

Minutes of Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) Meeting – Wednesday September 10th, 2025

In Attendance:

Mr. Niall Crowley, Independent Chairperson
Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe, Galway City Council
Cllr. Alan Curran, Galway City Council
Cllr. John McDonagh, Galway City Council
Ms. Margaret O’Riada, Galway Traveller Movement
Ms. Nora Corcoran, Galway Traveller Movement
Mr. Edward McDonagh, Traveller Representative
Mr. Ian McDonagh, Traveller Representative
Ms. Angela Delaney, Galway Traveller Movement

Officials:

Ms. Lieze Fanning, A/Director of Services, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Sharon Carroll, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Maria Fallon Ward, Administrative Officer, Housing Services & Integration
Mr. Alan Healy, Executive Engineer, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Eithne Murphy, Senior Engineer, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Catherine Fahy, Senior Social Worker, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Edel Killarney, Traveller Accommodation Officer, Housing Services
Mr. David Finan, Assistant Staff Officer, Housing Services & Integration

Apologies:

Cllr. Helen Ogbu, Galway City Council
Cllr. Aisling Burke, Galway City Council
Mr. John Ward, Traveller Representative
Ms. Helena Martyn, Administrative Officer, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Róisín Bourke, Traveller Liaison Officer, Housing Services & Integration

1. Minutes of the Meeting of April 9th, 2025.

It was agreed to amend the minutes in relation to the Caravan Loan Scheme to read:
‘Concerns with the Caravan Loan Scheme were raised, in particular with the inadequate scale of provision and with procedural requirements laid down at national level. The potential for further funding...’

The adoption of the amended Minutes was agreed by all present.
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2. Matters Arising.

Eithne Murphy, the new Senior Engineer was welcomed to the meeting.

Concerns about the 2025 National Caravan Loan Scheme were discussed. It was noted that the legal analysis of the scheme and, specifically the Circular, prepared by the Free Legal Aid Centre will be discussed at the next NTACC meeting and an update on this will be available at the November LTACC meeting. At that point, the

committee will further discuss the scheme and identify any steps to be taken. Cllr. John McDonagh requested that a copy of the FLAC report be circulated to members of the committee, and this was agreed.

The time-limited subgroup in response to issues arising in relation to Traveller homelessness is to convene in early October and will involve the Traveller Mediation Service. A report on the outcomes will be available to the next committee meeting.

GTM reported that the Genio pilot project on Traveller homelessness, with a specific focus on Traveller women, was concluding and that final reports will be launched. Cllr. John McDonagh asked for the Genio project report to be shared with committee members. This was agreed and that Nora Corcoran would present on the Genio project and the learning from the project at the next LTACC meeting.

3. Maintenance Update:

Electrical and Fire Safety works are ongoing and nearing completion. Results of the Condition Survey at Traveller specific accommodation will be presented at the November LTACC meeting. Important items identified in the survey are to be acted on and tender documents are being prepared.

Bay 2 at Doughiska Halting site works will be completed. Funding for bathroom works were allocated for Bay 2 and 7 at the Tuam Road Halting site. However, there are damp issues presenting there that must be addressed prior to the bathroom works. City Bins company are collecting waste at the sites. 90% of chimney maintenance is complete. Jetting works are ongoing.

The issue of waste and the waste service were discussed. Edward McDonagh reported that there can be a lot of rubbish at the Carrowbrowne Transient site, sewers can get blocked up and he recommended biannual clean ups with a skip be arranged and completed in conjunction with families, to help address the situation. Sharon Carroll advised that there are ongoing issues with wipes and other materials blocking pipes but there may be potential to undertake some education and awareness work on the situation in conjunction with the Environment department. Angela Delaney advised that the caretakers do provide rubbish bags, gloves etc for residents committees clean ups at certain times of the year and this is of great benefit to the families.

It was agreed that matters regarding waste are to be discussed further at the Estate Management subcommittee.

4. Intercultural Training:

Intercultural training was delivered by Maria Joyce, Co-Ordinator of the National Traveller Women's Forum Ireland. (Presentation attached) Maria was thanked for her comprehensive presentation.

5. Estate Management Sub Committee Update

The Estate Management Sub Committee met on 29th of April. Other meetings scheduled on August 28th and September 9th did not proceed as planned.

Four caravan loans were approved. One has been delivered; one is due for delivery and two are due for inspection. GCC are seeking additional funding to make a fifth loan available. Feedback from recipients about the delivery of the scheme has been positive. GTM asked if funding is available through the Caravan Loan Scheme for plumbing of caravans outlining that plumbing of units should be standard. An update will be sought and made available to GTM.

An A-Z of GCC services is in the process of compilation.

The LTACC agreed to Cllr Helen Ogbu participating on the subcommittee as this would be important to meet the membership requirements. The Chair thanked Helen for her agreement to participate.

The Chair advised on the importance of the subcommittee continuing to meet. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 23rd of October 2025.

6. Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029

A programme report was delivered; the annual targets were listed and number of allocations to date by housing category.

The template will be circulated to all members for suggestions and feedback. It will be then be kept up to date, circulated to members prior to meetings, with further material added based on those discussions. In this way it will serve the committee in tracking and driving progress. This was agreed by the committee.

GTM asked if the reporting template is linked to the annual action plan and was advised they are linked.

GTM advised that CENA AHB wish to continue working with the GCC on Traveller accommodation projects and asked if there is opportunity for CENA to work on a feasibility study at St Nicholas's Park Halting site. GCC will continue to keep lines of communication open with CENA.

Cllr. John McDonagh queried how many refusals a family can make before they are removed from the housing list and was advised that GCC follow the Scheme of Letting Priorities in managing refusals. The scheme is under review and will be presented at the SPC soon. Edward McDonagh advised that often there is good reason for a family to refuse accommodation, and it is unfair for a family to be penalised for same. Members were informed that GCC consider family compatibility when making allocations and are slow to remove people from the housing list without strong reason GTM requested that the rights of children be considered in allocating accommodation and managing conditions at sites.

GTM had submitted a critical analysis of the TAP and requested that it be circulated to all members. Issues raised in relation to projected need, nomadism and transient sites, the limitations in the focus on halting sites and group housing in the programme targets, and the need for landbank acquisitions, will need to be an ongoing focus on the agenda of the committee. This was agreed.

Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe highlighted current work on variation in the City Development Plan and suggested that a submission be made to the development plan regarding zoning for Traveller accommodation. Members were advised that all new developments, and architects planning for same, will seek and endeavour to include

Traveller specific accommodation as part of these. GTM suggested that nomadic needs should be considered, and transient sites identified in the plan. It was agreed, given the short time frame, that a letter would issue on behalf of the LTACC to seek an adequate focus in any variation to the City Development plan on Traveller accommodation.

Capital Update

GCC met with Respond about the Doughiska Respond scheme, a project proposal for apartments, duplexes and four Traveller specific group houses. The design has been pinned down and costings are outstanding. When costings are received the proposal will be submitted to the Department for approval. The team are currently reviewing the previous application in relation to Keeraun. An engineer from Active Travel has commenced working with the team.

7. 2025-2026 Draft Annual Work Plan

The LTACC Work Plan and its actions were presented and adopted.

Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe asked if the LTACC can inform policy development. It was agreed that appropriate linkages for the LTACC are important for its work and impact, and this would include the relevant SPCs among others.

8. Operational Sub Committee Update

The sub-committee met on the 27th of August and agreed its Terms of Reference. The Senior Engineer, was welcomed to the subcommittee and provided an update on capital projects. A Taskforce for Storm Management is being explored. The next meeting is planned for October 21st.

9. AOB

There were no issues arising under AOB.

10. Next Meeting

The next LTACC meeting was set for Wednesday, 12th November at 10:30 AM. Members were thanked for attending, and the meeting concluded.