



**Cork  
Chamber**  
Advancing business together



# Annual Report

2025



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SECTION ONE

# Introduction

# President's Message

As President of Cork Chamber, it is my privilege to reflect on a year defined by progress, ambition and continued momentum for Cork and its business community.

Over the past year, we have seen continued growth across key sectors, with businesses expanding, investing and strengthening their international reach. Cork's position as a centre for innovation, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, financial services and technology is now firmly established, supported by a highly skilled workforce and a collaborative ecosystem that enables enterprise to thrive.

This progress reflects years of sustained effort and partnership across business, government, education and community. It is a reminder that Cork's success has never been accidental, but the result of consistent ambition, long-term thinking and a willingness to work together.

Looking ahead, the opportunity for Cork is significant.

As Ireland continues to grow, Cork is uniquely positioned to play an even greater role in supporting national economic development. The scale of investment, talent and capability already present in the region provides a strong platform for future growth. With the right conditions, Cork can continue to attract investment, support enterprise and deliver sustainable economic progress for both the region and the country.

Realising this potential will require a clear focus on competitiveness and delivery. Infrastructure, housing, energy and skills will remain critical enablers of growth, and sustained progress in these areas will be essential to ensuring that Cork can continue to compete at an international level.

Cork Chamber will continue to play its role in supporting this ambition, working in partnership with our members and stakeholders to ensure that Cork's voice is heard and its potential fully realised.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and contribution of my fellow Board members, who give their time and expertise on a voluntary basis. I also want to recognise the dedication and professionalism of the Chamber team, whose work throughout the year continues to deliver real impact on behalf of our members.

Finally, I would like to thank our members, partners, sponsors and stakeholders for their continued collaboration and engagement. It is through this shared commitment that we will ensure Cork continues to grow as a competitive, attractive and globally connected region.



Rob Horgan



# CEO's Message

2025 has been a year of excellent performance, delivery and recognition for Cork Chamber.

At the centre of everything we do is our commitment to representing and supporting our members, an ambitious business community that continues to drive Cork's economic success. Their resilience, innovation and global outlook are evident, particularly in a year shaped by ongoing geopolitical uncertainty and shifting international conditions. Despite this, the confidence of Cork's business community remains strong, with continued investment and growth across sectors.

This year has also been defined by the scale and consistency of delivery across the organisation. Our focus remains on ensuring that we provide meaningful value to members through advocacy, engagement, collaboration and support, while continuing to strengthen Cork's position as a competitive and globally connected region.

A key milestone in 2025 was the publication of Cork Chamber's first Sustainability Strategy and accompanying report. This represents an important step in embedding sustainability across all areas of our work and in supporting members as they navigate the transition to a more sustainable future. It also reflects our commitment to driving practical, measurable progress in partnership with business and the wider community.

We are particularly proud of the recognition received this year, both nationally and internationally. These achievements are a reflection of the high standards we set and the collective efforts of our team, our members and our partners. Notably, Cork Chamber was named Chamber of the Year at the Chambers Ireland awards. In addition, Cork Chamber was honoured to be the only European chamber to receive an award at the World Chambers Competition, significant global recognition that highlights the strength of collaboration across business, government and community in Cork.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the Cork Chamber team - it is through the shared goals, professionalism and commitment that we can deliver to such a standard on behalf of our members.

Our progress is built on partnership. I would like to sincerely thank our members, partners, sponsors and stakeholders for their continued support, collaboration and trust. I also wish to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of our voluntary Board of Directors, and in particular our President, Rob Horgan, for his leadership and guidance throughout the year.

Looking ahead, our focus is clear. We will continue to represent our members with purpose and ambition, to deliver high-quality supports and engagement, and to contribute to a strong, sustainable and competitive future for Cork.

It is through these strong relationships, and a shared commitment to working together, that we are able to deliver impact and drive forward our collective ambitions.



Conor Healy



# About Cork Chamber

Founded in 1819, Cork Chamber of Commerce has remained a driving force in the region's business community for over two centuries. On November 8, 1819, a group of business leaders convened in Shinkwin's rooms on Patrick Street—later the site of the Victoria Hotel—to discuss the formation of a new commercial organisation. Just days later, on November 13, the decision was made to establish the Cork Chamber of Commerce, laying the foundation for what has become one of Ireland's most influential business networks.

Over the past 206 years, Cork Chamber has been at the heart of the city's economic and commercial evolution. In 2019, we proudly celebrated our bicentenary, reflecting on our history while embracing the limitless possibilities of the future.

One year on from the launch of our Strategic Plan 2025–2028, we have made strong progress in delivering on our vision for the future of business in the region. The plan continues to guide our focus on driving sustainable economic

growth and strengthening Cork's position as a globally competitive business hub. Through targeted advocacy, meaningful collaboration and forward-thinking initiatives, we have advanced key priorities, responded to emerging challenges and supported new opportunities for our members. As we move into the next phase of delivery, Cork Chamber remains firmly committed to empowering our business community, influencing policy and championing Cork as a vibrant place to live, work and do business.



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## Our Vision

To lead a transforming and ambitious Cork city and county.

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## Our Purpose

To unite, represent and support our members and community

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## Our Values

### Member Centric

#### RELATIONSHIP FOCUSED

Our members are our motivation. Working together we support a successful and inclusive membership who drive a thriving Cork.

### Dynamic

#### CHANGE MAKERS

Dynamism is about constant innovation, progress, agility and momentum. We work on the understanding that the way we do things today will not be the way we do things tomorrow.

### Inspiring

#### RESPECTED THOUGHT LEADERS

We work not only to support, but also to provoke and inspire more ambitious, braver decisions that can positively impact business. Together we push the issues that make us competitive.

### Responsible

#### SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE, DIVERSE

We believe in the power of sustainability, inclusivity, equality, diversity and belonging for the greater good. We do the right things for the right reasons. For members, the community and future generations, we are here for the long run and the big picture.

### Purposeful

#### FORWARD THINKERS

For over 200 years the Chamber has stood with members and championed Cork. We work with passion and purpose to achieve economic, social and environmental resilience. We make our contribution count.

# Strategic Actions

Our vision and purpose guide daily activities and strategic decision-making at Cork Chamber as we strive to embody our values in all our work. Our strategic actions are designed to meet the needs of all our members.

- 1 Securing Cork's future
- 2 The voice of business in Cork
- 3 Enhance member services, engagement and support
- 4 Global engagement
- 5 Optimise communications
- 6 Our people
- 7 Finance and governance

## Securing Cork's Future

Cork Chamber is deeply committed to sustainability, embedding it within all our activities and initiatives. We have formally pledged to uphold five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our efforts have been recognised by the Government with our appointment as an SDG Champion for 2024–2025 and SDG Ambassador for 2026. Cork Chamber will continue to strengthen this commitment by further integrating the SDGs across our work with businesses, charities and not-for-profits. We are dedicated to enhancing our sustainability offerings for our members and the broader community.

### We will:

1. Develop Cork Chamber as a Sustainability Hub
2. Create a Cork Chamber Sustainability Strategy to further embed Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) principles throughout our work
3. Enhance our Sustainability Committee to shape our impactful sustainability agenda
4. Further develop the impact of a successful Sustainable Cork Programme
5. Champion and elevate Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging efforts across our members, our team and the wider community
6. Drive an impactful Cork Offshore Renewables Industry Forum and REEValue Programme

## The voice of business in Cork

Cork Chamber is the voice of business in Cork and Ireland's most active regional advocacy group. Our advocacy priorities are driven by the needs of our members. Through our partner and member engagement, we hold a unique understanding of the economic and social needs of businesses in Cork. We engage positively, collaboratively and proactively on business issues such as connectivity, talent and skills, energy, to create an ecosystem where all businesses can thrive.

**We will:**

1. Continue to be the most active regional lobby group in Ireland
2. Strengthen our public affairs member interactions by setting up an SME forum
3. Communicate with members to inform them of relevant and critical updates and progress made on public affairs priorities
4. Continuously work with our partners, members and Board of Directors to identify the key business priorities for Cork on which to focus our advocacy agenda
5. Proactively and collaboratively engage with all key stakeholders across central and local government, regional bodies, state agencies and decision makers

## Enhance membership development, engagement and support

With members as our motivation, we are dedicated to the growth and success of our vibrant business community. We work to empower, connect and support an inclusive membership that drives a thriving Cork. Our member centric approach to our services and activities allows us to optimise our members' business success.

**We will:**

1. Nurture and build on the vibrancy and diversity of our cross-sectoral member community across Cork City and County working closely with our membership committee
2. Ensure the membership offering remains relevant through increased segmentation and provision of dynamic events, supports and training opportunities dependent on members' evolving needs
3. Future proof Cork Chamber by deepening engagement with NextGen leaders across the membership base
4. Analyse member patterns and trends on an ongoing basis to evolve supports and services by industry with a particular focus on SMEs

5. Provide enhanced promotional opportunities across digital platforms and communications channels enabling members to achieve greater visibility and reach a targeted audience

## Global engagement

Cork Chamber connects Cork internationally and promotes the city and county for investment, collaboration, talent and trade. Through our international Chamber connections, business networks and international programmes, we help SMEs to grow globally and collaborate with businesses across Europe and beyond.

**We will:**

1. Build deeper connections with Chambers of Commerce in strategically targeted regions around the world
2. Help SMEs to grow and collaborate internationally through our international network and programmes Identify additional internationally funded initiatives that align with Chamber priorities
3. Promote Cork City and County as a premier destination for investment, talent, trade and collaboration.
4. Grow the work of the Cork Financial Services Forum and build on Cork's reputation as a European hub for international financial services

## Optimise communications

Effective communication and the utilisation of technology are vital to delivering value to members. By leveraging digital tools, we will enhance engagement, personalise outreach and improve efficiency to better support our members' needs. Cork Chamber's reputation amongst the media is strong; we will continue to work with them to deliver our message on behalf of our members.

**We will:**

1. Leverage technology and digital tools to create a better understanding of members' communication preferences
2. Enhance our communications output through the use of AI and digitalisation
3. Implement tailored communication strategies to address diverse member needs, focusing on the balance between content relevance and frequency
4. Heighten the Cork Chamber website user experience
5. Deepen strong media relations, maintain the reputation of Cork Chamber among media network
6. Execute our external communications to ensure coherent and consistent messaging

**Our People**

Our people are the heart of Cork Chamber. We are committed to creating a supportive, dynamic and inclusive workplace that empowers each individual to reach their full potential. Through a commitment to continuous development, meaningful engagement and a strong culture of wellbeing, we strive to maintain an exceptional team that is resilient, motivated and equipped to excel.

**We will:**

1. Advance the ChamberCare Employee Wellbeing Programme to meet the evolving needs of a diverse team
2. Prioritise team development through continuous learning and upskilling opportunities
3. Strengthen employee engagement and growth through initiatives that support a sense of belonging, diversity, equity and inclusion
4. Embed and live by our core values, ensuring they guide our actions, decisions and interactions at every level

5. Promote a culture of cross-team collaboration and mutual respect, encouraging open communication and knowledge sharing across all departments Position Cork Chamber as an employer of choice by developing and implementing a strong employer value proposition to attract, retain and develop top talent

**Finance & Governance**

Effective governance is essential to achieve our mission. By adopting best practices, enhancing board diversity and ensuring comprehensive compliance, we strengthen accountability and inclusivity. Optimised financial stewardship, structured reporting and sustainable revenue growth, enabling us to serve our members effectively and deliver lasting community impact.

**We will:**

1. Lead in adopting and implementing best-in-class governance practices
2. Ensure structured reporting on strategic plan progress to the board
3. Enhance the diversity of our board to reflect our membership, to foster inclusive representation to better serve and advocate for all members
4. Prioritise comprehensive compliance in Health & Safety, HR, Technology and GDPR across the organisation
5. Optimise financial performance and reporting
6. Drive financial sustainability by enhancing revenue streams and optimising resources

## Memberships/Affiliations





SECTION TWO

# Governance Structure

# Governance

Cork Chamber is committed to upholding the highest standards of efficient and effective corporate governance. Strong governance is the foundation of a transparent, accountable, and purpose-driven organisation, ensuring independence, financial sustainability, and a thriving, diverse membership base. It enables us to deliver high-quality services, advocate effectively for our members, and act as responsible stewards of our resources. By maintaining robust governance structures, Cork Chamber strengthens its ability to influence public policy, support business growth, and champion the interests of our members with integrity.

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rob Horgan, President
- Susie Horgan, Vice-President
- David Swinburne, Honorary Secretary
- Michael Nolan, Honorary Treasurer
- Gillian Bergin
- Maria Desmond
- Michael Harte
- Fiona Kearney
- Anne-Marie Linehan
- Carmel Lonergan
- James McGrath
- Richard Morrissey
- Garrett O’Keeffe
- Conor O’Toole
- Catherine Sheridan
- Dr Jean van Sinderen-Law
- Noreen Walsh

## BOARD COMMITTEES

- Executive Committee
- Audit & Risk Committee
- Governance & Nominations Committee
- Membership Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Remuneration Committee

## REGISTERED NUMBER

13918

## REGISTERED OFFICE

Fitzgerald House, Summerhill North,  
Cork, T23 TD90

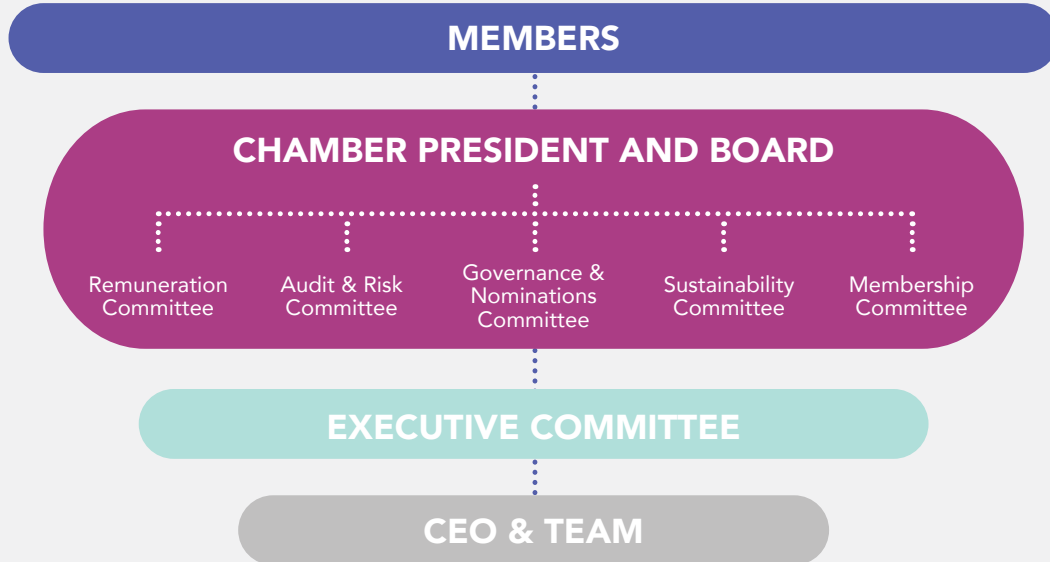
## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Moore Ireland Audit Partners Limited,  
83 South Mall, Cork

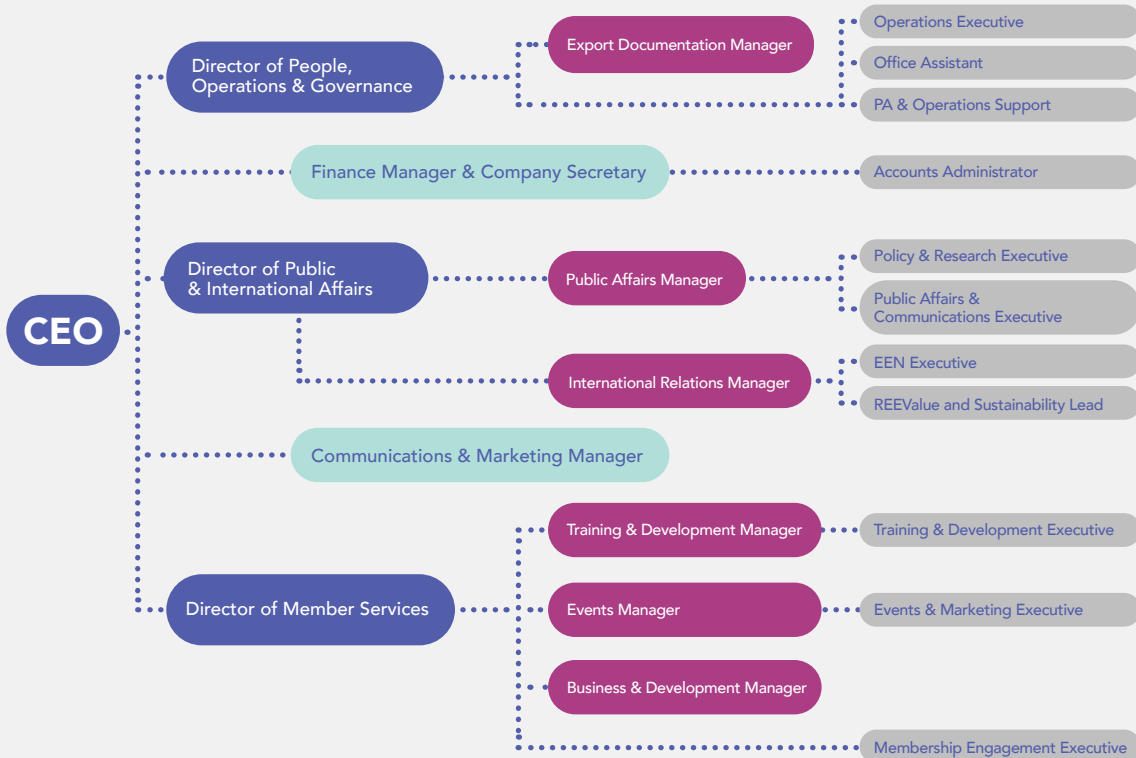
## SOLICITORS

JRAP O’Meara  
89/90 South Mall, Cork

# Cork Chamber Governance Structure



# Organisational Structure



# Board of Directors



**Rob Horgan**  
President  
Velo Coffee Roasters



**Susie Horgan**  
Vice-President  
Springboard  
Communications



**David Swinburne**  
Honorary Secretary  
Forvis Mazars



**Michael Nolan**  
Honorary Treasurer  
Grant Thornton



**Gillian Bergin**  
Dell Technologies



**Maria Desmond**  
Enable Ireland



**Michael Harte**  
Dairygold



**Fiona Kearney**  
The Glucksman UCC



**Jim McGrath**  
AbbVie Cork



**Anne-Marie Linehan**  
J.W. O'Donovan  
Solicitors



**Carmel Lonergan**  
Trigon Hotels



**Richard Morrissey**  
Moneycorp



**Garrett O'Keeffe**  
SolarWinds



**Conor O'Toole**  
Clayton Hotel  
Cork City



**Catherine Sheridan**  
Enviroguide DNV



**Dr Jean van Sinderen-Law**  
UCC



**Noreen Walsh**  
AIB Bank

## BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE 2025

Board Member	Jan	Feb	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Oct	Dec
Rob Horgan	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Susie Horgan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
David Swinburne	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Nolan	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X
Gillian Bergin	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Maria Desmond	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Harte	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fiona Kearney	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Anne-Marie Linehan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Carmel Lonergan	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
James McGrath	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richard Morrissey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Garrett O’Keeffe	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Conor O’Toole	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Catherine Sheridan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Dr Jean van Sinderen-Law	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Noreen Walsh	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓

### Resigned May 2025

Ronan Murray	✓	✓	✓	X				
Brian Fitzgerald	✓	✓	X	✓				
Ray Kelleher	X	✓	✓	✓				
Paul Hourican	✓	X	✓	X				

## BOARD COMPOSITION

The key role of the Board of the Chamber is to provide efficient and effective leadership for Cork Chamber within a framework of practical controls. The Board performs two roles. It firstly provides strategic direction to the Chamber, based on listening to, understanding and representing the needs of the Chamber's members and Cork's business community. Secondly, it has specific oversight responsibilities in respect of executive functions.

The composition of the Board should be balanced and reflect, as far as possible, the Chamber membership having regard to company size, diversity, and skillset.

The Board shall consist of not more than 22 members as follows:

- The President
- The Immediate Past President or the Vice President (if appointed)
- The Honorary Secretary
- The Honorary Treasurer

12 elected members if a Vice-President has been appointed and otherwise 13 elected members in addition to members co-opted under Articles 24 and 25. Not more than 5 co-opted members as provided for under Article 24. The Elected members of the Board shall hold office for a period of four years and shall not be eligible for re-election to the Board other than as President until a period of three years has elapsed. All Directors are non-executive and sit on the board on a voluntary basis, receiving no remuneration for their time and contribution.

As soon as possible following their appointments, all new Board members, including co-options, shall receive an induction during which they shall be advised about the Chamber's key policies and work programme, and the provisions of the Chambers Code of Governance. They shall also be invited to meet with the President, CEO and Chamber Team to gain a deeper understanding of the daily operations of Cork Chamber. They will also be provided with an induction pack which will include:

- Code of Governance
- The Constitution
- Financial Statements & Management Accounts

- Budget
- Access to minutes of previous board meetings
- Strategic Plan
- Strategy Delivery Plan
- Annual Report.

## BOARD MEETINGS

The Board seeks to meet on at least 8 occasions in each calendar year. A schedule of yearly Board meetings is circulated at the beginning of the year. Meetings are scheduled for a duration of 1.5/2 hours. From time to time it may be necessary for meetings to be extended to allow sufficient time for discussion of issues in an appropriate manner. A themed agenda for the Board is drawn up to make best use of the time available and ensure that there is the appropriate focus on policy and strategy. Supporting material is circulated with the draft agenda to provide background to any topics included, such as minutes of previous meetings, management accounts, risk register, and relevant reports etc.

Cork Chamber has a conflict of interest policy in place which is reviewed annually. Board members should identify and promptly declare any actual or potential conflicts of Interest which arise at board meetings. Such declarations should be made at the beginning of each board meeting at which the matter is discussed and should be recorded in the Board minutes. Where a material conflict of interest arises, the Board member concerned should not participate in discussions nor, may the Board member participate in any vote in respect of any contract in which they have an interest. They should also offer to withdraw from the meeting, and the Board should decide if this is required.

## BOARD COMMITTEES

The Chamber has 6 Board Committees:

- Executive Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- Audit & Risk Committee
- Governance & Nominations Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Membership Committee

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is appointed by Board and consists of at least four Board members. Its members include the President, (who shall be the Chair), the Immediate Past President/Vice-President, the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. The CEO shall, ex officio, attend Executive Committee meetings. The Executive Committee is authorised to meet and take action between board meetings when it is impractical to get the full board together.

Committee members include:

Rob Horgan, Susie Horgan, David Swinburne, Michael Nolan, Conor Healy.

## REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The Remuneration Committee is appointed by the Board and shall consist of at least 4 members including the Chair and President of Cork Chamber. The Remuneration Committee have delegated responsibility for setting the remuneration for the CEO and the pay policy for the Senior Management Team of the Chamber. There is a formal and clear procedure for developing policy on executive remuneration. No executive will be involved in setting their own remuneration. The CEO brings to the committee proposals for CEO and Senior Management Team remuneration, and proposals for team remuneration, for consideration by the Committee.

Committee members include:

David Swinburne (Chair), Susie Horgan, Michael Nolan, Rob Horgan, Richard Morrissey, Fiona Kearney, Conor Healy.

## AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

The Audit & Risk Committee is a committee of the Board of Cork Chamber. Where it is necessary to augment the necessary skillset of the committee, the committee may contain a member or members who are not members of the Board of Cork Chamber. There are formal and clear arrangements for considering how the Board should apply financial reporting and internal control principles and for maintaining an appropriate relationship with the Chamber's auditors. This is delegated by the Board.

Committee members include:

Michael Harte (Chair), Michael Nolan, Rob Horgan, Gillian Bergin, Anne Marie Linehan, Naoimh Frawley, Carmel Holland, Conor Healy.

## GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Governance & Nominations Committee is a committee of the Board of Cork Chamber. The Governance & Nominations Committee have a leadership role related to board effectiveness and governance. Their duties extend to board succession planning, including identifying potential candidates for election or co-option onto the board.

Committee members include:

Anne Marie Linehan (Chair), David Swinburne, Rob Horgan, Susie Horgan, Fiona Kearney, Garrett O'Keeffe, Conor Healy, Naoimh Frawley, Carmel Holland.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is a committee of the Board of Cork Chamber. The Membership Committee will consist of representatives from the Board and a smaller number of Chamber members from the wider membership who will focus on the delivery of the main Membership Development priorities of Cork Chamber.

Committee members include:

Richard Morrissey (chair), Garrett O Keeffe, Noreen Walsh, Conor O'Toole, Carmel Lonergan, Ray Kelleher (Montenotte Hotel), Niall Kenny (AB Sales), Liam O Riordan, (Investwise), Joe Sherlock (Laya), Annie Fitzgibbon, Naoimh Frawley, Tim Garde, Annette O' Keeffe.

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Sustainability Committee is a committee of the Board of Cork Chamber. The committee will serve in a practical way to structure and support Cork Chamber's sustainability strategy and actions through an impactful Sustainable Cork Programme. It will assist in informing and developing strategy on Sustainability, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and specifically on Cork Chamber's leadership and actions on five selected UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Committee members include:

Fiona Kearney (Chair), Jim Mc Grath, Catherine Sheridan, Maria Desmond, Jean Van Sinderen-Law, Cathal McSweeney, Naoimh Frawley, Alicia Mateos Cardinas, Conor Healy, Barbara-Anne Richardson (Heineken), Brian Fitzgerald (ORE).

# Chamber Team



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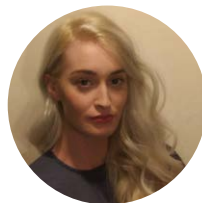
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SECTION THREE

# Our Work

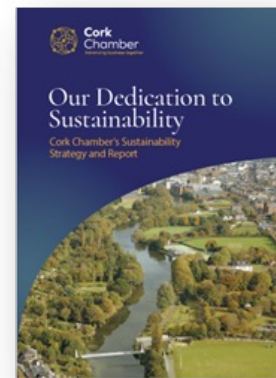
# Securing Cork's Future: Our Dedication to Sustainability

## SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY & REPORT

In 2025, Cork Chamber developed its first Sustainability Strategy, setting out environmental, social and governance (ESG) commitments for the period 2025–2028. The strategy is accompanied by a Sustainability Report outlining progress achieved across carbon reduction, biodiversity, wellbeing, governance and community engagement over the previous six years (2019–2024).

The strategy reflects Cork Chamber's role in advancing sustainability across the region through collaboration with businesses, local authorities and community partners. Across both our own operations and our work with the business community, the strategy focuses on practical delivery, including reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity, supporting inclusive employment and contributing to the region's transition to offshore renewable energy.

As part of this work, Cork Chamber published a Sustainability Report providing transparency on environmental performance, renewable energy generation at Fitzgerald House, carbon footprint reporting and social metrics. In line with evolving corporate sustainability reporting frameworks, Cork Chamber conducted a Double Materiality Assessment following a consultation process with Board members and the Chamber team. This helped ensure that Cork Chamber's sustainability priorities are focused, relevant and aligned with the needs of our members and the wider regional context.



# Awards & Accolades

The recognition received by Cork Chamber throughout the year reflects a sustained commitment to excellence across all areas of our work. Driven by the needs and ambitions of our members and the wider business community, these accolades reinforce the impact of our collective efforts and the standards we continually strive to uphold. They are not only a reflection of the work delivered over the past year, but of the consistency, dedication and collaboration built over many years. Importantly, these achievements strengthen trust in Cork Chamber as a credible and effective voice for business, while also providing strong momentum as we continue to deliver on our ambitions for the future.



## WORLD CHAMBERS AWARD

Cork Chamber named winner in World Chambers Competition.



## SUSTAINABILITY & BIODIVERSITY AWARD

Winners of the Sustainability & Biodiversity award category at the Chambers Ireland Awards for the project titled 'Embedding Biodiversity in Business: Cork Chamber's Commitment in Action'.



## EVENTS AWARD

Cork Chamber receiving award for 'Best In-House Corporate Events Team' at the Event Impact Awards.



## CHAMBER OF THE YEAR 2025

Cork Chamber was announced as Chamber of the Year 2025 at the national Chambers awards, a celebration of excellence across Ireland's Chamber network.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD

Winners of the Lobbying & Policy Campaign at the Chambers Ireland Awards for the project titled '2024: Year of Elections'.



## EEN AWARD

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Ireland named "Best Agency Support to Business" at the InBusiness Recognition Awards 2025.



# Public Affairs

In 2025, Cork Chamber continued to play a leading role in representing the interests of Cork's business community through an extensive programme of public policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement.

As an SDG Ambassador, all of Cork Chamber's policy outputs and activities are guided by our formal pledge to uphold the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This framework ensures that our advocacy supports sustainable economic growth, responsible development and long-term regional resilience.

Throughout the year, the Public Affairs team engaged actively with Government, policymakers and key stakeholders to advance priorities critical to Cork's continued development.

The scale of Cork Chamber's engagement reflects the importance of ensuring that Cork's voice is represented in national decision-making. During 2025, Cork Chamber contributed to 74 policy consultations and submissions, recorded 667 lobbying engagements through meetings, statements and written communications, and closed the year as the most active lobbying organisation

in Ireland during the final lobbying period of 2025. The Chamber also ensured representation for members across more than 25 regional and national forums and advisory groups, where strategies and policies shaping Cork's future are developed.

Alongside this policy advocacy, the team continued to strengthen engagement with members. The launch of Inside Track, a public affairs update for SMEs, created a new platform for businesses to gain insights into policy developments while directly informing Cork Chamber's advocacy priorities.

Through strategic initiatives, partnerships and sustained engagement with decision-makers, Cork Chamber continues to position Cork as a central driver of Ireland's economic development and a strong voice in shaping national policy.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



### Inside Track

In 2025, Cork Chamber launched the Inside Track – Public Affairs Update for SMEs, a new engagement series designed to connect SME members directly with the Chamber's Public Affairs team



### Budget committee and submission

Cork Chamber's Budget Committee led the development of the Chamber's Budget 2026 submission, outlining key policy recommendations to enhance Ireland's economic competitiveness and support sustainable regional growth



### NDP submission

Cork Chamber made a detailed submission to the Government's review of the National Development Plan, advocating for accelerated investment in strategic infrastructure to support economic growth and regional development



### 74

Submissions made to public consultations on a wide range of key policy issues, including the Luas Cork Emerging Preferred Route, and the Accelerating Infrastructure Taskforce



4

Economic Trends Surveys and publications informing business leaders and government decision-makers, measuring economic outlook and examining key topics including Ireland's EU Presidency and International Trade



## Forums

Your voice represented across 25+ regional and national groups and forums, including the Cost of Business Advisory Forum, Cork Airport Advisory Council, Visit Cork, the South West Regional Skills Forum and Mission City Steering Group



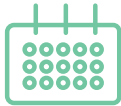
10+

Cork Development Forum meetings with senior politicians, local Oireachtas members, key decision-makers and stakeholders, including Taoiseach Micheál Martin



1

National Lobbying & Policy Campaign Award - 2024: Year of Elections



667

Lobbying engagements, including written submissions, meetings and statements



## CASE STUDY

# Tri-Region Partnership

**In 2025, Cork Chamber advanced its leadership in national and cross-border economic advocacy through the launch and activation of the Tri-Region Partnership, a strategic collaboration between Cork Chamber, Dublin Chamber and Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry.**

Established to enhance all-island connectivity and unlock shared economic opportunity, the Partnership reflects a clear and ambitious purpose: to strengthen regional collaboration through coordinated advocacy, strategic investment and shared economic ambition.

As part of the Partnership's engagement programme across the three cities, Cork hosted the third leg of the series in September 2025, welcoming delegates from Dublin and Northern Ireland for a two-day programme of discussions and site visits across the city and harbour area. Sessions at locations including Penrose Dock, the National Maritime College of Ireland in Ringaskiddy and University College Cork showcased Cork's strategic infrastructure, maritime capability

and innovation ecosystem while bringing together policymakers, industry leaders and academia to explore shared priorities for all-island economic development.

The Tri-Region Partnership Policy Position Paper was launched by Minister Jerry Buttimer at an event during the two days. The priorities of the Tri-Region Partnership, includes:

- Delivering higher-speed rail links between Cork, Dublin and Belfast
- Restoring direct air connectivity between Cork and Belfast
- Securing long-term port investment to support trade and offshore renewable development
- Building all-island innovation clusters in sectors such as life sciences, fintech and clean energy

# Communications

In 2025, the Communications function at Cork Chamber continued to play a central role in delivering value to members, strengthening the organisation's voice, and enhancing engagement across all areas of activity.

Aligned with the Chamber's Strategic Plan 2025–2028, our approach focused on delivering clear, consistent and impactful communications.

Throughout the year, communications worked as an enabling function across public affairs, membership, international, events and sustainability, ensuring that key messages were effectively communicated to relevant audiences.

Our digital channels played a critical role in delivering timely, mass communications to members, while also enabling more personalised outreach where appropriate. This ensured members remained informed, engaged and connected across multiple touchpoints.

The Chamber's strong reputation within the media landscape was further reinforced through consistent, high-quality output. Proactive media engagement ensured Cork Chamber remained a leading and trusted voice on business issues in Cork and nationally, advocating effectively on behalf of our members.

This positioning was reflected in the significant recognition received throughout the year, including success at both national and international awards programmes. These achievements reinforce the organisation's reputation for quality, credibility and impact, strengthening trust among members and stakeholders.

Maintaining high standards of brand consistency and content quality remained a priority, including the continued development of Chamberlink as a platform for thought leadership and member insight.

Social media continued to support engagement and visibility, with an increased focus on video content and platform-specific approaches to enhance reach and interaction.

Overall, 2025 marked a year of steady progress in strengthening the effectiveness and impact of Communications, supporting Cork Chamber in delivering on its mission to unite, represent and support its members.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



### €2.12m

Media values achieved through regional and national media coverage, across print, broadcast, online and television



### 5k

Recipients of direct member communications via digital newsletters and digital flyers



### 15+

Integrated communications campaigns delivered across flagship events, advocacy, international programmes and member initiatives



### 185k

Views of Annual Dinner 2025 content across social media channels, including 90,000+ views from real-time Instagram coverage on the night



## 5k

Followers on Cork Chamber Instagram, a platform growing in strength for our brand



## 147k

Visitors to corkchamber.ie, presenting a 30% year-on-year increase, driven primarily by organic search



## 20k

Followers on the Cork Chamber LinkedIn page, achieving exceptionally strong engagement rates on fully organic content



## 60

Press releases delivered, maintaining Cork Chamber's position as a leading and active voice on business issues locally and nationally

### CASE STUDY

## Building Trust in the Cork Chamber Brand

**In 2025, Cork Chamber continued to strengthen its position as a trusted, credible and visible voice for business, with communications playing a central role in reinforcing this reputation across all channels and activities.**

A strong and proactive media presence ensured Cork Chamber remained a consistent and authoritative contributor to regional and national business and policy discussions, supported by a high volume of press releases, commentary and engagement. This external credibility was further enhanced through significant recognition at both national and international level, including being named as the Chamber of the Year by Chambers Ireland, as well as success at the World Chambers Competition, a milestone that reflects the quality of work, and helps to position Cork and its business community on a global stage.

Trust was further built through the consistent delivery of high-quality communications across digital channels, ensuring members remained informed, connected and represented throughout the year. From major campaigns and flagship events to ongoing content across Chamberlink and social media, a clear focus on clarity, professionalism and accessibility underpinned all outputs.

Importantly, this represents a collective and collaborative effort across the Cork Chamber team, through dedicated contributions to communications, marketing and brand engagement, ensuring consistency and strength in how Cork Chamber connects with its members, stakeholders and wider audiences.

# Training & Development

Cork Chamber Skillnet is a multi-sector regional business training network offering subsidised training and development opportunities to businesses within the southwest region.

With over 20 years of training delivery expertise, the Cork Chamber Skillnet team are passionately committed to supporting businesses throughout the talent development journey of their most valued asset, their people.



## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



### 121

Training sessions delivered in 2025



### 16

Complimentary learning and development webinars fully funded by Skillnet Ireland



### 84

Bespoke in-house training courses



### 6

Non-formal events



### 21

Public/Open courses

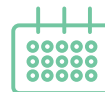


### 428

Member companies undertook training



Continued high demand for online delivery



### 4,927

Training days



### 1,392

Individual trainees undertook training



NextGen Leaders pilot event with Cork Chamber



Sponsorship of Industry Insights Cork Chamber events



IMI, MTU, UCC offerings continue to evolve

## CASE STUDY

# NextGen Leaders Pilot Event

**Cork Chamber in collaboration with Cork Chamber Skillnet, piloted a cross-sectoral leadership development event for NextGen Leaders.**

Aligning with Skillnet Ireland's priority areas, the initial session, led by leadership expert Gavin Duffy, focused on communication - a critical skill for effective leadership and professional growth.

With more than 50 companies participating across our Partners and Collaborate members, this initiative is enhancing engagement and capability while supporting the development of future leaders in the region.

Following the success of the pilot event, a three-part series is planned for 2026 to further strengthen NextGen leadership talent and membership value.



# Events

Cork Chamber's events calendar provides an essential platform for members to build connections and engage with insightful content. Through a diverse mix of in-person and online events featuring expert speakers and practical business insights, we create valuable opportunities to support growth, collaboration and knowledge sharing.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



**100+**

Events



**1**

Award Winning Team



**2**

Inside Track for SMEs



**1**

NextGen Leaders Pilot Event



**45**

Event sponsors



**3**

'Featured Event' Promos



### Partnerships in 2025

MII Cork, Employment & Recruitment Federation, France Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Cork Chamber Skillnet. Partnered with UCC to support their AI event. Held a briefing on Luas Cork with TII



**46**

'Upcoming Events' flyers sent



Strategic HR partnership with Adare renewed for fifth year



**70k+**

DigiEventGuide views



**7**

External DigiEventGuide events



# 7000+

Member event registrations



# 1

REEMValue International Conference



## Cork Digital Marketing Awards

- 12 new judges
- 300 entries to Cork Digital Marketing Awards 2025
- 280 attendees at Cork Digital Marketing Awards 2025
- Digital Marketing Legend: National Beauty Distribution



## Cork Chamber Dublin Dinner

- Sold out with over 660 guests
- New visual identity created
- Cork Chamber presented the 'Outstanding Contribution to Business Award 2025' posthumously in honour of the late John Mullins RIP



## Cork Chamber Annual Dinner

- Sold out with over 950 guests
- Guest of honour and keynote speaker Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD
- Cork Company of the Year Awards 2025 presented, with Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine named as overall winner



## Views

- 2,700+ Gallery page
- 3,000+ Events Overview
- 26,000+ Upcoming Events
- Upcoming Events webpage is most viewed page on the website, followed by the homepage

## CASE STUDY

# Cork Chamber Dublin Dinner

**The sold-out Cork Chamber Dublin Dinner in 2025 marked a standout moment in the Chamber's annual calendar, bringing together senior business leaders, policymakers, and key stakeholders for an evening of connection and collaboration.**

Held in Dublin, the event reinforced the strong economic ties between Cork and the capital while providing a platform for meaningful dialogue on national and regional growth.

A highlight of this year's dinner was the introduction of a refreshed visual identity, which signalled a modern, forward-looking direction for the event. The updated branding was seamlessly integrated across all touchpoints, from event design to digital

communications, enhancing the overall guest experience. Enhanced staging integrating audiovisual elements and digital displays also created a more engaging and visual impact for attendees.



# Membership Engagement

At Cork Chamber, our members are at the heart of everything we do - a dynamic and diverse cross sectoral business community driving the region's economic success.

Through a dedicated team and an evolving programme of services spanning advocacy, connection, training and international engagement, we support our members to grow, collaborate and thrive. Together, we are shaping a competitive, sustainable and globally connected Cork.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



**1,200**

Active members employing

**130,000+**

People



**3**

Membership Committee Meetings



**70**

Chamber Partners surveyed with 100% of respondents in favour of proposed NextGen Leaders initiative



**176**

New members recruited



Focused engagement and bespoke groups created to support topical Industry Insights, the new 'Inside Track' SME Forum & new NextGen Leaders series



**1**

New Chamber Partner and

**8**

New Collaborate Members



Strategic HR partnership continued with Adare Trusted People Partners providing key insights and legislative guidance



**9**

Virtual Maximise Your Membership sessions with 253 members logging on



**7**

New Members Breakfast meetings



**120,000**

Visits to Member Directory and Member Pages incorporating new banner placement



**1,000+**

Member communications uploaded via the Members Area and promoted through our channels



**300+**

Long-Standing Members surveyed

## CASE STUDY

# Long-Standing Members Survey

Towards year-end a survey was circulated to approximately 300 long-standing members of Cork Chamber who have supported and engaged with Cork Chamber for more than 10 years.

The objective was to gather insights and understand how we can improve the membership journey in the months and years ahead.

## 90%

of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their membership experience with

## >85%

stating they would recommend to others.

## 71%

believed that membership had directly or indirectly helped their business grow.

**Professional, supportive** and **responsive** were the most used terms to describe the Cork Chamber team.

Standout memories or milestones included:

“ Serving on the Board of Cork Chamber”

“ Being nominated as a Cork Large Company of the Year”

“ My time as Chamber ambassador”

“ World Chamber award”

“ Sustainable focus as good for business”

“ 200 years milestone, it was an honour to attend and to be part of this”



# International Relations

Cork Chamber connects Cork internationally and promotes the city and county for investment, collaboration, talent and trade. Through our international Chamber connections, business networks and international programmes, we help businesses to grow and collaborate with businesses across Europe and beyond.

## Connecting Cork

Connecting Cork is the initiative used within Cork Chamber to expand and develop our international relationships. We work closely with the Diplomatic Corps, both at home and abroad, to support the promotion of bilateral trade and international relationship building.



### SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



# 11

Ambassador meetings at Cork Chamber office (Norway, Switzerland, Germany, UK, Latvia, Barbados, Chile, Georgia, USA, Canada, Belgium)



# 10

Inbound missions and international events organised



# 10

Outbound missions, covering 14 different cities



# 29%

Growth in LinkedIn followers



# 70+

High-level meetings with international ambassadors, diplomats, regional development agencies, chambers of commerce, and companies during outbound missions

## Connecting Cork is supported by:



### CASE STUDY

# Shanghai International Friendship Cities Cooperation Forum

**The sister city relationship between Cork and Shanghai has developed into a strong and strategic partnership supporting trade, education and cultural exchange.**

Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the Cork-Shanghai relationship, underscoring a long-standing connection between both cities.

Since its inception, Cork Chamber has played a central role in strengthening business links, supporting Cork companies in building connections within the Chinese market and contributing to the attraction of Chinese investment to the region. A key milestone in this engagement was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce in 2009.

In May last year, Cork City Council invited Cork Chamber to join the Lord Mayor as part of an official delegation to Shanghai to attend the Shanghai International Friendship Cities Cooperation Forum, organised by the Shanghai Municipal Government's Foreign Affairs Office.

The Forum brought together more than ten mayors from cities around the world and provided a significant platform to strengthen business relationships and explore new opportunities for future collaboration.

As part of the programme, Cork Chamber was invited by our sister chamber, the Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce, to deliver a speech during the enterprise-chamber dialogue element of the Forum. This provided an important opportunity to promote Cork as a destination for talent and investment to an international audience. The address was well received and, in recognition of its impact, the Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office subsequently published the speech in its bi-monthly journal, further extending Cork's visibility and strengthening international awareness of the region's economic strengths and opportunities.

# Cork Financial Services Forum

Cork Chamber is host of the Cork Financial Services Forum (CFSF). This industry led forum works together to enhance a vibrant International Financial Services ecosystem, promote Cork as a destination for talent, and provide a supportive environment for existing businesses, potential new entrants and their teams. Connecting Cork is the umbrella branding and initiative used for the CFSF.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



### 190

Attendees at the Cork Financial Services Forum Annual Summit 2025. The highest number of attendees achieved to date



### 6

Forum meetings, bringing over 20 senior leaders from the financial services industry together, to grow the industry in Cork



### 3

New Forum members, including Apex Funds, Accenture and Alter Domus



### 9

Events, including a Roundtable with the Department of Finance, a collaborative event with the Institute of Banking and a strategic workshop, bringing together senior leaders from across the sector to help shape a compelling vision for the future of Cork's financial services ecosystem



## CASE STUDY

# Roundtable with Robert Troy TD, Minister of State at the Department of Finance

**In May 2025, the Cork Financial Services Forum welcomed Minister of State Robert Troy TD to Fitzgerald House for a roundtable discussion on advancing the regional growth of Ireland's financial services sector.**

The conversation centred on key priorities including enhancing financial incentives to attract firms to establish operations in Cork and drive growth beyond the greater Dublin region. Participants also reiterated the importance of a continued regional presence for the Central Bank of Ireland in Cork, reflecting the significant expansion of regulated entities and talent outside the capital, and welcomed the opportunity for Cork to play a leading role in the development of a national FinTech Hub.

This engagement led to a follow-up meeting with the Department of Finance, held in advance of its public consultation on the current international financial services landscape and emerging trends. The consultation sought stakeholder views on areas of opportunity across the short, medium and long term, as well as barriers to competitiveness and growth within a robust regulatory

and supervisory environment. Discussions explored the evolving role of the sector, opportunities and risks, innovation, start-ups and scale-ups, and the broader operating environment. The Forum subsequently submitted feedback to the consultation, ensuring Cork's perspective was represented in shaping national policy.

Several months later, the Minister delivered a keynote address at the Forum's Annual Summit, which recorded its highest ever attendance. The initial roundtable with Minister Troy proved instrumental in strengthening collaboration between industry and government, elevating Cork's strategic importance within Ireland's financial services ecosystem.



# Enterprise Europe Network

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is a European Commission funded programme, with contact points in over 50 countries worldwide.

It provides guidance to SMEs across several key areas such as business partnership, innovation, sustainability, digitalisation, resilience, internationalisation, single market advisory and access to finance.

In Ireland, EEN is delivered by Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Office Donegal, Dublin Chamber and Cork Chamber.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



### 3.5-year contract

EEN contract officially concluded in Q2 2025, exceeded contract KPIs with a total of 487, and financial and technical reports to the European Commission



### 2 New business collaborations

Supported one client connecting with an international organisation, and helping the other recruit a Japanese intern through an EU-funded programme



### 107 companies

Promoted EEN Cork Chamber services to 107 companies



### 2

Companies who received advisory services resulted in expansion into a new market, as well as receiving a VAT reclaim to the value of €30,000



### 8 new client contracts

Assisted a client company in developing eight new partnerships with international companies in Sicily



### 13

Co-organised 13 brokerage events and online missions with various EEN partners



### 3 success stories

EEN Cork Chamber shared three success stories through social media and Chamberlink



### Communications campaign

The final phase of the EEN Ireland communication campaign was delivered in Q1 and Q2 showcasing three success stories. The multi channel, multi platform campaign reached an estimated 226,000



### 1 national award

EEN Ireland won the Best Agency Support for Business in the InBusiness Recognition Awards



## CASE STUDY

## Food and Drink Mission

**In 2023, the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) at Cork Chamber co-organised a Food & Drinks Mission to Sicily, promoting the opportunity to relevant businesses in Cork and supporting companies interested in exploring new partnerships.**

Bubble Brothers, a wine merchant based in Cork's iconic English Market, expressed interest in participating following the local outreach. The EEN team at Cork Chamber provided tailored guidance throughout the application process, helping the company develop a strong profile and submit a competitive application.

Bubble Brothers was successfully selected to take part in the mission, where they met a number of Sicilian producers and suppliers. Following the visit, Cork Chamber continued to support the company in maintaining communication with the businesses they had connected with during the mission. This ongoing guidance helped turn initial meetings into concrete commercial opportunities.

As a result, Bubble Brothers secured eight supply agreements with producers from Sicily, significantly expanding their product offering and establishing valuable new international partnerships.



# REEValue

REEValue is a European co-funded LIFE project (2023–2026) supporting SMEs and larger organisations in the food, beverage and logistics sectors to improve energy efficiency and invest in renewable energy solutions.

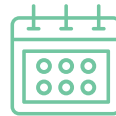
Through tailored technical guidance and collaboration with project partners, REEValue aims to accelerate the energy transition across key energy-intensive value chains. In 2025, REEValue continued to engage with businesses

across the region through a series of events and targeted supports, helping organisations better understand the opportunities and challenges associated with the energy transition.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...

**6**

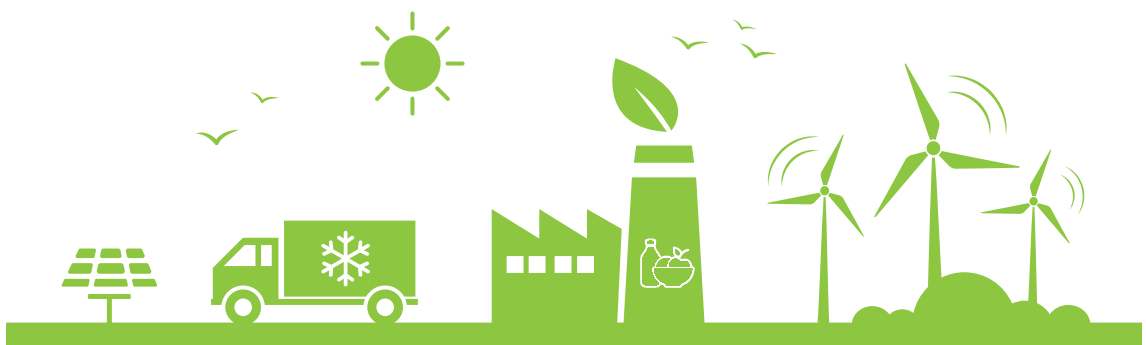
Businesses provided with targeted REEValue supports

**4**

REEValue events delivered during the year, including a two-day International Energy Conference and a Speed Networking event organised in collaboration with Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)

**150+**

Event registrations



## CASE STUDY

## REERValue Platform

REERValue.eu is a free online platform designed to support European businesses, particularly SMEs in the food and beverage manufacturing, transport and logistics sectors, to improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions and identify opportunities for cost savings.

The multilingual platform includes a quick self-assessment tool that helps companies understand their current performance and identify areas for improvement. Businesses can also access carbon footprint estimations and receive tailored energy-saving recommendations to support practical and cost-effective actions.

In addition, the platform provides information on available green grants, helping organisations identify financial supports for sustainability initiatives. It also acts as a hub for value chain collaboration, enabling companies to be showcased as case studies that highlight practical examples of sustainability in action.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



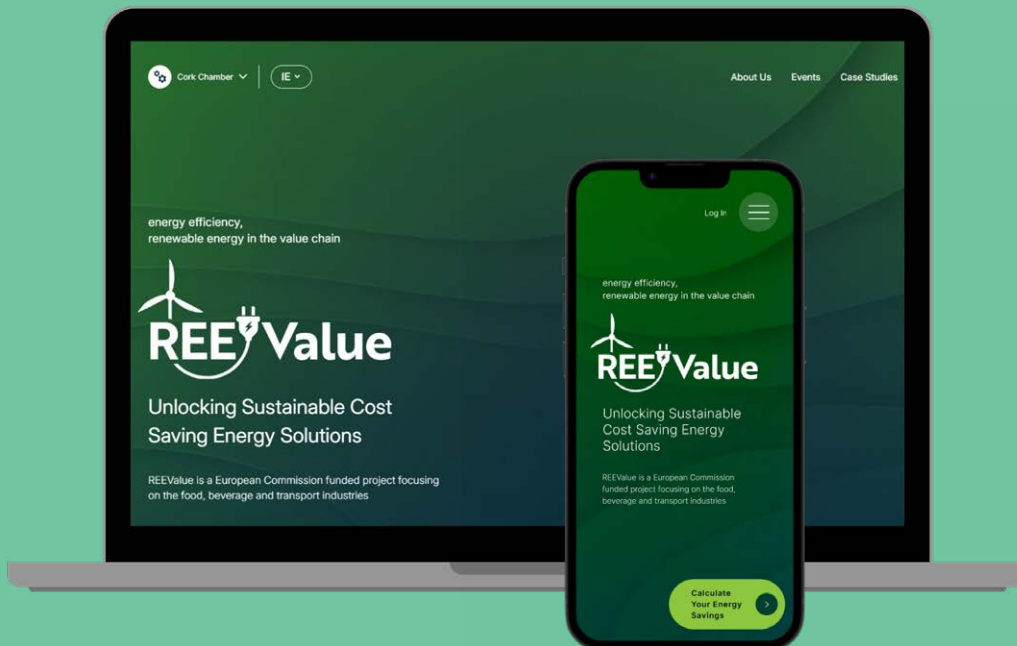
75+

REERValue platform registrations



25+

REERValue energy evaluations fully completed



# Export Documentation

Cork Chamber is a trusted provider of export documentation services, supporting businesses across the region. We are officially authorised by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Chambers Ireland to issue and certify export documentation.

Our dedicated export team delivers a tailored certification service to a wide range of clients. We support companies in ensuring their documentation is correctly prepared, authenticated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and legalised by relevant embassies where required.

In addition, we provide regular updates and insights on export services, international trade developments and key changes impacting businesses.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



**17,557**

Export documents certified



### Top 3 Countries

China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia



**96%**

Certified online



**6**

ICC certified signatories



**4**

New clients



### Top products

Food & drink, technology and machinery

# Sustainability

Sustainability has become the defining thread connecting Cork Chamber’s work, from our strategy and advocacy to our partnerships and operations.

Through engagement with our members and stakeholders, we are driving measurable environmental and social impact while supporting the development of an ambitious and resilient Cork city and county.

Through collaboration, innovation and shared learning, we are enabling the business community to adopt low-carbon, circular approaches, strengthen social inclusion and contribute to Cork’s long-term resilience. Cork Chamber-led initiatives such as the Sustainable Cork Programme and CORIF, together with our wide range of social and environmental partnerships, demonstrate our contribution to the sustainable growth of Cork’s economy. A strong and sustainable region underpins long-term economic stability, supports talent attraction and reinforces Cork’s position as a leading location to live, work and invest.

The Sustainable Cork Programme plays a central role in driving environmental and social awareness across Cork’s business community. In its most successful year to date, the programme has seen record levels of engagement, providing a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration. It enables members and stakeholders to exchange ideas and showcase solutions across key areas including climate action, energy transition, circular economy, biodiversity, sustainable transport, urban resilience, gender balance and inclusive workplaces.

We are also continuing our journey from SDG Champions to proud SDG Ambassadors. This government designation recognises our progress in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthens our commitment to embedding the SDGs across our work with businesses, stakeholders and charities. We remain focused on enhancing our sustainability supports for members and the wider community.



# Environmental

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



### 200

Trees Gifted to Chamber Members



### Public Affairs & Sustainability Intern:

UCC research project on "Integrating Sustainability in Cork SMEs—Barriers, Enablers and the Role of Voluntary Reporting."



### 1

Mission Cities Capital Hub Cork Chamber Webinar



### Eco Merit Certification



Members of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan



### EPA's Food Waste Charter

Proud signatories of the EPA's Food Waste Charter



### 380+

Sustainable Cork Programme event registrations across 4 Sustainable Cork Programme events



### Active participation

in the Mission Label Communications Working Group



### National recognition

through the Chambers Ireland Sustainability & Biodiversity Award



### 1

Key submission to the Public Consultation on the development of Ireland's third Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan

## CASE STUDY

## Local Green Deals

**In 2025, Cork Chamber played a key role in supporting the development and delivery of Cork’s Local Green Deals (LGDs), a collaborative initiative developed with Cork City Council to support formal partnerships through which organisations commit to delivering practical climate actions within their own operations or spheres of influence.**

Twelve organisations formally signed their Local Green Deals with Cork City Council and the Lord Mayor of Cork. These partnerships focused on a wide range of sustainability initiatives on energy, circular economy or biodiversity projects. Cork Chamber signed its own Local Green Deal, reaffirming its commitment to climate action both through its operations and through the delivery of sustainability initiatives for members and the wider community. In addition, Cork Chamber supported several members in developing and progressing their own.

The initiative received significant international recognition during the year. At the European Commission’s Intelligent Cities Challenge Conference in Brussels, Cork City was selected from over 60 participating cities to

receive the award for “Most LGDs signed with consistently high quality”, recognising the scale and ambition of Cork’s collaborative climate action model. Cork Chamber also participated in the conference programme, presenting alongside Cork City Council to share Cork’s experience in developing and implementing Local Green Deals.

Building on this momentum, later in the year the initiative also gained global recognition at the World Chambers Congress in Melbourne, where Cork Chamber was awarded the World Chambers Competition Award for Best Collaboration of Chambers, Business and Government. As part of the winner selection process, Cork Chamber delivered a five-minute pitch to an international panel of judges and delegates, presenting Cork’s Local Green Deals as a model of chamber collaboration with business, local government and the wider community to drive meaningful climate action.

This initiative highlights Cork’s partnership-led approach as a strong example of how local collaboration can support sustainable economic development.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



12

Local Green Deals signed across Cork city in 2025



Panellist at the Intelligent Cities Challenge Conference in Brussels alongside Cork City Council



8

member organisations were signed and supported by Cork Chamber in developing their LGDs.

**European recognition**

for Cork City at the European Commission-Intelligent Cities Challenge conference for achieving the highest number of high-quality Local Green Deals, with Cork Chamber supporting participation

**Global recognition**

at the World Chambers Congress, Cork Chamber winning the Best Collaboration of Chambers, Business and Government Award

**5-minute finalist pitch**

delivered at the World Chambers Competition

# Social

In 2025, we made significant strides in fostering a more inclusive, equitable and socially responsible organisation. Our commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEI&B) remained at the heart of our initiatives, driving meaningful progress in workforce & board representation, community engagement and employee well-being.

From expanding programs for underrepresented talent to launching impactful partnerships that uplift diverse communities, we have taken bold steps toward building a more inclusive future.

We also continued to prioritise mental health and well-being, ensuring our people feel valued, supported and empowered to thrive. These achievements reflect our unwavering dedication to creating a workplace and a world, where everyone belongs.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS...



**Inclusive**  
Employer Workplace Pledge



Created Volunteering Opportunities Brochure for Members



**PSYCHED**  
Accreditation



Created Volunteering Opportunities Brochure for team members



**Community**  
Initiatives & Support



Cork Access Network





## CASE STUDY

# WorkAbility Cork: A Year of Impact, Inclusion and Opportunity

**WorkAbility Cork marked a significant milestone in 2025, celebrating its first year of delivery with strong momentum, meaningful outcomes and a growing network of engaged employers and participants.**

Delivered in partnership with SECAD and Cork Chamber, the programme has supported over 80 jobseekers with disabilities, helping individuals to build skills and confidence and access new pathways into employment.

At its core, WorkAbility Cork is designed to support both jobseekers and employers, promoting inclusive recruitment practices while enabling businesses to create more diverse and representative workplaces. Leveraging SECAD's extensive experience in employment and community development, the initiative ensures that opportunities are accessible, tailored and aligned to individual strengths and ambitions.

A key highlight of the year was the WorkAbility Cork Showcase, held on 18th November at Penrose Dock. The event brought together participants, employers and community partners, offering a powerful demonstration of the programme's impact to date and the collective commitment to advancing inclusive employment across the region.

The results achieved in year one reflect both the strength of the model and the demand for inclusive employment supports. As the programme moves into its next phase, the focus remains on scaling its reach and deepening its impact. With strong foundations in place and continued collaboration at its core, WorkAbility Cork is well positioned to grow from strength to strength, creating lasting opportunities for individuals and supporting a more inclusive Cork.

# Recognising Your Success

Cork Chamber is proud to celebrate our members and highlight their achievements. Each year, we host three awards programmes to spotlight remarkable success stories, showcasing the diverse and dynamic businesses that make up the Cork business community. These awards provide an excellent platform for businesses to share their journey, growth and future ambitions.



Cork Company  
of the Year 2025

Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine was named the International and the Overall Winner of the Cork Company of the Year Awards 2025, which were hosted by Cork Chamber and sponsored by Vodafone Ireland. Individual category winners announced included Keohane Seafoods (Large category), National Beauty Distribution (SME category) and Ground Wellbeing (Emerging category).

"We are incredibly honoured to be named the overall winner of the Cork Company of the Year Awards 2025, particularly as we celebrate 20 years in Cork. Our success is driven by an exceptional team, both past and present, whose dedication and expertise have made our site a centre of excellence in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. We remain committed to innovation, sustainability and improving patients' lives worldwide."

*Dana Daneshvari, General Manager, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine*

## Outstanding Contribution to Business Award



Cork Chamber presented the 'Outstanding Contribution to Business Award 2025' posthumously in honour of the late John Mullins RIP.

"On behalf of the Mullins family, my sincere thanks to Cork Chamber for this award. John had an extraordinary capacity to imagine what could be achieved, and the determination to make it happen. Ambition and drive were not things he learned, they were part of who he was. He cared deeply about his homeplace, about Cork and Ireland, and he carried that pride into everything he did. His legacy lives on in the projects he led, the people he inspired and the organisations he helped shape. We are deeply proud to see that legacy celebrated here tonight."

*John Mullins brother, Pat Mullins*

National Beauty Distribution was named the Digital Marketing Legend of 2025 hosted by Cork Chamber.

"To be named Digital Marketing Legend is an incredible honour. For us, digital marketing is the heartbeat of how we connect with customers and grow our brands. Our success has been built on bold ideas, creative storytelling and data-driven campaigns, but above all on the dedication of a truly legendary team. This award celebrates their passion and ambition, and we're excited to keep raising the bar in digital marketing."

*Kieran Walsh, CEO at National Beauty Distribution*

## Cork Digital Marketing Awards 2025





SECTION FOUR

# Finance, Partners & Sponsors

# Financial Statements

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 €	2024 €
<b>Income</b>	<b>3,445,394</b>	3,436,510
Cost of Sales	<b>(1,348,450)</b>	(1,478,237)
<b>Gross surplus</b>	<b>2,096,944</b>	1,958,273
Administrative expenses	<b>(2,103,361)</b>	(1,954,318)
Other operating income	-	3,448
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<b>(6,417)</b>	7,403
Other interest receivable and similar income	<b>18,985</b>	29
<b>Surplus before taxation</b>	<b>12,568</b>	7,432
Taxation on surplus	-	-
<b>Surplus for the financial year</b>	<b>12,568</b>	7,432

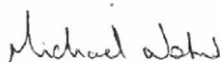
There are no items of comprehensive income in the financial year or preceding financial year other than those dealt with in the income and expenditure account. Accordingly, no statement of other comprehensive income has been prepared.

The Financial Statements were approved by the board of directors on 27th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

**Rob Horgan**  
President



**Michael Nolan**  
Honorary Treasurer



## BALANCE SHEET

	As at 31 December 2025	
	2025 €	2024 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible assets	<b>600,404</b>	636,820
Intangible assets	<b>7,893</b>	13,870
	<b>608,297</b>	650,690
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stock	<b>17,126</b>	25,203
Debtors	<b>273,112</b>	359,117
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>1,487,450</b>	1,277,977
	<b>1,777,688</b>	1,662,297
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<b>(718,519)</b>	(658,089)
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>1,059,169</b>	1,004,208
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,667,466</b>	1,654,898
<b>Capital and reserves</b>		
Revaluation reserve	-	124,751
Income and expenditure account	<b>1,667,466</b>	1,530,147
<b>Total members' funds</b>	<b>1,667,466</b>	1,654,898

The Financial Statements were approved by the board of directors on 27th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:























**Rob Horgan**  
President

**Michael Nolan**  
Honorary Treasurer

# Partners

# Sponsors



**Cork Chamber**  
Advancing business together



We are Cork.

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