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## Nick Ireland

### Director, Planning

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Nick provides **robust technical expertise** to support strategic planning and site promotion.

**Nick specialises in providing advice on strategic planning and economic development issues including employment land and economic impact, housing need and five year housing land supply, feasibility studies and sub-regional spatial planning. He regularly acts as an expert witness at inquiries and local plan examinations. Before joining IcenI, Nick led GL Hearn's Economics Team.**

Nick has advised councils at a sub-regional level on strategic growth opportunities, including urban extensions, new settlements and strategic infrastructure. He led preparation of a Birmingham HMA Strategic Housing Study which encompassed a strategic review of Birmingham's Green Belt; a Spatial Position Statement for the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), and has work with other local authorities in Buckinghamshire, Kent and Sussex to assess potential locations for, and the feasibility of new settlements and large urban extensions.

He regularly provides expert witness advice on objectively-assessed housing need and five year land supply, and has led preparation of strategic housing market assessments for areas right across England. His expertise includes advising on housing mix issues and older persons housing and care needs.

He has led preparation of employment land studies for private and public sector clients, and authored expert evidence supporting the allocation of strategic employment sites through the local plan process, including major Green Belt releases, as well as assessments justifying loss of employment land. His work includes assessing the economic justification and impact for development schemes of a variety of scales. He works nationwide.