

From empty spaces to thriving places

Conference programme

Caledonian Suite, COSLA Conference Centre

09.00 Registration, coffee, breakfast rolls and networking

09.30 Opening remarks

Phil Prentice, Chief Officer,
Scotland's Towns Partnership
Debbie King, Head of Advocacy,
Shelter Scotland

09.40 Empty homes and the place principle

Professor Ken Gibb, Professor in Housing
Economics (Urban Studies), University of
Glasgow

10.10 My sense of place

Pauline, the neighbour of a long-term
empty home

10.25 Auction House Scotland saves the day

John Loudon, Business Development/
Valuer, Auction House Scotland

10.45 Morning tea break

**11.00 Repopulation and empty homes
in Western Isles**

Donna Smith, Development Director,
Tighean Innse Gall (TIG)

11.30 Breakout session A

A data driven approach to empty homes

Donna Bogdanovic, Principal Officer
Housing Strategy, Policy & Development,
Scottish Borders Council

Rachel Whale, Empty Homes Officer,
Scottish Borders Council

Sponsored by Fraser & Fraser

Breakout session B - Burns Room

The buyback scheme 8 years on

Alyson McGlone, Empty Homes Officer,
North Lanarkshire Council

Sponsored by Homes for Good

12.30 Keynote address

Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Social
Justice, Housing and Local Government

12.45 Lunch

13.45 Launch of Why Empty Homes Matter

Andy Moseley, Senior Policy Officer,
Scottish Empty Homes Partnership
Councillor Kelly Parry, COSLA
Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing

**14.15 Transforming neighbourhoods and
rebuilding communities**

Caroline Gore Booth, Project Coordinator,
Giroscope Hull

14.45 Afternoon tea break

15.00 Finding owners of empty homes

Muhammad Uddin, Public Sector
Development Manager, Finders
International

Katie Watson, Public Sector
Manager, Finders International

**15.15 Helping communities to shape the future
of their places**

Petra Biberbach, Chief Executive, Planning
Aid Scotland

**15.45 Auction House Scotland 11th Scottish
Empty Homes Awards Ceremony**

16.15 Closing remarks

16.30 Conference ends

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