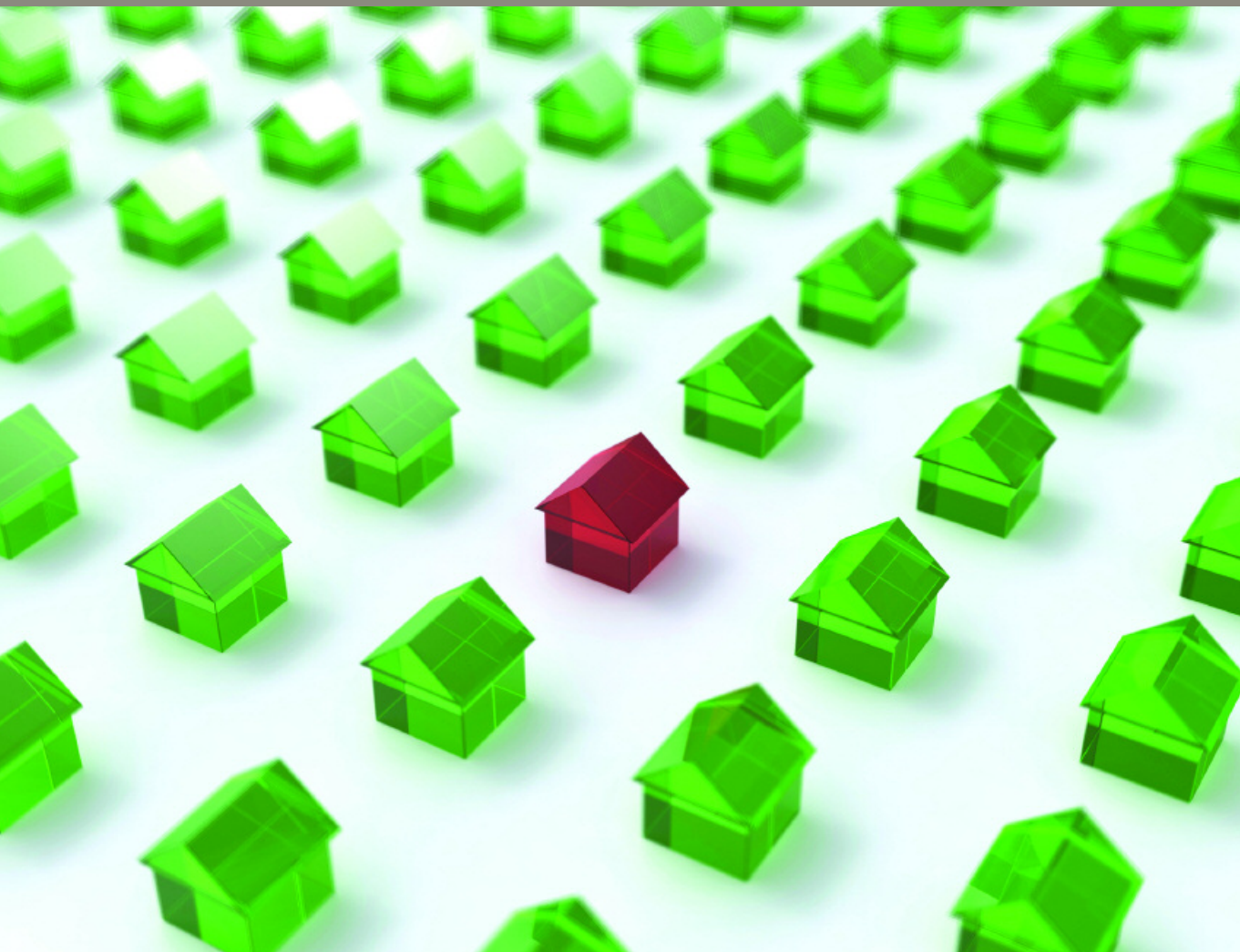


Conference

Exploring  
**the Future of Planning**  
in Northern Ireland



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**agendaNi**

**Thursday 29th November 2007**

**Culloden Hotel • Belfast**

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**CEF**

**Carson  
McDowell**

# Exploring the *Future of Planning* in Northern Ireland

There has for some time been a consensus that the current planning system in Northern Ireland is not working as effectively as it could to the benefit of all those who depend on it. It is expected that a review of the planning system will begin in the autumn, and this conference, which is supported by the Planning Service, is timed to look forward to how any future planning system might be reconfigured and to the major issues for any reform process.

## Looking forward

The objective is to create a genuine in-depth understanding of key issues for the main stakeholders involved in the planning system. The event will be focused on looking forward to what a reconfigured planning system might look like, how it would work, benefits it would deliver etc. There will be a number of speakers from outside Northern Ireland to bring perspectives from other countries, looking to good practice elsewhere.

## Conference programme

The programme has been assembled to include all the key local stakeholders in the planning system, together with a number of external perspectives. We are pleased to have a senior representative of the Department of the Environment, which has responsibility for planning, to deliver the opening address at the conference. This will be followed by an update on planning law by Andrew Ryan from event sponsors Carson McDowell, and the developer perspective presented by John Armstrong of the Construction Employers Federation.

The second morning session will continue on the theme of perspectives on planning system reform, and will include presentations from a number of speakers from outside Northern Ireland. This will include the Chief Planner for England and Wales, Paul Hudson, and Tim Barraclough, who has played a key role in planning modernisation within the Scottish Executive. They will be joined by John Woods from Friends of the Earth, who will highlight the environmental priorities which should be considered in any planning system reform.

After lunch, we are delighted to welcome Dr Oliver Marc Hartwich, from leading think tank Policy Exchange who has been engaged in international research on land-use planning and housing policies and has written a number of high profile publications in this area including *Greener Cities* and *The Best Laid Plans*.



## Discussion forum

Building on the expert presentations and stakeholder views from the morning sessions, the afternoon will also feature a unique round table discussion forum with the main stakeholders in the planning process represented. The discussion will be chaired by David Ferguson, Chief Executive of the Planning Service, and a number of views will be represented on the panel, including those of the business community, the environment / built heritage lobby and those engaged in town planning / urban design.

## Networking opportunity



The conference is structured to provide a high level of interaction between speakers and delegates. There will be plentiful opportunities for questions as well as discussion within both the workshop and plenary sessions. In the breaks and margins of the event there will also be ample scope for informal networking and business development with fellow professionals from across the sector, including those attending the conference from outside Northern Ireland.



# Conference Programme

08.30 Registration & Coffee  
09.00 Chair: **Jim Fitzpatrick**, BBC

## Strategic/Policy Overview

*Opening Address: Planning in Northern Ireland*  
**Senior representative**, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

*Planning Law Update*  
**Andrew Ryan**, CARSON MCDOWELL

*The Construction Industry Perspective on the Planning Process*  
**John Armstrong**, Managing Director, CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYERS FEDERATION

Questions and Answers

10.30 Morning Coffee sponsored by Turley Associates **TURLEYASSOCIATES**

## Perspectives on Planning System Reform

11.00 *Environmental Priorities in Planning*  
**John Woods**, Director, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

*Planning to Deliver Sustainable Development*  
**Paul Hudson**, Chief Planner, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*Lessons from the Reform of Planning in Scotland*  
**Tim Barraclough**, Planning Modernisation and Co-ordination, SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

*Planning in the Republic of Ireland*  
**John O'Connor**, Chairman, AN BORD PLEANALA

Questions and Answers

12.45 Conference Lunch

14.00 *The Best Laid Plans: Planning and Economic Growth*  
**Dr Oliver Marc Hartwich**, Chief Economist, POLICY EXCHANGE THINK-TANK

### Discussion Forum: The Future of Planning



**Chair: David Ferguson**  
Chief Executive  
PLANNING SERVICE



**Hilary McGrady**  
Director  
NATIONAL TRUST



**Nigel Smyth**  
Director  
CBI NORTHERN IRELAND



**Diana Fitzsimons**  
Director  
TURLEY ASSOCIATES

**Kevin MacDonald**  
Chief Policy Advisor  
ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE

16.00 Conference Close

# Speaker Panel



**John Armstrong** is Managing Director of the Construction Employers Federation. Since taking up the post 18 months ago, John has led a call for a fundamental review of the planning system including the publication of the CEF report 'A Review of Planning Processes in Northern Ireland'. John has also been at the forefront in raising standards in the areas of health and safety, procurement, employment and sustainability.



**Tim Barraclough** joined the Scottish Executive in 1999, after working in the UK Department of the Environment and the European Commission. Since 2004 he has headed the Division which develops policy on improving planning in Scotland. He led the team which steered the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 to its successful conclusion, and is now co-ordinating its implementation.



**David Ferguson** is a career civil servant with wide ranging experience of central government administration in Northern Ireland. He joined the Department of Health and Social Services in 1974 and has held a variety of policy and operational posts in a number of Departments over the years since then. He has been a member of what is now the Senior Civil Service since 1993 and he has been Chief Executive of the Planning Service since January 2004.



**Diana Fitzsimons** is Office Director for Turley Associates in Belfast, having joined the firm in 2003 as a qualified planner and chartered surveyor. Her previous role as Principal Commissioner with the Planning Appeals Commission in Northern Ireland involved a senior management role, conducting major planning appeals and development plan enquiries. Diana's experience has given her an understanding of how public sector decision makers interpret and apply planning policy and the law.



**Dr Oliver Marc Hartwich** is Policy Exchange's Chief Economist, having joined the independent think tank in 2005. In this role he oversees the institute's research on economic competitiveness. Previously, he worked in the environment programme for International Policy Network, a London-based think tank. Before that he researched land-use planning and housing policies in the UK, Ireland, Australia, Germany and Switzerland for Policy Exchange, and co-authored four studies on these issues: Unaffordable Housing; Fables and Myths; Bigger Better Faster More; Greener Cities and The Best Laid Plans.



**Paul Hudson** was appointed Chief Planner in the Department of Communities and Local Government in 2006. He was formerly Executive Director: Development and Infrastructure for the South East Development Agency, where he led the Agency's physical development, urban renaissance, housing and transport programmes. Paul began his career with Kent County Council and held a variety of posts in the Planning Department. After a period with the Travers Morgan Consulting Group in Cambridge, in 1991 he became the City Technical Director for Rochester upon Medway City Council before moving in 1998 to become Chief Executive of Locate in Kent.



**Hilary McGrady** was appointed Director of the National Trust for Northern Ireland in August 2005. As Director, Hilary is responsible for the strategic direction, overall management and performance of the NI Region and the furtherance of the Trust's work. Hilary comes to the Trust from the consultancy firm, Locum Destination Consultancy, where she was a director. Locum has been involved in such projects as the Giant's Causeway visitor centre, the New Lanark World Heritage Site and the regeneration of central Salford. Prior to this Hilary was the National Programmes Director for Arts and Business UK and while there was seconded to head up the Belfast City of Culture bid in 2002.



**Andrew Ryan** is a solicitor in the Planning and Environment Team at leading law firm Carson McDowell and advises on a broad range of development-related issues including Environmental Impact Assessments, road schemes, public inquiries, waste management, mineral development, brownfield regeneration and energy projects. He joined Carson McDowell after practising at London firm, CMS Cameron McKenna, where he specialised in environment law. He previously worked in regulatory and enforcement roles for the Environment Agency in England.



**Nigel Smyth** has been Director of CBI Northern Ireland since 1991 with responsibility for preparing papers on a wide range of public policy issues. He has helped develop the CBI into an effective business representative body in Northern Ireland. Nigel is a member of the Economic Development Forum and the IBEC/CBI Joint Business Council. He has been involved in a variety of policy working groups, and has particular interests in economic development, energy, transport, and planning issues.



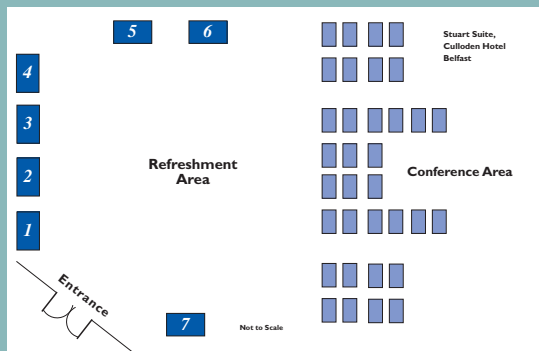
**John Woods** is Director (Northern Ireland) of Friends of the Earth. He and his team have played a leading role in exposing the shortcomings of environmental protection in Northern Ireland. Together with a coalition of other environmental NGOs, Friends of the Earth has persuaded Ministers that environmental governance in Northern Ireland requires fundamental reform.

## Exhibition Opportunities at the Planning Conference



There are a limited number of excellent opportunities to exhibit at the Exploring the Future of Planning conference. The exhibition area is at the rear of the main conference hall where the delegates will assemble and mingle for coffee breaks etc throughout the day. The attendance at the conference includes many senior policy makers and decision-takers, so the opportunity to make an impression is clear. See order form for details or contact Sandra Dane on +44 (0)28 9261 9933

Further exhibition details available at [www.bmfconferences.com](http://www.bmfconferences.com)



# Booking Form

## I wish to:

- Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at the Exploring the Future of Planning Conference
- Conference Delegate Fee £195.00 + VAT @ 17.5% = £229.12**  
Fee includes documentation, lunch and other refreshments served during the conference and is payable in advance. Fee does not include accommodation or travel.
- Receive Conference Documentation** Documentation Pack £95  
If you are unable to attend but wish to receive the documentation, please tick the box, complete the registration form and return it to bmf with your cheque. Documentation, in an attractive ring-binder format, will be posted after the conference.
- Receive an exhibitor's pack**

## Personal Details (please complete in block capitals)

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Options

- I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ Payable to 'bmf Business Services'.
- Please invoice me
- Please debit my Visa / Access / Mastercard / AMEX

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of card holder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide card billing address if different from company address)

**Acknowledgement of Registration** Confirmation of registration will be sent to all delegates. Joining instructions will be sent out following receipt of registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement seven days prior to the start of the conference, please contact Lorna Reddick at bmf (lorna.reddick@bmfbusinessservices.com) to confirm your booking.

**Cancellations / Substitutions** For those unable to attend, a substitute delegate may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Alternatively a refund will be given for cancellations received in writing, by fax or letter, up to 14 days prior to the conference, less an administration charge of 25% plus VAT. Regrettably no refunds can be made after that date.

## Who should attend?

The conference will be of interest to all stakeholders involved in and affected by the planning system in Northern Ireland. Including:

- Planning professionals;
- Senior policy makers;
- Elected representatives;
- Local government officers;
- Developers;
- Building companies;
- Housing sector managers;
- Senior managers in government agencies;
- Infrastructure developers;
- Quantity surveyors;
- Architects;
- Environmentalists;
- Lawyers;
- Planning consultants;
- Public affairs consultants.

## Other Ways To Book...



**By Fax**  
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