



MONAGHAN County Council

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

INTRODUCTION

County Monaghan is located on the border of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and comprises an area of approximately 800 square kilometers. The population of County Monaghan was recorded as 60,483 in the 2011 census. The number of people in County Monaghan who identified themselves as a white Irish Traveller in the 2011 census was 255. In the census 242 of this number were in permanent housing units, 10 were in temporary housing units and 3 were not stated.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 has been developed at County Council level, with Monaghan County Council identifying the relevant needs.

MISSION STATEMENT

Monaghan County Council Plan to provide good quality suitable accommodation for Traveller families in County Monaghan through a range of housing options.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. It is the policy of Monaghan Local Authority, within the resources available to them, to provide suitable accommodation for the following category of Travellers:
 - A. Travellers identified in the Assessment of Housing Needs carried out in June 2019, as needing accommodation or included in any future assessment of needs carried out during the lifetime of this programme.
 - B. Travellers who have applied for accommodation since the Assessment of Housing Needs 2019.
 - C. New households formed during the period of this plan comprising family members of the households at (A) and (B) above.
 - D. New Traveller families who move into County Monaghan during the period of this plan and who satisfy Monaghan Local Authorities that they qualify for and demonstrate that they have a genuine need to be accommodated in the area.

The Council will not accept responsibility for providing accommodation for Traveller families who are deemed by the Council to be able to provide accommodation from their own resources.

2. The accommodation options for Travellers which will be considered subject to resources available include:

Assistance from Local Authorities for the Provision of Accommodation

Local authority loans for house purchase
Tenant purchase scheme
Mortgage allowance scheme

Local Authority Loans for Improvements and Repair

Housing adaptation Grants
Mobility Aids Grants
Housing Aid for Older People Scheme
Bedroom and bathroom extension to local authority housing for persons with a disability

Rented Accommodation

Private rented accommodation with/without housing assistance payment
Rental Accommodation Scheme

Direct Provision of accommodation by Local Authorities or Voluntary Housing Bodies

Standard housing
Residential caravan park

3. In accordance with the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Monaghan County Council consulted with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, will consult with the public and other interested parties, in the preparation, and compilation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024. Copies of the Draft Programme were placed on display in public offices on 11th April 2019, and submissions will be sought on the draft document.
4. Monaghan County Council is committed to engaging in ongoing consultation with Travellers at three levels:

With individual families through the Social Worker, Housing Officer and the assessment of housing need process.

With the extended family groups through the social worker, housing staff and Traveller support groups

At community level through the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
5. Monaghan Local Authorities will treat all housing applicants equally and fairly while at the same time respecting and planning for individual or group differences and needs where possible.
6. Monaghan County Council completed a community centre at Gortakeegan Residential Caravan Park in 2008. The Council is committed to working on an inter agency basis to identify and develop programmes to meet the needs of Travellers.
7. In conjunction with the provision of good quality and properly managed accommodation, it is the Councils policy to take the necessary steps to deal with incidences of unauthorised encampments in public places. The powers provided under the following legislation will be used as necessary, i.e.
 - Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1948.
 - Planning and Development Acts 2000-2006
 - Section 10 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 as amended by Section 32 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998
 - Roads Act, 1993
 - Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994 (as amended)
 - Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2002.
8. Monaghan Local Authorities in co-operation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will liaise with statutory and voluntary bodies to develop and deliver appropriate training and support to enable meaningful participation by the Traveller representatives on the committee. It is hoped that the experience of Travellers on the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will be positive and that they in turn will encourage others to play an active role in community development. Back up and support will continue to be provided through the social worker, caretaker, housing and maintenance staff of Monaghan County Council.
9. It is well documented that Irish Travellers experience poor health outcomes. Traveller infant mortality rates are higher and in general life expectancy is lower than the national average. Accommodation provided by the Local Authority will be in accordance with good practice and legislation.
10. In preparation for the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 Monaghan County Council used the data collected in November 2018. and the assessment of housing need carried out in the County in June 2019. The number of Traveller families recorded based on Local Authority data in County Monaghan in November 2018 was 171. Since November 2018 the number of families currently in County Monaghan is 175 with one out of County on the waiting list.

11. The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 set out to deliver housing support to 47 families through the provision of accommodation in Standard Local authority Accommodation, Voluntary Housing Bodies and RAS. In this period Monaghan Local Authority provided accommodation as follows

2014 9 units of Local Authority Housing
Total 9

2015 3 units of Local Authority Housing 1 of which was a transfer, 1 Unit from Voluntary Housing Bodies and 8 units in HAP a net total of
Total of 11

2016 16 Units of Local Authority Housing of which 2 were transfers so net 14 and 9 units in HAP
Total 23

2017 14 units of Local Authority Housing 7 of which were transfers so net figure 7, 6 units in HAP of which 4 were transfers so net figure 2
Total 9

2018 2 units in Local Authority Housing and 3 units in HAP
Total 5

Total for the 204-2018 Programme 57.

34 in Local Authority Housing

1 in Voluntary Housing Bodies

22 in HAP

Year	Local Authority	HAP	Voluntary Housing Bodies	target	Total
2014	9			9	9
2015	2	8	1	10	11
2016	14	9		10	23
2017	7	2		10	9
2018	2	3		8	5
Total	34	22	1	47	57

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

Accommodation of Traveller families in County Monaghan November 2018

Electoral Area	No. of families	L.A. Housing Rented tenancies	Owner occupier Housing	Tenancies allocated on Caravan Parks	Sharing	Own resources	HSE	Private rented tenancy With hap/ without hap	Voluntary Bodies Housing	Out of County
Monaghan	150	78	22	13	11	5	2	18 +1 =19	0	1
Ballybay-Clones	10	7	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney	15	7	0	0	1	1	0	4	2	0
Out of County	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	176	92	23	13	13	6	2	25	2	1

The Accommodation preference of Traveller Households on waiting lists and in need of accommodation at April 2019.

Area	Number of families	Current Private rented	Current Sharing with Family	Current caravan park transfer list	Out of County	Transfer list	HSE acc	Need	Projected need
Monaghan	38	19	11	5	0	1	2	38	10
Ballybay/Clones	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney	7	4	1	0	1	1	0	7	2
Total	47	24	13	5	1	2	2	47	13

These figures are based on information as at April 2019

Based on the assessment of need undertaken in June 2018 and the assessment of Traveller accommodation status carried out in November 2018 and current data, the Local Authorities aims to provide the following during the period of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.

Projected need is based on the difference in the number of families in the County in 2014 at the time of the last Traveller Accommodation Programme which was 155 and the number assessed for this Programme being there are now 176 families in the County and increase of 21 families since the last programme.

- *To facilitate 3 families to move from Traveller specific accommodation to Standard Local Authority Housing or Voluntary Housing.*
- *To facilitate 2 families to transfer from Standard Local Authority Housing to alternative Standard Social Housing*
- *To provide Local Authority Standard Accommodation or Voluntary housing for 12 of the families currently on HAP of which there are 24.*
- *To provide Private rented accommodation with HAP/ Standard Local Authority Housing for 9 of the families currently sharing of which there are 13 families*
- *To provide Social Housing support in the form of Standard Local Authority housing or HAP or Voluntary Housing for the 2 individuals in HSE accommodation*
- *To provide Social Housing support in the form of Standard Local Authority Housing or voluntary housing for the 1 individual out of County*
- *Plan for further households who were forecasted to require housing support over the period of the plan*

Additional family formations

New family formation not included in the above table will be assessed as and when they arise and until then it will not be possible to be specific about the type and number of accommodation units required. When such needs are identified and established the Council will provide Social Housing support subject to need and resources available.

STRATEGY STATEMENT

1. Implementing Authority

Monaghan County Council is the relevant implementing authority for the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024, and the Town Councils of Monaghan, Clones, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross shall have regard to this programme in the performance of their functions concerning the provision of accommodation. A process of consultation and ongoing communication will be facilitated through the Housing Office of Monaghan County Council between the five housing authorities in the county and this will prevail for the duration of the plan.

2. Residential Caravan Park

Monaghan County Council maintains and manages one permanent residential caravan park at Gortakeegan, Monaghan there are currently 20 units of accommodation. The accommodation will be developed over the period of this plan. 6 units of accommodation will have the addition of a bed room and the remaining 14 units will become 7 units of two bed roomed accommodation. There are plans to develop the site and have 14 units of accommodation. Six with one bedroom added and seven with two bed roomed units of accommodation.

3. Provision of Accommodation

Monaghan Local Authorities will provide accommodation to eligible Traveller families through the following social housing options:

A. Standard Housing

- Forty-seven families have been identified as in need of long term housing support. The preference of the families is for standard Local Authority Housing. This will be provided through the
- Direct provision of Local Authority Housing including casual vacancies arising in the existing stock and house purchases
- HAP/Local Authority/Voluntary Housing Bodies
- Facilitating housing for households seeking transfers when suitable local authority accommodation becomes available.

B. Group Housing Schemes

No families have indicated a preference for group housing

4. Consultative Process

The following consultative process has been implemented

- In October 2018, Monaghan County Council notified the relevant statutory bodies of its intention to prepare a Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and invited submissions on same.
- The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee has been notified of the preparation of the draft and will meet to consider the draft plan.
- The Draft Plan of the programme will be put on display at local authority offices in Monaghan.
- Interested individuals or groups have two months to submit their views in writing to The Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section, Monaghan County Council, County Offices, Glen Road, Monaghan. Submissions/representation are required in writing, not later than 4. 00p.m on 11th June 2019. Objections or representations with respect to the Draft Programme within the same period will be taken into consideration before the adoption of the Programme.
- The latest date for the adoption of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 by Monaghan County Council is the 30th September 2019.

5. Co-ordination of delivery of the programme

The Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section shall co-ordinate the delivery of the accommodation proposals. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will review the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme annually.

6. Management and maintenance arrangements for Traveller Specific Accommodation

The following arrangements will apply:

- Allocation of tenancies will be administered by the Housing Officer in conjunction with the Social Worker.
- Incidents of anti-social behaviour will be dealt with using the relevant powers provided to address such behaviour in the interests of good estate management.
- One full time caretaker is employed to implement Monaghan Local Authorities policies and practices for good estate management on the residential caravan park.
- Monaghan County Council will make provision in its annual revenue budget for the management and maintenance of all Traveller specific accommodation provided by it.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

There are 5 families seeking a transfer from Traveller specific accommodation at Gortakeegan to HAP or Local Authority Standard Housing.

The Local Authority will seek to transfer 3 families from Gortakeegan Traveller specific accommodation will move to Standard Local Authority Housing or HAP

There are 2 families seeking a transfer from Standard Local Authority housing to alternative Standard Local Authority Housing.

The Local Authority will seek to transfer 2 families in the period of the Programme.

There are 13 families sharing with family who are seeking private rented accommodation with HAP or Social Housing.

The Local Authority will seek to provide 9 families a move from sharing to Local Authority Housing or HAP

There are 24 families in private rented accommodation 24 with HAP and one without. These households are on the waiting list for Local Authority Social Housing

The Local Authority will seek to provide 12 of the 24 families in HAP with Local Authority Standard housing/Voluntary Bodies Housing

There are 2 individuals in HSE accommodation who are seeking Local Authority Social Housing

The Local Authority will seek to provide these 2 individuals with HAP/ Local Authority Standard housing/Voluntary Bodies Housing

There is 1 individual in HAP in another County who is seeking Local Authority Social Housing

The Local Authority will seek to provide this individual with Local Authority Standard Housing/Voluntary Bodies Housing

Projected need in the period of the Programme is 13 and these families will be provided with HAP

Total Current need and projected need 60

Specific implementation proposals

<p>2019/2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate 1 transfer from Gortakeegan to Local Authority Housing/ HAP • Provide 3 units of Standard Local Authority Social Housing/ Voluntary Housing Bodies for families moving from HAP • Provide 2 unit of accommodation for families to move from sharing accommodation to HAP/ Local Authority Standard housing/ Voluntary Housing Bodies. or Social housing. • Provide 1 unit of accommodation for 1 person moving from HSE accommodation to Local Authority Social Housing/ Voluntary Bodies Housing/HAP • <i>Total 7</i>
<p>2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate 1 transfer from Standard Local Authority Housing to alternative to Local Authority Housing • Provide 2 units of Standard Social Housing/Voluntary Housing Bodies for families moving from HAP • Provide 2 units of accommodation for families to move from sharing to HAP/ Local Authority Social Housing • Total 5
<p>2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate 1 transfer from Gortakeegan to Local Authority Housing/ HAP • Provide 3 units of Standard Local Authority Social Housing/ Voluntary Housing Bodies for families moving from HAP • Provide 2 unit of accommodation for families to move from sharing accommodation to HAP/ Local Authority Standard housing/ Voluntary Housing Bodies. or Social housing. • Provide 1 unit of accommodation for 1 person moving from HSE accommodation to Local Authority Social Housing/ Voluntary Bodies Housing/HAP • <i>Total 7</i>
<p>2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate 1 transfer from Gortakeegan to Local Authority Housing/ HAP • Provide 2 units of Standard Local Authority Social Housing/ Voluntary Housing Bodies for families moving from HAP • Provide 2 unit of accommodation for families to move from sharing accommodation to HAP/ Local Authority Standard housing/ Voluntary Housing Bodies. or Social housing. • Provide 1 unit of accommodation for 1 person moving from out of County to Standard Local Authority Housing/ Voluntary Bodies Housing/HAP • Total 6
<p>2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate 1 transfer from Standard Local Authority Housing to alternative to Local Authority Housing • Provide 2 units of Standard Local Authority Social Housing/ Voluntary Housing Bodies for families moving from HAP • Provide 1 unit of accommodation for families to move from sharing accommodation to HAP/ Local Authority Standard housing/ Voluntary Housing Bodies. or Social housing. • Total 4

<p>Totals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Programme 2019-2024 • 3 of the Families who requested a transfer from Gortakeegan Traveller specific accommodation will move to Standard Local Authority Housing or HAP • 2 of the families who have requested a transfer from Standard Local Authority Housing to alternative Local Authority Housing • 12 of the 24 families in HAP will move from HAP accommodation to Local Authority Standard housing/Voluntary Bodies Housing • 9 of the 13 families sharing will move from sharing accommodation to Local Authority Standard housing/Voluntary Bodies Housing/HAP • 2 of the individuals in HSE accommodation will move from sharing accommodation to Local Authority Standard housing/Voluntary Bodies Housing • 1 individual in HAP out of County will move to Local Authority Housing / Voluntary Bodies Housing • A total of 29 of the current need of 47 with the projected need of 13 to be provided with HAP
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Conclusion.

The proposals outlined in this programme will meet some of the existing need and take account of projected accommodation needs within the County as outlined above. In addition, Travellers who seek accommodation on the Caravan Park will be considered subject to availability at Gortakeegan Caravan Park. The implementation of the programme will require co-operation between the Traveller and settled communities; provision of adequate funding both at national and local level and participation by other relevant agencies.

APPENDIX 1

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Membership

4 Elected Members of Monaghan County Council

Councillor Seamus Treanor	Monaghan County Council Chairperson
Councillor Seamus Coyle	Monaghan County Council
Councillor Colm Carthy	Monaghan County Council
Councillor Richard Truell	Monaghan County Council

5 Traveller Representatives

Patrick Mc Donald	Monaghan
Francis Mc Donald	Monaghan
Kevin Donoghue	Monaghan
Alex Crumlish	Monaghan
Rosemary McDonald	Monaghan

2 Officials from Monaghan County Council

Nuala Woods	Senior Executive Officer
Mary Walker	Social Worker