

**Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar:
Priorities for the housing market in Northern Ireland**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 17th October 2017

Venue: Belfast



**POLICY FORUM
FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 9.05 - 9.35 **The future for housing policy in Northern Ireland**
Ian Snowden, Director of Housing Policy and Performance, Department for Communities
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.25 **Tackling issues relating to housing development: planning, construction and finance**
With delays in the planning system impacting developers' ability to build houses, what action is being taken by local authorities to improve the speed of processing applications and what other options might help to improve the speed of the process? To what extent would further prioritisation of housing development through councils' Local Development Plans - as well as further engagement with housing sector stakeholders - ensure each area's individual housing needs are met? Given the shortage of homes being built in Northern Ireland, what role might innovation - such as modular and fast-build homes - play in helping to increase supply and reduce costs? How far might the uncertainties surrounding Brexit impact on developers' ability to plan for the future and ultimately increase housing supply - particularly due to the effect on employment and the workforce, cross-border trade, building regulations and cost of materials? What steps can be taken to tackle the barriers to the greater utilisation of vacant and unused land for development - including publicly-owned land? What further action might be necessary to improve existing housing stock - including through upgrading and replacement? How can the current issues with access to finance - including the challenges for first-time buyers, those in negative equity and for large and small developers - be overcome, for example through schemes such as co-ownership?
John Armstrong, Managing Director, Construction Employers Federation
Conor Lambe, Economist, Danske Bank
Senior speaker confirmed from the **McAvoy Group**
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, legal
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.50 **Lessons in promoting development from the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan**
Senior speaker to be confirmed
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 10.55 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 11.30 - 11.45 **Lessons from other jurisdictions in the development of affordable, integrated housing**
What lessons could Northern Ireland take from examples of greater collaboration between local authorities, housing developers and housing management companies in the provision of affordable and sustainable houses? What benefits can be gained - including through greater community integration - in the development of mixed housing, and should developers in Northern Ireland be encouraged to develop more social housing as part of new housing stock - for instance through schemes used in the UK which require minimum levels of affordable housing in new developments?
Senior speaker to be confirmed
- 11.45 - 11.55 **Next steps in social housing: ensuring quality, supporting wellbeing and building communities**
Professor Paddy Gray, Emeritus Professor of Housing, Ulster University
- 11.55 - 12.05 **The Housing Executive and meeting the demands of a changing housing sector**
Clark Bailie, Chief Executive, Housing Executive
- 12.05 - 12.15 **The future role of local authorities in social housing**
Senior representative, local government
- 12.15 - 12.45 Questions and comments from the floor with senior speaker to be confirmed
- 12.45 - 12.55 **Concluding remarks**
Ian Snowden, Director of Housing Policy and Performance, Department for Communities
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland