

**OFFICE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION – NAP/INCLUSION
PROCESS – JUNE 2005 REPORT TO EU**

**Report for Department of Environment, Heritage and Local
Government**

OBJECTIVE: To enable households experiencing poverty and disadvantage to have available to them housing or accommodation which is affordable, accessible, of good quality, suitable to their needs, culturally acceptable, located in a sustainable community and, as far as possible, in a secure tenure of their choice.

Target 1	To ensure that housing supply is brought more into line with demand and that the housing requirements set out in the NDP (500,000 new units between 2000-2010) are achieved in a planned and coherent way.
Summary Assessment¹	In Progress
Will Target be met on time²	Likely
Indicator (s)	Number of new home completions
Progress being made	There have been 305,882 completions between January 2000 and the end of 2004 – these units are part of the NDP target of 500,000 new units between 2000 and 2010 (or 61% of target).
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	
Data sources used to monitor progress	ESB domestic electricity connections, house guarantee registrations and planning permission numbers
Areas where progress made/proposed	Based on 2004 output levels, there is currently 5 years supply of serviced residential land nationally and over 7 years in Dublin.

¹ Summary assessment of progress (taken from Implementation Criteria used in EU Joint Employment Report, with addition of new 'unknown' category):

“Complete” where the reform process is (practically) complete and the desired results have (practically) been achieved;

“In progress” where the policy reform is well advanced and progress in implementation is being made;

“Limited” where the policy response to the recommendation is only partial and implementation is limited;

“Insufficient” where no substantial policy measures going in the right direction have been taken;

“Unknown” where there is insufficient information/data available to assess what progress has been made.

² Yes/No/Likely/Unlikely/Unknown/Not time bound

to address data or indicator issues	
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	Feasibility of giving breakdown of house completions according to CLAR and RAPID areas will be examined.

Target 2	To deliver 41.500 local authority housing starts (including acquisitions) between 2000 and 2006
Summary Assessment	In Progress
Will Target be met on time	Likely
Indicator (s)	Number of local authority housing units delivered
Progress being made	Total starts achieved to end of 2004 was 24,964 (or 60.2% of target) Between 2000 and the end of 2004 provisional outturn figures show investment under the housing aspect of the NDP is over 8% ahead of forecast.
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	While output levels for social housing by the local authority and voluntary sector have been less than anticipated in the NDP targets, record levels of completions have been achieved over the period of the Plan. The shortfall in achieving output targets can for the main part be attributed to higher than anticipated construction costs. This issue was highlighted in the ESRI mid-term review of the NDP.
Data sources used to monitor progress	Returns to D/EHLG by local authorities detailing current and proposed projects, multi-annual actions plans 2000 – 2003 which aimed to achieve 25000 starts, and the triennial assessment of housing needs survey.
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	Draft multi-annual housing actions plans, including detailed targets, which have been developed at county/city level to cover the period 2004-2008, aim to identify the areas of need allowing D/EHLG to agree levels of activity for those years
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	

Target 3	To deliver an appropriate mix of social and affordable housing measures which meets the needs of different types of households
Summary Assessment	In Progress
Will Target be met on time	Not time bound
Indicator (s)	Number of households assessed as being in need of housing.
Progress being made	<p>The needs of over 46,000 households were met under social and affordable housing measures between 2000 and 2004.</p> <p>According to the most recent assessment of needs for which results are available, carried out in 2002, there were 48,413 households in need of local authority housing. The 2005 housing needs assessment was undertaken in March 2005 and results will be published in September/ October of this year. The assessment will provide information on the categories of household in need of LA housing, family size, gender, age, income etc. This data will enable the Department to analyse data in respect of all households to a greater extent to assist in the monitoring and review of housing policy in general.</p> <p>In 2004, the income limits for access to the shared ownership and affordable housing scheme were increased from €2,000 to €6,000 for a single income household while the maximum loan limit was also increased from €130,000 to €165,000</p> <p>Record levels of output recorded under the voluntary and cooperative sector in 2004 (1607 units), and set to continue in 2005.</p> <p>Substantial resources are being committed to social and affordable housing measures. This year some €billion will be spent on these housing measures which is double the expenditure in 2000. In order to ensure delivery in a more integrated way, the Department initiated the development of five-year housing action plans by local authorities. Most of these plans are now in place and will ensure that the substantial resources available are used to best effect to deliver the optimum level of quality housing in a manner which breaks cycles of disadvantage and dependency.</p> <p>In terms of land supply, sufficient land was released in 2004 to allow for 8,891 affordable housing units during 2004 – 2006.</p>
Areas where intended implementation	

implementation not being achieved	
Data sources used to monitor progress	Multi Annual action plans, triennial assessment of housing needs survey, and reports from local authorities..
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	. The work of the Housing Forum is ongoing. At the moment, the Forum is considering what changes are required to its work programme in the context of the issues raised in the NESC Report “Housing in Ireland: Performance and Policy”. The Housing Forum will also be reporting in July this year to the steering group of the Special Initiatives on the progress achieved.
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	In trying to ensure an appropriate mix of social and affordable housing, Local authorities are required in their housing strategies to address the housing needs of all sectors of the existing and future population in their area including first time buyers, the elderly, people with disabilities etc. The strategies, which are part of the authorities development plan, should provide for an appropriate mix of dwelling types and size to cater for the broad range of housing needs, and must also encourage mixed and balanced communities to counteract undue social segregation. The action plans developed last year by local authorities for their social and affordable housing programmes also provide a means for the targeting of resources in a manner which builds sustainable communities.

Commitment 1	To analyse the information gathered in the next statutory assessment of household needs with a view to ensuring that Government makes the best use of resources available to meet the needs identified.
Summary Assessment	In Progress
Will Target be met on time	Yes
Indicator (s)	The Assessment of Need 2005
Progress being made	Ongoing – Finalised data expected September 2005.
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	
Data sources	Triennial Assessment of Housing Need

used to monitor progress	
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	The 2005 assessment of need is more rigorous than heretofore and requires local authorities to submit data in electronic format to the Local Government Computer Services Board (LGCSB) for input into a data warehouse. This will enable the Department to improve its analysis of aggregate data in respect of all households, including homeless households. It is also envisaged that a new IT system being developed for housing authorities will provide the Department with information on housing needs on a more regular basis in the future.
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	

OBJECTIVE: Focusing on policies which address specific situations of vulnerability that put people in them at a high risk of social exclusion.

Target 4	By end 2004, sufficient and appropriate emergency accommodation to be available to rough sleepers, in conjunction with appropriate outreach services to enable them to access it. This target is to apply to each local authority and health board area. At the end 2003, progress in meeting the target will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised mechanisms put in place to achieve it
Summary Assessment	Complete
Will Target be met on time	Yes. It is widely accepted by the statutory and voluntary service providers that sufficient emergency accommodation is available for those who wish to avail of it.
Indicator (s)	No specific national indicators.
Progress being made	<p>Efforts concentrated on providing emergency accommodation and in getting people off the streets.</p> <p>With regard to rough sleepers, outreach services were established in Dublin, Cork and Limerick and wet hostels for street drinkers in Dublin and Limerick. Tralee also has a hostel capable of catering for persons with dependencies. A hostel also opened in Dundalk to cater for street drinkers. Dublin City Council has initiated a bus service that brings homeless persons to available accommodation every night.</p> <p>Homeless fora have been established and local action plans completed in all local authority areas, including a second Dublin action plan covering the period 2004 – 2006 and a second plan Cork City for the period 2005-2007.</p> <p>In addition, the Housing Action Plans contain details of local authorities plans for the provision of a range of housing options for</p>

	<p>homeless persons for the period 2004-2008.</p> <p>The D/EHLG has increased the amount it recoups to local authorities in respect of accommodation and services for homeless persons from €12.5m in 1999 to €51m in 2005.</p>
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	
Data sources used to monitor progress	Triennial assessment of housing needs survey, information from HPU referral service, surveys carried out under the auspices of the homeless agency
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	<p>Development of LINK system (secure web-based integrated client information system) in Dublin by homeless agency – currently 21 services in 8 different organisations online</p> <p>An IT system is being developed for local authorities to assist them in carrying out their housing functions. The first version of the software has been implemented in two housing authorities and rollout to other authorities is continuing. Tenders have been sought for further development of the software so that it will cater for all the housing functions of housing authorities.</p> <p>Cross department team on homelessness continues to monitor progress at national and local level and on the implementation of homeless strategies and local action plans. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has engaged consultants to undertake a review of the implementation of the Government's Homeless Strategy and to make recommendations to promote further progress in addressing homelessness. A draft report has been received by the Department and the final report will be submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion for approval in due course.</p>
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	At present, data on homelessness is gathered as part of the triennial assessment of need for local authority housing. The most recent assessment took place at the end of March 2005 and it is expected that the results will be available in September/October 2005. It is recognised that a comprehensive data system is essential to monitor progress in addressing homelessness. In response to this the Homeless Agency in conjunction with homeless service providers in Dublin, developed the LINK System, with funding provided by the Department. The purpose of the system is to improve and develop services and service delivery to homeless persons to ensure they receive a continuum of care based on an accurate and up to date assessment of their needs.

OBJECTIVE: To improve the life experience of travellers through the provision of appropriate education, health and housing services and to remove any remaining barriers to the full participation of members of the traveller community in the work and social life of the country.

Target 5	All Travellers' families identified in the local authority five-year Traveller accommodation programme process as being in need of accommodation will be appropriately accommodated by end 2004
Summary Assessment	Limited. New programmes being finalised by local authorities to cover 2005-2008
Will Target be met on time	No – target date has passed
Indicator (s)	Local authority five-year traveller accommodation programme 2000 – 2004 which identified a total of 3,785 accommodation units as being the current and projected needs and new programmes have been finalised by local authorities to cover 2005 – 2008.
Progress being made	At end of 2004, a total of 1,371 additional families had been provided with, or assisted in the provision of permanent accommodation through the local authority five-year programme. In addition, 346 permanent Traveller specific units were refurbished to modern standards and 133 basic service bays were provided for Travellers awaiting permanent accommodation. The number of families on unauthorised sites has been reduced by 606 to 601.
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	A further set of programmes covering the period 2005-2008 are being finalised by local authorities, with a revised target on the number of families to be accommodated.
Data sources used to monitor progress	Annual count of number of members of traveller community. The Annual Count of Traveller families is carried out by local authority officials on the last Friday in November every year. The Count is generally accepted as a reliable indicator of progress.
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	New programmes covering the period 2005-2008 are being finalised by local authorities, which will have annual targets for accommodation provision. Review of operation of Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 was completed by the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and submitted to the Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal in 2004. All the recommendations were accepted by the Minister and published in January 2005.
Data/Indicator	The annual Count is to be reviewed and additional monitoring put

Deficiencies	in place on foot of the 1998 Act review report.
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OBJECTIVE: Focusing on policies which address specific situations of vulnerability that put people in them at a high risk of social exclusion, with a special priority being given to policy development on the provision of care for the elderly

Target	By end 2007, adequate heating systems will be available in all local authority rented dwellings provided for older people
Summary Assessment	In Progress
Will Target be met on time	Likely
Indicator (s)	Number of new heating systems installed in local authority housing
Progress being made	A central heating programme was introduced in 2004 for local authority rented dwellings in order to accelerate the provision of central heating facilities and to progress the achievement of the 2007 target. During 2004 €16m was spent upgrading 2900 local authority houses and flats under the scheme. €30 million has been provided in the Department's 2005 Estimates. A further €6 million will be contributed by local authorities. At the outset of the programme, it was estimated that 45,000 local authority dwellings required heating facilities.
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	
Data sources used to monitor progress	Local authority applications
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	Applications have been submitted by local authorities for Departmental funding in 2004 and 2005 and work is underway.
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	Number of outstanding LA dwellings in need of heating upgrade will be addressed by local authorities as implementation proceeds.