

IPI

ANNUAL PLANNING CONFERENCE

2024

*Planning for smart,
sustainable and
competitive regions
and cities*



**IRISH PLANNING
INSTITUTE**

Institiúid Pleanála Na hÉireann



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Waterford
City & County Council
Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Phort Láirge

Ireland
FuturaEnergy

Theatre Royal and Tower
Hotel, Waterford City

Thursday 18 & Friday 19 April
Welcome Reception 17 April

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REGISTRATION

To book: To book your place you can email info@ipi.ie or call +353 (0)1-8788630.

Bookings are subject to the Institute's terms and conditions available at www.ipi.ie.

IN PERSON

Member	€390
Non-Member	€625
Councillor/RTPI Member	€505

ONLINE

Member	€200
Non-Member	€250
Councillor/RTPI Member	€225

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ITINERARY

Wednesday 17th April 2024 – Waterford City Hall	
14:00	SENIOR PLANNERS AND PROFESSIONALS FORUM (invitation only) <i>Contact us for further information</i>
18:30 to 19:30	WELCOME RECEPTION ✦ Gavin Lawlor MIPI, President Irish Planning Institute ✦ Cllr. Joe Conway, Mayor of the City and County of Waterford <i>Garden Room, Waterford City Hall, access through the Medieval Museum, Cathedral Square, Viking Triangle, Waterford, X91 K10E</i>

Scan here for
delegate list
Password: apc24



Thursday 18th April 2024 – Theatre Royal	
08:30	REGISTRATION <i>Vestibule, Waterford City Hall</i> <i>Tea/Coffee will be available in the Garden Room following registration</i>
09:30 - 11:00 SESSION 1	WELCOME, POLICY UPDATE AND OPENING KEYNOTE <i>Theatre Royal</i> ✦ MC: Sarah Carey ✦ Welcome - Cllr. Joe Conway, Mayor of the City and County of Waterford ✦ President's Welcome - Gavin Lawlor MIPI ✦ Policy Update - Claragh Mulhern MIPI, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage ✦ Keynote - Peter Mullan, An Bord Pleanála ✦ Q&A
11:00 - 11:30	REFRESHMENT AND NETWORKING BREAK <i>Garden Room</i> <i>This is also an opportunity to visit our exhibitors</i>
11:30 - 13:00 SESSION 2	DELIVERING COMPETITIVE REGIONS AND CITIES <i>Theatre Royal</i> ✦ Waterford City and County Council: Projects and Enablers - Michael Walsh, Waterford City and County Council ✦ Enabling Development – David Conway, Limerick 2030 ✦ Towards Balanced Regional Attractiveness – Michael Flood, OECD ✦ Q&A
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH <i>Networking lunch in the Seomra Mór</i> <i>This is also an opportunity to visit our exhibitors</i>
14:00 - 15:45 SESSION 3	DELIVERING INNOVATIVE AND SMART REGIONS AND CITIES <i>Theatre Royal</i> ✦ An Innovative and Smart Southern Region - Kevin Lynch MIPI, Southern Regional Assembly ✦ Digital Planning Innovations from the UK Government - Adele Maher, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities ✦ Creating an Innovation Ecosystems: the Cork Smart Gateway – Seán Lotty, Cork Smart Gateway ✦ Q&A
19:00	RECEPTION AND GALA DINNER <i>Ardmore Suite, Tower Hotel</i>

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Friday 19th April 2024 – Theatre Royal

09:30 - 11:00
SESSION 4

DELIVERING A RESPONSIVE, RESOURCED PLANNING SYSTEM

Theatre Royal

- ◆ Day 2 welcome
- ◆ Panel discussion on resourcing –
 - Niall Cussen FIPI, Planning Regulator
 - Michael Lynch MIPI, Cork County Council
 - Adele Maher, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
 - Mary Hughes MIPI, HRA Planning
 - Sarah Miley, DFHERIS

11:00 - 11:30

REFRESHMENT AND NETWORKING BREAK

Garden Room

This is also an opportunity to visit our exhibitors

11:30 - 13:00
SESSION 5

DELIVERING SUSTAINABILITY

Theatre Royal

- ◆ Research and Innovation in Sustainable Construction and Built Environment Technology - Colm McHugh, Construct Innovate
- ◆ Sustainable Construction - Stephen O'Shea, Cairn
- ◆ Construction and Planning and the Circular Economy – David Tobin, Beauparc
- ◆ Q&A

13:00 - 14:00

LUNCH

Networking lunch in the Seomra Mór

This is also an opportunity to visit our exhibitors

14:00 - 16:00

TOURS

Walking tours of the City Centre, depart in front of the Theatre Royal. Led by Sean Dobbs, Senior Engineer (Waterford North Quays-URDF 1); Morris Conway, Senior Architect (Urban Regeneration Projects-URDF 2); David Quinn, Senior Executive Planner (Vacancy and Dereliction-URDF 3)

OUR SPONSORS

IRISH PLANNING INSTITUTE
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Waterford City & County Council

Waterford City and County Council are our lead sponsors this year. They are the authority responsible for local government administration in the City and County of Waterford.



FuturEnergy Ireland is a leading Irish wind developer established in 2021 as a stand-alone joint venture between Coillte and the ESB. The company was formed with an aim to maximise the potential of Ireland's unique wind and land resources and accelerate Ireland's transformation to a low carbon energy economy.

FuturEnergy Ireland is targeting the delivery of 1GW of renewable energy by 2030 through the development of high quality onshore wind projects of scale and supportive battery storage facilities. These projects would power an estimated 730,000 homes annually, make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment to produce 80% of electricity from renewable sources by the end of this decade, and deliver material emissions reductions.

Further details on FuturEnergy Ireland and its advanced development stage portfolio are available via the company website www.futureenergyireland.ie

OUR SPEAKERS

Sarah Carey is a well known columnist and broadcaster. She's written for major broadsheets from The Irish Times to The Daily Telegraph on everything from economics to politics, technology and media and is a highly experienced radio and television presenter.

Councillor Joe Conway is the current Mayor of Waterford City and County. Born in County Longford, he is an independent councillor having been elected to Tramore Town Council in 2004 to Waterford County Council in 2009 and to the amalgamated City and County Council in 2014 and again in 2019, representing the Tramore/Waterford City west EA. He currently serves on the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Gavin Lawlor MIPI is President of the Irish Planning Institute. He has worked in planning for almost 30 years and is a Director at Tom Phillips + Associates. Gavin's expertise covers a wide range of areas and he has extensive knowledge across the industrial, energy and waste management sectors. He obtained a Masters in Regional and Urban Planning from UCD having graduated with a Bachelors degree in Social Science at the Belfield Campus.

Claragh Mulhern MIPI is the Acting Chief Planner/Principal Adviser in the Planning Division at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, where she has worked since 2019. Previously Claragh worked in the local government sector in the U.K. for 15 years, including 11 years working for Westminster City Council.

In her current role, Claragh has responsibility for the preparation of national planning policy including the National Planning Framework and the development of related planning policy measures, including oversight of the

implementation of policy through the regional strategies and local authority development plans through liaison with the Office of the Planning Regulator and the development of land activation and active land management measures.

Claragh graduated with a Masters Degree in Regional and Urban Planning from University College Dublin in 2003 and is a Member of the Irish Planning Institute.

Peter Mullan was appointed Chairperson of An Bord Pleanála, on 23rd January 2024. He was first appointed as a temporary Board member in January 2023 and was appointed to the role of interim chairperson in September 2023.

A solicitor by profession he joined the public service in 2012 following almost 20 years in private practice as a solicitor specialising in criminal law and litigation.

Peter joined An Bord Pleanála from the Courts Service where he was an Assistant Secretary, having responsibility for Circuit and District Courts Operations since 2018.

Prior to that, he was Assistant Secretary in the Department of Justice and Equality for a number of years and Chief Prosecution Solicitor in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, his first role in the Public Service.

Michael Walsh is Chief Executive of Waterford City and County Council. The Chief Executive's background is one of engineering, graduating from UCC in 1983 with a Civil Engineering degree. He started his career in Local Government with Waterford County Council in 1983 and worked between there and Limerick City Council for a number of years at various engineering posts until 2000 when he was appointed as Senior Executive Engineer in the former Waterford City Council.



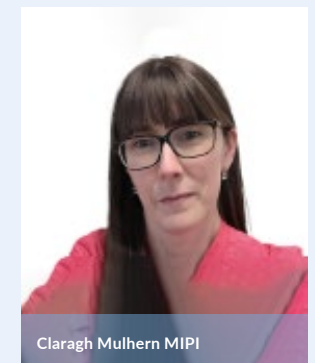
Sarah Carey



Councillor Joe Conway



Gavin Lawlor MIPI



Claragh Mulhern MIPI



Michael Walsh



Peter Mullan

OUR SPEAKERS



David Conway



Michael Flood



Kevin Lynch MIPI



Sean Lotty



Kieran O'Donnell TD



Adele Maher

From there he progressed to the post of Director of Services and became Waterford City Manager in November 2007. In June 2014, Michael was appointed Chief Executive of the newly amalgamated Waterford City & County Council.

David Conway is Chief Executive Officer of Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC and delivering the single largest programme of investment in real estate outside Dublin for commercial, public and residential property. Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC is a unique “special purpose vehicle” established by Limerick City and County Council to undertake this scale of development for the city of Limerick and the region.

A Limerick native, he is former CEO of the National Sports Campus Development Authority responsible for the delivery of Ireland National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, both developing and operating the National Sports Campus, the National Aquatic Centre, and National Indoor Arena. David also sits on the Board of Grangegorman Development Agency responsible for a new urban quarter in Dublin's inner city. One of David's proudest achievements is his involvement in delivering the National Aquatic Centre, on time for the Special Olympics World Summer Game in 2003, volunteering as its venue manager and establishing the Project Office for the games.

Michael Flood is a Policy Analyst at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities where he works on regional development, with a particular focus on regional attractiveness towards investors and talent, regional well-being, multi-level governance and place-based policies. Being from Atlantic Canada, a region which saw its economy stagnate and population

decline up until recently, yet one celebrated for its welcoming people and quality of life, he believes strongly in bottom-up local and regional approaches to economic development and governance.

Prior to the OECD, Michael worked as a project manager and engagement practitioner with Engage Nova Scotia, a civil society organisation which leads the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Initiative.

Michael holds a Bachelor's in Political Science, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) from the University of British Columbia in addition to a Master's in European Affairs (MEA) from SciencesPo Paris and a Master's in Public Policy (MPP) from the National University of Singapore.

Kevin Lynch MIPI is Assistant Director/ Senior Planner with the Southern Regional Assembly with responsibility for the development and implementation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). Kevin has over 30 years' experience in planning ranging from national and regional planning in Ireland and Scotland, development management, policy development and heritage with Cork City, Cork County, Limerick, Donegal & Westmeath County Councils and dealing with planning appeals across Ireland with An Bord Pleanála. He has extensive experience in European Projects and policy implementation.

Adele Maher is a town planner and urbanist. She is the current head of planning transformation for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Adele was previously the head of spatial framework for the Oxford and Cambridge Arc, and strategic planning manager at London

OUR SPEAKERS

Borough of Tower Hamlets, and numerous Local Authority planning roles.

She holds a MSc Town and Country Planning from Queens University Belfast and an MA Urban Design from the University of Westminster.

Sean Lotty is the Cork Smart Gateway Coordinator. The Cork Smart Gateway is an initiative funded by Cork City Council, Cork County Council and University College Cork. The Cork Smart Gateway is also supported by a wider steering group consisting of The Tyndall National Institute, Nimbus Technology Gateway, Cork Chamber, Tech Industry Alliance and Energy Cork.

The Cork Smart Gateway represents a group of organisations that aim to promote the sustainable development of an innovative ecosystem in Cork to increase economic activity, provide better public services, promote collaboration and, enhance the quality of life for all who live, work, and visit Cork. The Cork Smart Gateway also promotes Cork as a top-class innovative and smart region.

Before taking up the role as the Cork Smart Gateway Coordinator, Sean worked in Cork City Council's Strategic & Economic Development Directorate working cross-functionally between the Local Enterprise Office Cork City and Economic Development. Sean holds a BA in Economics and a MSc in Business Economics, both from University College Cork.

Kieran O'Donnell TD is the Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, appointed in December 2022.

He is the Fine Gael TD for Limerick City Constituency. First elected in May 2007, he was re-elected in 2011 and 2020. He was elected to the Seanad in 2016. Prior to his

entry into national politics, he was elected to Limerick County Council in 2004.

Minister O'Donnell is a Chartered Accountant, with many years of experience with his own practice and is a business studies degree graduate from the University of Limerick (UL).

Mary Hughes MIPI is a Chartered Town Planner with in excess of 25 years' experience. In her early planning career, Mary worked within local government before entering the private sector and working for a multi-disciplinary consultancy specialising in transport and planning.

In 2005, Mary co-founded 'HRA | Planning Chartered Town Planning Consultants', establishing offices in Dublin and Limerick city and providing specialist town planning services nationwide. She has been involved and continues to be involved in many national and regional spatial planning and development projects including the preparation of local government city and county development plans; provision of advice on planning and environmental matters to national government departments and semi state bodies; and provision of planning services to large development companies, regeneration agencies and community interest groups.

Mary was elected to the national Council of the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) in 2010 and served as President of the Institute between 2014 and 2016 and was subsequently nominated by the Institute as a candidate to the 25th Seanad Éireann election. She was appointed by the Minister for the Environment to the Independent Review Group of An Bord Pleanála in 2015.

She is an external member of the Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board, appointed by the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

Sarah Miley is the Principal Officer responsible for Construction and Green Skills in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Sarah's career has largely been spent in the broader education and training field, through national agencies and central Government departments.

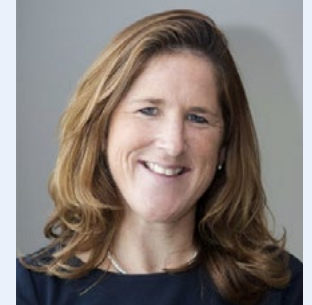
In her role, Sarah is responsible for leading on, and contributing to, the delivery of key whole of Government objectives. These include a skilled workforce required to meet national residential construction and retrofitting targets.

Sarah has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science, Master of Arts (Politics), Master of Arts (Public Management) and a Master of Science in Business (Leadership & Management Practice).

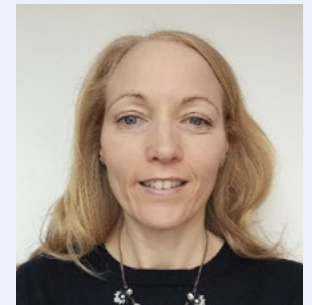
Niall Cussen FIPI is the Chief Executive and Planning Regulator at the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) established by Government in April 2019. The OPR's functions are to oversee the effective delivery of planning services of Ireland's 31 local authorities and An Bord Pleanála, including implementation of national and regional policies and to conduct research and public awareness programmes in relation to planning.

Prior to his appointment Niall was Chief Planner at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government from July 2014 and he worked in the Department from January 2000 prior to that. Prior to joining the Department in 2000, Niall had an extensive planning career working for local authorities in Clare, Meath and Dublin City Council and An Bord Pleanála.

Niall holds qualifications in economics and geography, regional and urban planning and environmental engineering from Maynooth University, University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin respectively and is both a member and a past President of the Irish Planning Institute.



Mary Hughes MIPI



Sarah Miley



Niall Cussen FIPI

OUR SPEAKERS



Colm McHugh

Colm McHugh is Centre Manager of Construct Innovate - Ireland's national research centre for construction technology and innovation.

He is a chartered Mechanical Engineer with over 17 years' national and international experience as an engineering consultant, main contractor, and equipment supplier, has seen the industry from most sides and brings a deep understanding of the needs of stakeholders at all levels.



David Tobin

David Tobin is the Circular Economy and Sustainability Director for Beauparc Utilities. An experienced environmental professional, he is a graduate in Environmental Sciences from both Coventry University and University of Bath, with primary interests in the circular economy, waste recovery and renewable energy. For the past 20 years, David has worked in various environmental management roles in a range of heavy industries.

Since 2006 he has worked almost exclusively with waste, alternative fuels and renewables.

During this time, he has gained extensive experience in the sourcing, planning, licensing, development and use of alternative and waste derived fuels in Ireland. David has been working on renewables, recycling and circular economy projects for Beauparc since mid-2017, and believes that there is huge un-tapped potential for the circular economy in Ireland.

Stephen O'Shea is the Head of Sustainable Construction and Reporting at Cairn Homes. He's always had a keen focus on Sustainability, qualifying as a BER Assessor in 2009, Postgraduate in Building Performance (Energy Efficiency in Design) in 2020, Construction Lifecycle Assessment Specialist, Certified Passive House Designer and HPI Assessor in 2022, now focussing on delivering robust, low-carbon homes in neighbourhoods which prioritise quality of life and biodiversity.



Stephen O'Shea

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