

News Release

WHERE NEXT FOR DEVELOPMENT? - SCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO EXPLORE

Are developers prepared to pay the costs involved in sustainable development. Is there any premium in return, particularly in light of the current slowdown trend in the housing market, where will they build, especially in Dublin and other major urban centres, and how. These are some of the controversial issues under hot discussion these days.

These highly topical questions will be debated by some top governmental, property and planning professionals at the 8th Annual Conference of the Society of Chartered Surveyors (SCS).

The theme chosen for this year's SCS Annual Conference is '*Where Next for Development? - Sustainable Land Use and Urban Development*'. The half-day conference is to be held at the beginning of November (**Thursday 8 November**) at the Four Seasons Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin. It will examine the highly topical and complex, even difficult, issues related to planning and investment in property, whether residential or commercial.

"This is one of the most topical and controversial subjects in our industry", states the Society's president Felix McKenna, managing director of Osprey Property, the eircom property development company, and director of property services at eircom.

"Clients commissioning building projects struggle with the additional costs of building in sustainability, developers and planners struggle with development densities to optimise land use, while property valuers struggle with the premia attributable to sustainable developments, be they commercial or residential".

The Minister for the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, **John Gormley TD**, will give the conference opening address. The panel of speakers, comprising leading figures from the fields of planning, real estate, environment, quantity surveying and construction, will examine the macro issues affecting development and land use, as well as analysing the impact of the cost and valuation issues.

The speakers include:

- **John Tierney**, Dublin City Manager, who will present his views on *'A Vision for Dublin'*
- **Derry Scully**, managing partner, Bruce Shaw Partnership, who will talk about the financial aspects in his address *'Impact of Sustainability on Cost'*
- **James Nugent**, director, Lisney, who will also discuss development costs in *'Value Dimension'*
- **John Forrester**, chairman of London and the south east head of London agency, DTZ, who will look at the impact on commercial property in *'Commercial Impact'*
- **Conor Skehan**, head of Spatial Planning Department, DIT Bolton Street, who will discuss the planning aspects in *'Impact of National Spatial Strategy'*.

The half-day (8.30am - 1.30pm. Registration at 8.00am sharp) conference business programme closes with a Question & Answer session. A highlight on the SCS calendar, the conference includes a lunch following on from the full morning professional programme.

The SCS expects an excellent turnout again this year for its conference, which is open to both members and non-members. The delegate fee is €150 for members and €200 for non-members to include conference and lunch. Details from Gillian Reynolds at the SCS Tel: 01 6765500 or email greynolds@scs.ie

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Note to Editors: This is the eighth conference to be held by the Society of Chartered Surveyors, the largest body in Ireland representing both the construction and property industries, which dates back to 1895. It now has over 1,700 qualified chartered surveyors and a further 800 students and probationers countrywide. Members include quantity, planning & development, building, rural and other specialist surveyors, as well as general practice surveyors working in the valuation area.