



**An Ghníomhaireacht
Tithíochta
The Housing Agency**

**THE HOUSING PRACTITIONERS'
CONFERENCE**

**OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SUSTAINABLE
HOUSING**

**MULLINGAR PARK HOTEL,
CO. WESTMEATH**

25th and 26th April 2024

#HOUSINGCONFERENCE2024



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Thursday 25th of April

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
8.30 - 9.30	REGISTRATION	
EVENT MC: ROSLYN MOLLOY - HEAD OF POLICY & PRACTICE, THE HOUSING AGENCY		
CONFERENCE OPENING		
9.30 - 9.50	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	MICHAEL CAREY - CHAIRMAN, THE HOUSING AGENCY
	MINISTERIAL ADDRESS	DARRAGH O'BRIEN TD, MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE (DHLGH)
	Q&A SESSION WITH THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING	EILEEN DUNNE - FORMER RTÉ NEWSREADER
SESSION 1: PROGRESS, DELIVERY & FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES CHAIR BY: EILEEN DUNNE		
9.50 - 10.30	THE ROLE OF HOUSING IN FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	BOB JORDAN - CEO, THE HOUSING AGENCY
	TAKING DELIVERY TO THE NEXT LEVEL	ÁINE STAPLETON - ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DHLGH
	BECOMING MORE AGILE IN DELIVERY - EXPANDING OPTIONS USING DESIGN & BUILD	RUTH HURLEY - PROJECT MANAGER, LGMA
	ONE SECTOR- BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES	ÉADAOIN NÍ CHLÉIRIGH - DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS, ICSH
10.30 - 11.10	SESSION 1 PANEL DISCUSSION & AUDIENCE Q&A	



DAY 1: Thursday 25th of April

11.10 - 11.30	TEA & COFFEE BREAK	
FIRST WORKSHOP SESSIONS		
11.30 - 12.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MULTI-UNIT DEVELOPMENTS: STAKEHOLDER EXPERIENCES AND FEEDBACK• AFFORDABLE PURCHASE SCHEME: LESSONS AND LEARNINGS FROM PROVIDERS• TOP TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING IN THE HOUSING SECTOR• TRAVELLER-SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION• CAREERS IN HOUSING• AGE FRIENDLY HOMES – EXPLORING HOUSING OPTIONS AND SUPPORTS FOR OUR AGEING POPULATION	
12.45 - 13.45	LUNCH	
13.45 - 14.15	RE-ENGINEERING THE WORKPLACE TO FACILITATE SUSTAINABLE HIGH PERFORMANCE	JOHN RYAN - AUTHOR, FOUNDER & CEO, HEALTHY PLACE TO WORK
SESSION 2: VACANT HOMES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION CHAired BY: CLAIRE FEENEY		
14.15 - 15.05	VACANT HOMES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION	ANN MARIE O'CONNOR - PRINCIPAL OFFICER, VACANT HOMES UNIT, DHLGH
	VACANT HOMES OFFICER AND TOWN REGENERATION OFFICER COLLABORATION	BRIGID DEENIHAN - VACANT HOMES OFFICER, CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
	VACANT HOMES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION	ALISON O'ROURKE - DIRECTOR OF SERVICES HOUSING DELIVERY, CORK CITY COUNCIL
	VACANT HOMES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION	CLAIRE O'SULLIVAN - MANAGER, TINTEÁN
	SOME WORK DONE AND MORE TO DO	WALTER HOLDEN - SENIOR ARCHITECT, WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



DAY 1: Thursday 25th of April

15.05 - 15.30	SESSION 2 PANEL DISCUSSION & AUDIENCE Q&A
SECOND WORKSHOP SESSIONS	
15.30 - 16.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• APARTMENT AND DUPLEX DEFECTS REMEDIATION• REGULATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE RENTAL SECTOR• CONNECTING WITH THE HSE COMMUNITY CARE NETWORKS UNDER THE NEW SLÁINTECARE MODEL• SUPPORTING STAFF WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE FOR HOUSING PROFESSIONALS• ADDRESSING URBAN VACANCY• COST RENTAL: LESSONS AND LEARNINGS FROM PROVIDERS
16.50 - 17.00	DAY 1 CLOSURES
19.00 - 20.00	PRE-DINNER RECEPTION
20.00	EVENING DINNER



DAY 2: Friday 26th of April

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
SESSION 3: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES CHAired BY: DAVE DINNIGAN		
10.00 - 10.10	INTRODUCING DAY TWO	ROSLYN MOLLOY- HEAD OF POLICY & PRACTICE, THE HOUSING AGENCY
10.10 - 10.50	ENABLEMENT/IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME	MARTIN COLREAVY - HEAD OF STRATEGIC DELIVERY AND URBAN ADVISORY UNIT, DHLGH
	LAND ACQUISITION FUND FOR MIXED TENURE DEVELOPMENT	LAURA BEHAN - AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAPITAL FUNDING AND SCHEMES UNIT, DHLGH
	FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - APPROVED HOUSING BODY PERSPECTIVE	JAMES O'HALLORAN - HEAD OF NEW BUSINESS, CLÚID HOUSING
	OPTIMISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFFORDABLE DELIVERY	MICHELLE ROBINSON - DIRECTOR OF SERVICES HOUSING OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL
10.50 - 11.25	SESSION 3 PANEL DISCUSSION & AUDIENCE Q&A	
11.25 - 11.55	TEA & COFFEE BREAK	



DAY 2: Friday 26th of April

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
SESSION 4: OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE CHAired BY: DAVID SILKE		
11.55 - 12.40	SUSTAINABILITY FOR WHOM?	JOHN-MARK MCCAFFERTY - CEO, THRESHOLD
	SOCIAL HOUSING AND SUSTAINABILITY - A BROADER PERSPECTIVE	CIARÁN HAYES - PRINCIPAL, CIARÁN HAYES CONSULTANCY LTD.
	THE LDA'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK	LYNN MCMAHON - SUSTAINABLE DESIGN CO-ORDINATOR, LDA
12.40 - 13.10	SESSION 4 PANEL DISCUSSION & AUDIENCE Q&A	
13.10 - 13.15	CLOSING REMARKS	BOB JORDAN - CEO, THE HOUSING AGENCY
13.15	LUNCH	



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

MICHAEL CAREY



Michael Carey has been Chairman of the Board of The Housing Agency since 2018. Michael has extensive experience in overseeing State bodies, has been Chairman of Enterprise Ireland since October 2023, having served as Chairman of Bord Bia (2011-2018), and as Chairman of the Grow Dublin Tourism Alliance in 2016. He is the Chairman of The Company of Food (a specialist food investment business, providing equity to start-up and established high-growth food businesses) and is also Executive Chairman of East Coast Bakehouse, Ireland's only commercial scale biscuit manufacturer. He has been involved in several not-for-profit initiatives: Chair of Soul of Haiti Foundation (2009-2015) and of Traidlinks Uganda (2013-2016); Member of the Clinton Global Initiative (2009-2015); and a judge on the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (2013 to date).

DARRAGH O'BRIEN TD



Darragh O'Brien TD was appointed Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in June 2020. He is an elected TD for the constituency of Dublin-Fingal. Prior to his election to the 30th Dáil in 2007, the Minister worked mainly in Financial Services and was elected to Fingal County Council in 2004. He was elected to Seanad Éireann in 2011.

He has held various positions within the Oireachtas including Vice-Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, Member of the Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Law Reform, Leader of Fianna Fáil in the Seanad and Opposition Frontbench Spokesperson on Dublin, Foreign Affairs and Housing.

BOB JORDAN



Bob Jordan is Chief Executive of The Housing Agency, a government body that promotes the supply of housing and helps deliver sustainable communities throughout Ireland. He was previously National Director of the Irish Government's Housing First programme to end long-term homelessness, Special Adviser to the Minister for Housing, and Chief Executive of the national housing charity Threshold.



EILEEN DUNNE



Eileen is a Senior Training Consultant at Alice, focused on providing training in media spokesperson skills. Drawing on her extensive experience in journalism, she prepares clients for media interviews, ensuring they know what to expect before taking to the airwaves and can handle challenging media questions.

Prior to working with Alice, Eileen spent 42 years in RTÉ, most of it in the Newsroom, where she worked as a Newscaster, covering most of the biggest stories of the last four decades – among them, Queen Elizabeth’s visit to Ireland, General Elections, Dunblane, the talks leading to the Good Friday Agreement, and the election and resignation of Pope Benedict XVI. She presented a weekly radio programme, ‘The God Slot’, and music programmes on RTÉ Lyric FM.

For four years up to November 2014, she was International President of the Association of European Journalists, a voluntary pan-European organisation for journalists with an interest in European affairs.

ÁINE STAPLETON



Áine Stapleton is Head of the Housing Policy and Standards Division, having previously led the Social Housing Delivery Division in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. She joined the Department in December 2020. She is a career civil servant having previously served in senior management roles including at the Department of Finance, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

ÉADAOIN NÍ CHLÉIRIGH



Éadaoin is the Director of Development Operations with the Irish Council for Social Housing with responsibility for housing development and finance. She is a member of the Housing Agency’s board and is chair of the Supply and Affordability Advisory Panel.

Previously, Éadaoin was CEO of Richmond Barracks overseeing its restoration and subsequent opening as a city museum. She was CEO of two regeneration projects in Dublin’s south inner city. She holds a Masters (NUIM) in Mediation and Conflict Resolution.



RUTH HURLEY



Ruth Hurley of the Housing Delivery Coordination Office, is the Programme Manager/Coordinator for the Accelerated Delivery Programme under Housing for All. Currently seconded from Clare County Council to the Local Government Management Agency, Ruth is an architect by profession with 20 years' experience in senior management in the public sector, managing strategic and project management programmes for delivery across housing, corporate and tourism capital investment along with conservation and urban design interventions.

JOHN RYAN



A speaker, author, entrepreneur, founder and CEO of Healthy Place To Work, John has spent most of his working life consulting with multinational organisations in the areas of Trust, Health, Wellbeing and Organisational Transformation.

Formerly a broadcast journalist and expert trainer, John is a regular media contributor and international speaker on topics including organisational health, resilience, and sustainability.

'Make Work Healthy' is the title of his recent book which he co-authored with Dr. Michael Burchell, and which was published by Wiley in the United States and Europe. It has been translated into Korean and Portuguese with a Spanish translation coming later in 2024.

CLAIRE FEENEY



Claire is the Director for Services and Inclusion at The Housing Agency. Her Directorate consists of Approved Housing Body Services, Local Authority Services, the National Housing First Office, Land Management and Part V, all all of which act as centres of excellence in their given areas to support our stakeholders.

Claire joined Dublin City Council in the late 1980's. She spent time on secondment to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government computerising Motor Tax Offices and moved back to Dublin City Council in 2003 and had responsibility for a number of the regeneration projects. She moved to the Limerick Regeneration Agencies in 2007 working as the Project Manager for the Physical and Economic Regeneration.

In 2012 Claire moved to the Housing Agency to manage the Mortgage to Rent Scheme nationally and drive the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027.



ANN MARIE O'CONNOR



Ann Marie O'Connor is a Principal Officer in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage where she has responsibility for the Vacant Homes Unit. The Unit, which was established in 2022, has a central role in overseeing, driving and supporting a co-ordinated approach to Pathway 4 of Housing for All - 'Addressing Vacancy and Efficient use of Housing Stock', including advancing specific actions such as supporting delivery of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, by local authorities. Ann Marie has worked in the Civil Service for over 25 years, most of which was in the Department of Social Protection where she worked in both policy and operational areas. She has also worked, on secondment, as a Senior Manager in the Citizens Information Board. Ann Marie has Masters Degrees in Social Policy and in Economic Policy Analysis from University College Dublin.

CLAIRE O'SULLIVAN



Claire has worked for many years with those experiencing homelessness. Having previously worked in emergency accommodation options, transitional programmes, and Housing First, she joined Tinteán Housing as Manager in 2016. Tinteán is an AHB and a specialist gender specific homeless service provider in Waterford City and County. Through her work, Claire has gained particular insight into the experiences of women, along with the unique issues experienced by them in homelessness.

Claire is passionate about providing not just housing solutions, but the right housing solutions. Understanding that safety is a priority concern for women, she works with her team to provide housing through a gendered lens.

BRIGID DEENIHAN



Brigid Deenihan is the Vacant Homes Officer with Carlow County Council since August 2022. In this role she is responsible for Promoting and Leading on various Departmental projects such as the Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Grant and the Ready to Build Scheme and the Compulsory Purchase Activation Programme involving vacant and derelict properties. She is also responsible for collecting and assessing data in relation to vacant properties, communicating with and advising internal and external stakeholders and collaborating with the Town Regeneration Officer, Local Authority Multi-Disciplinary Team, Communities and Property Owners. Brigid has over 33 years' experience working in the public sector, 21 of which have been in various local authorities.



WALTER HOLDEN



Walter Holden is a Senior Architect with responsibility for Housing Supply, Maintenance, Improvement, and Ukraine Housing Supply within Waterford City and County Council. With extensive experience in both private and public sectors, he has focused on a wide range of projects, from small-scale developments to large-scale strategic master plans. He holds a special interest in delivering affordable housing solutions within urban and town settings across Ireland.

ALISON O'ROURKE



A graduate of UCC and the IPA, with over 20 years management experience in local government, Alison is Director of Services for Housing Delivery and Regeneration in Cork City Council, leading and managing the Council's ambitious housing delivery programme and delivering a number of award-winning schemes. Alison leads a multi-disciplinary team, driving innovative initiatives, ranging from affordable housing solutions to urban regeneration projects, whilst working collaboratively with all delivery partners to optimise provision of high-quality housing and the delivery of joined-up solutions. A key focus for her is the regeneration of derelict and brownfield sites, to remediate dereliction and to deliver sustainable urban development. Alison also drives delivery of the Council's pioneering Rightsizing programme, aimed at providing best quality and affordable housing for older persons, delivering this programme in collaboration with the private and AHB sectors.

DAVE DINNIGAN



Dave Dinnigan has been Director of Housing Delivery in Dublin City Council since 2020 and also has extensive experience across various departments including Area Management, HR and Engineering. Dublin City Council has the largest social and affordable pipeline and delivery targets in the country and, in his current role, Dave has responsibility for all delivery strands which includes the affordable housing function.

He has worked on housing and social regeneration schemes in Ballymun and on community integration projects on the north side of the city. He has experience of developing mixed tenure, brownfield sites with both public and private sector partnerships for all tenures including social, private, affordable purchase and cost rental schemes. Dave is a graduate of UCD.



MARTIN COLREAVY



Martin Colreavy leads the Strategic Delivery & Urban Advisory Unit at the DHLGH whose core priorities focus on the implementation of Housing Affordability via capital programmes such as the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF), Cost Rental Equity Loan (CREL) while enabling Housing for All Actions such as the Croí Cónaithe Cities Scheme and the Land Development Agency delivery programmes. For 2024, his unit is responsible for developing a revised Affordable Housing Strategy following a review of the National Planning Framework.

From 2018 – 2021, Martin was a member of the senior management team in the Planning and Urban Policy Division of DHLGH, with responsibility for EU/Urban Policy and Regeneration including advisory to the €2 billion capital investment programme under the National Development Plan (Urban Regeneration and Development Fund) and the new Towns Centre First Programme.

From 2008 – 2018 he was the Chief Architectural Advisor/Principal Officer in the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and head of business for Built Heritage, Architectural Policy and Strategic Infrastructure.

LAURA BEHAN



Laura is currently the Head of the Affordable Housing – Local Authority and Land Development Agency Delivery Unit in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. She has worked across a range of Government departments, including the Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Environment and Local Government and the Department of Transport.



JAMES O'HALLORAN



James has over 25 years' experience in the delivery of social housing projects. He currently holds the position of Head of New Business with Clúid Housing, tasked with the continuous enhancement of the pipeline of new business opportunities.

He joined Clúid in 2007 as a Development Manager. Prior to joining Clúid, James worked in the private sector for eight years delivering residential and commercial schemes. He is a member of the Senior Management Team within the Commercial Development Department and is involved in the day-to-day tasks on all aspects of project delivery. He is also a member of the Performance Leadership Team within Clúid. Known for his composure and practical approach to resolving issues, as noted by his team, he always instils confidence when working with stakeholders.

James holds an MSc Degree in Property Valuation & Estate Management and National a Diploma and Certificate in Construction. He is currently completing a Chartership in the area of Planning & Development.

MICHELLE ROBINSON



Michelle Robinson is Director of Services Housing Operations and Community Services at Dublin City Council. She has responsibility for the delivery of Dublin City Council's Affordable Housing programme. She has previous experience in the delivery of Social Housing, in Human Resources and delivery of shared services for local government.

DAVID SILKE



David is the Director of Insights and Operations at The Housing Agency. The Agency is a government body working with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) in the delivery of housing and housing services.

David previously worked in several state bodies in research and policy roles, including: the Centre for Housing Research, the National Economic and Social Forum, the Combat Poverty Agency, and the Department of Social Security (UK).

David's primary degree is in Social Science from University College Dublin, and he received his master's degree from the London School of Economics. He is committed to lifelong learning and has Professional Diplomas in Governance, Business Finance, Strategy and Innovation, and Executive Coaching. He is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing.



JOHN-MARK MCCAFFERTY



John-Mark McCafferty is CEO with Threshold, the national housing charity, whose aim is to advise tenants and prevent homelessness through tenancy protection and advocacy. He took up this position in January 2017. For over 25 years, John-Mark has worked on social justice issues in Ireland and Scotland. Prior to Threshold, he was Head of Social Justice and Policy with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and was on the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) in the mid-2000s. A former Board member of both Clúid Housing and One Family, he was also a member of the recent Commission on Tax and Welfare and on the rental sub-committee under the auspices of the Housing Commission. He is a Geography graduate from Glasgow University and holds a Masters in Development Studies from UCD.

CIARÁN HAYES



Ciarán Hayes is the Principal of Ciarán Hayes Consultancy Ltd., a consultancy established following his retirement as Chief Executive of Sligo County Council in 2021 after a 42-year career across five local authorities. Having completed his public sector career, he undertook a two-year Fellowship programme at Harvard University researching sustainability, climate action and the circular economy. He is a Board member of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) and has a BA Degree in Public Management and H. Dip in Computer Studies. He led the local government response to climate change and the establishment of the Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO). In his private capacity, he advises senior management and climate action teams throughout the public sector on strategies to address the climate challenges.

LYNN MCMAHON



Lynn McMahon is an architect with over eight years' experience working on housing and master planning projects at Maccreanor Lavington, London. She graduated in 2009 and has previously worked at Heneghen Peng Architects, Dublin, Limerick City and County Council and O'Briain Beary Architects, Dublin. She is currently working as Sustainable Design Co-ordinator at the Land Development Agency and is undertaking an Msc in Sustainability and Adaptation at the Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales.



JACKIE FINNEY



Jackie Finney is Acting Director of Services with Westmeath County Council with responsibility for Housing, Community Development, Corporate Performance & Development including HR, ICT and Culture.

She has worked in the local authority sector for 20 years and has worked in a variety of sections including Community & Enterprise, Economic Development, Housing and Planning with Offaly County Council. More recently she was District Manager for the Municipal District of Athlone-Moate with Westmeath County Council. She has an MSc in Food Business & Development from University College Cork and an Advanced University Diploma in Export Marketing and French. Prior to joining the local authority sector she worked in overseas development and international logistics.

