

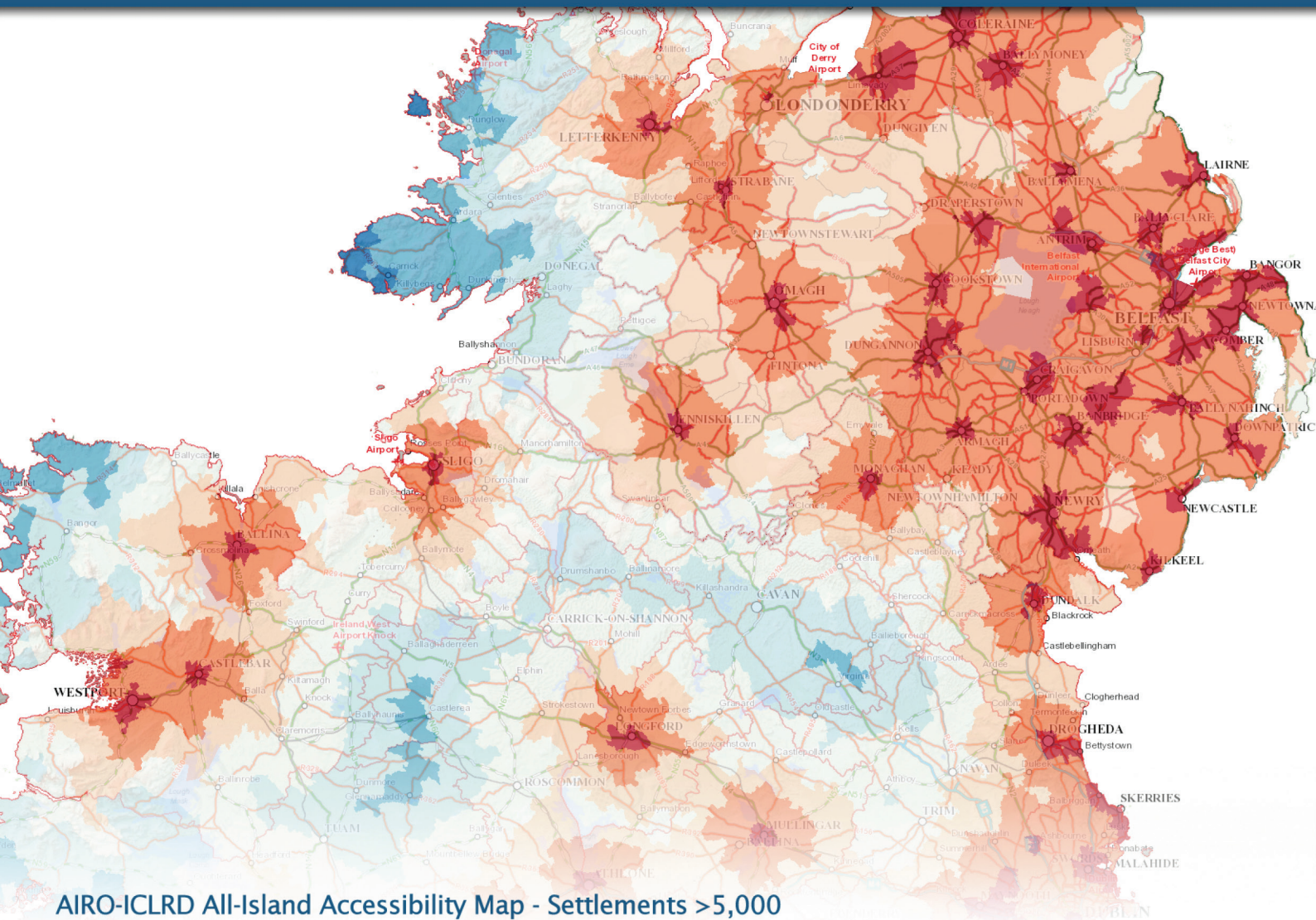
Eighth Annual ICLRD Conference

Thursday, 7th February 2013
Canal Court Hotel, Newry



Cooperating Across Boundaries:

Resilience, Imagination, Vision... and Information



AIRO-ICLRD All-Island Accessibility Map - Settlements >5,000

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PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY

08.45 **Registration & Tea/Coffee**

09.30 **Welcome**

Mr. John Driscoll, Director, International Centre for Local and Regional Development & Dr. Tim O'Connor, Chairman, International Centre for Local and Regional Development

Session 1: New Thinking and Ongoing Challenges in Planning for Places and Communities

09.45 **Welcome by Chair**

Ms. Jenny Pyper, Deputy Secretary, Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland

09.55 **The Development Paradox in the Divided City: Imagining a New Model of Spatial Planning**

Prof. Frank Gaffikin, The Institute of Spatial and Environmental Planning, Queens University Belfast

10.20 **Neighbourhood Regeneration in Limerick, Dublin and Elsewhere: The Importance of Active Leadership**

Mr. John Fitzgerald, Chairman, Limerick Regeneration Agencies

10.40 **The Role of Planning in Creating Resilient Places and Communities**

Prof. Deborah Peel, Professor of Planning Research & Scholarship, University of Ulster

11.00 **Questions & Answers**

11.20 **Refreshments**

Session 2: The Shared Services Agenda – Cooperating Across Boundaries

11.45 **Welcome by Chair**

Mr. Niall Cussen, Planning and Housing Division, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Ireland

11.55 **Joining-up to Deliver Better Services and Cut Costs - Different Models of Shared services: Experiences from English Councils**

Ms. Siobhan Coughlan, Programme Manager – Productivity, Local Government Association

12.15 **Shared Services Through Inter-Municipal Cooperation**

Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe, Department of Geography, Mary Immaculate College & University of Limerick

12.35 **Questions & Answers**

13.00 **Lunch**

Followed by launch of Borderlands: The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

Session 3: Open Forum - Advocating Strategic Agendas and Pathways to Decision-Making

Acknowledging that inter-municipal and cross-jurisdictional cooperation is an important factor contributing to innovation and sustainable development, an open forum discussion on

- *models of collaborative working*
- *locally owned – centrally supported cooperation*
- *the role of evidence-based planning*
- *effective and efficient service delivery*
- *building capacity for new responsibilities.*

14.30 **Welcome by Chair**

Mr. Aidan Gough, Strategy and Policy Director, InterTradeIreland

Panel:

- Mr. Seamus Neely, County Manager, Donegal County Council
- Mr. John Briggs, Chief Executive, Armagh City & District Council
- Mr. Ciarán Cuffe, Planner and Lecturer, Dublin Institute of Technology (and Former Government Minister)
- Prof. Rob Kitchin, Director, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), NUI Maynooth
- Ms. Mary Bunting, Former Northern Joint Secretary, North South Ministerial Council

16.30 **End Conference**

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS



John Driscoll is the founding Director of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD), a North-South-U.S. partnership among universities and research centres that promotes inter-regional cooperation, sustainable spatial planning and assists local governments and communities to translate policy

into 'on-the-ground' action. He is a Vice-President of the Institute for International Urban Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is engaged in research, teaching and consultancy activities that focus on regional and city development strategies. From 1989 to 2005, he was a Senior Research Associate and Lecturer in Urban Planning at the Center for Urban Development Studies, Harvard Graduate School of Design. He is currently a Research Fellow at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University.

Tim O'Connor runs his own advisory business, providing strategic counsel and support to companies and organisations

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operating internationally. Tim established his business in 2010, following a 37-year career in Ireland's Public Service. Most of this was spent in the Irish Diplomatic Service, at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). During his almost 30 years at DFA, Tim worked primarily on the Northern Ireland issue and was part of the Irish Government back-room

Team for the negotiations that led to the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement of 1998. Subsequently, he led the DFA's team involved in the setting up of the new cross-border structures established by the Agreement, and was the first Southern Joint Secretary of the North South Ministerial Council, based in Armagh (1999-2005). Tim's diplomatic postings included the Embassies of Ireland in Bonn, Germany and Washington DC. He was Consul General of Ireland in New York from 2005-07. His final posting in the public service was as Secretary General to President McAleese from 2007-10. Tim is also involved in several voluntary positions, including Chairman of the Advisory Board of The Gathering, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Clinton Institute for American Studies at University College Dublin, and Chairman of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development. He is also on the Board of Third Age, and on the Corporate Engagement Team of Derry/Londonderry U.K. City of Culture. Tim has Honorary Doctorates from NUI Maynooth, the University of Ulster and Quinnipiac University (Connecticut, USA).



Jenny Pyper is Deputy Secretary in the Department for Social Development; with the overall objective of the Urban Regeneration and Community Development Group which she heads being "bringing divided communities together by creating urban centres which are sustainable, welcoming and accessible to live, work

and relax in peace". A career civil servant, she has had responsibility for a number of economic development policy and operational areas over the past 25 years, including skills and training, local enterprise, and innovation. Jenny was appointed to the Senior Civil Service in 2004 as Director of Energy Policy in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. In 2010, she was appointed Director of Regional Planning and Transportation in the Department for Regional Development, where her role included responsibility for both a revised *Regional Development Strategy* (RDS) and *Regional Transportation Strategy* for Northern Ireland.



Frank Gaffiken is Professor in Spatial Planning at Queens University Belfast. Prior to his appointment at Queen's in 2002, he worked for 18 years at the University of Ulster, during which he was Co-Director of the Urban Institute. Before that, he occupied other posts such as Research Economist in Birmingham; a community educationalist in

an action-research project at Queen's University; and lecturer in further and higher education. Alongside his extensive experience with the community / voluntary sector, Frank has been a long-standing special adviser for government on

urban regeneration; city visioning; and regional and metropolitan planning.



John Fitzgerald is Chairman of An Post and the National Transport Authority. From 2007 to 2012, he was Chairman of the Limerick Regeneration Agencies as a result of the recommendations contained within his report to Government on the problems of social exclusion in Limerick City. Prior to this, John had an extensive career in

local government; Finance Manager with Cork City Council, Dublin City Treasurer and Assistant City and County Manager immediately prior to the reorganisation of Local Government in Dublin in 1991. He was one of the three Managers appointed to set up the three new Dublin Counties – Fingal, South Dublin and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown - and became the first County Manager of South Dublin County Council. John was appointed Dublin City Manager in 1996 and stepped down from that position in 2006 on completion of a ten year contract. In 2006, he was appointed Chairman of the newly formed Grangegorman Development Agency which was established by Government to provide a campus for D.I.T. and it's 20,000 students.



Deborah Peel is professor of Planning Research and Scholarship in the School of the Built Environment, University of Ulster. A social scientist, her research focuses on aspects of governance, the reform and modernisation of statutory land-use planning, public engagement and community planning. She is *Editor of the*

Journal for Education in the Built Environment.



Niall Cussen is a Senior Adviser at the Planning and Housing Division of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. A key member of the Division's senior management team over the past decade, Niall has responsibility for progressing a wide range of regulatory, policy and service delivery

matters including: the Government's action programme on unfinished housing developments, including the Public Safety Initiative; the Department's new planning information web browser service, www.myplan.ie; national and regional policy implementation through the *National Spatial Strategy* and *Regional Planning Guidelines*, as well as other thematic policies. Niall works through an extensive network of contacts within the Department and bodies under its aegis, other Government Departments and Agencies, Local Authorities, regional bodies as well as the private sector and non-governmental organisations. Niall is a town planner by profession and, for almost 20 years, he has worked in a broad range of urban, rural, national and local contexts in both policy-making and service delivery contexts and at both local and national levels. He is a former President of the Irish Planning Institute, giving him a unique insight into the Irish public administration systems.

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Siobhan Coughlan is Programme Manager-Productivity at the Local Government Association where she leads on the transformation of public services. This entails working with councils and central government to help ensure that local government is engaged in shaping how services are designed so these better meet

the needs of different customer groups and communities. She also manages the Customer-Led Transformation Programme which supports councils in the use of various techniques to better understand and engage with their customer. Siobhán set up and is responsible for the work programme of the Local Government Delivery Council; a body of senior council, government and voluntary sector representatives established to help improve how local and central government can work together more effectively on the service transformation agenda. Siobhán was a local government councillor in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham from 1998 to 2006, where she was the Lead Member responsible for the Customer First Programme (Customer Services Programme). She chaired the IT Strategic Partnership Board with the Council's IT Partner, and Customer First Board which developed and monitored the customer service work programme.



Dr Brendan O'Keeffe lectures in the Department of Geography, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. His specialist areas include governance, and regional and local development; with his current research endeavours focusing on cross-border collaboration, planning and rural development. He is an associate of

the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), NUI Maynooth and the International Centre for Regional and Local Development (ICLRD). On behalf of ICLR, he has undertaken research on local government collaboration and shared services in Spain. He has also been involved in inter-territorial projects with rural development organisations in a number of other countries, and is well-positioned to undertake an informed comparative analysis of various approaches to local development and public service delivery.



Aidan Gough is Strategy and Policy Director with InterTradeIreland. In this role, Aidan advises on collaborative strategy, policy and initiatives to help InterTradeIreland in boosting North-South economic cooperation to the mutual benefit of both economies on the island of Ireland. Aidan leads InterTradeIreland's policy

and research team to identify areas where joint Government intervention can help to create an environment where it is easier to do business and increase the competitiveness of individual businesses – and the island – in the global economy. Aidan is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast, with an MBA and MSc in Economics. Prior to joining InterTradeIreland in 2000, Aidan was Director of the Northern Ireland Economic Council.



Seamus Neely is the County Manager of Donegal County Council. Seamus started his public service career with Donegal County Council before moving to various roles in Cavan and Monaghan Urban District Councils followed by ten years at Cavan County Council. He returned to Donegal County Council in late 2008 as a Director

of Service with responsibility for the Water, Environment and Emergency Services. He took up the post of Donegal County Manager in July 2010. Seamus has a keen interest in the development role of Local Government and, in particular, the value of local and regional collaboration to ensure the best use of natural resources, unique selling points, and the promotion of micro enterprise. Seamus holds an honours degree in Business Studies from University of Ulster and an MBA from Dublin City University. He is currently a member of the Donegal County Development Board and is Chairman of the Donegal County Enterprise Board.



John Briggs is Chief Executive of Armagh City and District Council. Since taking up this position in 2008, his priorities have included City Centre regeneration, tourism and rural development projects. John started his career in local government as an Environmental Health Officer, and in 1991 he became Director of Environmental Services

with Armagh City and District Council. John has developed substantial experience in waste management, health and well-being issues and sustainable development.



Ciarán Cuffe lectures in planning in the Department of Environment and Planning at Dublin Institute of Technology (D.I.T.). Ciarán holds degrees in architecture and town planning from University College Dublin. He was a City Councillor for Dublin's South Inner City from 1991 to 2002, and a T.D. for Dún Laoghaire from 2002 to 2011.

He was Minister of State with responsibility for Planning and Climate Change in 2010-11. While in office he published the Climate Change Response Bill and enacted the Planning and Development Act 2010.



Rob Kitchin is Director of the National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth; and Chair of the Management Board of the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP) that brings together academics from 19 disciplines in 9 institutions into shared research and graduate education

programmes. He has undertaken a range of research for government departments, semi-state agencies, local authorities and community and voluntary groups. To date, he has published 18 books, edited the 12 volume *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, and written over 100 articles and book chapters. He is an editor of the international

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journal, *Progress in Human Geography*. He is a contributor to the blog, *Ireland After NAMA*. Rob has just been awarded a prestigious five year European Research Council (ERC) award to analyse how software and technology influences how we live, work and operate in cities.



Mary Bunting is a former Deputy Secretary in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). Prior to her recent retirement she was, for over six years, Joint Secretary (North) of the North South Ministerial Council. Prior to that, she was Director Equality in OFMDFM.

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

Thank you for joining us for the Eighth Annual ICLRD Conference at the Canal Court Hotel in Newry, County Down. Our annual conferences bring together policy- and decision-makers, practitioners and academics and are recognised for their thought-provoking speakers, and as the leading annual forum for those interested in inter-jurisdictional cooperation. These gatherings play an important role in shaping collaboration on the island of Ireland in the areas of spatial planning and local and regional development.

As local government reform continues to emerge in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland there are new challenges and opportunities in how local authorities, communities and central government policy-makers bring together different disciplines to ensure clear connections are made between community, work and place. This Conference considers what type of cooperative models we should be pursuing in the context of ongoing local government reform, continued austerity, the increasing availability of data, and the unceasing need for strategic development.

The Conference is organised around three themed sessions. The first session explores the role of planning and regeneration in creating resilient places and connected communities. The second session considers how to encourage and support shared opportunities in the provision of services and promotion of strategic cooperation. In the third and final session, presenters and participants will have a chance to debate the extent to which inter-municipal and cross-jurisdictional cooperation is an important factor in contributing to innovation and sustainable development; with specific consideration being given to the themes of models of collaborative working and service delivery, evidence-based planning, and building capacity for new responsibilities.

WHO ARE WE?

The International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) is a North-South-U.S. partnership to explore and expand the contribution that spatial planning and development of physical, social and economic infrastructure can make to peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland, and elsewhere. The

ICLRD has developed out of a unique collaboration between academics and spatial planning specialists from the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at the National University of Ireland Maynooth, the School of the Built Environment at the University of Ulster, the Centre for Cross Border Studies in Armagh, and the Institute for International Urban Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The ICLRD is pleased to be working with faculty and researchers from: the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University; Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick; and Queens University Belfast. Further information is available at www.iclrd.org.

As of 1 February 2013, the ICLRD will begin to roll-out a series of actions as part of CroSPlaN II - the Cross-Border Spatial Planning and Training Network. An EU INTERREG IVA-funded programme administered by the Special EU Programmes Body, this body of work aims to strengthen the policy and operational linkages between central and local policy-makers and among officials and practitioners involved in spatial planning in the Irish border region. In addition to its conference and workshop series, there are three inter-linked components to CroSPlaN II, namely: considering the opportunities for a shared services agenda across local government, by examining the opportunities and operational frameworks for joint initiatives that improve the delivery of public services; to develop and deliver executive training and animation programmes for cross-border councils – building on the successful ICLRD model developed during CroSPlaN I to link training and animation; and, in support of evidence-based planning, to map the compatible 2011 Census data from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and develop an updated Deprivation Index in an on-line, user-friendly format to support collaboration among central government departments across the island. CroSPlaN II is one of a series of initiatives within INICCO II - the Ireland/Northern Ireland Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory - managed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Further information is available at www.crossborder.ie.

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CONTACTS

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