**Public Consultation**

Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2020-25

Please use this consultation template for submitting your comments and responses.

Alternatively, the online consultation can be downloaded at: <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations>

If you are completing an online version of this template, please email your completed response to: david.glasgow@nihe.gov.uk

Hard copy responses can be submitted to:

Elma Newberry

Assistant Director, Land & Regeneration Services

2 Adelaide Street,

Belfast,

BT2 8PB

The Housing Executive welcomes any comments you have on the Strategy as a whole or on the topics of particular interest to you.

All responses should be submitted before 5pm on 23rd September 2020 to ensure they can be fully considered.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Confidentiality of Consultations

 The Housing Executive will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Housing Executive can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely the Housing Executive in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor’s Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

* The Housing Executive should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Housing Executive’s functions and it would not otherwise be provided.
* The Housing Executive should not agree to hold information received from third parties ‘in confidence’ which is not confidential in nature.
* Acceptance by the Housing Executive of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner’s Office (or see the website at <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/> )

Your details

Name:

Organisation:

Address:

Email address:

The Housing Executive has divided the Strategy into sections for you to comment on:

Objective 1 and key actions 1 -3

Objective 2 and key actions 4 – 7

Objective 3 and key action 8 – 10

Objective 4 and key actions 11 – 12

Objective 1: To develop a Traveller Specific Accommodation Needs Assessment.

Key actions:

1. To review our housing application and housing solution processes to ensure Travellers are aware of the full range of Traveller-specific accommodation options;
2. To continue to develop our ethnic monitoring and record keeping systems, including the collection of data on Irish Traveller communities, to better understand the impact of housing services and to help inform future planning and service provision;
3. To adapt our Housing Needs Assessment methodology to facilitate the assessment of Traveller-specific accommodation needs;

Your comments:

Objective 2: To provide safe and culturally appropriate accommodation for Irish Travellers to reside and travel to.

Key actions:

1. To undertake a review of transit sites to establish, through a generated needs assessment, the existing and future demand for transit sites in NI within the Irish Traveller community;
2. To undertake a strategic review of all our Traveller sites to identify options for their future improvement or replacement. We will also review the current emergency halting, transit or serviced site classifications for each of our sites to ensure they reflect how the sites are being used in practice;
3. To investigate the potential to work with our stakeholders, in particular DfI, DfC and Councils, on how fitness standards for caravans might be defined and enforced for the benefit of Travellers;
4. To work with Housing Association partners and other stakeholders to promote compatibility within the Traveller community as a means of maximising existing and future Traveller-specific accommodation;

Your comments:

Objective 3: To support the Irish Traveller community to remain in their accommodation of choice through easily accessible housing services.

Key actions:

1. To undertake a review of floating support funding for Traveller support groups working to improve housing outcomes for the Traveller community;
2. To look at ways to promote our housing services to raise awareness among Irish Travellers of the levels of service they should expect to receive and to support them in making a complaint if they are not satisfied;
3. To keep the training needs of our staff in respect of the Traveller community under review, including the development of an eLearning package for all our staff, to further raise Irish Traveller cultural awareness;

Your comments:

Objective 4: To create mechanisms that foster good relations for the Irish Traveller community.

Key actions:

1. To introduce proactive approaches to ensure Travellers are safe and welcomed within their choice of accommodation;
2. To seek to expand our partnerships working with relevant stakeholders to effectively implement this Strategy;

Your comments: