



## **Planning and Places Ministerial Meeting**

**8 November 2024, Derry/Londonderry**

### **Communiqué**

The British-Irish Council *Planning and Places* Ministerial Meeting took place today, 8 November 2024, in Derry/Londonderry, hosted by the Northern Ireland Executive.

Ministers reviewed recent activity of the work sector over 2021-24. Ministers commended the work done, and agreed that the work demonstrated the value of the British-Irish Council for all Member Administrations. Ministers also agreed that the reports should be published.

#### **Future Work Plan**

Ministers agreed that the Forward Work Plan for 2025-27, and should focus on two themes:

- Climate Change and the Biodiversity Emergency
- Skills and Capacity for the Public Sector Planning Profession.

#### **Climate Change and the Biodiversity Emergency**

Member Administrations face the urgent challenge of reacting to climate change and biodiversity emergency, with limited resources and within a context of continuing planning reforms. The Planning and Places work sector will work to identify key challenges, and share, and learn from, best practice examples in Planning responses. Among the focus will be managing flood risk; the loss, promotion and enhancement of biodiversity; and delivery of greater carbon efficiency in new development.

**Skills and Capacity for the Public Sector Planning Profession**

Attracting and retaining planning staff in the public sector is a growing challenge, at a time when many public sector planners face ever-increasing workloads and continuously changing policy contexts, especially in relation to complex biodiversity and nature issues. The Council will look at ways to make planning a more attractive profession and explore the ways available to attract people and to build capacity in the Planning Profession, with an emphasis on the sharing of knowledge from Administrations who have developed successful approaches to these issues.

At the meeting, ministers also heard a presentation from Mark Hand of the Royal Town Planning Institute on *Tackling the Climate and Nature Emergencies: opportunities and challenges across the administrations*.

A full list of Ministerial participants is attached.

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**List of Ministers Attending**

<b>Northern Ireland Executive</b>	John O'Dowd MLA, Minister for Infrastructure
<b>Northern Ireland Executive</b>	Junior Minister Pam Cameron MLA
<b>Government of Jersey</b>	Deputy Steve Luce <i>[attended virtually]</i> Minister for the Environment
<b>Isle of Man Government</b>	Diane Kelsey MA BSc MLC <i>[attended virtually]</i> Member of Legislative Council and Political Member on the Cabinet Office Board with delegated responsibility for Planning Policy
<b>Government of Guernsey</b>	Victoria Oliver <i>[attended virtually]</i> States' Deputy President, Development & Planning Authority
<b>Scottish Government</b>	Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Public Finance
<b>UK Government</b>	Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lords Minister for Housing and Local Government)
<b>Welsh Government</b>	Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

**BIC Secretariat  
8 November 2024**