



Quality of design should be central to National Planning Framework, says RIAI



RIAI President, Carole Pollard.

The Royal **Institute of the Architects** in Ireland (RIAI) has welcomed the National Planning Framework

which was launched by the Government recently.

Speaking at the launch Carole Pollard,

RIAI President, said: "We welcome the National Planning Framework to plan growth in a way that supports sustainable economic development and a quality built environment."

She added that quality of design and efficient delivery must be at the heart of the national policy.

"We have very good examples in Ireland of towns and villages that work, that have architects central to the master-planning and delivery. We are calling on the Government to ensure that this type of vision in planning is brought to bear across all development to ensure that investment is scheduled in a way that infrastructure is delivered ahead of need and in locations where it can do the greatest public good.

The skills of Irish architects are being sought around the world. We want to see that Irish procurement, planning and regulatory systems are focused on delivering quality, so that public and private projects can be designed in a way that guarantees longevity and cost-effective delivery."

Ms. Pollard cautioned against the boom bust cycles of construction investment, stating that the Government must plan to deliver infrastructure – homes, hospitals, schools and transport – to meet changing population needs. This would avoid the current situation whereby, a decimated construction industry is being asked to deliver at pre-recession levels.