



**37th British-Irish Council Summit, Government of Guernsey
08 July 2022**

Communiqué

The British-Irish Council (BIC) held its 37th Summit meeting today hosted by the Government of Guernsey. The heads of delegation were welcomed by the Chief Minister of the Government of Guernsey, Deputy Peter Ferbrache. Deputy Ferbrache extended a particular welcome to Alfred Cannan MHK who attended his first British-Irish Council Summit as Chief Minister of the Isle of Man. A full list of Ministerial participants is attached.

Latest Political Developments

The Council reflected on the latest political developments across their administrations, and took the opportunity to engage on a number of topics of mutual interest. These included the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the impact of the rising cost of living particularly in the areas of fuel and housing, shared climate and decarbonisation objectives, ongoing relations with the EU, and the continuing challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cooperation on matters of mutual interest

In advance of the Summit meeting, Ministers with responsibility for collaborative spatial planning met to share [best practice](#) across BIC administrations on the contribution of spatial planning to town revitalisation and the decarbonisation agenda. The Council held a further discussion on this topic during the Summit meeting, noting that an

opportunity exists to revitalise our towns and make them places where people want to live, do business and spend their leisure time, while delivering on a range of wider outcomes including inclusive development, addressing climate change, supporting green recovery and promoting active and sustainable travel.

The Council also welcomed the recent Ministerial Meeting of the BIC Energy work sector, which considered shared challenges including the threat of climate change, the desire to make greater progress in energy efficiency, and the need to ensure energy security.

The Council took the opportunity to discuss the recent work of the Council across all of its Work Sectors and to take note of the ongoing collaborative work across all administrations. This work includes recent symposia on the topics of “Social Value as a Driver for Social Enterprise” organised by the Social Inclusion work sector, and “Working together to meet the health needs of people experiencing homelessness and substance use issues”, jointly organised by the Housing and Drugs & Alcohol work sectors.

Next Summit Meeting

The Council noted that the next BIC Summit will be hosted by the UK Government.

BIC Secretariat

08 July 2022

List of Ministerial Delegates

Government of Guernsey	
Chief Minister	Deputy Peter Ferbrache
Minister for the Development & Planning Authority	Deputy Victoria Oliver
Irish Government	
Taoiseach	Micheál Martin TD
Minister of State for Planning and Local Government	Peter Burke TD
Isle of Man Government	
Chief Minister	Alfred Cannan MHK
Minister for the Cabinet Office	Kate Lord-Brennan MHK
Government of Jersey	
Chief Minister	John Le Fondré
Minister for External Relations	Ian Gorst
Northern Ireland Executive	
Minister for Infrastructure	John O'Dowd MLA
Minister of Finance	Conor Murphy MLA
Scottish Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth	Tom Arthur MSP
UK Government	
Minister of State for Northern Ireland	Rt Hon Conor Burns MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office	Lord Caine
Minister of State for Building Safety and Fire jointly at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Home Office	Lord Greenhalgh
Welsh Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
Minister for Climate Change	Julie James MS