

## Policy Forum for Ireland conference:

### Next steps for housing in Ireland

Timing: Morning, Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Rory Hearne TD**, Member, Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- 9.05 **Assessing key challenges for the housing sector and policy in Ireland - insights from the work of the Housing Commission**  
**John O'Connor**, Chair, Investment and Development Committee, Land Development Agency; and former Chair, The Housing Commission  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Strategies for creating a pipeline of zoned land for residential use**  
**John Coleman**, Chief Executive, Land Development Agency  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.50 **Enabling development at scale - 2030 housebuilding targets and long-term goals in Project Ireland 2040**  
Senior representative, developers
- 10.00 **Practical steps for housing delivery - funding, support for the construction sector, and addressing infrastructure barriers**  
*priorities for delivery of 300,000 homes by 2030 | supporting resilience in the development sector | upscaling the construction workforce and retaining talent | funding schemes and structures | impact of planning reform | scope for further systemic reform | addressing infrastructure barriers | expectations for the Housing Activation Office | support for town and village development | priorities for regeneration | next steps for Urban Development Zones | delivering social housing | accessibility considerations for future housing | use of brownfield and in-fill sites | next steps for the National Framework for Meeting Priority Construction Workforce Needs*  
**John Kelly**, Manager, National Construction Training Campus  
Senior representative, planning  
Senior representative, infrastructure  
Senior representative, local authority
- 10.20 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Rory Hearne TD**, Member, Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Thomas Gould TD**, Spokesperson on Urban Regeneration, Public Realm and Local Government, Sinn Féin
- 11.05 **Supporting the acceleration of housing supply**  
**Jim Baneham**, Director, Delivery and Innovation, The Housing Agency  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Meeting local growth targets - regeneration, city development, and social housing delivery**  
**Brian Geaney**, Assistant Chief Executive, Cork City Council
- 11.50 **Priorities for improving affordability and addressing homelessness concerns**  
*expectations for the forthcoming Child and Family Homelessness Action Plan | alignment with the European Affordable Homes Plan | assessing demand for social housing | delivering housing for the elderly and disabled | improving housing and tenancy affordability | support needed for Approved Housing Bodies and local authorities | priorities for tackling vacancy and dereliction | supporting homeless youth | next steps for the Housing First programme | increasing supply of starter homes | revision of the Help to Buy scheme | impact of Rent Pressure Zone rules | next steps for regulation and implementation of rental reform*  
**Niamh Allen**, Head, Advocacy and Research, Focus Ireland  
**Catherine McGillicuddy**, Director, Policy, Irish Council for Social Housing  
**Brian Doran**, Partner, Commercial Real Estate, Matheson  
Senior representative, affordability
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for housing policy in Ireland**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**  
**Thomas Gould TD**, Spokesperson on Urban Regeneration, Public Realm and Local Government, Sinn Féin  
**Harry Nelson**, Policy Forum for Ireland