

BYE ELECTION MANIFESTO 2019



**Cork
Chamber**
Advancing business together

OUR TIME TO VOTE



We are Cork. Ireland's fastest growing city region. Full of ambition, energy and determination. Government's vision for Cork is for it to reach a population of over 350,000 by 2040. 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 is fully committed to ensuring Cork's infrastructure, public space and housing needs 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.

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

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

CONOR HEALY

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1. Urban Living & New Housing

The population of Cork will increase by 75,000 by 2031. To avoid sprawl and ensure a thriving city centre we must increase housing density and facilitate more people to live 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 a third as dense as similar-sized cities.

- » Delivery of more brownfield apartment living is a fundamental need for business and people. 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.

2. Sustainable & Public Transport

A modern sustainable and 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, 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.

3. Strategic Infrastructure

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

- » 50% of our members say the pace of infrastructural delivery is a threat to business. 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 by Government and must be delivered on time.
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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.

- » Delivery of the Lower Lee Flood Relief Scheme to protect the city centre from flooding.
- » Delivery on the Climate Action Plan.
- » 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. Offshore wind is one area that merits immediate prioritisation.
- » Accelerated rollout of electric car charging infrastructure and deep retrofitting of buildings.

5. An Attractive Business Environment

Cork is home to innovative companies, creating the value that drives our economy. 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.

- » 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.
 - » Increase public investment in accessible, affordable and high-quality childcare services.
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LOCAL PRIORITIES FOR CORK NORTH CENTRAL

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- » Development of Kilbarry Train Station to enable sustainable Blackpool commuting
- » Reduced fare for Mallow commuters and integration of Mallow and Cobh/Midleton line
- » Delivery of bus priority corridors from Dunkettle into the city centre, from Mayfield through Dillon's Cross and Summerhill North, and from Blackpool to the city centre in line with Bus Connects and the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy
- » North side park and ride

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

- » Timely delivery of the Dunkettle Interchange + park and ride
- » Progress delivery of the M20 and Northern Ring Road, addressing the north side infrastructural deficit, diverting HGV's from our neighbourhoods and creating public transport corridors

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- » Support for a new general hospital to serve Cork's growing and aging population

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

- » 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 across Cork and along the M20 corridor

PUBLIC REALM & PLACEMAKING

- » 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 in areas such as Blackpool, Mayfield and Glanmire
- » Enhanced park infrastructure with a focus on indigenous planting to improve biodiversity
- » Integration of green infrastructure into city 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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