

**Minutes of Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
(LTACC) Meeting – Thursday March 26th, 2026**

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
Cllr. Alan Curran, Galway City Council
Ms. Margaret O’Riada, Galway Traveller Movement
Ms. Nora Corcoran, Galway Traveller Movement
Ms. Joanna Corcoran, Galway Traveller Movement

Officials:

Ms. Lieze Fanning, A/Director of Services, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Sharon Carroll, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Services & Integration
Ms. Helena Martyn, Administrative Officer, Housing Services & Integration.
Ms. Eithne Murphy, Senior Engineer, Housing Services & Integration
Mr. Alan Healy, Executive Engineer, Housing Services & Integration
Mr. Colm O’Shaughnessy, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Services
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:

Mr. Edward McDonagh, Traveller Representative

1. Minutes of the Meeting of November 12th, 2025.

The Minutes of the November meeting were agreed.

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

2. Matters Arising.

Matters Arising were deemed to be on the agenda for today.

3. Committee Organisation

The importance of ensuring the committee remains busy and purposeful was emphasized, with the subgroups and a realistic action plan being central to this. The following approach was agreed:

The LTACC subgroup names were reviewed, renamed and given specific terms of reference, as follows.

The Operational subgroup was renamed **The Capital Project Delivery subgroup**. It should have a set agenda, as holder of a vision for the LTACC, with a focus on major

and refurbishment projects, initiatives to be developed, and problem solving. Its administrator is the Senior Social Worker. A representative from the Capital team will be nominated to attend the subgroup meetings. GTM will nominate a representative to attend its meetings.

The Estate management subgroup was renamed **The Estate management & Maintenance subgroup**. The Estate Management Administrative Officer (AO) is the subgroup administrator. The agenda for the meetings should include the Conditions Survey and addressing the issues identified, day-to-day issues of maintenance and maintenance systems, new initiatives to be developed in this field, and problem solving.

The LTACC Action Plan was reviewed, with the following priorities agreed for 2026:

- Ongoing tracking of the Traveller Accommodation Programme and maintenance and action under the Conditions survey.
- Traveller specific estate management strategy. To be worked on by the Estate Management & Maintenance Subgroup and agreed by the LTACC in Quarter 4.
- A model Regeneration process. To be worked on by the Capital Project Delivery Subgroup and agreed by the LTACC in Quarter 4. The literature prepared in relation to Labre Park in Dublin might assist.
- Track and inform the quality of Communication processes. This to be reviewed by the LTACC in Quarter 3.
- Review and prepare feedback on the experience of the Caravan Loan Scheme. To be worked on by the Estate Management & Maintenance Subgroup and reviewed in Quarter 4 by the LTACC for national submission.
- Develop supports for a more effective use and uptake of the ethnic identifier.

The reporting template for the Traveller Accommodation Programme will be circulated to members for final feedback and agreement. It will be completed and circulated to members in advance of LTACC meetings to inform and support discussions on relevant items. The template should include the Traveller Accommodation Programme Report, Land Banks, Estate Management Strategy and Homeless services.

A short newsletter will be prepared to communicate updates on the LTACC meetings to the Traveller community in the city.

4. Traveller Accommodation Programme Report.

A report was delivered on allocations made to Traveller families in quarter one under Standard Local Authority, Approved Housing Body Housing and Private Rental accommodation.

2 allocations were made during Quarter One. 12 allocations were made to Traveller families in 2025.

Many families chose not to use the Ethnic Identifier on the Social Housing Application form and do not identify as Traveller. This impacts the allocation figures reported.

GTM outlined that Travellers do not identify for fear discrimination and historically the experience was seen as negative. The experience here contrasts with Britain, where personnel are trained in how to ask the questions and explain the Ethnic Identifier in a better way to applicants and their model should be examined. An equal opportunities

box was suggested. The Galway Traveller Movement agreed to meet with the Traveller Accommodation unit personnel to promote awareness of the purpose of the Ethnic Identifier.

Factors impacting delivery under Private Rental Schemes include a lack of supply, high rents and top ups, a lack of supply of large homes for large family sizes and a competitive private rental market.

Caravan Loan Scheme.

Galway City Council received an allocation of €160,000 to administer the Caravan Loan Scheme in 2026. There was disappointment expressed with the allocation, given that Galway city has the 6th highest Traveller population residing at halting sites in the country and the highest rate of Travellers in the population at 21 per 1,000.

A request was made to the DHLGH for additional funding and this was supported by the LTACC. Feedback and concerns about the scheme should be submitted by the LTACC to the DHLGH.

5. Operations Subgroup.

There are 2 ongoing Capital Schemes.

Keeraun:

The Keeraun site cannot progress until a decision is made about the N6 Ring Road.

Doughiska Respond Scheme:

Galway City Council are working with Respond on the scheme. Discussions are ongoing with Respond about the overall scheme. There has been no change to the Traveller Accommodation aspect of the scheme.

6. Maintenance.

Conditions Survey

Many of the urgent issues in the conditions survey have been resolved. A funding application was submitted to the DHLGH to complete remaining works and GCC is awaiting a decision.

It was agreed that the Conditions Survey presentation delivered at the November LTACC meeting can be circulated to members.

Fire Safety

A range of electrical works were completed
Fire Hydrants Testing is completed. Fire Safety packs were distributed.

Waste management

Jetting, riddance works and clean-up of site was completed at the Carrowbrowne sites.

Damp Works

A Damp Doctor has been commissioned to undertake works at the Tuam Road site.

7. Estate management.

No update.

8. Traveller Homelessness.

In Quarter 1, 50 families were in emergency accommodation – of this figure 38 were Traveller, but this may not be a true reflection as many were not using the ethnic identifier.

Notice To Quits are increasing because of legislation changes.

Homeless service provision was noted as challenging in the current climate. It was agreed to convene a workshop with all stakeholders to discuss how to move forward with Traveller homelessness. This is not to replace the mediation process that has been under consideration, but could run alongside it in a simpler format.

9. Appropriate Linkages for the LTACC

LTACC linkages to be prioritised during 2026 are listed below:

- Strategic Policy Committee on Housing to progress LTACC strategies and, in the future, to inform their strategies
- Traveller Interagency Group
- Age Friendly Galway City
- Integration Supports
- Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty GCC Working Group – Intercultural Training to be planned during 2026
- NTACC

A link would be made with Maria Joyce with a view to providing training on Traveller culture to the Housing staff.

10. Report on the NTACC Meeting with LTACC's

The report of the NTACC meeting with the LTACC's was circulated to members and provided a summary of the day, the issues discussed that are related to Traveller accommodation and other supports, and potential solutions to address the issues arising. Feedback by committee members who attended the event was very positive and the NTACC was commended on its report.

Progress on foot of this report will be kept under review.

11. AOB

Galway City Council with the support of Dormant Accounts funding, commissioned a feasibility report on Tenant Participation at Traveller accommodation. Tenant participation is recognised by the council as fundamental to effective estate management and the of building sustainable communities. The report was undertaken by the University of Galway in conjunction with the Community Action Network. Meetings were held with relevant council personnel, Tenants at a group housing scheme, CENA Approved Housing body, the Housing Agency, and Traveller Accommodation unit personnel at Cork City Council and Offaly County Council. A

report is being finalised and includes recommendations to pilot an approach to Tenant Participation that will provide an opportunity to strengthen the involvement of Travellers in the management and maintenance of their estate. The feasibility report followed from a 2022 report by the same research team, *Empowering Tenants, Protecting Human Rights*, that called for the development of a model of tenant participation for Local Authority Housing.

The Housing Agency invited Galway City Council's Traveller Accommodation Unit to speak about the Tenancy Participation Feasibility report at their Housing Conference, taking place in Wexford at the end of April. This was acknowledged as valuable recognition for the work being done.

The next LTACC meeting will be held at the **Council Chamber**, on **Monday, 15th of June**, commencing at **10:30 AM**.

Meeting Closed.