

## **Submission on the National Planning Framework 2040 to the Department of Housing Planning and Community and local government.**

Submitted by St. Catherine's Community Services centre on behalf of Carlow Travellers:

While there is currently a national housing shortage, the Traveller community are impacted harder than the general community due to discrimination in accessing various types of housing. The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees which came into being following the 1998 Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act have proven themselves to be ineffective in delivering appropriate accommodation to Travellers nationally. As such recommend that the following points be included in the National Planning Framework 2040:

- That the framework acknowledges the specific housing needs of Travellers as a minority ethnic group and integrates specific actions relevant to those needs.
- While nationally there has been a greater move towards accommodation provided privately that the state's role in accommodation provision is still vital to ensure that those who are most vulnerable to homelessness are protected.
- The NTACC structure be abolished and replaced with a National Traveller Accommodation Agency to oversee the work of the local authorities and ensure that local authorities effectively provide appropriate Traveller accommodation.
- As such, the National Traveller Accommodation Agency has the power to ensure the local authorities carry out their duties.
- That the National Traveller Accommodation Agency has significant Traveller representation, as well as senior representation from the relevant state agencies.
- The national structure facilitates the placement of local structures to ensure Traveller participation in the design, development and management of Traveller specific accommodation.
- Local authority practices in housing allocations are equality proofed.
- Policy and practices are developed to prevent over-crowding in Traveller accommodation.