



Conference 2011

Time for change

Thursday 13 October 2011

08.30 Registration and Exhibition opens

09.30 **Welcome**

- Jamie Delargy, Conference Chair
- Cllr Jim White, Mayor of Castlereagh
- John Patterson, NIFHA Chairperson

09.40 **Plenary: Fundamental Review of NIFHA**

- Chris Williamson

10.15 **Member Debate: Realities of Reform**

Panel: Joan Baird, Clanmil Tony Kennedy, Ulidia
 Jacqueline Hill, Connswater

11.15 Refreshment break and exhibition viewing

11.45 **Plenary: Choosing change – what could the future hold?**

- Rachel England, Scottish Government Innovation and Investment Team
- Brian Rowntree, NIHE and NAMA

12.45 Lunch

13.15 Tea / Coffee in the exhibition room

14.00 **Ministerial Address: Time for Change**

Nelson McCausland MLA, Social Development Minister

14.30 **Specialist Seminars - Session A**

A1: The Practicalities of Mergers

Adam Brett & Hilary Griffith, McGrigors

Our facilitators will use their many years of experience to take participants through the practicalities of mergers. This includes the questions to ask when considering the nature and legal form and the information you must provide under 'due diligence'.

Topics

- Staffing
- Financial information (including income streams and debts)
- Key commercial arrangements
- Outstanding litigation
- Performance achievements
- Property portfolio
- Tax issues

Learning Outcome

- A model checklist of the most common pitfalls and advantageous lines of enquiry for potential mergers

A2: Creative Approaches to Funding

Rachel England, Scottish Government & Nigel Perryman, THFC

An outline of the Scottish Government's approach to innovation and investment together with an update on the funding options currently available.

Topics

- Sources and types of innovative funding available
- State of the market with funding institutions
- New delivery modes
- Relevant policy context
- Consider what could be transferable to Northern Ireland

Learning Outcomes

- Sharing alternative approaches to getting the most from pressured public funds
- What could work in Northern Ireland

A3: Achieving Excellence in Construction: Best Practice Procurement

Colin Smyth, Constructing Excellence NI

Catherine Thompson and Stuart Murphy, Carson McDowell

Explore how compliant procurement using NEC3 Engineering and Short Contract and a rigorous approach to contract management supports successful delivery under the Achieving Excellence (AE) in Construction Initiative

Topics

- Key deliverables under the AE initiative
- Objective & transparent procurement
- Understanding how the NEC3 Short Contract operates and your obligations under the contract
- How effective contract management and change control delivers improved performance

Learning Outcomes

- Better awareness of the AE initiative
- Project delivery under NEC and performance measurement

A4: Equality Schemes: A challenge and an asset

Brendan Doyle, 4Sight Training & Consultancy

Exploring how you can use the production of new Equality Schemes to your advantage.

Topics

- Overview of equality requirements
- Being 'equality active'
- Practical exercise to highlight how inequalities can arise

Learning Outcomes

- How to make the equality process benefit your tenants and your association

Nuaire Service Showcase – Glen Suite

Our new service showcase session will enable you to have an in depth discussion with Nuaire representatives.

There will be a practical demonstration of the various Nuaire products in the Glen Suite giving you an opportunity to see what goes on ‘behind the scenes’ in ventilation.

You will be able to gain a better understanding the importance of ventilation for stock condition and improve your awareness of the solutions available from Nuaire.

15.30 [Refreshment break and exhibition viewing](#)

16.00 **Plenary:** Challenges in the operational environment

- Jim Wilkinson, DSD
- Michael Sands, DSD

17.00 **Round up of Day 1**

- Jamie Delargy, Conference Chair

17.05 [Exhibition Viewing](#)

18.45 Drinks reception [in exhibition room](#)

19.30 Gala Dinner followed with entertainment

Friday 14 October 2011

08.30 [Registration and Exhibition opens](#)

09.15 **Welcome Day 2**

- Jamie Delargy, Conference Chair

09.30 **Plenary: Change creating opportunities**

- John McPeake, NIHE
- Jennie Donald, CIH
- Paula Quigley Smartmove

10.30 [Refreshment break and exhibition viewing](#)

11.00 **Keynote Address:** The Dangers of Mission Drift

- David Orr, NHF

12.00 **Specialist Seminars – Session B**

B1: Asset Management: Nobody knows what it is!

Mike Trant, Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership

Do we mean *Property Management* by another name – are they the same thing or does it mean different things to different people, organisations and departments? Investigate the current confusion within social housing of this relatively new specialism.

Topics

- What is an asset?
- Should we sell off properties that are liabilities?
- Who's responsible for asset management within your organisation?
- Can asset/property management help social landlords meet the needs and aspirations of current and future tenants?

Learning outcome

- Better understanding of Asset Management

If your organisation has asset management policies please bring along a copy.

B2: The changing face of risk

Martin Pitt, Stuart Croft and Clare Kennedy PWC

An overview of the current risk environment highlighting trends and discussing risks for housing associations in more detail.

Topics

- Good practice guidance on risk
- Current trends in risk management
- Procurement fraud and staffing risk

Learning Outcomes

- An increased awareness of how to use risk management to benefit your organisation
- A deeper understanding of some of the main risks facing the our sector

B3: Welfare Reform

Anne McCleary, Dept for Social Development

An outline of the Welfare Reform Bill 2010 – 11: the potential impact on tenants and housing associations.

Topics

- The Welfare Reform Bill – an overview
- Universal Credit
- Social Fund
- Personal Independence

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding of the proposed changes to welfare benefits
- Greater awareness of the potential impact for housing associations and the actions they may need to take as a result

B4: Stressful Times: the Management Standards

Fiona Garrett, HSENI

Put people first during these changing times. Highlighting the benefits of preventing excessive pressures within the workplace by implementing and embedding the good practices of the management standards into your organisation.

Topics

- The employers' legal responsibilities
- What they are obliged to do
- Factors in the operational environment which can contribute to stress
- How to deal effectively with these issues

Learning Outcomes

- Awareness of stress management at the organisational level
- Awareness of the causes of stress
- Ability to identify the signs of stress
- Knowledge of management actions which can minimise stress in the workplace

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- 13.00 Lunch
- 13.45 Tea / Coffee in the exhibition room
- 14.15 **Panel Discussion: Social Housing as a stimulus for economic recovery**
- Simon Hamilton, MLA
 - Esmond Birnie, PWC
 - Joanna McArdle, Barclays
- 15.15 **Round up of Day 2**
Jamie Delargy, Conference Chair
- Closing Remarks**
John Patterson, NIFHA Chair
- 15.30 Conference close

Please note: Conference Programme is subject to change without notification.