



# Annual Housing Practitioners Conference 2003

20–21 February 2003  
Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge  
Co. Kildare

## Affordability, Diversity, Quality

The New Housing Challenges

THE  
**HOUSING** UNIT



# Affordability, Diversity, Quality

## The New Housing Challenges

The Housing Unit on behalf of the Local Authority Housing Practitioner Networks has organised the 2003 Annual Housing Practitioners Conference on the theme of Affordability, Diversity, Quality.

Whilst the challenges evoked by *Better Local Government* may now be largely resolved, housing practitioners continue to face new challenges generated by the continuing escalation of house prices, the changing ethnic profile of clients in the social housing sector, and the numerous reforms to national housing policy which have been introduced in recent years.

This year's conference focuses on three of these new challenges in particular:

- ▲ Housing affordability
- ▲ Accommodating diversity among social housing clients
- ▲ Ensuring that an equitable and quality housing service is provided.

Within these broad themes, the speakers will raise and debate new ideas and thinking and propose good practice initiatives.

In addition to these key themes the conference programme also addresses a wide range of other topical developments in the housing field which will provide useful information and food for thought for participants.

# Programme

## ● *Thursday 20 February 2003*

- 10.00 Registration and Coffee
- 10.30 Official Opening  
Noel Ahern, Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal
- 11.00 **Affordable Housing**
- Housing and Affordability in Ireland  
Dáithí Downey, Policy Analyst, Focus Ireland
  - Providing Affordable Housing:  
– the Experience of Fingal County Council  
Alan Carthy, Director of Housing, Fingal County Council
  - The Future of Affordable Housing  
Tony Boland, Principal Officer, Housing Section,  
Department of the Environment and Local Government
- 1.00 **Lunch**
- 2.30 **Parallel Sessions**
- Parallel Session 1: **Housing Standards and Construction**
- Reforms to Parts L and F of The Building Regulations  
Pat Minogue, Senior Advisor, Housing Division,  
Department of the Environment and Local Government
  - National House Condition Survey, 2002  
Analysis of Findings  
James Williams, Research Professor,  
Economic and Social Research Institute
- Parallel Session 2: **Local Authority Housing Management:  
Combating Poverty and Ensuring Equality**
- Developing a Social Inclusion Strategy  
for Local Authority Housing  
Brendan Kenny, Assistant City Manager, Dublin City Council
  - Ensuring Equality/Equity in Housing Provision  
Niall Crowley, Director, The Equality Authority
- 3.30 Coffee
- Workshops**
- 3.45
- Housing Needs Assessments – Lessons to be Learned  
Peter McCann, Principal Officer, Housing Construction Section,  
Department of the Environment and Local Government
  - Housing Design in an Estate Regeneration Scheme  
Mick McDonnagh, Senior Architect, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd
  - Enabling the Development of Voluntary Housing  
Associations  
Karen Murphy, Management Services Officer,  
Irish Council for Social Housing, and  
Seán Gallagher, Limerick County Council
  - Skills and Competencies Required  
by Social Housing Staff  
Michaela Keenan and Mary Bruton, The Housing Unit
- 4.45 **Report Back from Workshops**
- 5.15 **Policy and Practice Updates**
- Session 1: The Integrated Housing Management Computer Package  
Dymphna Conlon, Project Manager,  
Local Government Computer Services Board
- Session 2: The Private Rented Residential Tenancies Board  
Brian O'Neil, Director, Private Rented Residential Tenancies Board
- 8.30 **Conference Dinner**

# Programme

## ● *Friday 21 February 2003*

9.30

### **Accommodating Diversity**

- Housing Refugees in Ireland: Lessons to be Learned  
Pat Mooney, Director, Clann Housing Association
- Good Practice in Housing Refugees and Minority Ethnic Communities  
Joe Moran, Consultant
- Charting a Future for Traveller Accommodation  
Gráinne O'Toole, National Accommodation Worker, Irish Traveller Movement

11.00

### **Coffee**

11.30

### **Housing Policy Developments**

- Developments in Policy and Legislation on the Private Rented Sector  
Denis Conlon, Principal Officer, Private Rented Housing Section, Department of the Environment and Local Government
- Housing Access for All? An Analysis of Housing Strategies and Homeless Action Plans  
Claire Hickey, Research Manager, Focus Ireland

12.45

### **Close and Lunch**

## **Who Should Attend?**

This conference will be of particular interest to local authority officials and technical staff working in housing departments; senior local authority management staff with particular responsibility for housing; members of local authority housing strategic policy committees (SPCs) and staff and members of voluntary and cooperative housing agencies.

## **Fee**

The fee for the conference, including documentation, coffees, lunches and conference dinner is €280.00

Overnight accommodation is not included in the conference fee.

## **Bookings**

Bookings for the conference should be made on the attached booking form and returned to Mary Bruton at The Housing Unit not later than Friday 7 February 2003.

THE  
HOUSING  
UNIT

An tAonad Tithíochta  
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Please reserve  place(s) at the conference for:

Please indicate which Parallel Session you will be attending: (tick)

**1** Name 1.  2.

Position \_\_\_\_\_

**2** Name 1.  2.

Position \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Name 1.  2.

Position \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Name 1.  2.

Position \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Organisation**

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Purchase Order Number

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Closing Date for receipt of Nominations is Friday 7 February 2003.



All enquiries to:  
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Dublin 4  
Telephone: 01-668 6233  
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