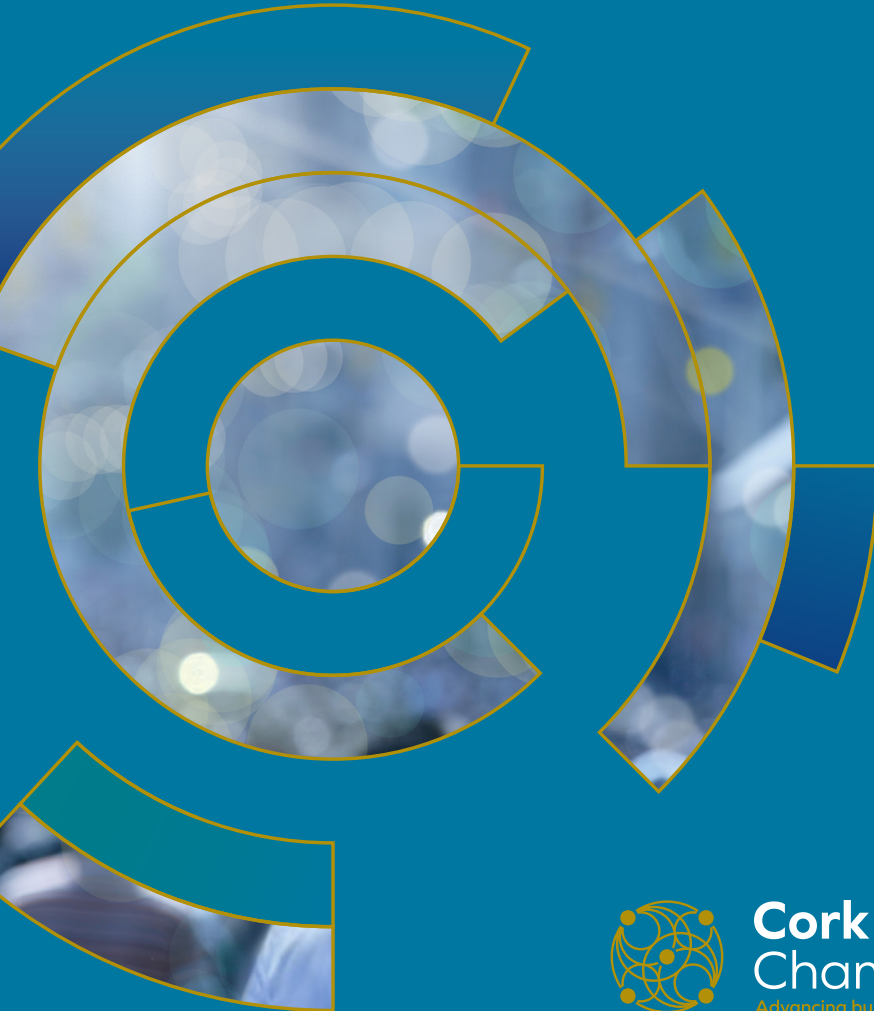


ELECTION MANIFESTO 2020



Cork
Chamber
Advancing business together



This manifesto is guided by our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and prioritisation of 5 throughout our activity.

We are Cork. Ireland's fastest growing city region. Full of ambition, energy and determination. The Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework vision for Cork includes 50% population growth. Another 65,000 jobs will be created in Cork by the private sector, which is reporting strong confidence in the economy and in the future of this region.

Cork Chamber represents 1,200 members employing 100,000 people and is fully committed to ensuring Cork is ready to meet this once in a generation commercial and social opportunity. Our national policies and delivery of public investment must match the ambitious targets for population and jobs growth set out under Project Ireland 2040 and support delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our elected representatives are KEY to ensuring that the climate, civic, transport and housing foundations are in place to realise our full potential.

We ask voters and candidates to support a strong Cork by committing to the election priorities outlined on following pages.

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RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

1. Urban Living & New Housing

To avoid sprawl and ensure a thriving urban environment we must increase housing density and facilitate more people living close to where they work and to public transport hubs. Ireland has some of the lowest-density cities in the world, with Cork city just one third as dense as similar-sized cities.

- » Delivery of more brownfield apartment living is a fundamental need for business and society. However, a lack of viability of apartment construction is currently holding back private sector development across Irish cities, thus posing a risk to our future economic and population growth. 91% of our members support targeted, timebound measures to stimulate construction of more urban accommodation.
- » A Minister for City Regions should drive a progressive urban agenda to ensure our cities are internationally benchmarked and competitive.

2. Sustainable & Public Transport

A modern sustainable public transport network capable of carrying the City's growing population is crucial to realising the commercial and social potential of Cork, while also tackling climate change and improving our urban environment. Sustainable and public transport should be integrated.

- » Delivery of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy, including new dedicated bus corridors, enhanced suburban rail, and prioritising the Cork Cycling Network Plan.
- » New planning applications must support the delivery of sustainable transport by connecting places of living with those of work.
- » Improved inter urban rail speed and reliability.

3. Infrastructure

The value of a plan is only realised through action. The National Development Plan must be delivered.

- » Key strategic transport corridors, such as the Dunkettle Interchange, the M20 Cork-Limerick motorway and Northern Ring Road, the M28 Cork-Ringaskiddy Road, the N22 Cork-Kerry Road have all been committed to in the National Development Plan and must be delivered with urgency.
- » Immediate subsidy support for large scale renewable energy generation.



Lower Lee Flood Relief Scheme

4. A Green Ireland

Ireland's track record on climate change must improve. Ireland will be paying significant fines for failing to meet our 2020 greenhouse gas emissions target. Climate change poses the largest risk to our future health and economic wellbeing. Our ability to act will determine Ireland's future appeal as a place to live and work.

- » Renewable energy sources must be prioritised and enabled through regulatory measures and incentivisation if we are to significantly alter Ireland's energy and carbon profile.
- » Delivery of the Lower Lee Flood Relief Scheme to protect the city centre from flooding.
- » Delivery on the Climate Action Plan.
- » Decarbonising our electricity and gas grid is the utmost priority for Ireland.
- » Accelerated rollout of electric car charging infrastructure and deep retrofitting of buildings.
- » Renewable energy for commuter bus and rail.

5. An Attractive Business Environment

Cork is home to innovative companies, creating the value that drives our economy. From playgrounds to hospitals, quality of life takes many different forms. Our national policies must support entrepreneurship and the scaling of business. Equally important is our social infrastructure which must support people, from early childhood through to retirement and old age.

- » Increase public investment in accessible, affordable and high-quality childcare services.
- » Complement our corporate tax rate with an effective and attractive personal tax regime that avoids average wage earners falling into the higher tax bracket.
- » Support the scaling of indigenous business and innovation, while reducing Capital Gains Tax to support economy activity and new company formation.
- » Ireland's role as an active and valuable member of the EU and global community must be supported.
- » Delivery of public services and infrastructure investment should be a priority over income tax cuts.

PRIORITIES FOR CORK



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN & CORK METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORT STRATEGY

- » The alignment of the National Development Plan and National Planning Framework is critical to the social and economic success of Cork and Ireland.
- » CMATS must deliver in the short term. The first €500 million must be delivered immediately enabling rail, bus, cycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- » CMATS must be legislated for and the NTA must open a Cork office to prioritise delivery.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- » Delivery of bus priority north-south and east-west bus corridors and Park & Rides.
- » 10 minute frequency for commuter rail and priority bus routes.
- » Development of Kilbarry Train Station to enable sustainable northside commuting.
- » Reduced fare for Mallow commuters and integration of Mallow and Cobh/Midleton line.
- » Reduced inter urban rail journey times between Belfast-Dublin-Cork.



CONNECTIVITY

- » Progress delivery of the M20 and Northern Ring Road, M28, N22 and Dunkettle Interchange.
- » Commitment to regional route development funding for Cork Airport and Port of Cork.



SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- » Urgent delivery of a new hospital to serve Cork's growing population.
- » Delivery of Cork Event Centre and strong support for public art and culture.
- » Sustainable funding model for higher level education.



SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

- » Priority delivery of Cork Cycle Network Plan and expanded Cork bike scheme.
- » Integrating a pedestrian first approach to the transport environment.
- » Identifying 'quiet ways' for cyclists and support for the roll out of safe, segregated cycling infrastructure.



PUBLIC REALM & PLACEMAKING

- » Allocation of Urban & Rural Development Fund in a manner that is proportionate to the current and future scale of Cork.
- » Delivery of the Lower Lee Flood Relief Scheme to protect our city centre from flooding.
- » Integration of Tivoli and the Docklands to the existing city centre.
- » Placemaking and investment in pedestrian friendly public realm.
- » Enhanced park infrastructure with a focus on indigenous planting to improve biodiversity.
- » Integration of green infrastructure into urban design and planning, for example living walls in public spaces and sedum roofs on bus stops.

Our vision for Cork is that of a sustainable city region of scale. Green, clean and vibrant; a city region that is fit for today and built for the future. We look forward, together making Cork the best place for business.



#OURTIMETOVOTE



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