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**Organisation:** Submission made on behalf of COPE Galway CLG

COPE Galway welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, Issues Paper.

COPE Galway is a local charity that provides a range of services to some of the most vulnerable and isolated people in Galway. The services we provide are across three main areas:

- Homeless Services
- Domestic Abuse Services for Women and Children
- Services for Older People

COPE Galway's vision is for 'Improved Quality of Life in a Home of your own' for people affected by homelessness, women and children experiencing domestic abuse, and older people. We do this by working with some of the most vulnerable people in Galway; those at risk of or experiencing homelessness, women and children experiencing or who have experienced domestic abuse and those older people who may be experiencing isolation and disadvantage.

COPE Galway works to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in Galway. We work in partnership with individuals, groups, businesses and agencies in the community to provide services and support and to advocate on behalf of people in Galway who are vulnerable and isolated. We are committed to and value the involvement of our clients in the development of our services and responses to their needs. Our clients play a key part in guiding and improving COPE Galway's services.

This submission focuses on the theme of 'Core Strategy and Housing' set out in the Galway County Development Plan 2020 – 2028 Issues Paper.

## **Housing.**

### **QUALITY OF LIFE IN A HOME OF YOUR OWN**

#### *Homelessness - Domestic Abuse - Older People*

COPE Galway CLG, Registered Office: Calbro House, Tuam Road, Galway.  
CRO No. 248134 Registered Charity No. 20011314 Revenue no. CHY6339  
Board of Directors: E. Bradshaw (Chair), A. Callanan, P. Cunningham, P. Dilger, C. Feeney, C. Healy, A. Heaney,  
H. Kiely, S. Lennon, S. Moloney, E. Mcguane, Fr. J. Roche, S. Silke, D. Squires, P. Timon  
**Patron: Sabina Coyne Higgins**

Ensuring 'sufficient housing in the right places with the necessary infrastructure, services and amenities in order to improve the quality of lives of the citizens of County Galway' as set out in the Issues Paper is consistent with the vision of our organisation and is something we very much welcome. Providing 'for the right type and mix of housing to reflect the different requirements of all of our citizens which can change at the different stages of their lives' is vital in our view and to reinforce how critical this is there are a number of key points to consider.

- There are 1,595 households Galway County social housing waiting list of which 811 are one adult households and 81 are couple households.
- The age of the main applicant for 68 households on the social housing waiting list is 65 years or older.
- There are 290 households on the social housing waiting list for whom the main need for Social Housing Support by the main applicant is having a disability<sup>1</sup> or exceptional medical needs or on compassionate grounds.
- There are 77 households on the social housing waiting list whose main need for Social Housing Support is due to being in an Institution, emergency accommodation or hostel
- 21 households on Galway County Councils Housing list were homeless<sup>2</sup>.
- The majority of households in Galway County Councils functional area who become homeless and are in need of residential homeless services such as emergency and/or supported accommodation rely on such services provided in Galway City. This means those who need emergency accommodation must travel to the city, away from any local, family and community supports they may have in their local area.
- In 2018, there were an estimated 14 Traveller Families on unauthorised sites<sup>3</sup>.

COPE Galway considers that the Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 must prioritise address this range of housing need of its diverse population.

This should include avoiding a one type suits all approach to social housing builds, with consideration being given to the construction of one bed accommodation suitable for single person households, a demographic who make up approximately 50% of the social housing waiting list. The design of all accommodation must take into account the needs of its future residents which may change as they progress through life and should therefore take into account the principles of universal design.

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<sup>1</sup> Physical, sensory, mental health, intellectual or other.

<sup>2</sup> All figures taken from Rebuilding Ireland. 2019. Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2019. Key Findings.

<sup>3</sup> Department of housing Planning and Local Government. 2018 Estimate – All Local Authority, Local Authority Assisted and Unauthorised Halting Sites. Available at <https://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/special-housing-needs/traveller-accommodation/2018-estimate-all-local-authority-local>

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The development plan must also take into consideration the needs of its homeless population and develop homeless supports within the county.

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