



**An Ghníomhaireacht
Tithíochta**
The Housing Agency

Housing Agency Annual Housing Conference November 24th Summary Report

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Programme

On Wednesday, 23rd November, The Housing Agency marked its 10 Year Anniversary, hosting an event at the Housing Unlocked exhibition in the Science Gallery. At the event, Chairman Michael Carey, board member Áine Stapleton and CEO Bob Jordan highlighted the key achievements over the past decade, such as the implementation of social and affordable housing schemes, including the new Cost Rental model, delivering the Pyrite Remediation Scheme and promoting social inclusion through the Housing First National Office, developing National Housing Strategies for Disabled People [agefriendlyhomes.ie](https://www.agefriendlyhomes.ie).



Bob Jordan (CEO of The Housing Agency), Áine Stapleton (Member of The Housing Agency Board) and Michael Carey (Chairman of The Housing Agency Board) attending the 10 Year Anniversary event for The Housing Agency

The Housing Agency

Annual Housing Conference November 2022

The Housing Agency's Annual Housing Conference took place in Tangent, Trinity Business School on the following day. The conference was officially opened by Michael Carey, Chairman of The Housing Agency and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD. The conference was delivered as a hybrid event and involved a half day of expert speakers discussing best practice and policy on housing, under the theme of **Housing & Sustainability**. Two sessions were held as part of the conference, under the topics of **Financial Sustainability** and **Environment Sustainability & Sustainable Communities**.

The conference presentations and video can be found [on our website](#).



Michael Carey (Chairman of the Housing Agency), Darragh O'Brien T.D and Bob Jordan (CEO of the Housing Agency)

The hybrid event was attended by an in-person and virtual audience, including representatives from Approved Housing Bodies, Local Authorities, statutory agencies and government departments. Throughout the conference, attendees could ask questions through Slido, an audience interaction tool, which was an innovative way to capture expertise and gauge sentiment during the sessions.

Session 1: Financial Sustainability

- Josh Ryan Collins – Associate Professor in Economics & Finance, University College London
- Michelle Norris – Director of the Geary Institute and Professor of Social Policy, University College Dublin
- Dermot O’Leary – Chief Economist, Goodbody



David Silke (Director of Insights and Operations, The Housing Agency), Josh Ryan Collins, Michelle Norris, and Dermot O’Leary

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien, officially opened the conference. In his address, the Minister highlighted the role of The Housing Agency in delivering housing policy under Housing for All, as well as providing an overview of proposed reforms to the planning system and the Consolidated Planning Bill. Minister O’Brien also announced the approval of the Land Acquisition Fund, which will be under the aegis of The Housing Agency, as well as providing updates on the progress of Housing for All.



Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD

The first session focused on Financial Sustainability and was chaired by David Silke, Director of Insights and Operations at The Housing Agency. A key theme emerging from this session was financialisation of housing and the tools to tame this trend.

Josh Ryan Collins examined the demand-side drivers of the housing crisis and discussed the mortgage credit and securitization boom as well as the rentierisation of the private rental sector in Ireland.



Michelle Norris outlined the tools to tame financialisation of housing under the [Housing 2030 report](#), including financing affordable housing, regulating real estate platforms and taxation reform.

The final speaker in this session was **Dermot O'Leary**, who discussed financing increased private housebuilding and provided valuable insights relating to the role of the private rental sector and the impact of the changed interest environment on housing supply.



Session 2: Environment Sustainability & Sustainable Communities

- Gulnara Roll – Regional Advisor, UNECE
- Prof. Brian Evans – City Urbanist Glasgow
- Michaela Kauer – Director, Brussels Office of the City of Vienna
- Valerie Mulvin – Director, McCullough Mulvin Architects
- Ciaran Byrne – Director, SEAI



Ciarán Byrne, Claire Feeney (Director of Services and Inclusion, The Housing Agency), Michaela Kauer and Valerie Mulvin

The second session of the conference was chaired by Claire Feeney, Director of Services and Inclusion at The Housing Agency and focused on sustainable housing and communities. Two speakers joined remotely – Gulnara Roll and Brian Evans.

Gulnara Roll discussed the UNECE's survey on housing affordability, the Housing 2030 report, which is a joint initiative of the UNECE, Housing Europe and UN-Habitat, and the Regional Action Plan by the UNECE.

Brian Evans considered the 'Place Principle' in his presentation to the conference, emphasising the importance of place in communities. He examined demographic trends in Scotland's urban regions, Scotland's National Planning Framework, the work of the Place Commission in Glasgow and the Glasgow Place Narrative.

Michaela Kauer provided an overview of social housing in Vienna, the housing market and the cost rental model. She outlined the public benefits of the Vienna Model, which is recommended as best practice by the OECD and highlighted the various ways in which other European cities can deliver on housing.

Valerie Mulvin offered an overview of McCullough Mulvin Architects' project for the [Housing Unlocked](#) exhibition, entitled 'Join the dots – 100 small ideas for sustainable change'. The project examines the town of Mountrath in County Laois as a case study. And outlines 100 small interventions which could be introduced to create sustainable change.

Dr. Ciarán Byrne described the role of the SEAI in meeting sustainability targets, residential energy consumption and emissions, residential retrofit targets, and the different pillars of the National Residential Retrofit Plan (NRRP). He also discussed the challenges facing the sector such as supply chain difficulties, the energy crisis and rising interest rates.



Key Takeaways

Following a half day of expert speakers, attendees came away with numerous insights relating to best practice and policy on housing. Several themes were emphasised by speakers across the conference:

1. Identifying **innovative solutions** to housing problems
2. Insights from **international best practice**, such as the Vienna Model
3. Addressing **viability issues** relating to inflation and supply chain difficulties within the housing sector.
4. The importance of **sustainability** and **retrofitting** our housing stock
5. The practical measures that can be taken to tackle trends such as **financialisation**
6. The need for a **variety of housing tenures** within our housing system

Conference Close

The conference was closed by Bob Jordan, CEO of the Housing Agency, who celebrated the Housing Agency's 10 Year Anniversary and outlined the role of the Housing Agency in implementing schemes under Housing for All.

He also noted some standout messages from speakers, such as the commitment to social inclusion, the importance of embedding affordability within the housing sector and the innovative solutions proposed by speakers to tackle housing problems.

Thanking all of those involved in the organisation of the event, he then presented the 2022 Housing agency Essay Prize competition to this year's winner, Holly Morrin. This prize is awarded to the most original student essay submitted for assessment as part of the Institute of Public Administration's Professional Diploma in Housing Studies. Information about the Institute of Public Administration's Professional Diploma in Housing Studies can be found [here](#).



Bob Jordan (CEO of The Housing Agency), Eddie Lewis (Lecturer, IPA), Holly Morrin and Cian Rohan (IPA)