

YOUR CANDIDATES

Candidate

Biography

Election Message



Mark Fitzharris
Head of AIB, Cork City

Mark Fitzharris is the Head of AIB for Cork City where he is responsible for the SME and Personal customer base. Mark and his team are focused on meeting all of their customer's financial needs, working with them to support their growth plans and helping to provide solutions to their challenges.

Mark has over 27 years of experience in the financial services sector and has worked across a variety of Retail, Business and Commercial Banking roles as well as on a number of strategic change initiatives. Mark is a Qualified Financial Advisor with a Master's in Business from Trinity College and is a Fellow of the Institute of Bankers.

I am committed to the advancement of Cork's business community which holds the key to the creation of jobs and economic growth across Cork. My ambition is to ensure that we create an environment where businesses can thrive and attract intellectual and financial capital to Cork. If elected to Cork Chamber Board my priorities will be to:

- Develop policies that enhance Cork as a location in which to live and invest.
- Play an active and productive role in helping to deliver sustainable growth for businesses and the wider local economy.
- Help businesses to think strategically about their operations and market in order to capitalise on all opportunities and fend off inherent threats such as Brexit.
- Establish strong and positive relationships with Chamber members and stakeholders.

As the Head of AIB for Cork City I am actively involved with businesses on a daily basis. My role also involves significant engagement with organisations and stakeholders where business and banking interface. With over 27 years of experience in financial services across a variety of sectors I believe I can provide a unique local knowledge and understanding of business opportunities, challenges, needs and solutions. Thank you for considering my nomination and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Candidate

Biography

Election Message



Patrick Fitzpatrick
Emeritus Professor of Mathematics
University College Cork

I spent 35 years in UCC as Lecturer/Professor in Mathematics, and was founding Head of the College of Science, Engineering and Food Science. I was a member of the Chamber Science, Research and Innovation Committee, and the Steering Groups for IMERC, Cork Science and Innovation Park, and the UCC-Teagasc Alliance. I was founding Chair of Energy Cork.

Since 2012 I have been the academic lead in UCC's engagement with India, prior to which I was part of UCC's working group for China. My current role is with UCC Academy, in particular to develop a service offering through PrimeUCC for SMEs seeking funding through Horizon 2020. Reflecting another interest, I was founding Director of UCC's Centre for Global Development, and spent 5 years as a member of Irish Aid's Expert Advisory Group.

I believe the relationship between UCC and the Chamber is a vital component of the interests of both. As a modern university UCC must be deeply embedded in the communities that it serves, while the Chamber must connect with the University as a major local employer, and source of the talented graduates needed to support indigenous and incoming industry. In both directions, research, innovation and entrepreneurship must play leading roles.

Cork 2050 provides a blueprint for growth and development. Many of its ambitions are based on an increasing population that requires the creation of 4,000 jobs per year, targeted mainly at key research-intensive scientific sectors in agriculture, food, technology, energy, environment and the marine, all of which I worked with as Head of College. Many of these jobs will be in innovative SMEs, and I would seek to make a contribution to the continued growth of an entrepreneurial culture connected to research.

I am especially interested in the international dimensions of Cork 2050. In the context of increasingly fluid political structures nationally and internationally Cork needs to position itself to minimise the risks while capitalising on the opportunities presented. Attracting foreign talent to our region will also be critical to the success of Cork 2050.

Overall, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute in the coming years to a successful initiation of the Cork 2050 programme.

Candidate

Biography

Election Message



Niall Kenny
National Sales Director
AB Sales

Grew up in Bishopstown and now living in Dripsey with my wife Jean & my two sons. Schooling included The North Mon and UCC. Previous jobs include Van Sales and franchise Sandwich Shop owner.

I'm National Sales Director for AB Sales, since it's foundation in Oct. '06, which brings together complimentary services like Print, Promotional Products, Signage & Catering Supplies.

We are now into our fifth year of membership in Cork Chamber and I pride myself on being a fully active participant. Over the years I have been on the task force for the annual conference and I'm currently filling one of their Ambassador roles. I've also completed one of the Chambers Business hubs.

When elected to the Cork Chamber Board I would hope to represent the SME's in the city and county and in my role as a Board member I will :

- Volunteer to work on the Board's committees in areas where your own work and life experiences will best be used
- Take an active role in discussing and developing all new policies and procedures for all chamber matters.
- Take an active role in reviewing and evaluating the major programs designed to serve the membership and committees
- Prepare for each meeting by doing any homework necessary to be informed and to take an active role in meetings
- Make sure that your opinions and thoughts on all matters that come before the Board are presented in a way that represents the interests of the membership
- Avoid any conflict between my personal interests as a citizen and my interests as a member of the chamber and Board of Directors
- Have a willingness to make the commitment necessary to give the proper attention to Chamber responsibilities.

Candidate

Biography

Election Message



Holly Macintosh
Office Manager
Blizzard Entertainment Ireland

As Office Manager for Blizzard Entertainment's Cork office, Holly Macintosh is responsible for the billion-dollar computer game company's daily office operation.

The Cork site comprises approx 450 people who support players and the infrastructure to run Blizzard's best-selling games. Holly's responsibilities range from managing this large office, to vendor management and liaising with Cork businesses. She has promoted the Blizzard office as a centre of excellence and Cork city as a destination of choice within our multinational company. Originally from Canada, Holly moved to Ireland in 2005 and recently married a French national from the rugby influenced city of Biarritz.

As a board member, I will support and drive the strategic business plan of the Cork Chamber and provide a unique perspective from my position within a large multinational business, and as a person who's been welcomed into the Cork community. I would like to support the Chamber's hard work in promoting Cork's businesses on the national and international stage. In the gaming industry we see how the appropriate and clever use of social media can be used to promote an idea, product or cause. I would like to bring that experience to the board for the betterment of Cork's businesses, leveraging it to promote the Cork brand around the nation and the globe.

There are 4 pillars I aim to focus on as a Board member:

- Enhance Cork's overall profile on an international level; including tourism, employment, entertainment and hospitality sectors.
- Highlight and promote women in leadership roles within technical organisations, and represent the women of Cork as a member of the board.
- Identify solutions to the current rental market crisis to remove uncertainty from multi-national companies hoping to relocate to Cork.
- Offer a creative approach to the overall strategic plan by channelling my own industry experience and international perspective.

Candidate

Biography

Election Message



Cian Moriarty
Solicitor
Fachtina O'Driscoll Solicitors

I am a motivated and enthusiastic solicitor in a busy, family firm. Every day, I help individuals and businesses solve problems and meet new challenges. I have a range of industry experience having worked as an entrepreneur, chef, retailer and charity advocate. I have also seen the challenges faced by larger multi-nationals while working with Deloitte. I am a serving director with two excellent Cork charities and I regularly speak to a diversity of groups about all things business. I am ready and willing to bring my energy and passion for Cork and commerce to the role of Chamber Director.

We have an excellent Chamber but it can do more. I want to:

- Represent the views and issues of small & medium sized businesses at board level, from the sole trader onwards. This large cohort of members, the backbone of our economy as well as our Chamber, is significantly under-represented at Board level
- Implement initiatives to bring in new members from the start-up & entrepreneurial community. These fledgling professionals need the support and services offered by existing members and we should build those relationships earlier. We can all benefit from their innovation, energy and new ideas and if more new businesses in Cork can succeed, that is better for everyone
- Implement an annual innovation competition as a means of gaining feedback & ideas from you the members as to what you imagine Cork Chamber could be doing for you
- Implement new ways for companies of every size to interact with our charity members. Corporate social responsibility is an ever-increasing issue, especially for larger employers and Cork Chamber can assist in the development of these initiatives
- Explore new ways of doing business through the use of technology, helping Cork stand out as an elite place to live, work and do business

Candidate

Biography

Election Message



Eoin Motherway
Head of Operations, AMX

Eoin Motherway is a Head of Operations for Willis Towers Watson's - Asset Management Exchange and has built his team to support a global funds offering from Cork. A graduate of UCC and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Eoin has been a committee member for the Irish Funds Industry. He currently chairs of Cork's Financial Services Forum and sits on the Chamber Board for a one year term to advance the Chambers endeavours in International Financial Services. Eoin is married with three children and lives in Innishannon and is a Board Member of Shine Ireland, a not-for-profit charity for autism based in Carrigaline.

As a Board Member, I will continue to put my energy into the wide range of interests, issues and demands of the Chamber. Apart from supporting the Chamber agenda; I think, for me, it is honest to lay out only one tangible goal I can deliver on. The next eighteen months is the single greatest opportunity for Financial Services this country & county will ever be gifted in the light of the decision of Britain to leave Europe. There are many negatives to many sectors, which I empathise with but I am not skilled in. But I am a career financial services professional, passionate about my city & county on its ability to be Ireland's second Financial Services Centre.

I will focus on:

- Financial Services Forum - continue to chair the team and conclude our ambitious program of activity to maximise the job migration opportunities into Cork from Britain
- Advocacy - continue to meet the industry bodies of IDA, Enterprise Ireland & Irish Funds; the government departments of Finance, Financial Services & Foreign Affairs; the Embassy in London and Corks diaspora within UK & US firms.
- Promotion - attend the conferences, meetings, sectoral updates & prospects to continue representing Cork as a professional, resourced, capable location for all strands of financial services activity requiring a competent location in Europe.

Candidate

Biography

Election Message



Leo O'Leary
Head of Large Business
Vodafone Ireland

Leo O'Leary is the Sales Director at Vodafone Ireland. He is a Cork native and lives in Crosshaven with his wife and two children. He is a graduate in Business from UCD Michael Smurfit Business School (MSc) and holds a MBA from Dublin Business School. Leo, for the past 6 years had the honour of being one of the Judges representing Vodafone for the Cork Company of the Year in association with Cork Chamber. In his role in Vodafone Leo really enjoys meeting and connecting with a diverse range of people. He is a graduate of the Men Advocating Real Change programme (MARC programme) that encourages diversity in the workplace. During his time at Vodafone he has led the programme which has driven significant capital investments for the benefit of the Cork business community both in terms of direct employment & infrastructure upgrades across Vodafone's fixed and mobile networks.

I support Cork Chambers vision "to create the best possible business environment for our members by being the most impactful and influential business organisation for the region". As a board member, I will support and focus tirelessly on driving increased growth into Cork, strengthen Cork Chambers visibility both nationally and internationally, grow our influence working with both the private and public sectors on key local and where relevant national issues, leverage and support the Chamber to understand best practice globally on areas that are relevant to our strategic plan and represent Cork Business at all times to the highest standards. I am passionate about our City and the regeneration of same - we have made good progress but there is a lot more to do, having a thriving city economy is one of my passions and if elected I would seek to advance the interests of Cork business operating in Cork and the people who live and work here. I gratefully request your support in the upcoming Cork Chamber Board elections.

Candidate

Biography

Election Message



Hugh Smiddy
Head of Business Development
Tyndal National Institute

Hugh Smiddy is the Head of Business Development at Tyndal National Institute with more than 25 years of international experience in the development and commercialisation of technology with world-leading technology companies. My role in Tyndal focuses on building relationships with our key industry partners and ensuring we are delivering research excellence with economic impact.

I am very active in my community whether it is raising funds and volunteering for causes close to my heart like Surf2Heal, coaching the U18's at my local GAA club in Aghada or visiting local schools to encourage children's interest in STEM subjects.

Since joining the Cork Chamber Board in 2016 I can see the key role which the Chamber has to play in driving economic growth in the region and the importance to leverage on the impact that world-leading research can have on attracting investment to Cork and the knock-on benefits of those investments for the wider economy.

A recent success for Tyndal is the acquisition by Oculus (Facebook) of a Tyndal spin-out company InfiniLED with substantial impact for Cork in terms of expanded operations in Cork in the Capitol Building and future research collaborations with Tyndal.

As a committee member of the Empowering Women at Tyndal initiative we are putting in place initiatives to ensure women in Tyndal reach their full potential. This gender diversity has a key role in attracting and retaining talent for Cork to drive the economy.

I have worked outside Ireland for almost 20 years in both Europe and Asia and bring to this role a truly international perspective as Cork competes on a global scale for talent, investment and business. I was heavily involved in the Irish Chamber of Commerce in Singapore and can bring knowledge of best practices to ensure Cork delivers on its potential.