Charlie O’Neill
Chair

Charlie is the Legal Adviser with Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Housing Association Limited, a post he has held since September 2006. Charlie is responsible for advising the Board of Management and Senior Management Team on the Association’s constitutional status as an industrial and provident society, a registered housing association and a charity recognised by HMRC. He also manages a caseload of complex legal issues on behalf of the Association relating to the purchase of properties, and dealing with properties when they are in stock.

Charlie has extensive experience of housing issues. He has been a board member of Chartered Institute of Housing since April 2008 and holds membership of the Housing Law Practitioners Association and the Housing Studies Association. He has published work on Law of Mortgages in Northern Ireland (SLS Legal Publications, May 2008) as well as articles for the legal journal, Folio, on housing issues such as: Article 40 planning agreements; the mortgage pre action protocol; and the Housing Act (NI) 2011. Charlie currently leads the Improve Team at CIH.

Laura O’Dowd
Deputy Chair

Laura has considerable experience working within the Housing Sector. She was as a member of the Housing Management Team for Ulidia Housing Association following completion of her BSc Hons in Housing and Diploma in Industrial Studies in 2002. She became Training Officer for Supporting Communities NI, a community development organisation partially funded by the NIHE and DSD, a role she has been in for 9 years. Laura has been a member of the CIH since 2002 and feels she has always had a keen interest in housing within Northern Ireland and throughout the UK. As a Training Officer and Lecturer within the University of Ulster, School of the Built Environment, she is continually carrying out research in relation to housing, community development and tenant participation.

Laura has been appointed as Facilitator for SCNI’s Specialist Team and has responsibility for ensuring that the objectives of all specialist work the organisation provides such as training, funding, IT and information are being met.

Elizabeth Martin

Elizabeth initially joined the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in 1974 as a Housing Management Trainee and, following a period at home, rejoined the Housing Executive as a Counter Assistant in 1981. She currently manages the North East Account and Customer Service Unit which provides a Rent Accounting and Telephone Service to tenants of over 18,000 homes. She completed the Chartered Institute of Housing Professional Qualification in 1991.

Elizabeth has a wide and varied range of experience within the provision of a Housing Service. She has worked within a Local District Office of the NIHE giving her the experience of working directly with individual customers to help meet their needs, as well as working with communities to increase their capacity to improve their local areas. She is committed to ensuring that the customer experience
is of a high standard and continually looks at ways to improve the quality of the service provided to tenants. Elizabeth currently leads the Learning Team at CIH.

Steven Sibbald

Steven has worked for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for over twenty years. He is currently involved in estate management in the Lisburn office.

Steven has previously worked with vulnerable adults and those with addictions and has also managed a hostel for homeless people. He works closely with community groups in the Lisburn area and is also interested in promoting ‘Shared Future’ initiatives and developing community involvement in local housing issues.

Steven has been a member of the Chartered Institute of Housing since 2005 both as a student and corporate member and is a graduate of the University of Ulster.

David Little

David’s background is in Civil Engineering, and he has been involved in housebuilding for over 20 years. He has held a number of site and office based roles with one of the largest local housebuilders. In 1999, David joined the National House-Building Council (NHBC) where he is currently Regional Director for Northern Ireland and Isle of Man.

David is also currently Vice Chair of Open Door Housing Association, Vice Chair of CIOB in Ireland’s Northern Centre and a member of NI Building Regulations Advisory Committee. These roles have given him an insight into the issues affecting the provision and management of social housing and the technical changes which will affect the construction of new homes, as well as a knowledge of the wider construction industry.

Mark Turner

Mark has almost 30 years experience operating in the Social Housing field, including working in South Ulster Housing Association, the NIHE and Oaklee Housing.

He was a Board Member of the CIH in NI (from June 2009 to April 2012), a council member of NIFHA (from 2009), past Chair of the Housing Managers Forum (2005-06) and a member of the Housing Operations Committee, (from 2009,NIFHA). He was also a member of the Learning and Development sub committee of the CIH and is committed to the development of student learning at the University of Ulster.
CIH Northern Ireland board member profiles

Dan Corr

Dan has had a 40-year career in financing housing in Northern Ireland. He has recently retired from the board and Chair of Northern Ireland Co ownership Housing and currently sits on the NI Committee of NHBC.

Tom Woolley

Tom specialises in sustainable building, housing and building materials. He was a Professor of Architecture at QUB from 1991 to 2008 and held several visiting professorships in other countries around the world. He has written extensively on Green Building, Natural Building and Hemp Lime Construction.

Helen Harrison

With 20 years’ experience in the industry, Director of Juno Planning Helen Harrison was previously the all-Ireland Director of Planning at BDP and spent 4 years working in local planning authorities in the UK. Helen has direct experience of formulating statutory land use plans (UK and ROI) and negotiating planning applications for housing developments. Helen is a serving Executive Committee member (former Chair) of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), and is highly respected in the planning industry acting as Professional Accreditation Advisor to both Queen’s University Belfast and University of Ulster Planning Schools and representing professional private practice on a government Advisory Panel.

John Hannigan

John Hannigan is Managing Director of Sunbeam House Services since May 2010. Before that he was Company Treasurer of Respond Housing Association from 2004 to 2010 in Ireland and South Africa. John has worked in both the private sector with KPMG, Grant Thornton and Ernst and Young and the not for profit sector for Accord Housing Association, Prime Focus in the UK. John is a Fellow of the Association of Certified Accountants, and he graduated from Warwick University Business School with an MBA in 2002. John is a non-executive director of Inclusion Ireland, St John of God Housing Association and The Irish Council for Social Housing and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies.