



**Clár Cóiríochta 2009-2013 don Lucht Siúil
i gContae Chiarraí**

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**Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013
for County Kerry**



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Introduction

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 was enacted to support commitments given by the Government under Social Partnership. Under the terms of this Act, Kerry County Council is required to prepare a Traveller Accommodation Programme. This particular programme is the third such programme, and covers the five year period 2009 to 2013. The Act requires that the programme be reviewed periodically. It also requires that the Local Authority take reasonable steps to ensure the programme is implemented.

The current Traveller Accommodation Programme expires on 31st December, 2008, and the new programme should be considered as complementary to, and an extension of, the existing programme.

Kerry County Council acknowledges that the travelling community are a separate ethnic minority in Ireland. There are approximately 247 Traveller families living in County Kerry. This was compiled as part of the Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation position at the end of November 2007. These families are accommodated as follows:

(i)	Local Authority Housing	117
(ii)	Halting Sites	25
	(Deerpark 14, Gortroe 5, Rathass 2, Dingle Rd. 4)	
(iii)	Sharing accommodation with family members	25
(iv)	Private Rented Accommodation	25
(v)	Privately owned (incl 40 purchased LA houses)	46
(vi)	Caravans parked illegally	9

The requirements imposed on Kerry County Council under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 (subsequently referred to as the 1998 Act) ensures that significant steps will be taken to provide appropriate accommodation for Travellers within the County.

Under the first Traveller Accommodation Programme, covering the period 2000 – 2004, 90 families were accommodated in Local Authority housing and on halting sites. During the current

programme 2005 – 2008, a target of 87 families, over the course of the 4 year programme were to be accommodated. To the end of December 2007, 72 families were accommodated in Local Authority or Voluntary Housing, and on Halting Sites. To the end of September 2008 a further 19 families have been accommodated.

The purpose of the 1998 Act and the Accommodation Programme is to put into place the necessary procedures, measures, resources and facilities which are required to successfully accommodate Travellers in a manner that will address all concerns relating to the provision of accommodation.

Under the Act, responsibility for implementing the Traveller Accommodation Programme for the County of Kerry falls to Kerry County Council. The adoption, amendment or replacement of the proposed Accommodation Programme is a function for the Council Members.

The steps which will be taken by Kerry County Council, in co-operation with the Town Councils within the County, over the next five years to accommodate Travellers are detailed in this Traveller Accommodation Programme for the period 1st January 2009 to 31st December 2013.

The Accommodation Programme for Traveller families residing in County Kerry has been prepared following:

- An assessment of Traveller families accommodation needs.
- Consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.
- Consultation with Kerry Travellers Development Project.
- A survey of Traveller Accommodation Needs.
- Notification to relevant Bodies that a Draft Accommodation Programme was being prepared by Kerry County Council.
- Direct consultation with Town Councils in the County.
- Submissions received from Irish Traveller Movement, Mitchel's/Boherbee Community Regeneration Group, Kerry Travellers Development Project, Community Work Department of the HSE, KDYS, Kerry County Community and Voluntary Forum, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, and St. Anne's Senior Traveller Education Centre.

- Notification to Social Inclusion Measures focus group of the County Development Board.

There are many issues, such as education, training and employment, health and equality, which must be tackled in conjunction with the provision of traveller accommodation in order to successfully implement the accommodation programme. This will require changes in attitudes and acceptance of different lifestyles from all parties involved, from those providing the accommodation and those requiring it, to the members of local communities in areas close to the accommodation.

In the current economic climate, the provision of adequate accommodation, as outlined in the programme, presents a challenge to all the local authorities in the County, and this will not be achieved quickly or easily. However, it is essential that the process continues throughout the County in order to make progress and realise the targets as set out in the programme.

PART 1

1.0 ASSESSMENT OF TRAVELLERS ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

1.1 Current Accommodation

Kerry County Council is committed to providing quality services to all citizens of the County. The provision of Traveller Accommodation and associated support services is a central part of the Programme for Housing and Social Support.

An assessment of accommodation needs was undertaken in March 2008 as part of the tri-annual Housing Needs Assessment, as prescribed under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988. This statutory assessment of need assesses all applicants seeking assistance with accommodation. The net accommodation need for Kerry County Council's administrative area, at the end of March 2008 was 997. There were 58 Traveller applicants which represents 5.8% of the overall demand.

The existing locations of Traveller families who are living in Kerry and who are applicants for housing with Kerry County Council, or with Tralee Town Council, Killarney Town Council or Listowel Town Council are:

- On serviced halting sites
- In private rented accommodation
- Living with family members
- Living in illegally parked caravans

In July of this year, Kerry Travellers Development Project, provided Kerry County Council with a summary of Traveller numbers within the County. Their figures show 331 Traveller families in the County. The Central Statistics Office states that, at the last Census, there are 688 individuals who self identify as Travellers in the County.

In an attempt to reach consensus of the total number of Travellers in the County, and to establish their accommodation needs, Kerry County Council with the co-operation and assistance of Kerry Travellers Development project, and of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel Town Councils, circulated a survey to all Travellers in the County, however, we received a poor response. Of the 24 families who responded to the survey the majority expressed a preference for standard local authority/voluntary housing. Three families listed a preference for group housing.

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) acknowledges that there is a difference in the number of Traveller families reported by the peer researchers working on the All Ireland Traveller Health Survey, and the number of Traveller families counted by Kerry Local Authorities as part of the Annual Traveller Count. Notwithstanding that some families may identify as Travellers for one service and not another, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee has recommended that a sub-group be formed to determine how to reconcile the figures and the possibility of an independent researcher to carry out this work will be examined, subject to the availability of funding. The sub-group will be formed with a view to reconciling the numbers within the first two years of the programme.

For the purposes of ascertaining need for the duration of the Traveller Accommodation Programme we will examine the number of Traveller applicants with Kerry County Council, and each Town Council within the County.

As at the 30th September, 2008 each local authority has the following number of Traveller housing applicants.

Listowel Town Council	13
Tralee Town Council	19
Killarney Town Council	28
Kerry County Council	75*

*This includes 17 families, who are also applicants with the Town Councils – 12 of whom are applicants with Killarney Town Council, and 5 who are applicants with Listowel Town Council.

Overall the demand, by area, breaks down as follows:

	Kerry County Council	Killarney Town Council	Listowel Town Council	Tralee Town Council	TOTAL
Killarney	20	28			48
Tralee	2			19	21
Listowel	6		13		19
Castleisland	7				7
Ardfert	10				10
Ballyduff	5				5
Other Areas	8				8
TOTAL	58	28	13	19	118

Additionally, under the Mitchel's/Boherbee Regeneration Project, Tralee Town Council propose to provide 15 new units of Traveller Specific Accommodation, and 7 units of refurbished, newly designated Traveller Specific Accommodation.

1.2 Summary of Accommodation Needs

The locations of the proposed accommodation will be based on the existing locations of Traveller families, their native areas and their preferred choices of location. The type and location of accommodation proposed in the Programme is expected to meet Travellers' accommodation needs until 31st December, 2013.

The assessment of the accommodation needs of the indigenous Traveller families residing in the Council's functional area, indicates that accommodation is required for 118 families in order to cater for these needs.

Taking into consideration the age profile of existing Travellers and the rate of new family formation in the County, it is expected that an additional 49 new families will require accommodation during the period of the programme.

Therefore, overall, 167 families will require both short term and long term accommodation during the lifetime of the Traveller

Accommodation programme 2009 – 2013. It is expected that newly formed Traveller households will make suitable arrangements for their accommodation pending the provision of accommodation by the Kerry local authorities.

The unauthorised parking of caravans will not be tolerated by the Council as the practice has a negative effect on the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. Kerry County Council's Traveller Liaison Officer can assist families with sourcing private rented accommodation.

1.2.1 Mitchel's / Boherbee Regeneration

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government designated the Mitchel's/Boherbee area of Tralee town as a regeneration project based on the 'Mitchel's Boherbee Community Regeneration Framework Plan'. This Plan was developed by the Mitchel's Boherbee Community Regeneration Steering Committee and provides an overall vision, a strategic plan and a schedule of projects in key sites which are targeted at creating sustainable communities and rejuvenating the built environment. A number of the projects identified in the Plan are specific to the Travelling Community. To facilitate consultation and participation from the Travelling Community, the Mitchel's Crescent/St. Martins Park Estate Management and Community Safety Committee was established. This committee is facilitated by the Kerry Travellers Development Project and is supported by Tralee Town Council.

In regard to the accommodation needs of the Travelling community living in the regeneration area, it is an objective of the regeneration framework plan to devise a strategic plan for the development and management of new Traveller specific accommodation and existing accommodation targeted for refurbishment, in a designated enclosed area to the east of Mitchel's Road. This area, which comprises of 30 housing units, 13 of which are now vacant, is populated exclusively by the Travelling community. Overcrowding is an issue and the units do not meet the needs of the larger family size, currently in the area. Going forward larger type family type units will continue to be in demand in the area. The area is also typical of Traveller communities regarding the number of cars and vans per household, resulting in a cluttered and intimidating streetscape. It is proposed to redesign the area to

take account of the specific needs of the community, as regards size of housing unit and space for vehicles.

It is proposed to engage with the residents, through the Mitchel's Crescent/St. Martins Park Estate Management and Community Safety Committee, in the design and management of the proposed Traveller specific accommodation. It is envisaged that this will result in the phased redevelopment of the area over the next three years. During this time it is proposed to demolish 21 housing units and construct 15 new traveller specific accommodation units and to refurbish seven housing units. Although this will lead to a reduction in the number of households, the population base will remain high due to household size.

The physical renewal of this area will have to be accompanied by the same standard of community safety that is expected elsewhere. The continued development of Garda/Traveller relations, community safety statements, and the introduction of CCTV cameras in the area are necessary requisites to a sustainable community going forward. Equally important for this area is the progression of the Horse Project and the Mitchel's Youth (MY) Project.

1.3 Accommodation Options

Kerry County Council will inform Travellers, Traveller Support Groups and other voluntary organisations concerned with Traveller accommodation, of the range of options available to Traveller households, seeking accommodation. The Council will encourage Travellers to avail of these options.

- Rented Local Authority Housing
- Rented Voluntary Housing
- Private Ownership
- Private Rented Accommodation
- Tenant Purchase
- Shared Ownership
- Affordable Housing
- RAS Housing
- Home modifications necessitated by disability requirements
- Loans for Improvement Works
- Low Cost Sites
- Traveller Specific Accommodation

1.4 Transient Sites

The Traveller Accommodation Act, 1998 requires the Council to have regard to ***“the provision of sites to address the accommodation needs of Travellers other than as their normal place of residence and having regard to the annual patterns of movement by Travellers”***.

Travellers who would fall into this category in County Kerry comprise:

- a) Mobile/Commercial Traders who periodically trade in the County for short periods;
- b) Travellers who visit the major annual festivals in the County such as Festival of Kerry, Tralee, Puck Fair Killorglin, Listowel Races.

In relation to Category A it is proposed that commercial type traders should secure their own accommodation on commercial sites. Where such traders park illegally on public property, the provisions of Roads, Planning and other relevant legislation will be used to secure their removal together with seizure of goods placed or stored on public property.

In relation to Category B, it will be Council policy that responsibility for providing accommodation for all campers and caravan owners including Travellers visiting festivals will rest with the festival organisers/promoters.

Kerry County Council will, where possible, co-operate with organisers/promoters to help them meet their obligations in this regard and if necessary this can be considered further by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, to examine ways in which difficulties experienced by Traveller families seeking to access commercial camping sites and the concerns of operators of these sites can be overcome.

To date no significant demand for the provision of transient sites has been established. It shall be the policy of Kerry County Council that any consideration to be given to the provision of sustainable Transient Sites will require to be done in full consultation with other Local Authorities on a regional basis.

PART 2

2.0 MEETING TRAVELLERS ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 Public Consultation

The Council invited submissions from interested persons or parties in relation to the preparation of the draft Traveller Accommodation Programme as required under Section 8 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998. A submission has been received from the Irish Travellers Movement and the issues raised have been considered in drafting the Programme.

As required under Section 9 of the 1998 Act, the Draft Accommodation programme was available for public inspection for a period of two months. Kerry County Council has had regard to submissions received in writing, within the two month period, prior to the adoption of the Programme.

2.2 Ongoing Consultation

In order to continue to assess the accommodation needs, as accurately as possible during the period of the programme, further consultation will take place with Town Councils, Travellers representatives, members of local communities and Travellers who will be accommodated.

This consultation will, amongst other matters, include on-going consultation regarding to the refurbishment of Deerpark Halting Site and the development of Traveller Specific Accommodation in a designated area within the Mitchel's/Boherbee Community Regeneration Project.

2.3 Accommodation Targets Under the Programme

Total demand, both current and projected, amounts to 167 families, of which it is anticipated that 27 new family formations will require accommodation in the last two years of the programme.

These families will have their short term accommodation needs met by use of Private Rented Accommodation with rent assistance, pending determination with regards to their long term housing need.

Of the remaining 140 families requiring permanent long term accommodation it is proposed to accommodate them over the five years of the programme in the following, halting site bay vacancies, RAS accommodation, and local authority/voluntary housing allocation as set out in the table below.

Accommodation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Halting Sites Bays	7	7	7	7	7	35
RAS Accommodation	6	6	6	6	6	30
Local Authority and Voluntary Housing	15	15	15	15	15	75
Total permanent accommodation	28	28	28	28	28	140

Tralee Town Council's Regeneration of the Mitchel's/Boherbee area includes the demolition of 21 existing housing units which are to be replaced by 15 new Traveller specific housing units. Seven existing housing units will be refurbished.

The provision of accommodation for Travellers will also involve:

- i. An assessment of means of families requesting accommodation.
- ii. An assessment of accommodation requirements of families.
- iii. Management and maintenance arrangements for the accommodation.
- iv. Compliance with various regulatory requirements.

2.4 Policy Statement

- 2.4.1 It is the policy of Kerry County Council to provide appropriate accommodation for qualified Traveller families who request it and who, pursuant to generic housing legislation and the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 are considered to have a long term need for accommodation.
- 2.4.2. Applications must be made by means of the standard application form for accommodation and all applications will be considered. Advice and assistance will be provided to applicants and/or their representatives if requested by the applicant to address any difficulties that may arise in completing the application process.
- 2.4.3 In accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour and Nuisance Policy, Garda reports are sought on all prospective tenants, in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997.
- 2.4.4 Qualified families are those who originally come from the administrative area of Kerry and have been normally resident in the area for twelve months or more prior to application. In the case of a joint application, one of the applicants should be native to County Kerry. Persons who are not indigenous to the County, should be resident in the County prior to application, and must demonstrate a long term need for accommodation in the County, before they will be considered for accommodation.
- 2.4.5 Kerry County Council will consider a families' preferred type of accommodation. If this is not possible, other accommodation options will be considered and may be offered to individual families. If this is refused by individual families, without good reason, their application for accommodation may be given a reduced priority. In circumstances where three offers of accommodation have been refused, the applicants may be removed from the waiting list.

- 2.4.6 Kerry County Council will implement this programme based on consultation with members of the public, community based voluntary organisation, where appropriate, other statutory agencies, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, the Voluntary Sector, and other relevant bodies.
- 2.4.7 This Council, will at all times have regard to the statutory obligations of Kerry County Council and to the feasibility of recommendations and suggestions made in relation to the implementation of the programme.
- 2.4.8 In circumstances where families vacate Local Authority accommodation and re-apply for accommodation all factors will be taken into consideration when assessing the new application. Kerry County Council must be satisfied that the reasons given for vacating the previous accommodation are reasonable, in the family's best interest, and not for the sole purpose of securing alternative accommodation.
- 2.4.9 Tralee Community Horse Project is seen as a best practice model of partnership involving different agencies and the Traveller community. This project is welcomed, as it has enabled Travellers themselves taking primary responsibility for horse husbandry and care.
- 2.4.10 Persons who own horses, are obliged to comply with the requirements of the Control of Horses Act 1996, animal welfare legislation and relevant bye laws of the local authorities within Kerry.
- 2.4.11 Kerry County Council supports an interagency approach in the delivery of Traveller services.
- 2.4.12 Kerry County Council provides specialist staff to assist in the provision of appropriate Traveller accommodation in the County.
- 2.4.13 Kerry County Council will assist families prior to and after the allocation of accommodation and training will be provided in conjunction with Kerry County Council's

pre-tenancy training programme. The Council, in conjunction with the HSE will support the development of family support system to assist Traveller families.

- 2.4.14 Kerry County Council will encourage Traveller families to take part in Tenant Participation Programmes and Residents' Associations.
- 2.4.15 Accommodation will be provided to a high standard, and maintenance of this accommodation will be provided in accordance with the Council's policy in relation to the general housing/accommodation stock.
- 2.4.16 Kerry County Council will have regard to the requirements of the National Guidelines for Traveller Accommodation (Nov 1998) & Consultation Guidelines for Traveller Specific Guidelines (Aug '08) in the construction, maintenance and management of Traveller accommodation.
- 2.4.17 Traveller tenants will be required to meet their responsibilities as outlined in the tenancy agreement entered into between themselves and the Council, and the Kerry Local Authorities "Tenant's Handbook".
- 2.4.18 Tenants will be provided with training and support as part of the Council's Pre-Tenancy Programme, to enable them to participate fully in their own living environment and have a meaningful input into the development of this environment.
- 2.4.19 It is the policy of Kerry County Council that failure of tenants to comply with the requirements of the tenancy agreement, including the provisions relating to anti-social behaviour, may lead to such tenants being required to surrender their accommodation. Legal proceedings may be initiated including an application for an exclusion order. Investigations into complaints with reports of alleged anti-social behaviour will be dealt with in accordance with our adopted Anti-Social and Nuisance Behaviour Policy.
- 2.4.20 The Council takes into consideration the behaviour of applicants, during a previous tenancy, including the

reason for the surrender of previous tenancy, payment of rent, the condition of the property when handed back, and the proper disposal of rubbish, as well as any issues of anti-social or nuisance behaviour.

- 2.4.21 Travellers who present as homeless will be afforded the supports and services contained in the Homeless Strategy, in accordance with the normal terms and conditions regarding the provision of emergency accommodation.
- 2.4.22 Unauthorised encampments will be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation as appropriate.
- 2.4.23 This Council, will have regard to the overall vision and the objectives of the Mitchel's/Boherbee Community Regeneration Framework Plan and in particular its objective to devise a strategic plan for the development and management of, new Traveller Specific Accommodation and existing accommodation targeted for refurbishment, in a designated enclosed area to the east of Mitchel's Road.

PART 3

3.0 STRATEGY FOR SECURING IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Implementing Authorities

The implementing authorities for County Kerry include:

- Kerry County Council
- Tralee Town Council
- Listowel Town Council
- Killarney Town Council

Pursuant to the 1998 Act, Kerry County Council will have the overall responsibility for the implementation of the five year accommodation programme.

The Council will continue to take all reasonable steps required to secure its implementation. Kerry County Council recognises that it is through respect, acceptance of mutual responsibility and actions that the Traveller Accommodation Programme can be advanced.

3.2 Co-ordination Between Implementing Authorities

Kerry County Council will consult regularly with all the implementing Authorities and Bodies to ensure that the needs outlined in the programme are fulfilled.

The consultations will include regular meetings between the staff of the various Local Authorities, and meetings of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, in order to co-ordinate accommodation development and agree timescales for the provision of the accommodation.

3.3 Provision of Accommodation

3.3.1 Direct Provision by Implementing Authorities

The Housing Authorities for Tralee, Killarney and Listowel urban areas will be required to take whatever steps are necessary to implement these proposals for their functional areas. The Town Councils must also have regard to the provisions of the Accommodation

Programme when performing any functions in relation to Traveller Accommodation.

Tralee, Killarney and Listowel Town Councils will be required to provide accommodation for Travellers from their annual Housing Building Programme and from casual vacancies in Town Council houses. Standard Local Authority housing and Halting Site Bays will continue to be the main forms of accommodation which will be provided by the Local Authorities within the County.

3.3.2. Assistance to Approved Voluntary Bodies

Accommodation by Voluntary Bodies is provided with the assistance of capital funding from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and with the co-operation of the Local Authority. While no specific targets have been set down in this Traveller Accommodation Programme, these bodies will be required to accommodate a number of Traveller families, in accordance with the Accommodation Programme.

3.4 Public Relations and Consultation

The positive effects of good public relations should not be underestimated in achieving progress with the provision and maintenance of Traveller accommodation. The Traveller Accommodation Programme itself will be an effective Public Relations instrument and it should help alleviate the fears and worries of members of Local Communities and Travellers.

The good working relationship between the Council and Kerry Travellers Development Project will continue to be developed, and open channels of communication and regular interaction, will help support the operation of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. The effective working of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee is important to ensure confidence in the delivery of the targets set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Information in relation to the previous or alternative accommodation of Traveller families in other Local Authority areas

will be sought and provided where necessary, when assessing Traveller accommodation needs.

Information will be made available in relation to all aspects of the accommodation proposals outlined in the Programme and Council staff will be available to discuss programmes to provide accommodation for Traveller families.

3.5 Management and Maintenance Arrangements for Traveller Accommodation

It is essential that adequate arrangements are made for the management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation in order to ensure that the accommodation and surrounding area are maintained in good condition and that the families are successfully located there. A Caretaker will continue to be provided for existing permanent Halting Sites. The Caretaker must receive full support and co-operation from all residents in order for standards to be maintained. Members of local communities can be assured that the Halting Site accommodation in their areas will be adequately maintained and managed.

Regulatory powers are available to ensure that Traveller accommodation is successfully managed in accordance with the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Litter Pollution Act 1997 etc.

The maintenance and management of the accommodation will also be dealt with in conjunction with the Letting Agreements.

A sense of responsibility and ownership of Bays or houses must be the level of management and maintenance required for the various sites and schemes.

Support will be required from the Caretaker of the accommodation, Council staff involved with Traveller accommodation, Travellers support representatives and any other interested parties to ensure Travellers adequately maintain their Bays, Halting Sites or houses. All new tenants will be advised fully of their responsibilities as part of the Council's Pre-Tenancy Course.

3.6 Procedures for Resolving Difficulties

The Council's Traveller Liaison Officer along with Staff involved in the provision of Traveller accommodation will be available to provide assistance in the event of any difficulties arising with regard to the accommodation. Problems in relation to the maintenance of the accommodation must be raised initially with the Caretaker or immediate Council Staff involved in the maintenance of the accommodation. Inspections will be carried out and repairs completed as necessary for maintenance problems as in the case of Local Authority standard housing repairs.

Traveller families will be visited regularly by the Traveller Liaison Officer or other Council Support Staff involved in Traveller accommodation in order to help resolve difficulties which may arise from the new accommodation.

Where required, discussions and meetings will be held by Council staff with members of the local Community regarding any related problems which may arise following the provision of accommodation in their locality.

Appropriate action will be taken to resolve the problems, as soon as possible, following an assessment of the particular situation by the Council.

3.7 Programme Progress Review

An annual review of progress will be undertaken by the Council in relation to the implementation of the Accommodation Programme. The review will be carried out following the end of the calendar year and will include the number of families accommodated, the number of Units and type of accommodation provided, the number of sites selected for Traveller accommodation during the current year, steps taken to secure the implementation of the Accommodation Programme and the activities of the local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. A review of the programme will be carried out after three years, in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

This progress review will also include the results of the most recent annual census and assessment of needs of accommodation for Traveller families to take account of changing circumstances due

to the increase in the number of families and the locations of indigenous families in the County. Consultation will also take place with Travellers and Traveller Representative Groups.

PART 4

4.0 MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Provision of A Range of Accommodation to Meet Needs

An Administrative Officer has been assigned by the Council to assist with the preparation, development and implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. This will continue to be the case.

4.2 Assistance for Travellers to Provide Own Accommodation

Traveller families who own land will be requested to provide land for immediate family members who require accommodation. Single houses may be built by the Council on these lands, subject to transfer of ownership of the land to the Council. Accommodation will be provided in these circumstances where evidence is available that the families requiring accommodation do not have means or income to provide accommodation for themselves.

Travellers who may be in a position to provide their own accommodation will be encouraged to acquire their own dwellings either from their own resources or with the assistance of loans or other Social Housing options.

Council support staff for Travellers will advise families seeking accommodation to consider all the options in relation to the provision of their own accommodation.

4.3 Assistance to Approved Voluntary Bodies

The Council will consider providing land to approved Voluntary Bodies in respect of the provision of housing for Traveller families as outlined in the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

4.4. Arrangements for the Proper Management of Traveller Accommodation

Experience to date has shown that close and regular contact is required with families in Traveller accommodation if progress is to be achieved towards the proper management of sites.

Appropriate action will be taken by the Council in the event of any breach of agreements by residents in Traveller accommodation to ensure that the accommodation is managed successfully for everyone involved and that high maintenance standards are kept in these areas.

CONCLUSION

Substantial progress was made during the Traveller Accommodation Programme Period (2000 - 2004), and this was built on in the Traveller Accommodation Programme (2005 – 2008). It is hoped that the relationship between the Travelling Community and local communities, and between the Travelling community and the Council, through the Local Traveller Consultative Committee, the Traveller Liaison Officer, and the Kerry Interagency Traveller Strategy, can be fostered and can continue to develop.

The current economic climate, presents huge challenges for the provision of all local authority services, including the provision of accommodation. As a result, the provisions, contained in this plan are dependant on the required level of capital funding being made available to the local authorities by Central Government. Should adjustments be made in the level of funding available, the programme may need to be adjusted appropriately.

The successful implementation of this programme, and indeed other related Traveller programmes, is dependant on the continued commitment and support of all parties. Mutual trust and understanding must be further developed, and it is recognised that only through dialogue and respect for different traditions, can the needs and concerns of all members of the community be addressed.

The overriding aim of the Programme remains to be the development of an inclusive society, which will recognise the needs of all members of the community.