

The AIVP Days

Dublin - Ireland
28 - 30 May 2015

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General Assembly
and the AIVP Days

“Working Waterfront”: a City-Port mix in progress

In partnership with:



OFFICIAL OPENING

Thursday, 28 May 2015: 13:30 - 14:00

Paudie Coffey is the Minister of State at the Department of the Environment with Special Responsibility for Housing, Planning and Coordination of the Construction 2020 Strategy. He has been a member of Dáil Eireann since 2011 and previously a member of Seanad Eireann from 2007. He was elected to Waterford County Council in 1999 and re-elected in 2004. During his time on the council Paudie served as Deputy Mayor of Waterford County Council and as Chairman of the South East Regional Authority.

Paudie served in Seanad Eireann from 2007-2011 where he was Fine Gael Spokesperson on the Environment, Community and Local Government; he was also a Member of Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment & Local Government & Member of Joint Oireachtas Committee on Energy Security & Climate Change.

When Paudie was elected to the Dáil in 2011 he was a member of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and was also chairperson of the Fine Gael Internal Committee on Environment, Community and Local Government. In 2013 he was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport and Communications.

Paudie's interests include; Hurling, Cycling, IT, Reading, Politics, and Community Development. Paudie holds a diploma in Facilities Management. Paudie also holds certificates from Waterford Institute of Technology and UCD.

Paudie is heavily involved in his community and is currently Chairperson of his local GAA Club and Secretary of a Day Centre for the Elderly. Paudie is former County Minor and U21 Hurler for Waterford. He is also a Former Secretary Portlaw GAA Club and U21 County Team Selector/Trainer.

Prior to becoming a full time politician in 2007 Paudie worked in ESB Networks for over 20 years where he initially trained as an electrician and MV and LV Cable joiner.

He subsequently joined the Network design department where, for a period of over seven years, he was responsible for the planning, design and project management of the electricity distribution system in the South East region.



Paudie COFFEY TD

*Minister for Housing, Planning and Coordination
of the Constitution 2020 Strategy
Department of Environment
Dublin, Ireland*

Address by

Mr Paudie Coffey, T.D.,

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local
Government,**

On the occasion of the
Association Internationale Villes Ports / International Association of Ports Cities
(AIVP) Conference
“Working Waterfront: A City-Port mix in progress“

*Dublin Castle
Dublin
Thursday 28th May 2015*

Ladies, Gentlemen, President of the AIVP and visiting speakers and delegates

I wish to sincerely thank the AIVP for the invitation to come here and open what promises to be a very interesting and informative conference.

It is clear that we all face the challenge of ensuring that our ports remain a vibrant and relevant part of our cities.

As the theme of the conference outlines what will be discussed today is how to do so exploring the integrated approach – taking the port and the city as one and ensuring a balance between the port and urban functions.

There are many challenges to ensuring this right balance such as those between the port activity, quality of life for residents, social integration and sustainable development.

These challenges, and more importantly how to address them, will be considered through the course of the discussion. We will be hearing from many distinguished speakers who will bring an international perspective and experience on these issues.

DUBLIN PORT & DOCKLANDS AREA

I turn now to our experience here in Ireland in relation to the capital city’s port.

Dublin’s port – the project began in late 1990s in the Docklands area, which was in major need of proper sustainable development.

Dublin Docklands Development Authority (DDDA) established 1997 to secure social and economic regeneration of the area. A commercial semi-state body, financed entirely from resources generated through the acquisition, development and sale of property in the docklands area.

DDDA has delivered substantially on its statutory duty to regenerate the Docklands. Has completed a wide range of projects and initiatives addressing education, employment, community development and housing.

Policy impacts from Docklands learning – DDDA drew up Play Space Guidelines in 2007.

The area has been transformed into a vibrant, sustainable and integrated community at the heart of our capital city.

It includes open spaces in Grand Canal Square and Royal Canal Linear Park; and recreational and cultural facilities like the Chimney Children’s Park; a number of theatres and the O2 concert venue.

Projects include the International Financial Services Centre and the National Conference Centre.

There has been improved transport links and other projects such as the Sean O’Casey and Samuel Beckett bridges connecting the area on both sides of the river. This supports both the residential and business communities.

Again all these reflect the important need for an integrated and mixed approach to development - bringing together the port and the city.

Types of works carried out when regenerating an area are also key. The quality of new commercial and residential development in the Docklands a very high standard, winning international awards for architecture.

Recognised as one of only a small number of “best practice” models for inner city regeneration across Europe and beyond. Really something to be proud of.

WIDER DEVELOPMENT OF AREAS NEEDING REGENERATION

But it can’t end there. It is important to facilitate continuation of development and economic activity in the Docklands area.

Docklands model and using Strategic Development Zones (SDZs) to fast-track development.

At end 2012, the North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock areas of the Dublin Docklands were designated a SDZ. This comprises some 66 hectares of the overall 520-hectare Dublin Docklands area.

This will be progressed by Dublin City Council as it takes over management of the Docklands area from the DDDA.

Six other SDZ’s in Dublin, Meath, with one more in Cork to follow.

Massive impacts on areas (Grangegorman, Adamstown, Cherrywood etc.) when planning done at a strategic level for the area, taking in all stakeholders.

The planning scheme under the Docklands SDZ provides a clear blueprint for new development.

Each major site needs to provide a mix of commercial and housing plus a range of services, new public spaces, parks and community and arts facilities.

This mix of uses is key to the vision of the Docklands SDZ. It reflects the theme of the conference.

There will be further discussion on the Docklands SDZ during Conference programme tomorrow.

DUBLIN PORT

What about Port activity itself?

MasterPlan 2012 – 2040 – The Dublin Port Company has prepared a MasterPlan to guide the development of Dublin Port in the period right up to 2040.

The MasterPlan presents a vision for future operations at the Port and examines how the existing land use at Dublin Port can be optimised for merchandise trade purposes.

It also outlines how Dublin Port Company will work to better integrate the Port with the City and its people.

Under the MasterPlan, the Alexandra Basin Redevelopment Project proposes phased redevelopment work on some of Dublin Port's existing infrastructure and improvements to the Port's berths and channels. It's the single biggest project in the history of Dublin Port.

Take one aspect of Port activity – the cruise business.

The Port saw 150,000 cruise visitors in 2014. Cruise calls have effectively doubled in the last 10 years and it is intended to see continued increase in the coming years.

Spend by cruise passengers is estimated at €40m per annum – having a significant positive impact on the hospitality and retail sectors of Dublin City.

In addition, the cruise season now spans from March through to December – much longer than traditionally was the case. Again another positive for the city economy.

This is just one area that will continue to benefit from the MasterPlan approach.

Dublin Port Company's work will feature during the conference programme tomorrow.

EVENTS AT CONFERENCE

Many challenges to bringing together a wide range of different interests in developing a port area. Balancing different concerns – residential, commercial, amenities and marine.

We have excellent examples in this afternoon's Panels of good practice. It gives us the opportunity to build on our knowledge, share our experience and learn from that.

SUMMATION

As an example of the Dublin Docklands being a vibrant part of the community – the Dublin Riverfest is taking place this weekend, including Tall Ships and Schooner events. Hopefully some of you will be able to experience the Docklands area and the festival first hand.

Learning from best practice internationally can inform future developments and lead to sharing experiences.

I think that the AIVP has put together a stimulating programme with excellent speakers which I think all delegates will enjoy. I look forward to hearing about the learning which this conference will bring about.

Thank you.