

Conference programme

09.00

The Northern Ireland economic outlook

Welcome from the host local authority: **Councillor James McKerrow**, Mayor of North Down Borough Council

Mid-term regional economic forecast

Neil Gibson, Director of Regional Services, Oxford Economics

The UK's economic and fiscal outlook

Robert Chote, Chairman, Office for Budget Responsibility

Examining the challenges facing the Northern Ireland economy

Esmond Birnie, Chief Economist, PwC

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

10.30

Morning coffee / networking opportunity

11.00

The Northern Ireland economy in the wider context

From crisis to recovery: Examining the impact of the Great Depression

Patrick Love, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Ireland's economic recovery: implications for Northern Ireland

Fergal O'Brien, Chief Economist, Irish Business & Employers' Federation (IBEC)

Financing infrastructure investment: The Europe 2020 Project Bond initiative

Tom Barrett, Director, European Investment Bank

Devoiving corporation tax: is it a price worth paying?

Michael Smyth, Head of School of Economics, University of Ulster

12.45

Lunch / networking opportunity

14.00

Key themes for rebuilding and rebalancing the economy

MINISTERIAL
ADDRESS



Examining the importance of developing skills to rebalance the Northern Ireland economy
Stephen Farry, MLA, Minister for Employment and Learning

INFRASTRUCTURE: *The importance of investing in infrastructure*

Jonathan Hegan, Irish Academy of Engineering

GROWING BUSINESS: *Looking to the future of manufacturing in a service economy*

Andrew Sissons, Researcher, The Work Foundation

COMPETITIVENESS: *Building economic competitiveness - lessons for Northern Ireland*

Graham Gudgin, Honorary Research Associate, Centre for Business Research, University of Cambridge

INNOVATION: *Fostering innovation to build global competitiveness*

Mikko Kosonen, President, Sitra, Finnish Innovation Fund *(invited)*

Discussion panel: What is the future for the Northern Ireland economy?

John Armstrong, Managing Director, Construction Employers' Federation

Clarke Black, Chief Executive, Ulster Farmers' Union

Ian Graham, Chief Executive, Momentum, The Northern Ireland ICT Federation

Seamus McAleavey, Chief Executive, NICVA

Michael Wightman, Chairman, Manufacturing Northern Ireland