na Coille	5	5	0
Total	27	22	1



4 Permanent Halting Sites



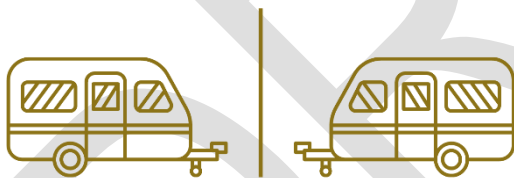
27 Group Houses



**1 Culturally Appropriate Accommodation
Scheme December 2024**



51 Families at Halting Sites



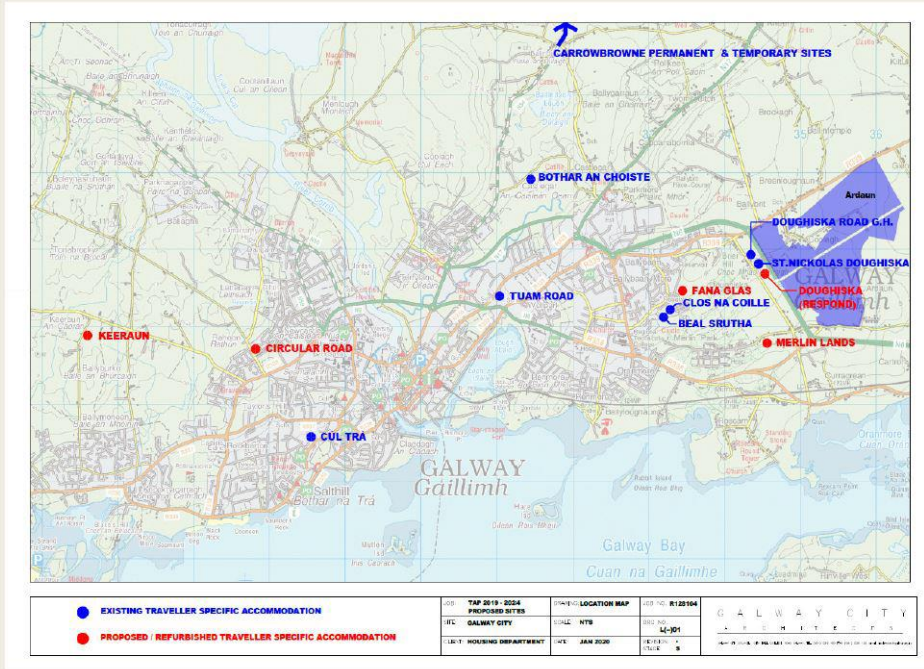
1 Temporary Halting Site



19 Families Sharing at Halting Sites

Map of Existing and Proposed Traveller Specific Accommodation

Overview Location Map



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3. Section 1 – Preparation and Consultation

The consultation process commenced on the 4th of January 2024 pursuant to Section 8 of the Act that requires Galway City Council to give one months' notice to stakeholders before assessing accommodation need. Stakeholders that must be notified include adjoining Housing Authorities, HSE, Approved Housing Bodies engaged in provision of accommodation, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC), such other community bodies as the housing authority considers appropriate including local Traveller Organisations

A letter of notification regarding Galway City Councils intention to prepare a draft Traveller Accommodation Programme was issued on the 4th of January 2024 to several services and included an invitation to make submissions in relation to the programme. The submissions deadline was extended on request. Eight submissions were received from Galway City Partnership; Cope Galway; People Before Profit; Galway Traveller Movement; Galway City Community Network; Galway Simon, the HSE Regional Traveller Health Forum and a Joint submission by the Irish Traveller Movement, National Traveller Women's Forum, Pavee Point and the Roma Centre. Submissions were considered when preparing the first draft of the programme.

Continual engagement with the Galway Traveller Movement and the Traveller representatives on the LTACC to discuss the draft TAP took place for the duration of the programme's preparation.

4. Section 2 Policy Statement

- Galway City Council recognise the Traveller Community as a minority ethnic group and will work to ensure that the cultural needs are met in so far as is practicable.
- Galway City Council is committed to an equality and human rights approach in its provision and management of Traveller accommodation, in line with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (the Duty) to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect human rights. In this, Galway City Council has implemented the Duty in the preparation of this programme and will continue to do so throughout its implementation.
- Galway City Council is committed to the provision of high-quality Traveller Accommodation, where possible in accordance with the wishes of the majority of Traveller households identified in the Assessment of Accommodation Need.
- Applications for accommodation to Galway City Council will be considered in line with the Housing Regulations of 2011 and more recently the 2013 Guidelines and 2014 Housing Act.
- Galway City Council when allocating and managing accommodation, will have regard to the provisions of its adopted Scheme of Letting Priorities 2017, Estate Management Strategy 2019, Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2018 and estate management issues, an appropriate social mix within areas, compatibility of families, anti-social behaviour, and house size requirements.
- Galway City Council will provide Traveller Specific accommodation for the City Council's indigenous Traveller households. For this purpose, the City Council will only regard a Traveller household as indigenous where they have been resident in the administrative area for at least three years immediately prior to the adoption of the City Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 or any continuous five-year period in which an accommodation applicant was previously a tenant of, or resident, in the City Council's administrative area.
- Galway City Council acknowledge that Traveller families may wish to leave their

accommodation for short periods as part of their nomadic nature. Tenants are required to notify the council for all periods of absence greater than 6 weeks. Where a family has vacated accommodation for more than 6 weeks without notifying the Council, an Abandonment Notice will be served.

- The Council will not tolerate unauthorised encampments on its lands and will serve notice to families, as appropriate, to ensure unauthorised encampments are not permitted. Galway City Council commits to working in partnership with those families and other agencies to support them in relation to their accommodation needs.
- Galway City Council will continue to consult with Travellers, Traveller organisations and the Local Traveller Consultative Committee on issues relating to Traveller Accommodation.
- The Council will assist and encourage the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) in the provision of accommodation to Traveller households, most notably in the area of Traveller specific accommodation and will work closely with CENA Traveller AHB in the delivery of a number of Traveller specific and culturally appropriate accommodation schemes.
- The Council will work closely with Homeless Service Providers, the LTACC and with Travellers who are experiencing homelessness to address their accommodation needs through appropriate social housing supports.
- Galway City Council will support initiatives to enhance participation and inclusion to assist in the development of strong sustainable communities.

Estate Management

The Galway City Council Estate Management Strategy 2019 sets out how Galway City Council manages its tenancies and estates, including halting sites.

5. Section 3 Strategy Statement

As a Housing Authority, Galway City Council's strategy is to identify those Traveller families who have an identified housing need which cannot be met from their own resources and to use all possible options and resources available to it to meet this need to the greatest extent practicable. Means of delivery will include maintenance of existing halting sites, standard group and local authority housing, culturally appropriate group housing, housing provided by approved housing bodies including CENA and accommodation sourced in the private rental market under the Rental Accommodation Scheme and Housing Assistance Payment. The Council will consult with Traveller representatives and individual Traveller families where direct build accommodation proposals are being considered, at design stage, and at each stage of development from planning to delivery. This will ensure that the needs of the Traveller families are taken into consideration throughout the process.

Measures for Implementation

Section 10 (2) (e) requires that the programme must also include specific measures or proposals for each implementing authority or other party concerned. It is considered that such measures should cover:

- The provision of the range of accommodation required
- Assistance to Travellers to provide accommodation for their own use
- Assistance to approved voluntary housing bodies in respect of the provision or management of accommodation for Travellers, and
- Arrangements for the proper management, including assistance towards the management of the above accommodation.

6. Section 4 Current Traveller Accommodation

Provision and Review of Programme 2019-2024

The achievements of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 are outlined on the table below.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 Targets and Achievements

Accommodation Type	Targets	Total Units Delivered to June 2024
Standard Local Authority Lettings	50	85
AHB Standard Housing	30	43
Group Houses (Local Authority and AHB)	15	0
Families living in houses acquired or improved with assistance of the Local Authority Extensions	5	5
Private rented accommodation – RAS	5	0
Private Rented Accommodation -LTL	5	2
Private Rented Accommodation -HAP	100	29
CULTURALLY Specific Traveller Housing	25	5
Permanent Halting Sites	7	8
Total Number of Traveller families	242	177

Source: Galway City Council TAP 2019-2024 Programme and Annual Progress Reports

Additional housing units were delivered under the following schemes.

Home Ownership: 1 family acquired a home under the Shared Ownership scheme. The scheme is closed to new applicants since 2011.

2 Traveller families availed of the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016.

Property Acquisitions: 9 units were purchased at various locations throughout the city, east and west. The total purchase price in the table below does not include the refurbishment works costs or the legal & professional fees.

Galway City Council Property Acquisitions

Acquisitions	Value of Acquisitions
9	€2,772,500

The Caravan Loan Scheme was delivered by the Council during the programme.

Galway City Council Caravan Loans Approved

Caravan Loans Approved	Value of Caravan Loans
8	€320, 000

Additional Works at Halting Sites

A range of additional works were completed at all Halting Sites in the city during the lifetime of the TAP by the Maintenance and Engineering teams. The range of works and costs of same are outlined below.

Additional Works at Halting Sites

Maintenance Type	Works Completed
1 Planned Maintenance:	<i>Fire safety works as follows:</i>

<p>all halting sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chimney cleaning -Smoke, heat and carbon monoxide detectors certification -Fire extinguisher certification -Fire blanket inspection -Fire flow testing of all hydrants and associated valves. -Annual periodic electrical inspection -Fire safety signage -water pressurisation system for Carrowbrowne Temporary site. -new fire hose reel system at Carrowbrowne Temporary site. <p>Capital works as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -community centre upgrades -new welfare units at the Carrowbrowne temporary site. -upgrade of the heating system at the Carrowbrowne permanent site. -playground installation at the Carrowbrowne permanent site -playground installation at Clos Na Cille. -storm assessment
<p>2 Regular Maintenance:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -planned work on foul drainage system at the Tuam road site -service of pumps to Carrowbrowne Sites. -damp remediation works -repairs to fencing -servicing and maintenance of fencing -jetting of foul and storm sewers lines across all sites
<p>3 Waste Management:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provision of waste collection services for all halting sites. -Cleanup of services roads at the Carrowbrowne Site.

4 Riddance works:	-Riddance management programme across all halting sites.
5 Estate Road management:	-repair works to pavement surfaces -Traffic calming ramps at the Carrowbrowne temporary site -jetting of gullies in roads -signage works.

The annual summary of spending by Galway City Council on Traveller Accommodation items 1 to 5 during the period of the programme is outlined on the table below.

Summary of Maintenance Spend

Year	Amount spent by Galway City Council (€)
2019	Circa €353,336 inc. VAT
2020	Circa €526,343 inc. VAT
2021*	Circa €734,000 inc. VAT
2022*	Circa €854,000 inc. VAT
2023**	Circa €738,000 inc. VAT
2024	Circa €426, 874 inc. VAT
Total (€)	Circa €3,632,553 inc. VAT

*Amount does not include allocation for wages.

** Amount includes an allocation for wages.

Galway City Council Traveller Accommodation Unit was established. employing several staff with a range of skill sets to undertake work specific to Traveller Accommodation. The development demonstrates an ongoing commitment by Galway City Council to the provision and enhancement of housing and community service provision to the city's Traveller population.

Homeless Services

The Housing Section manages and reviews all households accessing emergency services. The team works with an inter-agency focus to progress the household back into the community with the required supports, with collaboration between the Galway City Council's Homeless Team and Social Work Department and emergency homeless service providers. Emergency homeless services are provided on an ongoing basis to Traveller men, women, and families following assessment.

Many of the families presenting to homeless services accessed preventative services through the COPE Family Support Service who assisted them to secure and maintain accommodation. COPE Galway and Galway SIMON manage and operate a range of resettlement projects in the city and provide a range of transitional housing projects from medium to low support projects to high support. The West Region Homelessness Action Plan 2020-2023 set out a strategic framework to address homelessness in the Region.

There has been an overall rise in Traveller homelessness over the lifetime of the TAP, indicated by the figures in the table below. It is estimated that almost two thirds of the presentations to homeless services are repeat presentations.

Galway City Council Traveller Homelessness Applicants 2019-2024

Year	Total
2019	18

2020	30
2021	24
2022	34
2023	37
2024 (6/6/24)	23
Totals	166

Source: Pathway Accommodation and Support System PASS¹.

Housing for All recognises the importance of providing appropriate supports for families and children in emergency accommodation in order to secure pathways out of homelessness. Action 3.18 within the Plan is to identify and provide enhanced tenancy sustainment supports to families experiencing long-term homelessness to help them exit from homelessness and maintain their homes. Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH), Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY), Local Authorities and TUSLA are named as joint owners of this action.

Furthermore, subgroups established under both the National Homeless Action Committee and the Galway Social Housing Taskforce made recommendations to develop a pilot to provide more intensive visiting supports to families with complex needs to help them successfully exit homelessness and maintain independent living.

In Q2 2023, DHLGH commenced the development of a pilot scheme, providing housing-led supported accommodation to families with complex needs in Galway City and County. To drive the development of this scheme, a Steering Group was established in June 2023 comprising representatives from DHLGH, Galway City and County Councils and local representatives from the HSE and Tusla. A consultation

¹ An online, real time system, utilised by service providers and local authorities around Ireland to record homeless presentations and bed occupancy.

with key stakeholders was held in October 2023 and an EOI was then launched in Q4-23, seeking NGOs to provide supports to the families participating in the pilot.

Following review of submissions received through the EOI, an NGO (Cope Galway) was chosen in Q1-24. The pilot launched in June 2024. A monitoring group and an implementation group have been established. Galway City Council and Galway County Council are in the process of identifying the properties and families for this pilot. Given that Travellers are overrepresented in the homeless population in Galway, it is expected that at least some of the families participating in the pilot will be Traveller families. DHLGH has, therefore, requested that the Traveller representative on the National Homeless Action Committee, nominate a Traveller representative to sit on the implementation group.

This scheme will operate on a pilot basis for an initial period of 18 months after which a review will take place.

Challenges:

Several challenges presented for Galway City Council over the life of the TAP 2019-2024. The following is a summary of the constraints experienced in the delivery of targets during this period.

- Covid '19 resulted in the closure of construction facilities resulting in delays completing projects requiring construction. When recommencing work during Covid 19, Health & Safety requirements restricted numbers on site and impacted output.
- Planning Permission Refusal: An Bord Pleanála refused two applications made by Galway City Council. The two refusals were Headford Road with 3 Traveller Specific Units and Keeraun with 8 Traveller Specific Units
- Knotweed: The growth of Knotweed at the Doughiska Respond site has impacted its progression and illegal dumping on the Knotweed created environmental constraints.

- The HAP and RAS programmes provided few opportunities for accommodating Travellers due to the limited number of properties available under the schemes. The number of Travellers residing in HAP accommodation has decreased since 2019 and has been noted by the Council.
- Supply Versus Demand: Increased demand for housing and limited supply of new housing impacted the availability of accommodation for Traveller families.

Conclusion

To conclude, Galway City Council delivered 73% of its targets during the period of its last programme. Accommodation was delivered through the allocation of units at Standard Local Authority and Approved Housing Body developments, private rented accommodation, acquisitions, extensions, Traveller specific accommodation and Home Ownership support schemes.

7. Section 5 – Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 Assessment of Accommodation Need

As part of the Assessment of Accommodation Need Survey, 567 families were notified by letter about the TAP 2025-2029 and asked to complete a survey form to outline their accommodation need and location of preference.

The families surveyed were resident at the following forms of accommodation:

Accommodation Type	No of Families
Standard	284
Group	22
Approved Housing Body/Voluntary Housing	71
Halting Site	70
HAP	16
Homeless HAP	15
Homeless PASS	60
Private Rented (RAS/LTL/Rent Supplement)	18
New Notifications	2
Transfer List	9
Total	567

*6 Families in Standard Local Authority Housing were not surveyed as they owned their own home

Galway City Council based their Assessment of Accommodation need process on the following information sources:

- Assessment of Accommodation Need Survey 2024
- Annual Traveller Count 2023
- Galway City Council's I House Database
- Summary of Social Housing Assessment 2023

- National Census Data 2022

The assessment reviewed the accommodation needs of 203 families residing at a range of accommodation types in the city. The figure captures Traveller families who are assessed as having a Social Housing Need and incorporates households approved for a Transfer. The accommodation preferences of the families surveyed are listed on the table below.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 Accommodation Preferences of Traveller Families

Housing Option	Preference
Culturally Appropriate	42
Group Housing	18
Standard Local Authority/Approved Housing Body	143
Total	203

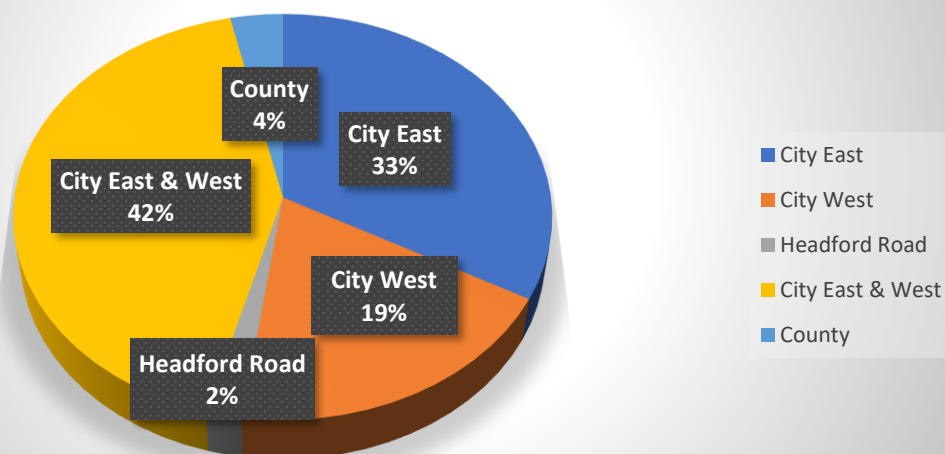
Source TAP Assessment of Accommodation Need 2025-2029

TAP 2025-2029 Location Preference

Families were asked to select their location of preference for accommodation with an option to select the city, the county or both.

95% of Traveller Families selected the city as their location of preference; 3% of families preferred the county location only. The pie chart indicates the location of preference for families.

Locations of Preference for TAP 2025-2029 Accommodation



Source TAP Assessment of Accommodation Need 2025-2029

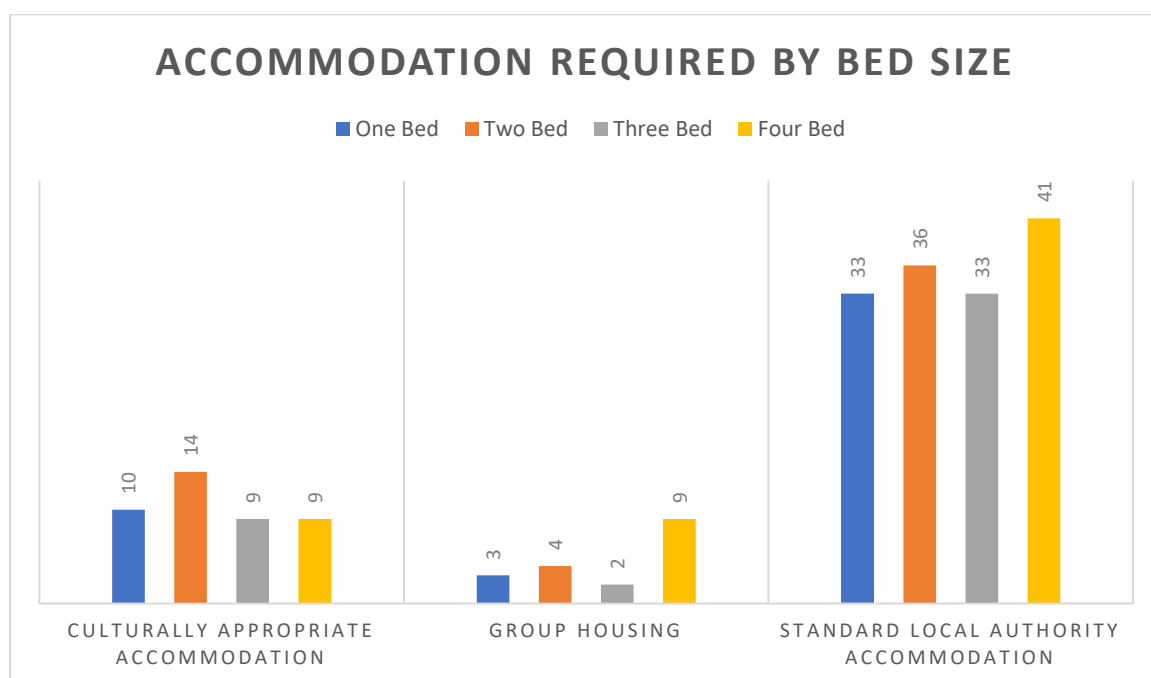
Units Required

The results of the Assessment of Accommodation need forecast a need for 203 units of accommodation to meet the needs of Traveller families over the lifetime of the next TAP.

Traveller specific units required, include, 42 units of Culturally Appropriate accommodation and 18 units of Group Housing.

In addition, 143 units of Standard Local Authority /Approved Housing Body housing will be required. The table below illustrates the accommodation need according to bed size and geographic location within the city.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 Units Required by Bed Size



Source TAP Assessment of Accommodation Need 2025-2029

Galway City Council Transfer Applications

Families may apply for a transfer to alternative accommodation within the city's social housing stock for a variety of reasons including overcrowding, downsizing, medical need and anti-social behaviour.

There are 65 families residing at Standard Local Authority Housing that require a transfer.

Conclusion

It is evident from the results of the assessment of accommodation need that Standard Local Authority/AHB Housing remains the housing preference of Traveller families. Group housing is the least preferred accommodation type. The demand for four bed properties is highest followed by two bed properties. Most families have a preference to reside in the city.

Common Application Area between Galway City & County Councils

Since the introduction of the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011, a housing applicant has a right to choose 3 areas of preferences Galway City East, West and an area of the county.

Galway City Council corresponded with Galway County Council to bring to their attention the accommodation needs of 35 Traveller families who are listed on the Housing list maintained by Galway City Council and have an area of preference in County Galway. The accommodation of preference for those families are;

- Standard Housing: 14 Families
- Group Housing: 6 Families
- Culturally Appropriate Accommodation: 15 Families

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 Assessment of Projected Accommodation Need

Housing authorities are required to identify the accommodation needs of Traveller families to be met under the new Traveller Accommodation Programme, part of which must relate to the projected need that will arise during the period of the programme across a range of accommodation options.

To project the accommodation, need of Traveller families, during the lifetime of the next TAP, Galway City Council referred to CSO population statistics, the Annual Traveller Count and the results of its Assessment of Accommodation need analysis. The Annual Count of Traveller Families from 2004 to present highlights the continued increase in Traveller households within the city. In 2004, there were 278 Traveller families in the Galway City Council Local Authority area on the date of the count, in 2023 the population had increased to an estimated 615 families.

By using the 4% increase estimate as suggested in the Government Task Force Report on the Traveller Community in 1995, and having regard to the All- Ireland

Traveller Health Study 2010, it is estimated that there will be an average of 27 additional family formations per annum during the lifetime of this programme.

Traveller Families Estimated Population Increase 2024-2029

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
615	640	667	695	729	758	788

Source: Annual Count 2023 used to determine estimates

It is estimated that 142 Traveller children will turn 18 years over the lifetime of the next TAP with the annual estimates outlined on the table below.

Estimated Traveller Children Turning 18 years during TAP 2025-2029

Year of Birth	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Number of Children	26	27	25	32	32	142

Source TAP Assessment of Accommodation Need 2025-2029

Traveller Homelessness

As mentioned in Section four, emergency homeless services are provided on an ongoing basis to households. Galway City Council are collaborating with TUSLA, HSE, Homeless Service Providers and the Galway Traveller Movement to develop a pilot project under the scheme Housing For Homeless Families.

Traveller Youth Homelessness

Housing for All - Youth Homeless Strategy 2023 – 2025, identified young Travellers as one of the six vulnerable cohorts at risk of homelessness. Early intervention and interagency collaboration involving Local Authorities, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Traveller Representative Groups and HSE Regional

Traveller Health Forum is essential to prepare young Travellers to find their preferred accommodation and to access any necessary supports in the community.

It is important that there is early liaison with Community Healthcare Workers and the Local Authority regarding the housing needs of young Travellers. Housing preferences and options should be explored to avoid young people accessing mainstream homeless services.

The Homeless Section, the Traveller Liaison Officer and the Tenancy Sustainment Officer will engage with young Travellers who are at risk of homelessness and provide guidance towards mediation, tenancy sustainment and other available supports as necessary.

The Local Authority will provide regular training to Community Healthcare workers to enable them to assist young Travellers to complete and submit a complete Social Housing Support Applications at the earliest opportunity.

Conclusion

It is projected that 203 units of accommodation will be required in Galway city to accommodate Traveller families over the lifetime of the next TAP.

This figure does not include the estimated 142 people that will turn 18 over the lifetime of the programme which could result in the need for additional units for new family formations in this cohort.

8. Section 6 - Proposals to Meet Needs and Annual Targets

Galway City Council intends to meet the accommodation needs of Traveller families through the following methods:

- Social Housing Allocations
- Group Housing Schemes
- Culturally Appropriate Accommodation
- Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)
- Housing Assistance Payment

Social Housing Allocations: 90 units of Standard Local Authority Social Housing, will be delivered over the five-year period to 2029. These allocations will be sourced from casual vacancies, new built units, purchases, leased units as appropriate.

Approved Housing Body (AHB): Galway City Council will assist and encourage Approved Housing Bodies in the provision of accommodation to Traveller households, most notably in Traveller specific accommodation. It is estimated that **60** families will be housed in AHB accommodation over the lifetime of the programme.

Housing Assistance Payment: It is envisaged that an additional **25** families will be accommodated under Housing Assistance Payment scheme to 2029.

Extensions: Prioritisation of families requiring extensions on medical grounds will be continually reviewed. Feasibility studies will be carried out on all properties within a six-month period and funding requests made to the Traveller Accommodation Unit of the Department of the Housing as appropriate.

Group Housing Schemes: 4 units of group housing will be delivered on the Doughiska Respond site over the lifetime of the next programme to accommodate 4 families. A second proposal, to engage in a partnership project, to redevelop units at

the Fana Glas site will also be facilitated during the programme with the number of units for development to be confirmed.

Casual vacancies will be filled in line with Traveller compatibility and individual requests.

Culturally Appropriate Traveller Accommodation

Galway City Council will progress the construction of **19** new units of Culturally Appropriate Traveller Accommodation during the lifetime of the plan. In addition, the Council will develop and implement measures, to address to the greatest extent practicable, the accommodation needs of the families who are currently residing at the Carrowbrowne Temporary and Cúl Trá Halting sites.

Permanent Residential Halting Sites:

Four permanent halting sites are currently managed by Galway City Council, and this will remain the same over the lifetime of the programme.

8.2.1 Circular Road Halting Site

Culturally Appropriate accommodation at the Circular Road site when completed in December 2024 will be transferred to a Traveller led property management company to facilitate estate management at the site.

8.2.2 Carrowbrowne Transient Halting Site

As part of the new programme, it is proposed that the 'Transient' site at Carrowbrowne be re-designated as a Permanent Halting Site / Residential Caravan Park under the management of Galway City Council. Ongoing refurbishment plans will be considered in line with the permanent tenancies in place, rather than a transient management approach. The number of bays in a permanent site should ideally be reduced to no more than 15 over the lifetime of the programme. The Council will work with families on site who wish to relocate to other forms of accommodation, including Group

Housing, and to manage any new tenancy allocations on site in the best interests of all families. Consultation with and proposals for the long-term needs of the families on this site will be completed over the period of the new programme.

8.2.3 Cúl Trá Halting Site

Galway City Council will continue to work with the Galway Diocesan Trust to resolve ongoing accommodation matters at the Cúl Trá site with the aim of reducing overcrowding at the site over the lifetime of the programme.

8.2.4 Doughiska and Tuam Road Halting Sites

It is proposed to redevelop both sites to the standard of Culturally Appropriate accommodation for the families that reside there. Any proposed redevelopment will require a decanting and transfer plan to ensure the redevelopment of the site can be completed. Each development will endeavour to maximise the site space for development of units.

8.2.5 Carrowbrowne Temporary Halting Site

Carrowbrowne Temporary Halting site is an unauthorised site and located in the administrative area of Galway County Council. As a result, the site must be vacated. It is intended to close this site over the lifetime of the programme and provide alternative accommodation for all families. Consultations between Galway City Council, Galway Traveller Movement and families residing at this Halting site are ongoing to explore alternative accommodation options.

Traveller families who wish to provide their own accommodation with or without the assistance of the local authority.

The programme accounts for Traveller families who wish to provide their own accommodation with or without the assistance of the local authority. Housing staff at Galway City Council inform Travellers, local support groups and other voluntary

organisations concerned of all the options available, including supports available to support tenancies in the private rental sector, through the Housing Assistance Payment, Local Authority Housing, Traveller Specific Incentives/Grants for purchasing own homes etc. Travellers and/or organisations wishing to provide sites or accommodation without the assistance of the Local Authority are advised to consult the planning authority before land is purchased or application for planning permission made.

Communication will continue between Galway City & County councils to progress plans for meeting the needs of Traveller families with common applications in the city and county in the interests of securing the sustainability of accommodation. The City Council will seek to ensure that all tenancy agreements are complied with in full.

Transfer applications will continue to be considered in line with Galway City Councils policy and bi-monthly review to be undertaken of all approved applications bearing in mind the urgency of same. Provision of emergency homeless accommodation to those assessed as having a genuine need will continue. Care and case management approaches will be implemented to continue to progress households through the continuum of service provision into independent tenancies as appropriate.

Galway City Council will use all appropriate powers and measures as provided for in legislation to address and manage unauthorised encampments.

Collaborative work will continue with the GTM to deliver a programme to support families moving into Local Authority accommodation, to facilitate timely delivery of the actions contained in this programme and to address any other issues which impact on the successful provision and management of accommodation provided to Travellers.

In securing implementation of the objectives and targets in the Programme, the measures will be incorporated into an annual work programme and progress on implementing the annual work programme will be monitored in conjunction with the

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. The Council will explore all options, including collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies, in its endeavours to implement agreed measures of this programme.

The targets outlined below have been set subject to funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, planning approvals and the availability of casual vacancies that arise during the term of the programme.

Accommodation Targets – Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

Accommodation Type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Totals
Standard Local Authority (incl Transfers)	20	20	20	20	10	90
AHB Standard Housing	10	15	10	15	10	60
Group Housing - 2 Schemes Doughiska Respond Fana Glas	0	0	0	0	Doughiska Respond (4)	4 Fana Glas Units TBC
Culturally Specific Traveller Accommodation	0	Tuam Road (6)	Doughiska (5)	0	Keeraun (8)	19
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Long Term Leasing Scheme	1	1	1	1	0	4
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	5	5	5	5	5	25
Total	37	47	41	41	37	203

Capital Projects

The following projects will be undertaken to realise the accommodation targets set in the programme.

Capital Projects	Accommodation Type	Total Units
Keeraun	Culturally Appropriate Accommodation Galway City Council will look to reapply for planning for this development.	8
Tuam Road Halting Site Redevelopment	Culturally Appropriate Accommodation It is proposed to redevelop the site to the standard of Culturally Appropriate accommodation.	6
Doughiska Halting Site Redevelopment	Culturally Appropriate Accommodation It is proposed to redevelop the site to the standard of Culturally Appropriate accommodation.	5
Doughiska Respond Development	Respond – Traveller Group Housing The plan for the Doughiska site is to construct 23 units of accommodation four of which are Traveller specific.	4
Fana Glas Redevelopment	Traveller Group Housing It is proposed to redevelop units at this site by engaging in a partnership project. There are access issues that must be addressed to connect the site to adjoining estates and redevelop the site.	Units TBC
Total		23

9. Section 7 – Human Rights, Equality & Public Sector

Duty

In preparing the programme, Galway City Council deployed the assessment of equality and human rights issues facing the Traveller community and relevant to the provision and management of Traveller accommodation, prepared with the participation of the LTACC as part of the mid-term review of the previous programme. These issues are set out in Appendix 2. This was in fulfilment of the Assess step of the Duty.

During the preparation and drafting of the programme, there was a focus sustained on these issues to ensure that they were adequately and appropriately addressed. At final draft stage the programme was reviewed in a participative exercise to establish whether, where and to what extent these issues had been addressed. Amendments identified from this exercise were then included in the programme. This was in fulfilment of the Address step of the Duty.

Over the course of implementing the programme, Galway City Council in conjunction with the LTACC will track and report annually on progress and achievements in addressing these equality and human rights issues. This report will be used to further reflect on ensuring an effective response to these issues. This is in fulfilment of the Report step of the Duty.

Further to this, Galway City Council with the participation of the LTACC prepared and progressed implementation of an Equality Action Plan. This was developed in response to an Equality Review of Traveller accommodation provision undertaken by Galway City Council at the invitation of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. Galway City Council, with the participation of the LTACC, will continue to implement this Equality Action Plan over the life of this programme.

10. Section 7 - Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

Section 7 Final Section Review of Accommodation Programme

Section 17 (1)(a) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, provides that a relevant housing authority shall review its Accommodation Programme at least once in each three-year period, or at such time as directed by the Minister. Any amendment to the Accommodation Programme proposed following any such review must be made within seven months and is subject to the same procedures and requirements including public consultation. The Minister has, under Section 17 (1) of the 1998 Act, directed that a review of the Accommodation Programme should be carried out no later than 30th June 2027. This provision requires for more frequent reviews to be carried out, if required.

Appendix

Glossary

TAP: Traveller Accommodation Programme

DOHLGH: Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage

DCEDIY: Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth

IHREC Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission

TAU: Traveller Accommodation Unit

GCC: Galway City Council

GTM: Galway Traveller Movement

LTACC: Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

AHB: Approved Housing Body

HAP: Housing Assistance Payment

RAS: Rental Accommodation Scheme

RS: Rent Supplement

LTL: Long Term Leasing

EOI: Expression of Interest

NGO: Non Governmental Organisation

Appendix 1 – Draft TAP 2025 – 2029 Submissions

Received February/March 2024

Service	Summary of Key Points
COPE Galway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traveller Families are overrepresented in Homeless services • Young age profile for those Travellers presenting for Emergency Accommodation • Traveller Homelessness needs to be reduced • Larger family units make it difficult to access accommodation • Ethnic Identifier required for PASS to source data on Travellers accessing Homeless services • TAP Actions need to be integrated with actions in the City Development Plan • HAP Housing Support has not worked well for Traveller Families • Domestic Violence is resulting in increasing presentations by Traveller families to their service • Partnership approach with the HSE required to undertake a Health Equality Impact Assessment to inform the development and implementation of TAPS. • Mandate Anti Racism training for all staff • The TAP is a vehicle to deliver Traveller Accommodation
Galway Simon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Traveller accommodation needs to be improved • Travellers are overrepresented in Homeless services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travellers experience difficulties accessing accommodation and housing supports • Travellers experience marginalisation and discrimination in respect of accommodation, health, disability, educational and employment attainment • Travellers find it difficult to exit homelessness • The adverse effects of Homelessness on children and families • The need for social and affordable homes to reduce the number of families entering homelessness • The need to review the last TAP and learnings from same • The need for the TAP to address Traveller Homelessness
<p>HSE Regional Traveller Health Forum (CHO2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation is a key social determinant of health • Housing/Accommodation impacts on the health and wellbeing of Travellers • Improved standards of accommodation required • TAP targets to match current and projected need • An interagency approach to improve the health of Travellers • An ethnic identifier be implemented across all datasets in Local Authorities • Anti racism and Culturally Appropriate Training be delivered as part of Public Sector duty

<p>Galway City Community Network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights the right to adequate housing for everyone (UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) • Improved co-operation between the LTACC and Housing SPC • Meaningful consultation with Travellers required • Improved standards of accommodation required • Improved Tenant Participation strategies required for Estate Management • The need for culturally appropriate accommodation • Reduce the numbers of Traveller families experiencing homelessness
<p>Galway City Partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future TAPs should be based on Equality and Equity • Partnership approaches required • The need for an Ethnic Identifier • Improved standards of accommodation required • Improved delivery of Culturally Appropriate accommodation required • Anti Racism and Culturally Appropriate Training Required
<p>Irish Traveller Movement National Traveller Women's Forum Pavee Point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for consultation with Travellers as part of the TAP • The TAP must match its accommodation targets to the current and projected need • Cultural considerations are required for housing provision for Travellers • Appropriate resourcing is required for Traveller accommodation

Roma Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overrepresentation of Travellers in homelessness must be addressed
People Before Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined Galway City Council's poor record in delivery of Traveller accommodation
Galway Traveller Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidence of hidden homelessness in the Traveller Community • Improved standards of accommodation required • Improve delivery of accommodation through the TAP is required • Improve the delivery of Traveller specific accommodation • The role of Public Sector Duty • Improvements in the roles of Traveller Representatives on the LTACC • Accurate projections of need • Review of Housing Supports available to those who qualify for Social Housing Supports • Improved Tenant Participation Strategies for Estate Management

11. Appendix 2 - Assessment of Equality and Human Rights issues undertaken in fulfilment of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

In undertaking this assessment, GCC has followed guidance issued by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, including that the assessment is evidence-based and involves engagement with relevant stakeholders. It should be noted that, in accordance with the Duty,

This assessment is not an assessment of the performance of the public body in regard to equality and human rights. It can and does include issues that the public body is already taking action on or has plans to do so.

The equality and human rights issues are organised under the headings of the equality and human rights values that motivate Galway City Council's concern for these issues.

Dignity: is about care and respect for people. It involves embracing diversity and protecting, promoting, and fulfilling people's rights. It means working with people in a non-judgmental and fair manner, based on a parity of esteem.

The equality and human rights issues related to this value that Travellers face that are of relevance for the preparation or review of a Traveller Accommodation Programme are:

- High levels of discrimination and harassment, both individual and systemic, with a high level of under-reporting of such incidents.
- Negative stereotyping, with false assumptions made as to needs and wishes.

Autonomy: is about independence, self-determination, choice and a bottom-up approach. It involves being flexible in meeting changing, emerging and contextual needs and supporting a capacity to make choices and be involved in decision-making.

The equality and human rights issues related to this value that Travellers face that are of relevance for the preparation or review of a Traveller Accommodation Programme are:

- Inadequate information and support to enable informed choices.
- Pressure to hide one's identity to avoid discrimination.
- Lack of internet access.

Participation: is about meaningful participation in decision-making and processes of accountability. It involves the right to be heard and to pose a challenge. It includes open debate in building shared visions with space for differences and compromise.

The equality and human rights issues related to this value that Travellers face that are of relevance for the preparation or review of a Traveller Accommodation Programme are:

- Lack of participation in and influence on decision-making, as individuals and as a community.
- Inadequate consultation in relation to needs.
- Lack of information and support for effective participation and consultation.

Inclusion: is about enabling and recognising the right of people, in particular those experiencing disadvantage and exclusion, to participate.

The equality and human rights issues related to this value that Travellers face that are of relevance for the preparation or review of a Traveller Accommodation Programme are:

- Lack of recognition for heritage, culture and identity, in the design and delivery of services.

- Lack of provision for culture and tradition, particularly in relation to culturally appropriate accommodation, nomadism, horse ownership, and economic activity.
- Inadequate response to the specific needs of the diversity within the community, in relation to Traveller women, Travellers with a disability etc.
- Lack of data disaggregated on the Traveller ground, and lack of adequate attention to what is required for its appropriate collection and use.

Social Justice: is about transparency and fairness in the distribution of economic, educational, cultural and other resources. It involves proactive targeted approaches to support those experiencing injustice.

The equality and human rights issues related to this value that Travellers face that are of relevance for the preparation or review of a Traveller Accommodation Programme are:

- High levels of poverty and dependence on social housing, and inadequacy of provision.
- High levels of disadvantage across multiple housing dimensions:
 - Poor and unsafe standard of living conditions.
 - Overcrowding.
 - Homelessness.
- Lack of access to private rented accommodation, due to discrimination and lack of properties of sufficient size.

Environmental Justice: is about recognising the right to a clean, safe, and sustained environment for this and future generations. It involves a concern for climate change and its impacts, in particular on marginalised groups and communities.

The equality and human rights issues related to this value that Travellers face that are of relevance for the preparation or review of a Traveller Accommodation Programme are:

- Energy poverty due to cost of energy, low level of household income, and lack of energy efficiency of the home.
- Unequal impact of climate change, including particular impacts of weather events on Traveller specific sites.
- Unequal exposure in contexts of viral pandemics/epidemics in overcrowded accommodation settings