

**Submission to the DCC Development Plan, March 2021**

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre has been working to challenge racism and promote Traveller and Roma inclusion in Ireland since 1985. The organisation works from a community development perspective and promotes the realisation of human rights and equality for Travellers and Roma in Ireland.

The group is comprised of Travellers, Roma and members of the majority population, who work together in partnership to address the needs of Travellers and Roma as minority ethnic groups experiencing exclusion, marginalisation and racism. Working for social justice, solidarity and human rights, the central aim of Pavee Point is to contribute to improvement in the quality of life and living circumstances of Irish Travellers and Roma, this includes access to adequate, suitable and culturally appropriate accommodation.

Dublin City Council has requested submissions are made on the 10 strategic issues set out in the City Development Plan. We have identified four strategic issues which we will make key recommendations on which can seek to promote the inclusion of members of the Traveller and Roma community in the design and delivery of the City Development Plan which should be aligned with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and the forthcoming Dublin City Integration Plan. In line with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty the City Development Plan should be equality proofed to ensure there are no adverse impacts for ethnic groups.

The City Development Plan is an opportunity for DCC to set out a framework which will promote and facilitate a Dublin that is inclusive and respects the ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity of people who live across the city, and ensures all individuals from these diverse groups feel safe and protected.

**Climate Action- protecting our cities against pollution, flooding and other climate risks.**

**Recommendation:**

DCC should prioritize the upgrading of Traveller specific housing schemes which will promote energy conservation and use of renewable energy sources which adhere to health and safety regulations and building standards. Provisions should be made to landscape Traveller site which should include the provision of green spaces and play areas for children.

**Quality Housing and Sustainable Neighbourhoods- providing quality housing and sustainable neighbourhoods.**

It is important to acknowledge that while there has been significant progress made in relation to Traveller accommodation as a result of leadership at Departmental, political and local authority levels, often in the context of strong opposition from local residents and politicians. However, Traveller accommodation remains at a critical juncture, with approximately 5,500 or 18.6% of Travellers in need of good quality, affordable and secure accommodation, including social housing provided by local authorities. While Travellers and Roma share similar experiences in relation to accommodation, we continue to encourage the Committee to examine the housing needs of the Roma community.

**Recommendation 1**

That all Traveller specific accommodation be built to the highest standards of development including health, safety, building standards, disability planning and the provision of green and recreational which should include play areas for children.

**Recommendation 2**

That full consultation take place with Travellers regarding the suitability of their accommodation

during the design phase of the development in question.

**Recommendation 3**

That a detailed census take place to establish the true need for Traveller accommodation and that

this be fully incorporated under into the Quality Housing and Sustainable Neighbourhoods section of the City Development Plan.

**Recommendation 4**

That Dublin City Council will prioritise the provision of Traveller Accommodation and that all

monies applied for will be drawn down to ensure accommodation needs are met.

**The City Economy- sharing the benefits across all communities.**

The Plan seeks to support the sustainable growth of the city economy to benefit **all** sectors of society whilst recognising some areas, and indeed some groups, experience high levels of deprivation and will need targeted measures to address the imbalance of economic investment.

**Recommendation:**

Targeted initiatives and specific measures to target the inclusion of Travellers and Roma in employment opportunities should be prioritised and developed in partnership with Traveller and Roma organisations.

**Culture- maintaining and developing our art and cultural heritage.**

Irish Travellers have a unique position in the history, culture and heritage of Dublin City. There is a need for Traveller and cultural heritage to be celebrated and visible within the cultural heritage work of Dublin City Council through its spaces, cultural events and cultural experiences.

**Recommendation:**

Promoting Traveller cultural heritage and Traveller participation and engagement with City Council cultural work requires a mainstreaming and targeted approach whereby Travellers are included in mainstream events, but where specific Traveller projects would also need to be respected as producers and makers of cultural heritage in terms of traditional Traveller crafts and also in terms of Traveller participation in music, song, media, visual arts, poetry and drama among others. Traveller access to Traveller culture and heritage would also be an important aspect of an overall intercultural approach that would see minority cultures and identity within the city being affirmed, celebrated and facilitated.