

Traveller Accommodation Programme Capital Update

LTACC Meeting February 2023

The table below provides an overview of progress in relation to the capital schemes noted in TAP 2019 – 2024. A combined sum of **€7,780,346** has been approved for the provision of Traveller accommodation under the schemes below.

	Location	Update
8 Culturally Specific Traveller Units	Keeraun	€3,692,698 approved at Stage 2. Part 10 REFUSAL by ABP in January 2023.
4 Culturally Specific Traveller Units	Doughiska	CAS/CALF Funding approved. Part 8 publication delayed pending clarity on timeframes for knotweed removal – projected Part 8 publication Q2 2023. On site Q4 2023. Respond - €1,278,376 approved at Stage 1.
5 Culturally Specific Traveller Units**	Doughiska (redesign of St. Nicholas Halting Site)	Preliminary proposals are being considered for the redevelopment of the existing halting site and replacement with group / Traveller specific homes. Potential for 5 units (similar to Circular Road) to be included in next TAP for delivery. Consultation with residents will be required in advance of design team engagement.
5 Culturally Specific Traveller Units	Circular Road	Part 8 approval in June 2022 and Stage 3 approval in December 2022 , project to advance to stage 3 and 4 in 2023. Decanting of site will be required.
3 Culturally Specific Traveller Units	Headford Road	Funding of €1,135,410 approved at Stage 2. Part 10 REFUSAL by ABP on <u>24th October 2023.</u>
8 Culturally Specific Traveller Units	Merlin Lane Lands	Prelim design stage. Stage 1 application pending. Additional adjacent lands acquired in 2022. Engagement with GCC planners re proposed development ongoing. Will not be completed by 2024 and will be noted for delivery in the next TAP.
8 Unit Group Scheme	Fana Glas Ballybane	Wider housing proposal for the area being considered. Will not be completed by 2024 and will be noted for delivery in the next TAP.

Planned Maintenance / Upgrades

Group Housing Scheme Upgrades

A programme of works is being developed to upgrade the existing stock of Traveller group housing schemes across the city. Funding provision has been secured in the 2022 budget to commence a cycle of such planned works over the next 3 years. Condition surveys are planned to commence in 2022 with the first phase of works following thereafter. Work will be prioritised based on need identified in surveys. Any existing deficiencies will be dealt with, and it will signal a move to a planned maintenance approach to maintenance of Traveller Accommodation.

Tender documents for the appointment of consultants to carry out Traveller accommodation condition surveys and subsequent works was published on etenders on the 13th May with a closing date for replies of the 8th of June. Energy retrofit will also be considered for these homes. No tenders were received by the June closing date, it was retendered in June and again no submissions were received. GCC are now reconsidering a way forward to procure the required services.

Window and Door replacement has been scheduled for all 8 units in Beal Shrutha to be complete by year end. It is intended to carry out condition surveys of external windows and doors in 2023 on other traveller accommodation units to determine if replacement is required.

Carrowbrowne Halting sites

Works to upgrade **heating and hot water systems** at the Carrowbrowne 20 bay site commenced in 2021 and are fully complete. The works included the provision of mechanical, electrical services installation and works to upgrade the existing district heating system by carrying out modifications and remedial works to the existing heating systems and water systems. €287,997 has been recouped from the Department for costs incurred.

Upgrade of **Gas Boilers** was completed in Q4 at a cost of €40,000. Roof works to Nursing station completed, roof leaking badly and joists had water damage, cost €7,500

A funding application was submitted to the TAU towards costs of **upgrade of the play facility** at Carrowbrowne 20 bay site. While an initial €17,500 per local authority was preliminarily available from Dormant Accounts Funding, Council applied for €94k. The application for funding has been successful and Council has been awarded €94,894 towards the upgrade of the play facility. Procurement of a contractor has commenced through e-tenders. Works to be completed by year end. Tenders have been received back and Contractor to be appointed.

Tender documents for the refurbishment of the **community centre** on the 20-bay site were published in Q2. Proposed works include the replacement of the 2 boilers for the district heating system. A funding application to the Department for these works was not approved but the Council will fund the cost of the works from own resources. There were no replies to the Tender published on eTenders therefore the Council has engaged a Contractor directly. Works were completed in Q4 at a cost of €24,620.

The installation of **traffic calming measures** and associated works for the temporary halting site were completed in July 2022. The works involved the laying of a macadam-based speed ramps at 3 locations, the installation of appropriate signage and road markings. The works were completed with all ramps and signs. A local specialist contractor was used at a cost of €8,950. Traffic calming measures to the 20 bay Transient Site are in place. New road markings and signs to be installed.

The **sewerage pumping stations** on both sites underwent upgrades in Q2 2022, new sewerage pumps were installed including new access covers with modern safety features.

Fire Safety / Traveller Specific Housing - Upgrade of smoke / heat carbon alarms and fire blankets

A contractor was appointed in 2021 to carry out a review of all lifesaving equipment i.e. smoke, heat and carbon alarms, fire blankets installed in Traveller specific accommodation including halting sites and Traveller group housing schemes. The works also included a Safe Electric Periodic Certificate issued for each installation. Works commenced in Q2 2021 and are complete. Funding of €28,942.50 has been approved for recoupment from the Department. Another photographic Condition Survey is to be carried out of the alarms, Heat Smoke and Carbon along with inspection of Fire Blankets. Any

issues found at time of survey, will be rectified on the day. A service and clean of all the solid fuel appliances and flues has been completed in Q3 2022 on all Halting Sites at a cost of €2,340.

Property Acquisitions

The damaged property at Kiltulla, Oranmore has been assessed, and demolition and rebuild are required. A design team was appointed to bring the project through design, planning, and construction phases. A planning application was lodged with Galway County Council in September with an initial decision due on the 25th November. A subsequent planning application was required and was lodged, with a decision date in March 2022. Planning permission was approved on the 14th March 2022. An appeal has subsequently been lodged with An Bord Plenala with replies submitted in early May 2022.

Two properties were acquired for Traveller families in 2021, a property in Renmore and a property in Clybaun Road. Approval was received from the Traveller Accommodation Unit in DHLGH for both units for the purchase price, legal/technical fees and refurbishment works. It is anticipated that the homes will be ready for occupation in Q4 2022. Approval has been received from the Department in 2022 to acquire three properties for families in Renmore, Newcastle and Knocknacarra and the acquisition process has commenced with allocation in Q4 and Q1 2023 following any necessary refurbishment works.

Replacement Caravans / Caravan Loans

Council agreed to acquire one caravan for a family on the Doughiska halting site due to over-crowding. This acquisition will exhaust the full budget for 2022 as recoupment of 50% of costs will not be permissible in this instance. The caravan has been purchased and installed. Details of the caravan loan scheme were announced on the 18th July and Council will consider all future applications for replacement caravans under the terms of the scheme. 24 applications have been received to date.

TAU Funded Applications 2022

In addition to funding allocated in the revenue budget for general maintenance and management of Traveller accommodation in the city, €2,425,566 was approved and / or recouped from the Department of Housing Traveller Accommodation Unit for expenditure incurred in 2021.

A number of claims relating to Repair Works at Carrowbrowne Community Centre and Fire Safety Works Halting Sites were submitted with funding approved in April for Fire Safety Works completed. The application for funding to upgrade the community centre was not approved by the Department but will be funded directly by GCC through capital reserves.

	Expenditure	TAU Income
Traveller Management and Maintenance Claim 2021/2	€112,359	€112,359
Carrowbrowne Heating Upgrade	€287,997	€243,430
Fire Safety Works 2021	€28,942	€28,942
Property Acquisitions	€324,000 €255,000	€324,000 €255,000
Covid-19 Costs	-	-
Caravan Acquisitions	€40,000	-

Total	€1,048,298	€963,731
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