



An Gníomhaireacht  
Tithíochta  
The Housing Agency

THE HOUSING AGENCY ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

AI &  
INNOVATION

IN HOUSING

The Gibson Hotel

Thursday, November 7th 2024

#AIHOUSING



# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
8.30 - 9.15	NETWORKING, REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS	
EVENT MC: ALISON O'CONNOR - JOURNALIST, BROADCASTER AND AUTHOR		
CONFERENCE OPENING		
9.15 - 9.35	INTRODUCTION	MICHAEL CAREY - CHAIRMAN, THE HOUSING AGENCY
	WELCOME	DAVID SILKE - INTERIM CEO, THE HOUSING AGENCY
SESSION 1: AI & INNOVATION IN HOUSING DESIGN		
9.35 - 10.40	REVOLUTIONISING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SOCIAL HOUSING: OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FRONTLINES	THEO LYNN, PROFESSOR OF DIGITAL BUSINESS & ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH - DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY
	FROM PROJECT SITE TO INSIGHT: LEVERAGING AI AND 360° IMAGERY FOR SMARTER HOUSING CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENTS	WILL SYNNOTT, CHIEF CUSTOMER OFFICER - DISPERSE
	AI & ARCHITECTURE - TRANSFORMING DESIGN PROCESSES	BREFFNI GREENE, ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT - HENRY J LYONS
	TELLING THE STORIES OF PLACES WITH AUGMENTED REALITY	ADELE KEANE, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR - IMVIZAR





<b>10.40 - 11.10</b>	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION WITH Q&amp;A</b>	
<b>11.10 - 11.25</b>	<b>TEA &amp; COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>SESSION 2: AI &amp; INNOVATION IN HOUSING DELIVERY</b>		
<b>11.25 - 12.15</b>	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIGITAL STRATEGY - REIMAGINING TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES &amp; DELIVERY</b>	<b>SABAHAT KHAN, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER - LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY</b>
	<b>ADDITIVE CONSTRUCTION PRINTING TECHNOLOGY IN HOUSING</b>	<b>DECLAN GRIMES, SENIOR ENGINEER - LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL</b>
	<b>ETHICS AND SECTOR READINESS FOR AI ADOPTION IN HOUSING</b>	<b>JO SEDLEY-BURKE, CONSULTANT - CAMPBELL TICKELL</b>
<b>12.15 - 12.45</b>	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION WITH Q&amp;A</b>	
<b>12.45 - 13.00</b>	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	<b>BARRY LOWRY - GOVERNMENT CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER</b>
<b>13.00</b>	<b>NETWORKING LUNCH</b>	



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# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## MICHAEL CAREY



Michael Carey has been Chairman of the Board of The Housing Agency since 2018. Michael has extensive experience in overseeing State bodies, has been Chairman of Enterprise Ireland since October 2023, having served as Chairman of Bord Bia (2011-2018), and as Chairman of the Grow Dublin Tourism Alliance in 2016. He is the Chairman of The Company of Food (a specialist food investment business, providing equity to start-up and established high-growth food businesses) and is also Executive Chairman of East Coast Bakehouse, Ireland's only commercial scale biscuit manufacturer. He has been involved in several not-for-profit initiatives: Chair of Soul of Haiti Foundation (2009-2015) and of Traidlinks Uganda (2013-2016); Member of the Clinton Global Initiative (2009-2015); and a judge on the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (2013 to date).

## DAVID SILKE



David Silke is the Interim CEO of The Housing Agency. The Housing Agency is a government body working with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) in the delivery of housing and housing services. David previously worked in several state bodies in research and policy roles, including: the Centre for Housing Research, the National Economic and Social Forum, the Combat Poverty Agency, and the Department of Social Security (UK).

David has a Master's Degree in Business Practice from the IMI, A Master's Degree in Social Policy and Planning for the London School of Economics and a Professional Diploma in Governance from the IPA. His primary degree is in Social Science from UCD. David is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing.

## ALISON O'CONNOR



Alison O'Connor is a journalist, broadcaster and author. She writes a weekly column for The Sunday Times. As a current affairs commentator she appears regularly on radio and television. She has worked previously as a political correspondent for The Irish Times and The Irish Independent, as well as a columnist for The Irish Examiner and The Business Post.





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## THEO LYNN



Theo Lynn is Professor of Digital Business and Associate Dean for Research at DCU Business School. Professor Lynn specialises in the role of digital technologies in transforming businesses and society. He is currently Centre Director at the Irish Institute of Digital Business and was formerly Principal Investigator of the Irish Centre for Cloud Computing and Commerce, an EI/IDA funded Cloud Computing Technology Centre. He is a Principal Investigator on the Horizon 2020 project, RINNO, researching how AI and other related technologies can accelerate deep renovation in social housing.

Professor Lynn has founded a number of companies including Enki Information Systems, Educational Multimedia Group and Atomic Assets, the businesses of which have been acquired by Rochford Brady Group, Intuition and Cambridge University Press respectively. He advises a number of domestic and international companies.

## WILL SYNNOTT



A former engineering consultant turned construction technology advocate, Will Synnott is the Chief Customer Officer at Disperse, a leading platform for site capture and progress tracking in large-scale construction. Will collaborates with major urban developments across diverse sectors, driving transparency and delivering actionable insights to resolve critical construction challenges. Passionate about leveraging technology to boost project efficiency, he is committed to transforming the industry through innovative solutions that result in measurable improvements in project delivery.

Disperse's award-winning platform uses hybrid AI to capture and analyse visual data, helping teams track progress, identify issues, and optimise workflows. Clients include Canary Wharf Group, Mace, Sisk, Multiplex, Hines, Gilbane and Turner.

## BREFFNI GREENE



Breffni Greene MRIAI, is an Associate Architect at Henry J Lyons Architects with over 14 years of experience in large-scale residential, masterplanning, and commercial projects, contributing to some of Ireland's most ambitious urban developments. Breffni has led major projects, including significant masterplans in Dublin and Cork, and has been involved in landmark redevelopments such as Clerys and Central Plaza. This background has honed Breffni's skill in managing complex design processes, coordinating with diverse stakeholders, and delivering client-centered solutions that integrate practical functionality with innovative design vision. Currently, Breffni is driving strategic initiatives at Henry J Lyons to embed artificial intelligence (AI) and intelligence augmentation (IA) across all departments, transforming how design is approached and managed throughout every project stage—from initial concept to construction and post-occupancy analysis.



## ADELE KEANE



Adele Keane is the COO & Creative Director at Imvizar, an innovative AR platform specialising in crafting location-specific experiences that captivate audiences. Imvizar is revolutionising storytelling by transforming passive narratives into engaging spatial stories on a life-sized scale. Later this year, Imvizar will release a user-friendly tool for AR experience creation empowering storytellers to craft their own immersive narratives without needing to know how to code.

As the leader of the creative team at Imvizar, Adele collaborates with top-tier talent to bring augmented reality narratives to life, pushing the boundaries of storytelling. With a wealth of multimedia experience, ranging from live-action to large-scale 3D productions, Adele skillfully combines her storytelling, technology, and production skills to deliver immersive AR experiences that seamlessly merge the virtual and real worlds.

## SABAHAT KHAN



Sabahat Khan is a globally astute, goals-driven executive with in-depth expertise in bottom line factors including strategic planning, technology management, product management, financial management, and organizational development. He has a proven track record of large-scale business and technology transformation initiatives leading to operational efficiency, cost containment and revenue generation. After spending almost 30 years in the private sector, most of which was within the financial industry, working for some of the largest multi-national financial services firms, Sabahat joined the LGMA as Chief Information Officer in April 2024, and is responsible for the implementation of the Local Government Digital & ICT Strategy 2030.

## DECLAN GRIMES



Declan Grimes joined Louth County Council as a Senior Engineer in July 2023, having previously worked in Meath County Council since 2005. His primary role involves the delivery of social housing through direct build, Part V and turnkey projects.

In Local Government, Declan has worked in the area of Roads and Water Services in several Municipal Districts, and for a considerable period of time in the Environment Section in waste regulation, and enforcement, landfill management and various Local Authority projects. He has also worked in the private sector for several years as a Structural Design Engineer and as a Project Manager in the Structural Steel fabrication and construction sector.





## **JO SEDLEY-BURKE**



Jo Sedley-Burke is an experienced housing professional with a strong background in Social Housing and Technology. She has over 20 years of experience in housing management, with a focus on improving service delivery. Jo is passionate about leveraging innovative solutions, such as digital tools and data-driven approaches, to enhance resident experience and streamline property management.

She has worked with various housing associations and technology providers in the sector leading initiatives to improve access to affordable housing and support sustainable community development. As an Executive and a NED, Jo's expertise in both operational management and strategic planning makes her a respected leader in the sector.

## **BARRY LOWRY**



Barry Lowry has been Chief Information Officer for the Irish Government since April 2016 with the primary task of taking forward the Public Service ICT and eGovernment Strategies. These set out ambitions for developing the use of shared services, digital services and data to better serve the people of Ireland and ensure that Ireland is well-placed to benefit from European initiatives such as the Digital Single Market.

Barry is currently advising the Government as to how best to integrate artificial intelligence into the operations of the public sector.