

**Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar:
Priorities for the housing market in Northern Ireland**
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 7th November 2017
Venue: Stormont Hotel, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LP



**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**
Mike Nesbitt MLA, Northern Ireland 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 - 10.35 **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 the process? To what extent would the 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 - particularly 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 - such as 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?
Conor Lambe, Economist, Danske Bank
John Armstrong, Managing Director, Construction Employers Federation
Maria O'Loan, Environment and Planning Partner, Tughans
Phil Williams, Director of Planning and Place, Belfast City Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Mike Nesbitt MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 10.40 - 11.10 Coffee
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Nichola Mallon MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11.15 - 11.45 **Lessons in promoting development from the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan**
Barry Quinlan, Principal Officer, Housing Market Policy and Land Management, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Ireland
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 - 11.55 **Next steps in social housing: ensuring quality, supporting wellbeing and building communities**
Eileen Patterson, Director of Communities, Radius Housing
- 11.55 - 12.05 **The Housing Executive and meeting the demands of a changing housing sector**
Siobhan McCauley, Director of Regional Services, Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- 12.05 - 12.15 **The future role of local authorities in social housing**
Derek McCallan, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Local Government Association
- 12.15 - 12.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 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**
Nichola Mallon MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
Roger Greer, Senior Researcher, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland