

Manifesto for Planning Election2020



Planning, planners and the planning system are vital if we want to achieve zero carbon and climate change targets, build more housing and sustainable communities and promote compact growth.

The two professional Institutes representing spatial Planners in Ireland have collaborated to prepare this manifesto of key commitments which Planners are seeking the new government to commit to.

To achieve this, Professional Planners are calling on the next Government to commit to the following:

Continue to deliver the National Planning Framework and maintain the essential link with the National Development Plan.

Project Ireland 2040 integrates the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan under Project Ireland 2040 integrates the spatial plan for Ireland over the next 20 years with the capital investment. The ongoing implementation of key funds (URDF, RRDF, Climate Action Fund and Disruptive Technologies Fund) supporting the implementation of the National Planning Framework must be guaranteed.

Commit to a more proactive role in tackling homelessness and increase the number of quality new homes built.

Continued investment by Central and Local Government in programmes and initiatives to boost new housing developments and infrastructure is required. The new Land Development Agency will need to take a role that is supportive of planning, and it will need to support the delivery of housing.

Continue to invest in the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) to enable better plan-making, improved oversight and valuable research.

The OPR also drives a stronger culture of transparency in decision making for the planning system that supports sustainable development throughout the country. The OPR should continue to support Planning Authorities to be as effective and efficient as possible.

Commit to adequate investment in the planning service.

Planners aim to ensure that the right developments take place in the right place and at the right time. To achieve this, the resources and expertise to provide an effective and efficient service must be provided. The next Government needs to strengthen and resource the planning departments in Local Authorities, Government and An Bord Pleanála.

Commit to making Ireland a low carbon country.

Climate Action is a guiding philosophy for planning. The professional planning institutes have long advocated for it to be more central in plan-making, development and infrastructural investment. Planners have a central role to play in supporting the move to a net zero carbon society.

Establish statutory City/County Planner roles in each local authority.

Planning is a key role in Local Authorities and one of growing significance. Professional, qualified City and County Planners should be appointed for each local authority as part of their Senior Management teams.

Commit to establishing a Register of Planners for professionally qualified Planners operating in Ireland who are Members of a professional Planning Institute.

Interviews with the
President of the Irish Planning Institute
and the
Chair of RTPI Ireland
are available on request.

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