

EDITOR'S COMMENT

At the time of going to press with the latest issue of 'Council Review' the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government was facing a motion of 'no confidence' by Sinn Féin in the Dáil for his handling of the housing and homeless crisis.

However, it's the latest episode in a long-running saga between Eoghan Murphy and, in particular, Sinn Féin with this opposition party's leader Mary Lou McDonald calling for his resignation at their 'think-in' in Cavan in recent weeks.

Minister Murphy has, likewise, been very vocal, describing Sinn Féin's motion of 'no confidence' as a "publicity stunt", and has claimed that the housing spokesman Eoin Ó Broin's latest attack was just all about "getting headlines for themselves".

Appointed Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in June 2017, having previously served as Minister of State at the Department of Finance from 2016 to 2017, Eoghan Murphy has said the social housing crisis is not a quick-fix solution and that it will take time to bed down the Government's plans and to put structures in place to tackle Ireland's growing homeless crisis.

His latest move has seen the recent establishment of the new Land Development Agency, in which he has earmarked €1.25 billion in funding and his department aims to source further land banks into the future to ensure a consistent flow of house building.

Up to 30 zones in Dublin city centre and 10 in Cork city will be designated as special regeneration areas within State lands, which are due to be released for housing under the new agency.

The areas to be identified by the Land Development Agency are a mix of previously announced schemes and new zones. The Government says the agency will pave the way for the construction of 150,000 homes over 20 years, as part of Project Ireland 2040.

However, will this Agency deliver on its promise over time, get people off the streets, away from shelters or out of hotel or temporary accommodation and provide suitable long-term housing for adults and children? How long will this bedding down process just take?

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4 NEWS UPDATE

16 MENTORING PROGRAMME

Companies or individuals involved in the food, drink and life science sectors in Tipperary and Carlow have a unique opportunity to grow their business through a new EU-funded pilot mentoring programme.



David Kelly, SRA
Acting Director
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19 SOUTHERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

As the Southern Regional Assembly prepares to publish the draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for public consultation, following months of work and engagement with key stakeholders since the process started in October 2017, Acting Director David Kelly outlines the importance for regional development and growth.

25 DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS

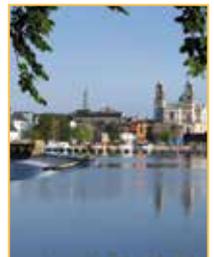
There have been many attempts made over the last two decades to introduce a system of directly elected mayors in Ireland, but the lack of political will has meant that nothing has happened, according to Dr Aodh Quinlivan, Department of Government and Politics, UCC.



Dr Aodh Quinlivan
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33 TOURISM IN THE MIDLANDS

Once almost dismissed as the hole at the centre of Ireland's glorious coastal doughnut, the Midlands is making moves to claim a slice of the tourism pie, on foot of recent news that Fáilte Ireland plans to rebrand the region as Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.



Hidden Heartlands
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43 MIGRANTS AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

Ireland has become a diverse country, but despite opportunities which this may bring, an appraisal of our elected representatives shows that the dynamism and diversity of Ireland's population is not adequately reflected in local or national politics.

51 EUROPEAN GREEN AWARDS

The search is now on for the 2021 European Green Capital and the 2020 European Green Leaf Award winners, following the launch of the competition by the European Commission.

53 FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

A five-year Culture and Creativity Strategy has been developed by Fingal County Council's Culture Team, as part of the Creative Ireland Programme, in consultation with local artists, cultural and heritage organisations, community groups and centres of education and schools.

55 LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Up to 30 zones in Dublin city centre and 10 zones in Cork city will be designated as special regeneration areas within State lands, which are due to be released for housing under the new Land Development Agency's €1.25bn action plan.



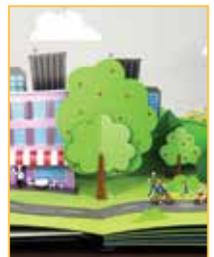
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57 CIRCLE VHA

It has the highest political profile in years, there's more money than ever in the history of the State available for the provision of social housing and yet there is the greatest level of dissatisfaction and lowest level of provision over the last decade! John Hannigan, CEO of the Circle Voluntary Housing Association, asks why.

59 CLUID HOUSING

With little or no social housing having been built in Ashbourne for over 15 years, Clúid Housing's latest development in the County Meath town has provided brand new homes for 67 families, who had been on the social housing waiting list for over seven years.



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60 FOCUS IRELAND

Focus Ireland's CEO Pat Dennigan explains how the charity is challenging homelessness and changing lives through its support and prevention services, and direct housing provision, as they work towards delivering 750 homes by 2020.

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63 O CUALAAN HOUSING

The goal of Ó Cualann's Cohousing Alliance initiative is to develop and support fully-integrated communities, deliver well-designed, top-quality, energy-efficient, affordable homes and to ensure its co-operative model can be replicated across the country.

65 MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Meath County Council is working to deliver over 1,250 social housing units under Rebuilding Ireland, through a combination of Construction/Acquisition, Payment and Availability arrangements with the Approved Housing Bodies and other social leasing schemes.

67 CORK CITY COUNCIL

Cork City Council has solidified its response to the housing and homelessness emergency in the Leaside city within the last year. Brian Geaney, the council's Director of Services for Housing and Community, says it's not a simple undertaking but a very complex and dynamic set of circumstances that cannot be resolved by single-focus initiatives.

71 DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN

Within the first month of opening the doors to its new Civic Hub in June, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council received close to 20,000 queries by phone, email and drop-in customers, while the new fully inclusive Council Chamber was ready in time for the AGM.

73 MOSTON CONSTRUCTION

Moston Construction Ltd, the main contractor involved in the development of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council's new Chamber and Civic Hub, delivered the project within budget and on time for the official opening in June.

75 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Having won €3m in new IT and communications contracts with Ireland's local authorities within the past year, Paradyn now provides managed network security, wireless connectivity, infrastructural support and technical solutions to 25 of the country's 31 local authorities.

80 PLANNING REGULATOR

It is now more important than ever that councillors are supported and are at the centre of proper planning and sustainable development within their local communities, given the recent debate about the National Planning Framework and the proposed Land Development Agency, writes Independent Senator, Victor Boyhan.

84 CHERRYWOOD DEVELOPMENT

Plans for the new €1 billion mixed-use development of a new town centre at Cherrywood in South Dublin will include over 1,260 build-to-rent apartments, 585,000 sq. ft. of retail and office space and high-amenity leisure space.

89 LIMERICK REGENERATION

A €2.3 million Rural Development Fund, recently allocated by Limerick City and County Council to key projects across rural County Limerick, has the potential to leverage additional funds for the projects of around €15 million.

91 SOCIAL JUSTICE IRELAND

The Government's failure to respond to the housing crisis has been described as a national emergency by Social Justice Ireland, whose National Social Monitor Autumn 2018 reveals that mortgage arrears are again on the rise, up to 87,000 households remain on social housing waiting lists while 10,000 people are left homeless.

92 SINGLE AUTHORITY MODEL

With Scotland moving in the direction of a Single Authority Model, this should be watched with interest in Ireland, in view of the ongoing debate on this side of the Irish Sea about the potential of local government to take on the role of a unified local public service platform, writes Kim Fellows, LGiU Scotland.

96 IPB INSURANCE

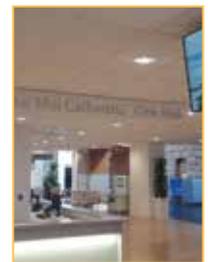
Eight winning projects of the €1.6m Social Enterprise Development Fund, set to participate on the six-month Accelerator Programme, will now go forward as finalists for the 'Social Enterprise of the Year' at the IPB All Ireland Community & Council Awards next February.



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