

APH 1/2016

To: All Councillors.

28 July, 2016.

**Re: “Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness”**

Dear Councillor,

As you know, the Government launched “Rebuilding Ireland - the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness” last week, its comprehensive and prioritised response to addressing the many aspects that make up our current housing crisis. I’ve included a short Summary Overview of the Plan for your convenience and the full Plan is available to view and download on the dedicated website at [www.rebuildingireland.ie](http://www.rebuildingireland.ie)

My Department is in the process of issuing a suite of communications that will issue to local authorities, via circular letters and guidance, over the coming weeks in relation to the implementation of “Rebuilding Ireland”. In this regard, Circular APH2 - Planning Measures to Enhance Housing Supply - has also issued to planning authorities. A copy of that circular is attached for information and reference.

The current housing supply shortage, which applies across all tenures, is one of the most urgent challenges facing our country. The Government has rightly prioritised housing and homelessness as the number one societal challenge we face, and there is general agreement across all parties in the Oireachtas on the need for urgent and concerted action. Indeed, the establishment of the Special Oireachtas Committee and its subsequent Report last month has helped to highlight and inform the debate around these complex and inter-related housing and homelessness issues.

Local authorities are absolutely central to that implementation, given your role as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level. In this regard, one of the biggest challenges we face is getting house building, and supply more generally, moving again. There is an immediate and pressing need for all suitable potential sources of housing supply to be activated as quickly as possible.

In the aforementioned Circular APH 2, we provide some detail regarding the planning powers at the disposal of local authorities which can be employed to encourage and facilitate good quality housing, at affordable prices, in high demand areas. I would urge you to support the implementation of “Rebuilding Ireland” locally and to actively work through the Council to get the homes people need delivered as quickly as possible.

In order to drive implementation around the Country, a series of regional events are being organised in collaboration with local authorities. Both Minister of State, Damien English and myself will be visiting as many local authorities as we can over the weeks ahead to outline

what we need and expect to see in terms of implementation and to hear from you the specific challenges that are faced locally in delivering on the Plan.

I look forward to seeing you at these events. In the meantime, if there's anything you want to raise with me or my Department regarding "Rebuilding Ireland", please get in touch with the officials below (contact details supplied) who will endeavor to answer your queries.

Many thanks for your continued support and efforts.



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Simon Coveney T.D.  
Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

Direct queries to [housingmarketpolicy@housing.gov.ie](mailto:housingmarketpolicy@housing.gov.ie)

Accompanying Documents:

- Rebuilding Ireland – Summary Overview
- Circular APH 2/2016 : Identifying Planning Measures to Enhance Housing Supply (28 July 2016)