



Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

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Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029



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Legislation

Under the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation Act, 1998, Kilkenny County Council is required to prepare, adopt and implement a new Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) to meet the accommodation needs of the county's Traveller Community.

Guidelines

Directions under the Traveller Accommodation Act, 1998, in relation to the preparation of the TAP are contained in Circular 46/2023 together with 'Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption and Implementation of Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2025-2029'.



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Review of TAP 2019 – 2024

The requirements for Kilkenny for period 2019 to 2024 were as follows;

Standard Housing/Including RAS/Leasing	Group Housing	Halting Site	Single Rural Dwelling	Total
34	8	14	10	66

KCC Delivered 95 units of Accommodation as of July 2024;

Standard Housing/Including RAS/Leasing	Group Housing	Halting Site	Single Rural Dwelling	Total
83	3	2	7	95



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Assessment of Existing Need

The existing need was established as 41 consisting of;

- 28 open applications
- 13 approved transfer applications (9 Disability/Health/Compassionate & 4 Overcrowding)

Consultation was sought with existing applicants with a response rate of just over 40% with results as follows;

- 58% demonstrated a preference for Standard Local Authority Housing
- 42% demonstrated a preference for Traveller Specific Accommodation
- On that basis, 24 applicants would have a preference for Standard Local Authority Housing while 17 applicants would prefer Traveller Specific Accommodation.



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Assessment of Projected Need

- Projected need was estimated based on available information regarding household composition and ages of Traveller households, whether open applicants or not.
- It is estimated that 42 Traveller children will reach the age of 18 during the lifetime of this Programme.
- It is therefore proposed to make provision for 7 additional units (17% of projected need which is in line with other Local Authorities).
- Therefore, the overall target for KCC is 48 units.
 - Existing need of 41.
 - Projected need of 7.



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Public Consultation

- As per legislation and guidelines, a Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme was put on display from 27/09/2024 – 22/11/2024.
- No submissions were received as a result of the public consultation process and no amendments to the draft were required.
- The draft was also discussed at LTACC meetings both before and after the public consultation period.



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Implementation Measures

- It is proposed to develop a capital delivery pipeline of construction and acquisition to meet the assessed need of 48 units.
- It is accepted that delivery of Traveller Specific Accommodation is challenging from a location, design, planning and construction point of view.
- In the region of 800 standard social housing units are intended to be delivered in the next 5 years, with a projected 28 units to be allocated to members of the Travelling Community (3.5% of all allocations).



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Mid Term Review

- KCC are required to carry out a Mid Term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme not later than 30th of July 2027.
- Following feedback from LTACC meetings, KCC will consider widening the consultation process as part of the Mid Term Review.
- If deemed necessary, KCC can amend this Programme within 7 months from the date of this review. This would require a full consultation process and adoption by the Council.



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Alternative Housing Options

KCC will actively promote the full range of housing options for Traveller families, which include;

- Group Housing
- Residential Caravan Sites
- Housing Grants
- Voluntary or Co-operative Housing
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
- Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)
- Caravan Loan Scheme



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Summary

- This Traveller Accommodation Programme outlines the existing and projected need for Traveller Accommodation in Kilkenny for the period 2025 – 2029.
- It has been carried out in line with all relevant legislation and guidelines.
- Implementation of this Programme presents ongoing challenges to KCC. The Programme's success requires a commitment from all relevant parties to work together in partnership and with the recognition of the specific needs of the Traveller Community.
- Achieving the targets contained in the Programme is also subject to the necessary capital and revenue funding being made available throughout the lifetime of this Programme.



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THANK YOU