

Scotland Policy Conferences Keynote Seminar

Next steps for housing in Scotland: investment, delivery and meeting housing needs

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 7th December 2017

Venue: Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DW



SCOTLAND POLICY
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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Graham Simpson MSP, Shadow Minister for Housing and Communities, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 9.05 - 9.25 **Latest on development of research being used to inform housing policy**
Professor Kenneth Gibb, Director, CaCHE and Professor in Housing Economics, University of Glasgow
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 10.15 **Delivering new homes - planning, investment and skills**
In light of concerns relating to European funding from sources such as the European Regional Development Fund, what should be the priorities for government action and what lessons can be drawn from commercial investment in Scottish housing that is continuing despite political and economic uncertainty? In addition to investment, such as the Housing Infrastructure Fund, and zoned housing land through increased use of Simplified Planning Zones, what further steps are needed to unlock housing land? What support is needed to mitigate potential implications of increased planning fees on housing delivery? With the Scottish Government investing in less traditional house building methods - such as offsite construction, which sees sections of buildings pre-assembled in a factory - what are the options for stimulating growth of these sectors, given their potential to create jobs and reduce costs? What more needs to be done to ensure the construction industry has the skills and flexibility to respond to changing sector priorities - such as an increased role for offsite construction - and ongoing housing delivery targets? Given concerns over a construction skills shortage following Brexit, what should the industry be putting into place to meet the challenges - including widening routes to employment - and where is support from Government needed?
Karen Hamilton, Partner, Brodies
Stewart Dalgarno, Director of Product Development, Stewart Milne Group
Elaine Scott, Housing Services Manager, The City of Edinburgh Council
John Keenan, Partnerships Manager, CITB Scotland
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 10.45 **Policy for housing in Scotland and next steps for the Planning Bill**
Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing, The Scottish Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Graham Simpson MSP, Shadow Minister for Housing and Communities, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 10.50 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Member, Cross-Party Group on Housing
- 11.20 - 12.05 **Improving housing standards: regulation and safety across tenures**
George Walker, Chair, Scottish Housing Regulator
Sarah Boyack, Head of Public Affairs, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
John Blackwood, Chief Executive, Scottish Association of Landlords
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Responding to local housing needs: access, affordability and design**
What progress is being made in ensuring house builders are designing and building homes that reflect a range of individual needs, for example, the elderly, first time buyers or those with disabilities, and how can policymakers guarantee it is taken into consideration within social housing, the private rented sector and private builds? In addition to schemes such as Help to Buy, what other opportunities exist to support first time buyers to acquire homes that meet their needs in terms of location and design? Given research demonstrating the links between housing and health, what further steps need to be taken to ensure the importance of place and communities is recognised at the early stages of planning?
Pauline Elliott, Head of Planning & Economic Development, South Lanarkshire Council
Fanchea Kelly, Chief Executive, Blackwood Housing Association
Rosemary Brochie, Policy and Research Manager, Shelter Scotland
Carol Anderson, Chair, Council of Mortgage Lenders Scotland and Distribution Director, TSB Scotland
Betty Stevenson, Convenor, Edinburgh Tenants Federation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks**
Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Member, Cross-Party Group on Housing
Roger Greer, Senior Researcher, Scotland Policy Conferences