

**Policy Forum for Ireland conference:
Next steps for infrastructure delivery in Ireland**

Timing: Morning, Friday, 29th January 2027

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

Draft agenda subject to change



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 9.05 **Ireland's infrastructure needs - scale of demand, delivery capacity and fiscal sustainability**
Niall Conroy, Chief Economist, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Major infrastructure investment and implementation - priorities and practicalities across energy, water and transport**
priorities under the updated National Development Plan and Project Ireland 2040 | long-term funding commitments and the NDP Construction Pipeline | procurement, contract models and risk allocation | commercial viability and contractor participation | construction workforce, skills and supply chain capacity | grid, water and transport investment priorities | coordination and accountability across government, agencies and utilities | private finance, value for money and fiscal sustainability | climate resilience and long-term adaptability | all-island and EU collaboration
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, transport
Senior representative, renewables
Senior representative, consultancy
Senior representative, environment
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Progress and next steps in delivering the National Development Plan**
Sean Fleming TD, Chair, Committee on Infrastructure and National Development Plan Delivery, Houses of the Oireachtas
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 11.05 **Priorities for infrastructure planning and consenting decisions**
Senior representative, planning
- 11.15 **Planning and consenting reform for major projects - implementation, capacity and confidence in decision-making**
implementation and remaining commencement of the Planning and Development Act 2024 | role, resourcing and capacity of An Coimisiún Pleanála and local planning authorities | designation under the Critical Infrastructure Act 2026, and requirements for public bodies and implications for other projects | consenting processes and developer certainty | judicial review reform including procedures, costs, access to justice and options for further proposals | environmental assessment and climate obligations for designated projects | early engagement and public participation | compulsory purchase and land acquisition
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, infrastructure
- 11.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Aligning infrastructure delivery with housing and regional growth objectives**
Senior representative, housing
- 12.00 **Housing, regional growth and enabling infrastructure - priorities for utility connections, site activation and coordination**
implementation of Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030 | Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund deployment and project delivery | water, wastewater and electricity connections, connection costs and timescales | role of the Housing Activation Office, Land Development Agency and Housing Finance Agency | coordination between developers, utilities and local authorities | site readiness and development viability | revised National Planning Framework and regional growth | infrastructure for enterprise and investment | competing demands on network capacity
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, developer
Senior representative, utilities
Senior representative, grid
- 12.20 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Long-term infrastructure strategy - resilience, adaptability and the next phase of Project Ireland 2040**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
Sean Cudmore, Policy Forum for Ireland