

Housing Agency Summit To Address Need For Greater Housing Certainty

Sunday, May 18, 2014: The Housing Agency, the State's advisory body on housing policy and practice, will hold a Housing Summit in early June to address short-term measures to bring greater stability and certainty to the housing market.

The Summit will bring together senior decision-makers from policy, practice, finance and industry. It will focus on the key themes of availability and affordability and the need to fast-track measures to improve the supply of new homes.

The summit follows the announcement by the Government of its new Construction Strategy initiative which aims to triple housing output by 2020 and to create 60,000 jobs in the sector. It also follows a report recently published by the Housing Agency on Future Housing Supply Requirements for the period 2014 – 2018 which suggested that a minimum of 80,000 dwellings are required across 272 urban settlements nationally, almost half of which is required in the Dublin Region.

Speaking at the announcement of the Summit, Conor Skehan, Chair of the Agency said: 'As our recent report emphasised, there is a necessity to boost supply over the next two years. The Housing Agency has been tasked by the Government to action key aspects of its new Construction Strategy as a matter of urgency and this Summit will provide an opportunity to bring together relevant bodies in the sector to tackle critical issues like the affordability and availability of housing.'

John O'Connor, CEO said: 'The supply of affordable housing will be a key driver in our economic recovery. It is key to: job creation, competitiveness and economic stability. The Summit will focus on measures that can make a real difference in the next 18 months.'

A summary of Summit proceedings will be submitted to Government.

ENDS

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Editor's notes

The Housing Agency was set up in May 2010 to work with and support

- local authorities
- approved housing bodies, and
- the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government

in the delivery of housing and housing services

The Agency's mission is to enable everyone to live in good quality, affordable homes.

Construction Strategy 2020 Housing Agency Action Point	Responsible Body	Timeline
Put in place a National Framework for Housing Supply, ensuring a balanced approach in which the supply of housing is matched with projected demand, and in which emerging imbalances can be identified and rectified at an early stage. This will be placed on a statutory footing and will require the publication of an annual National Statement of Projected Housing Supply and Demand to be published each June.	DECLG; Local Authorities, CSO, DES; The Housing Agency; other stakeholders	Q2 2014; Ongoing
Establish a Housing Supply Coordination Task Force for Dublin with an immediate focus on addressing supply-related issues. It will work closely with industry and other parties, including those responsible for key infrastructure such as schools, to identify and address any obstacles to viable and appropriate development.	DECLG; Local Authorities, CSO, DES; The Housing Agency; other stakeholders	Q2 2014; Ongoing
Assess existing construction and property data sources for appropriateness including identifying any gaps and quality shortcomings and how they might be addressed.	DECLG; The Housing Agency; CSO	Q3 2014; Ongoing
We will publish a Social Housing Strategy setting out a vision for the sector, and we will introduce legislation to regulate the Approved Housing Body sector.	DECLG; The Local Authorities; The Housing Agency;	Q3 2014; Ongoing
Develop a national policy towards professionalising the private rented sector, to include issues such as investment, standards and regulation.	DECLG; the Housing Agency	Q4 2014; Ongoing
Examine international best practice and develop proposals for additional models of mortgage financing in Ireland, including the concept of a mortgage insurance scheme, to ensure sustainable levels of mortgage lending in the medium term, and report to the Cabinet Committee on Mortgage Arrears and Credit Availability in November 2014.	D/Finance; DECLG; the Housing Agency	Q4 2014; Ongoing