

Northern Ireland Housing Executive Irish Travellers Forum

Cookstown Local Office

7th October 2022 at 11.30am

Attendees

Grainia Long – Chief Executive
 Elma Newberry – Director of Regional Services (A)
 Stephen Semple – Irish Traveller Policy Unit Manager
 Connor Smith – Irish Traveller Liaison Officer
 David Glasgow – Irish Traveller Policy Officer
 Lisa Hogg – Craigavon Travellers Support Committee
 Colin Caughey – Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
 Mary Walker – Monaghan County Council
 Martin McDonagh – Irish Traveller

Apologies

Kat Healy – Social Justice Trust
 Martin Ward – Irish Traveller
 Trevor McGinley – Irish Traveller
 Johnny Crumlish – Irish Traveller
 Wesley Crumlish – Irish Traveller

ITEM		MINUTE	ACTION
1	Welcome and Introductions	G. Long welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2	Agree draft Terms of Reference	<p><u>Purpose:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the first line in the first bullet point include 'Forum minutes will be submitted to the Housing Executive's Irish Travellers Joint Divisional group and Tenant and Customer Committee for noting'; <p><u>Terms of Reference:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M Walker asked that 'funding' was added to the forth bullet point in item 2.1 to read: "Advise the Housing Executive on the development, review and monitoring of relevant Housing Executive strategies, policies, funding and action plans that 	ITPU

		<p>address Irish Traveller inequalities.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining wording was agreed. <p><u>Authority:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed <p><u>Membership:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHRC and a cross border local council representative from Rol to be listed separately in the first bullet under 4.1 as they do not sit within any of the other categories. • STEP NI to be invited at M. McDonagh’s request. • L Hogg to speak to other support groups to assess their interest in attendance. • Irish Traveller membership not limited to those living on NIHE sites. ITPU to speak with Irish Travellers who sent their apologies for this meeting as they will be given the opportunity to attend the next meeting. Other Irish, Travellers particularly in the Omagh and Belfast areas to be considered. • • The Forum to consider other locations and encouragement of webex meeting to facilitate Irish Travellers attendance The Forum shall appoint joint chairpersons – one from the Housing Executive and the other from the remaining members of the Forum <p><u>Attendance at meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed <p><u>Frequency of meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed <p><u>Quorum:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one member from each of the following should be in attendance at each meeting: 	<p>ITPU</p> <p>M McDonagh L Hogg</p> <p>ITPU</p> <p>ITPU</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Irish Traveller ○ Support Group /NIHRC / Monaghan Local Council ○ NIHE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If full attendance cannot be made in person, the facility for members to join virtually should be made available. <p><u>Transparency:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A short summary of the meeting should be uploaded to the NIHE website with an accompanying video blog. <p><u>Secretariat:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agreed <p><u>General</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The terms of reference is to be brought to the next Tenant Customer Services Committee for comment. 	<p>ITPU</p> <p>ITPU / E Newberry</p>
3	Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy Update	<p>S Semple advised the meeting of progress made in the implementation of the Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy. Key points and actions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● S Semple to discuss needs assessment best practice with M Walker. ● M McDonagh voiced concerns at potential rental increase which could come out of the Rent Scheme research given the lack of historical maintenance to sites. ● L Hogg to contact NIHE about Floating Support accreditation application. ● Housing Policy needs to address the issue of Area Offices involvement with Irish Travellers on sites. Area Offices should be main point of contact for tenants rather than the Traveller Liaison Officer. 	<p>S Semple</p> <p>L Hogg</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M McDonagh had issues with the scheme proposal for the Glen Serviced site to improve the washrooms. S Semple to meet with M McDonagh to discuss requirements. 	S Semple/M McDonagh
4	Agree Agenda items for next meeting	There were no specific requests for future agenda items.	
5	AOB & Date of Next meeting	Next meeting to be Friday 20 th January 2023 at 11:30am. Venue to be confirmed closer to the meeting.	ITPU