

**Minutes of Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
(LTACC) Meeting – Wednesday November 12th, 2025**

In Attendance:

Mr. Niall Crowley, Independent Chairperson
Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe, Galway City Council
Cllr. Helen Ogbu, Galway City Council
Cllr. John McDonagh, Galway City Council
Ms. Margaret O’Riada, Galway Traveller Movement
Ms. Nora Corcoran, Galway Traveller Movement
Ms. Joanna Corcoran, Galway Traveller Movement
Mr. Edward McDonagh, Traveller Representative

Officials:

Ms. Sharon Carroll, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Helena Martyn, Administrative Officer, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Maria Fallon Ward, Administrative Officer, Housing Services & Integration
Mr. Alan Healy, Executive Engineer, Housing Services & Integration
Mr. Kieran Garvey, Executive Engineer, Housing Services & Integration
Mr. Rowan Johnson, Assistant Engineer, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Catherine Fahy, Senior Social Worker, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Edel Killarney, Traveller Accommodation Officer, Housing Services
Ms. Róisín Bourke, Traveller Liaison Officer, Housing Services & Integration
Mr. David Finan, Assistant Staff Officer, Housing Services & Integration

Apologies:

Cllr. Alan Curran, Galway City Council
Ms. Lieze Fanning, Director of Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Eithne Murphy, Senior Engineer, Housing Services & Integration

An addition to the agenda was requested: Enforcement Notice at the Carrowbrowne Temporary site.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of September 10th, 2025.

The Minutes of the September meeting were agreed.

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

2. Matters Arising.

A query was raised: Are reports or minutes available from NTACC meetings? It was agreed to source a response.

Caravan Loan Scheme

The FLAC Legal Analysis paper, commissioned by the national Traveller organisations was mentioned. A presentation on the paper was made at the recent NTACC meeting and further discussion is promised.

Funding availability for a fifth caravan loan was queried. It was agreed to update members at the next meeting.

In discussion, the following was noted:

- the low numbers that could be supported through the Caravan Loan Scheme in the context of need.
- the Caravan Loan Scheme was restrictive in that there was no provision for Group Housing included. The scheme's criteria require that applicants must have an authorised bay.
- the issue of funding not being available for plumbing in the existing bays, in a context where housing provided is plumbed.

It was agreed that the five loans approved were of value; that tracking and review of local issues with the scheme should continue; and the potential for discussion with credit unions and MABs about loans for retrofitting could be explored.

City Development Plan

The LTACC letter requesting adequate focus be made on Traveller Accommodation in the City Development Plan was submitted.

Traveller Accommodation Report

Galway City Council officially launched 5 new units of Traveller specific group housing at Bóithrín na Saoirse (formerly Circular Road) on the 11th of November. The success of the collaboration of Bóithrín na Saoirse was acknowledged.

New units planned for development, subject to planning and funding being secured include:

- 4 units listed at the Doughiska Respond Scheme
- 6 units listed at Keeraun

Properties allocated to Traveller families this year include:

- 3 Properties were purchased with funding from the Traveller Accommodation Unit. More than 350 allocations were made this year, and many were to Travellers.
- Caravan Loan Scheme: 4 units funded to date and a fifth loan is in the process of being made available.
- One Traveller family applied for the Tenant Purchase scheme and was successful.

Guidelines for the Tenant purchase scheme was requested for circulation.

The challenges presenting for accommodating Traveller families were discussed and acknowledged. They include:

- No HAP or RAS allocations were made, highlighting that challenges remain within the private rental market.

- Ethnic identifier: not all families voluntarily identify as Traveller on their housing applications presenting a challenge for the Council to accurately estimate the number of properties allocated to Traveller families.
- Challenges with identification of landbanks, and with planning impact on housing delivery

Several points were raised and discussed in relation to refurbishment and regeneration:

- The value of continuing to work with CENA, citing Circular Road as an example of units that were built with Travellers' needs understood and addressed, and suggesting the same approach be implemented in the refurbishment works proposed at the St. Nicholas Park halting site.
- The potential for the accommodation at Clos na Cille and Fana Glas Group Housing schemes to be explored for redevelopment.

Issues in relation to projected need, the need for a Transient Halting site and identification of land banks for site developments were raised and discussed. The points were noted for ongoing inclusion under the Capital update. Examining the potential of sourcing EU funding and the setting of short-, medium- and long-term goals to address the Traveller accommodation need in the city were suggested.

The following actions were agreed:

- Tenant Purchase guidelines to be distributed to members.
- Land Bank identification to be tracked and reviewed at LTACC meetings.
- The relationship with CENA to be maintained.
- Refurbishment and regeneration needs and approaches to be discussed as an item on a future agenda, given the focus of developing a policy to model an approach for this in the LTACC action plan.
- Projected needs and other issues to be addressed as part of the TAP Mid Term Review

Maintenance:

Funding has been secured from the TAU for jetting and maintenance works at one halting site.

Clean Up of waste at sites is ongoing.

Essential fire safety works are ongoing at all halting sites.

The spend for 2025 was outlined:

Playground inspections and repairs; €2,500

Clean Ups of waste at sites €37,000

Carrowbrowne Transient Cleaning of Service Road: €24,000

An enquiry was made about the out of hours service for water issues. The current out of hours/emergency service operated by GCC does not cover water issues. The Chair requested that specific cases regarding maintenance at homes must be discussed at the Estate Management Sub Committee.

It was queried if any works were completed at Cúl Trá. GCC cannot get onto the site to complete maintenance works as access to the site is affected by unauthorised vehicles. Efforts by GCC and GTM to encourage families to clear the site were acknowledged.

Presentation: GCC Condition Survey Results (Traveller Specific Accommodation)

A presentation was delivered on the Condition survey conducted at Traveller specific accommodation outlining how the survey was conducted, the survey results, and draft costs. Properties surveyed were inhabited. Common areas at sites were included in the survey. Traveller specific accommodation is noted as an ageing asset and a range of medium to severe issues have been found. Issues of mould and damp would be considered a severe issue. A priority list of actions is being prepared as a first step in responding to the survey. GTM offered support to prioritise the actions outlined in the report for implementation. The importance and quality of the work undertaken was noted and agreed.

Presentation: GTM Genio Sásta Project

A presentation on the Genio Sásta Project was delivered. The project is health driven and sought to highlight experiences and barriers for Traveller women and children in homelessness and those at risk of same in Galway city and county, and to point to the need to develop culturally responsive models of action. The presentation outlined how the report was compiled, with the use of needs analysis surveys and workshops and the findings that were also presented to the Council of Europe recently. Noted from the report is the imperative for peer-led supports. Committee members acknowledged the work undertaken and praised the efforts to highlight the voice of children in such circumstances.

Homelessness

The Housing Led initiative for families will be undergoing evaluation. This is an interagency project with Galway City & County Councils, TUSLA and the HSE that maintains an intensive focus on tenancy sustainment. Two Traveller families were involved in the project. GCC are hopeful that the project will be extended.

The Quarter 3 allocations were reported. Not all families known to Social Work identify as Traveller, therefore, figures don't accurately reflect the number of families allocated. The allocations were noted as positive, while further work is needed on the use of the ethnic identifier.

There are a lot of Traveller families presenting for assessment to homeless services where the option of emergency accommodation is not appropriate for the needs of a family. Going forward, greater collaboration is required with all stakeholders including the GTM to develop strategies and supports to reduce the number of all families, including Traveller families, entering homeless services.

The issue of refusals of accommodation offers by families in homeless services is an ongoing issue and the planned workshop on homelessness with the Traveller Mediation Service will be important. An invite to Councillors to attend the workshop

on homelessness was requested. Any conclusions and agreed actions will be presented at the next LTACC meeting.

It was agreed that the issue of Traveller homelessness is significantly challenging and we are all learning regarding the nature of culturally appropriate responses. This will be an ongoing focus for the LTACC.

Linkages

Linkages for the LTACC with other relevant structures and how to operationalise them would be explored at the next LTACC meeting.

AOB

An update on the enforcement notice at Carrowbrowne Temporary Halting site was not possible given that GCC cannot comment on the matter.

Next Meeting

The 2026 meeting schedule will be agreed at the next LTACC meeting.

Proposed meeting dates, at the Council Chamber and online, from 10:30 AM -12:30 PM are listed below:

Wednesday, 4th March 2026

Wednesday, 3rd June 2026

Wednesday, 2nd September 2026

Wednesday, 18th November 2026