

**Scotland Policy Conferences Keynote Seminar:
Next steps for housing in Scotland: investment, delivery and meeting housing needs**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 7th December 2017

Venue: Central Edinburgh



**SCOTLAND POLICY
CONFERENCES**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Graham Simpson MSP, Shadow Minister for Housing and Communities, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Latest on development of research being used to inform housing policy**
Professor Kenneth Gibb, Director, CaCHE and Professor in Housing Economics, University of Glasgow
- 9.15 - 9.45 **Priorities for managing the impact of Brexit on housing - encouraging investment, off-setting risk and ensuring workforce supply**
In light of concerns relating to European funding from sources such as the European Regional Development Fund, what should be the priorities for government action and what lessons can be drawn from commercial investment in Scottish housing that is continuing despite political and economic uncertainty? With inflation and exchange rates expected to drive up costs as a result of Brexit, what can the sector do to ensure sufficient supply of materials; what are the opportunities and challenges for sourcing products from within the UK or outside the EU? Given concerns over a construction skills shortage following Brexit, what should the industry be putting into place to meet the challenges, including widening routes to employment such as apprenticeships - and where is support from government needed - including in the area of immigration policy?
Sarah Boyack, Head of Public Affairs, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
George Walker, Chair, Scottish Housing Regulator
Senior representative, investment
- 9.45 - 10.05 Questions and comments from the floor with **Professor Kenneth Gibb**, Director, CaCHE and Professor in Housing Economics, University of Glasgow
- 10.05 - 10.35 **Policy for housing in Scotland and next steps for the Planning Bill**
Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing, The Scottish Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Graham Simpson MSP, Shadow Minister for Housing and Communities, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 10.40 - 11.10 Coffee
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Member, Cross-Party Group on Housing
- 11.15 - 12.00 **Improving the efficient delivery of housing stock: infrastructure, skills and implications of changes to the planning system**
In addition to investment, such as the Housing Infrastructure Fund, and zoned housing land through increased use of Simplified Planning Zones, what further steps are needed to unlock housing land? What support is needed to mitigate potential implications of increased planning fees on housing delivery? With the Scottish Government investing in less traditional house building methods - such as offsite construction, which sees sections of buildings pre-assembled in a factory - what more can be done to stimulate growth of these sectors, given their potential to create jobs and reduce costs? What more needs to be done to ensure the construction industry has the skills and flexibility to respond to changing sector priorities - such as an increased role for offsite construction - and ongoing housing delivery targets?
Karen Hamilton, Partner, Brodies
Stewart Dalgarno, Director of Product Development, Stewart Milne Group
Elaine Scott, Housing and Regeneration, Strategy and Investment Programme Manager, The City of Edinburgh Council
Sara Thiam, Regional Director, Institution of Civil Engineers
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Meeting Scotland's housing needs: design, choice and access**
What progress is being made in ensuring house builders are designing and building homes that reflect a range of individual needs, for example, the elderly, first time buyers or those with disabilities, and what more needs to be done to guarantee it is a whole sector approach? Given research demonstrating the links between housing and health, what further steps need to be taken to ensure the importance of place and communities is recognised at the early stages of planning? In addition to schemes such as Help to Buy, what more needs to be done to support first time buyers to acquire homes that meet their needs in terms of location and design?
Pauline Elliott, Head of Planning & Economic Development, South Lanarkshire Council
Fanchea Kelly, Chief Executive, Blackwood Housing Association
Rosemary Brotchie, Policy and Research Manager, Shelter Scotland
Carol Anderson, Chair, Council of Mortgage Lenders Scotland and Distribution Director, TSB Scotland
Senior representative, design
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks**
Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Member, Cross-Party Group on Housing
Michael Ryan, Deputy Editor, Scotland Policy Conferences