



Housing Practitioners' Conference 2017

25–26 May 2017 | Clayton Hotel, Cork City

Delivery Now Managing Sustainability

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Thursday 25th May 2017

9.30	Registration: Tea/Coffee
10.00	Official Opening Cllr. Joe Kavanagh, Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork City Council
Session 1 Chair: Dr Philip Byrne, IPA	
10.05	Addressing the Current Housing Situation John Fitzgerald, adjunct professor in Economics at Trinity College Dublin and former research professor at the ESRI
	Delivery Now, Future Sustainable Delivery – are we ready to manage? Conor Skehan, Chair of the Housing Agency
	Rebuilding Ireland – Update on Progress Bairbre NicAongusa, Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
	Questions and Answers – Panel Discussion
11.20	Tea and Coffee
Session 2 – Perspectives on Challenges, Innovation and Partnerships Chair Maurice Manning, Director of Housing, Cork County Council	
11.45	Approved Housing Body Challenges, innovation and partnership with LAs Donal McManus, Director, Irish Council for Social Housing
	Position and Role of the Private Rented Sector Rosalind Carroll, Director, Residential Tenancies Board
	Questions and Answers – Panel Discussion
12.45	Lunch
Session 3 – Updates on Key Housing Areas Chair Valerie O'Sullivan, Director of Housing, Cork City Council	
14.00	Housing Assistance Payment Eoghan Prendergast, Limerick City and County Council
	Strategy on Housing for People with Disabilities Claire Feeney, Housing Agency
	Turnkey Experience Fiona Cormican, Clúid Housing
	Repair and Lease Joe Sullivan, Waterford City and County Council
	P&A Agreements/Capital Advance Leasing Facility Patrick Graham, Housing Agency
15.20	Tea and Coffee

Session 4 – Workshops	
15.40	Workshop 1: Annual Summary of Social Housing Assessments Workshop 2: Mortgage to Rent Workshop 3: Part V of the Planning and Development Acts Workshop 4: Dealing with Racially Motivated Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop 5: Compulsory Purchase of Vacant Properties
17.00	<i>Workshops Conclude</i>
19.00	<i>Pre-Dinner Reception</i>
20.00	Pre-Dinner Address by Minister Damien English, T.D Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal

Friday 26th May 2017

9.30	<i>Tea and Coffee</i>
Session 5 – Managing the Assets	
Chair: Billy Coman, Director of Housing, South Dublin County Council	
9.45	Local Authority Challenges, innovation and partnership with AHBs Michael Walsh, Chief Executive, Waterford City and County Council Progress on Choice Based Lettings Catherine Kelly, Senior Executive Officer, Cork City Council Managing our Housing Assets Colm McQuillan, Northern Ireland Housing Executive
10.50	Questions and Answers
11.00	<i>Tea and Coffee</i>
Session 6 – Social Housing Delivery under Rebuilding Ireland	
Chair: John O'Connor, Chief Executive, Housing Agency	
11.20	Social Housing Delivery Mary Hurley, Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government Current Construction Programme and Approval Process Sarah Neary, Principal Advisor, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
13.00	Conference Conclusion, followed by Lunch



Speaker biographies

Dr Philip Byrne

Senior Local Government Specialist, IPA

Philip is working with the IPA for 20 years and is presently a Senior Local Government Specialist where he is the Director of the key accredited programmes for local government staff. Philip works closely with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG). For example, Philip was involved with the Department in designing and delivering a series of regional consultative seminars on the Green Paper on Local Government reform with senior departmental officials and the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Philip is responsible for managing a wide range of local authority housing practitioners training programmes and works closely with the DoECLG and the Housing Agency in the provision of these programmes. Philip is a member of Fingal County Council's audit committee and also chairs Louth County Council's Audit Committee. Philip has also considerable international experience, working for the IPA on a number of EU and Department of Foreign Affairs projects, as a Consultant and Trainer in the following countries: Gambia, Zambia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Latvia and Azerbaijan.



Rosalind Carroll

Director, Residential Tenancies Board (RTB)

Rosalind Carroll was appointed as Director of the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) in April 2016. The RTB is a public body set up to support and develop a well functioning rental housing sector in Ireland that is fair accessible and beneficial for all. One of the RTB's core functions is the maintenance of a register of rented tenancies in Ireland, of which there were 325,372 at the end of 2016. The registration of tenancies enables the RTB to collect important data on the rental sector which is used to provide information and advice to the public, tenants, and landlords on their rights and responsibilities. The RTB also publishes a quarterly Rent Index which reports on the actual rent being paid for rented properties in Ireland, and allows people to check and compare rents in particular areas. We also provide a timely and cost effective dispute resolution service, removing tenancy related disputes away from the courts service. Ms Carroll was formerly Head of Regulation of



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Fiona Cormican

Director of New Business. Clúid Housing

Fiona has over 18 years' experience in the delivery of social housing projects in a senior management capacity. She currently holds the position of Director of New Business with Clúid Housing, Ireland's largest housing association with a portfolio of assets in excess of €600 million and a three year new business pipeline of projects of over half a billion euro. As well as responsibility for the strategic direction and management of Clúid as part of the Executive Management team, Fiona has overall responsibility for the delivery of Clúid's current social housing development programme and the New Business and Delivery Teams. Prior to her joining Clúid, Fiona was a founder and Operations Director of Tógáil Developments, a non-profit property development company. Fiona holds a Masters in Project Management from the University of Limerick and a primary degree in Education as well as a Diploma in Site Management and a PMP Certification.



Claire Feeney

Senior Executive Officer, Housing Agency

Claire started her career in Dublin City Council in the late 80's. She spent a number of years on secondment to the then Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government working on the computerisation of Motor Tax Offices and Motor Tax Online. She returned to the Housing Department of Dublin City Council in 2003 where she worked as the head of the Project Management Unit which was responsible for a number of regeneration projects in the city including Public Private Partnerships for Fatima Mansions, O'Devaney Gardens and St Michael's Estate among others. She moved to the Limerick Regeneration Agencies in 2007 where she worked as Project manager for the Physical and Economical regeneration of Moyross, Southill, St Mary's Parka and Ballinacurra Weston. Claire took up her current role of Senior Executive Officer with the Housing Agency in 2012 on her return from Limerick. She works as part of the Supply and Mortgage Support Services within the Agency with responsibility for the management of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme and the implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability.



John FitzGerald

Adjunct Professor, TCD and UCD

John FitzGerald is an Adjunct Professor in both TCD and UCD, having previously been a Research Professor in the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin. He is a member of the Central Bank of Ireland Commission and he is Chairman of the Irish government's Climate Change Advisory Council.



Speaker biographies / continued



Patrick Graham

Head of Underwriting, Supply and Mortgage Support Services, Housing Agency

Patrick is Head of Underwriting in the Supply and Mortgage Support Services section of the Housing Agency. He is currently involved in the establishment of a AHB One-Stop-Shop under Rebuilding Ireland as well as working on the national roll-out of HAP, the Tenant Incremental Purchase scheme and the NAMA steering group to deliver social housing through lease back to local authorities and AHBs. In his previous career Patrick worked in private sector banking and property. He is a member of the Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland and the Institute of Bankers.

Mary Hurley

Assistant Secretary - Housing Programme Delivery

Mary Hurley has responsibility for the Social Housing Programme Delivery Division at the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. This includes the oversight and management of the Social Housing Capital Investment Programme (SHCIP) and the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SCHEP), which encompasses the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) and the Mortgage to Rent schemes. She is also responsible for the roll out and implementation of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and for oversight of architecture and building standards, including the development of policy and legislation in respect of building control, building standards, construction products and pyrite remediation. She has previously worked across a range of Government Departments, including the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Department of Arts and Heritage.



Catherine Kelly

Senior Executive Officer, Housing and Community Directorate, Cork City Council

Catherine Kelly is a Senior Executive Officer working with the Housing and Community Directorate of Cork City Council. She worked on the introduction of the Choice Based Letting Scheme while in the Allocations Section and is now tasked with developing system process improvements in her current role. Catherine has a Masters in Local Government Management and has over twenty years experience working in the Local Government Sector.



Donal McManus

Chief Executive, Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH)

Donal McManus is Chief Executive of the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH) the national federation of housing associations in Ireland. Previously he worked in both the public/local authority and housing association sectors in Scotland and Northern Ireland. This included being employed in various housing development, housing management, policy development and finance as well as regeneration roles. He is a graduate in housing from Ulster University, in Urban Design from Strathclyde University School of Architecture Glasgow. He received his Doctorate in Governance from Queens University Belfast School of Law focusing on the impact of private finance in housing associations. As an Urban Designer he worked on urban design frameworks and land assembly. He was previously a Board member of Housing Europe (the EU Social Housing Federation), the President of the European Housing Forum, and was appointed from 2004-2006 to the UNECE Task Force on Social Housing. He is also currently a board member of the Housing Agency.



Colm McQuillan

Director of Housing Services, NIHE

Colm was appointed Director of Housing Services from 1st April 2017. Colm has worked with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for 33 years and has held a number of operational and strategic posts that have influenced and informed the development of housing policy, strategies, and services. Colm has extensive experience and expertise in all areas of housing policies, supporting people, legislation, Housing Benefit and homelessness strategies, including those related to Community Involvement, Cohesion and Safety. Colm had a lead role in the Modernisation of the Landlord Division and undertook major systems development, implementation and restructuring. As Assistant Director of the Supporting People, he was responsible for the implementation of the programme that enabled voluntary and community organisations to develop and deliver a range of housing and other related support services to vulnerable people. As Director of Housing Services he is responsible for the management and business associated with the Housing Executive's 87,000 properties.



Speaker biographies / continued

Sarah Neary

Principal Adviser, Housing Advisers & Building Standards, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

Sarah Neary is Principal Adviser of the Housing Advisers & Building Standards section of the Department of Housing Planning, Community and Local Government. Sarah leads a multi-disciplinary team that provides professional and technical advice on a wide range of building and construction related issues, including social housing quality, urban design, value for money, procurement and delivery, building standards, building control policy and legislation. She is a Chartered Engineer, holds a Civil Engineering Degree from National University of Ireland, Galway and an MBA from University College Dublin.



Bairbre Nic Aongusa

Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government

Bairbre Nic Aongusa is Assistant Secretary in the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, with responsibility for Social Housing Policy and Rental Policy. Her brief includes social housing reform and housing policy for particular groups, such as older people, people with disability, travellers and those who are homeless. Bairbre is also leading on the implementation of the Government's Strategy for the Rental Sector. She led the development of the Social Housing Strategy which was published in November 2014. Prior to taking up her Housing role in June 2014, Bairbre was Assistant Secretary in the Department of Health with responsibility for Finance, e-Health and EU/International Affairs. She was Director of the Office for Disability & Mental Health, within the Department of Health, from 2008-2012.



John O'Connor

Chief Executive Officer, Housing Agency

John is the Chief Executive Officer of the Housing Agency, which is a statutory body set up under the aegis of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (the Department). The Agency was established to provide the Department, local authorities and approved housing bodies with support and advice on the delivery of housing and housing services; in addition to a range of other services. These include housing policy development and implementation; along with research services. It also acts as interim Regulator for the approved housing body sector. The Agency is working closely with the Department to oversee the delivery of Rebuilding Ireland the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. John is a structural engineer by background and has a wide range of experience in both the public and private sectors. He has extensive experience in the development, provision and direct delivery of housing, particularly in the areas of social housing, affordable housing and regeneration projects. He also has extensive knowledge and experience in housing policy development and its implementation. John is and has been a member of or chaired a range of committees and working groups at national level. John was previously the Chief Executive of the Affordable Homes Partnership and prior to that Executive Manager with Dublin City Council's Housing & Community Department.



Eoghan Prendergast

Director of Services, Limerick City & County Council

Eoghan Prendergast is a Director of Services with Limerick City & County Council, with responsibility for the HAP Shared Services Centre (SSC), which is based in the Granary in Limerick city centre. HAP SSC is operated by Limerick City & County Council on behalf of all 31 local authorities and the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE). HAP SSC is the national customer contact and transactional centre for HAP landlords and tenants, performing a range of financial functions such as set-up and commencement of HAP tenancies, payment of monthly landlord rent, tax clearance checking for landlords, collection of tenant differential rent debit for all tenancies, management of the debt collection process and data analytics for stakeholders.

The HAP SSC will handle circa €230m in financial transactions in 2017, rising to over €600m per annum by 2021, involving at that stage, 84,000 tenancies. Since the project commenced in 2014, over 23,500 HAP tenancies have been set-up to date, of which over 21,000 are active. Almost 5,500 tenancies have been set up so far in 2017. HAP SSC sets up over 350 tenancies every week, and is well on target to meet the national target of 15,000 new HAP tenancies in 2017. There are currently 42 people employed in the HAP SSC and this is scheduled to rise to circa 100 as the project matures. 60% of the current staff have been recruited from the private sector with the remainder from local authorities. The service is fully funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG)..



Speaker biographies / continued

Conor Skehan

Chair, Housing Agency

Conor was appointed Chair of the Housing Agency by the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government in 2013. He is nationally and internationally recognised as an authority in the area of environmental impact assessment, strategic and large scale economic and spatial planning. His work for national governments has included assignments in Iceland, Italy, as well as post-conflict assignments for the UN in Iraq and Sri Lanka. He has over 30 years' experience providing strategic and spatial planning and environmental consultancy to a wide range of government, public and private clients both nationally and internationally. His experience spans large-scale infrastructural and industrial projects to large urban renewal and tourism projects. Conor is presently a Senior Lecturer, and former Head of Department, in DIT's School of Spatial Planning. He is an Architect, Landscape Architect, Strategic Planner, Impact Analyst, academic and writer.



Joe Sullivan

Waterford City and County Council

Joe Sullivan has extensive experience as a Housing practitioner having worked at Senior Management level in Local Government for over thirty years. He has experience of working in both the Housing and Planning areas in Carlow County Council, Wicklow County Council and Waterford City and County Council. He oversaw and managed the delivery of all Housing services during the transition period in the amalgamation of Waterford City and County Councils. Joe is passionate about Regeneration and has been involved in the delivery of an extensive Regeneration Programme in Waterford together with numerous Urban Renewal and infill schemes including innovative funding mechanisms.



Michael Walsh

Chief Executive, Waterford City and County Council

Michael's background is one of engineering, graduating from UCC in 1983 with a Civil Engineering degree. He started his career in Local Government with Waterford County Council in 1983 and worked between there and Limerick City Council for a number of years at various engineering posts until 2000 when he was appointed as Senior Executive Engineer in Waterford City Council. From there he progressed to the post of Director of Services and became Waterford City Manager in November, 2007. In June 2014, Michael was appointed Chief Executive of the newly amalgamated Waterford City and County Council. He is the current chair of the Housing and Building Sub Committee of the City and County Managers Association.



