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RICS Northern Ireland 18th Annual Planning and Development Conference

Revitalising Town and City Centres – Practical Solutions

17 October 2012

Belfast City Hall, Donegall Square, Belfast, BT1 5GS



Top 5 reasons to attend:

- 1** Practical advice on meeting local requirements in response to structural changes in retail, offices and leisure
- 2** How Northern Ireland can benefit from emerging public and private sector measures being successfully implemented across the UK and elsewhere
- 3** Updates from key Ministers (DoE and DSD) on emerging policy to revitalise our town and city centres in Northern Ireland
- 4** The value of new governance, planning, urban design, management and financial interventions in revitalising town centres
- 5** Interactive panel debate session on effective town centre regeneration



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RICS Northern Ireland 18th Annual Planning and Development Conference

This conference will bring together a variety of professionals and stakeholders to discuss new ideas on governance, planning and financial interventions that are working elsewhere in the UK and beyond to provide solutions to high vacancy levels and a declining rate base in most of our town and city centres.

Town centres are vital to the quality of our urban life and it is essential that workable measures to revitalise our urban areas are achieved in innovative ways within limited budgets.

Delegates will gain insight on ongoing research projects and plans in Northern Ireland including:

- The DSD High Streets Taskforces' feedback from the public on action needed to be taken
- RICS local research and findings on vacancy
- UJJ academics research on town centre property investors
- MAG research on 'meanwhile uses' of buildings / sites
- Town and City Centre Masterplans in Northern Ireland – an evaluation
- Business Improvement Districts' draft legislation

The conference offers extensive opportunities for attendees (including Councillors and their officials) to have open discussions, ask questions directly to experts and government representatives, and learn from recent case studies, which will assist delegates in identifying and tackling challenges and risks they may be faced with in the next few years.

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For full programme turn overleaf



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Keynote Speakers

Nelson McCausland MLA

Minister, Department for Social Development

Nelson McCausland MLA is a member of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). He was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) first in 2003, and held the office of Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure from July 2009 - May 2011. Nelson was educated at Carr's Glen Primary School, Belfast Royal Academy, Worcester College, Oxford, and Queen's University Belfast. He was first elected to Belfast City Council in 1989 to represent the Castle area of North Belfast and held the position of High Sheriff of Belfast in 1997. Nelson has taken a particular interest in human rights, equality, culture and education during his time at the Northern Ireland Assembly and, in 2007, represented the DUP on the Bill of Rights Forum.

Alex Attwood MLA

Minister, Department of Environment

Alex Attwood MLA took up his post as Minister of the Environment in May 2011. He was Minister for Social Development in the last Northern Ireland Executive. Appointed in 1997 by John Hume to the Dublin Forum for Peace and Reconciliation, Alex's commitment to an all-Ireland agenda is close to his heart. As a member of the SDLP Talks Team, he played a key role negotiating role on policing, human rights and justice issues in 1998 and since. Alex was the SDLP spokesperson on policing and was appointed to the Northern Ireland Policing Board in September 2001 on which he served until 2007. During this time he was influential in the implementation of many of the recommendations of the Patten report. He was first elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 1998 and has been re-elected three times since.

Chair – Diana Fitzsimons

RICS Northern Ireland Board Member

Peter McNaney

Chief Executive, Belfast City Council

Rob Lucas

Chief Executive, Turley Associates, Planning and Urban Design Consultancy

Mike Best

Executive Director, Turley Associates, Planning and Urban Design Consultancy

Julian Dobson

Director, Urban Pollinators

Jackie Johnston

Department for Social Development

Keith Shiells

Partner, BTW Shiells

Mary MacIntyre

Director of Strategic Planning Division, Department of Environment Planning

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Programme 17 October 2012 Belfast City Hall, Donegall Square, Belfast, BT1 5GS

1215	Registration and light lunch	
	Chair	Diana Fitzsimons , RICS Governing Council and Member of RICS Northern Ireland Board
1245	Welcome address	Peter McNaney , Chief Executive, Belfast City Council
1300	Keynote address:	Nelson McCausland MLA , Minister, Department for Social Development Alex Attwood MLA , Minister, Department of Environment
1345	Questions to the Ministers	
1400	The future of town centres and the role of New Planning Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Declining town centres and responses to the problemThe changing nature of the retail sectorLiving in the cityCase studies and lessons learnedCity centre Enterprise Zones & Business Improvement Districts Rob Lucas , Chief Executive, Turley Associates, Planning and Urban Design Consultancy Mike Best , Executive Director, Turley Associates, Planning and Urban Design Consultancy
1445	Networking refreshments	
1515	Urbanism for everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Beyond place branding: who is urban design for?How do we create spaces of discovery and opportunity?Placemaking and everyday life: the value of the unfinishedBuilding up by letting go: what place for governance in the melting pot? Julian Dobson , Director, Urban Pollinators
1545	Panel discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Effective town-centre regenerationThe role of town centre masterplansRole of the market and public investmentFuture developments in the retail sectorPromoting redevelopment and improvement of existing propertiesMeanwhile Uses – good or bad Chair: Jackie Johnston , Department for Social Development Keith Shiells , Partner, BTW Shiells Mary MacIntyre , Director of Strategic Planning Division, Department of Environment Planning Rob Lucas , Chief Executive, Turley Associates, Planning and Urban Design Consultancy Julian Dobson , Director, Urban Pollinators
1615	Close of conference	

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For further information, contact **Malcolm Perryman**, Affinity & Sponsorship Manager on **020 7695 1759** or email mperryman@rics.org

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Venue: Belfast City Hall, Donegall Square, Belfast, BT1 5GS

17 October 2012

Conference code: 12815

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