



ICLRD 20th Anniversary Conference

PLANNING THE FUTURE: PEOPLE, PLACE, PROCESS, POSSIBILITIES – THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS

The Future of Spatial Planning on the Island of Ireland

Ballymascanlan Hotel, Dundalk

Thursday, 21st May 2026

09.15 Registration

Light Refreshments – Tea/Coffee, Scones

10.00 Opening Remarks

Ms. Mary MacIntyre OBE, Chair, ICLR D

10.10 Welcome Address

Ms. Liz Kimmins, MLA, Minister for Infrastructure, Department for Infrastructure

10.30 Keynote Address: Shaping the Future of Belfast’s Waterfront: People, Place, Process, Possibilities – and the Challenges!

Ms. Kerrie Sweeney MBE, Chief Executive Officer, Maritime Belfast Trust

Session 1: Planning for an Integrated Approach to Strategic Spatial Planning: The Building Blocks

Chair: Ms. Mary MacIntyre OBE, Chair, ICLR D Executive Board

10.50	Welcome / Session Overview Ms. Mary MacIntyre
11.00	Keynote Address: Planning reform in the wider context of competitiveness, cohesion and collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Claragh Mulhern, Chief Planner – Ireland, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage • Ms. Rosemary Daly, Chief Planner & Director of Regional Planning Governance and Legislation, Department for Infrastructure
11.40	Reflections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Caroline Creamer, Director, ICLR D & Research Fellow, Maynooth University • Prof. Niamh Moore-Cherry, Dean of Social Sciences and College Principal. College of Social Sciences and Law, UCD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Diarmaid Lawlor, Associate Director, Scottish Futures Trust
12.10	Q&A

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Session 2: Delivering the Strategic Infrastructure for the 21st Century – What’s Needed? When? How?

Chair: Mr. Pádraig Maguire, Programme Manager - Housing Activation Office, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

13.30	Welcome/Session Overview Mr. Pádraig Maguire
13.35	Keynote Address: Planning, investing and delivering the infrastructure of a modern, sustainable and resilient society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Karen Kenny, Senior Advisor – Planning, Housing Activation Office. Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage • Mr. James Redmond, Head of Transport Planning and Modelling, Department for Infrastructure
14.05	Reflection Ms. Caitriona Mullan, Senior Research Associate, ICLRD & Cross-Border Expert - EU Affairs, Regional Development, Local Government, Health & Social Care, Communities
14.15	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Karen Kenny, Senior Advisor – Planning, Housing Activation Office. Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage • Mr. James Redmond, Head of Transport Planning and Modelling, Department for Infrastructure • Ms. Caitriona Mullan, Senior Research Associate, ICLRD & Cross-Border Expert - EU Affairs, Regional Development, Local Government, Health & Social Care, Communities

14.40 Refreshments

15.00 Session 3: Planning for Net Zero: Taking a Place-Based Approach

Chair: Prof. Peter Roberts OBE, Professor Emeritus, University of Leeds & Former Chair, Northern Ireland Housing Executive

15.00	Welcome / Session Overview Prof. Peter Roberts
15.05	Keynote Address: Moving towards net zero: Catalysing impactful, place-based initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Claire Cockerill, Climate Change, Science and Innovation Group, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs • Ms. Lucy Pyne, Policy Analyst/Economist in Climate Division, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
15.35	Reflections

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Brendan O’Keeffe, Independent Consultant & Senior Research Associate, ICLRD• Prof. Frances Fahy, Director – Ryan Institute, University of Galway• Mr. Kevin Hegarty, Delivery Director - Investment Strategy Northern Ireland, Strategic Investment Board Northern Ireland
16.05	Q&A

16.20 Closing Remarks – ICLRD

16.30 Conference Close