

# ELECTION MANIFESTO 2019



**Cork  
Chamber**  
Advancing business together

# OUR TIME TO VOTE

Vote on 24 May



On Friday May 24 you will be asked to vote in the local and European elections.

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 and delivery on the ambitious targets for population and jobs growth set out under Project Ireland 2040.

In summary, Cork will be Ireland's fastest growing city region. Our city centre footprint will grow by 25% as the Docklands develop. Government's ambition for Cork City is for it to reach a population of over 350,000 by 2040 with more than half of this population growth coming from outside the country. The City and County population is expected to hit 850,000 by 2050. 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 requirements meet this once in a generation commercial and social opportunity. Our vision for Cork is that of a sustainable city region of scale. Green, clean and vibrant; a city region that is built for the future.

We are Cork. Ireland's fastest growing city region. Full of ambition, energy and determination and we call on all running candidates to support our vision by committing to the following election priorities:

## 1. Sustainable & Public Transport

A modern sustainable (pedestrian and cycling) and public (bus and train) transport network capable of carrying the City Region's growing population is crucial to realising the commercial and social potential of Cork, while also tackling climate change and improving our urban environment.

Up to 10,000 new jobs are in line for the city centre alone in the next five years. Construction of half a billion euro in office development is underway – the majority of which is being developed with little or no parking.

There will be a 30% increase in hotel bedrooms in the next 3-4 years and over 1,000 student bed spaces have been completed or are under construction in the City.

Growing the share of commuters arriving into the city by bicycle, foot and public transport will be critical to Cork's future.

**We call on candidates to prioritise the delivery of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy,** including

new dedicated bus corridors, the Cork Cycling Network Plan, and to ensure that all new planning applications support the delivery of sustainable transport by connecting places of living with those of work.

**MORE** people in Cork commute to work by car than in any other county in Ireland, according to latest Central Statistics Office data.

Only **9.1%** of primary school kids travel to school by bus

*(Census 2016)*

Only **0.5%** of secondary school kids cycle to school, and just **25%** go by bus.

## 2. Urban Living & New Housing

The population of Cork City and its suburbs will increase by 75,000 by 2031. To avoid sprawl and to lay the right foundations for more State investment in public transport, we must increase density and ensure that Cork grows up and not out. Ireland has some of the lowest-density cities in the world, with Cork city just a third as dense as similar-sized cities, such as Edinburgh.

Delivery of more brownfield apartment living is a fundamental need for business and people in Cork. From our members we know that new people coming to our city region want to live centrally, close to where they work, to experiences, and to public transport hubs.

**Supporting the delivery of city and town centre accommodation and apartments in locations close to places of work and public transport should be a priority of all elected candidates.**

### Local Property Tax Cork City 2018:

As a % of total income: **6%**

### Manchester Local Council Tax 2018:

As a % of total income:  
**27%**

## 3. A Balanced & Sustainable Tax Base

Local businesses currently fund around 40% of our local authority budgets. In contrast, local property tax only contributes around 7%. The Chamber is pressing elected candidates to freeze business taxation and to review local property tax (LPT). **LPT is a vital part of widening our tax base to reduce our economy's dependence on volatile sources of funding like business rates and development levies.**

**Nationally  
businesses paid  
THREE TIMES  
MORE rates than  
households.**

## 4. High-Quality Public Spaces

Open, welcoming and inclusive public spaces are assets to an urban area. Local election candidates should endeavour to protect and expand public spaces and parks. Public spaces build civic identity, entice visitors into urban centres, and improve dwell time with positive knock-on effects on the local economy.

**A playful, green and safe city region, inviting to children, families, workers, visitors and senior citizens alike should be the ambition of all members in council.**

## 5. Ambitious Councils, Actively Seeking New Strategic Investment

Actively seeking and delivering on strategic investment opportunities will set Cork apart from other second city regions across Europe. From the Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, to the Climate Action Fund, URBACT and the European Investment Bank there are ample funding opportunities for strategic projects that will improve Cork as a place to live, work and invest.

**We ask all candidates to actively explore new strategic funding for the betterment of living and working in Cork.**

## 6. A Directly Elected Mayor for Cork

**Cork Chamber supports the principle of a directly elected mayor with real powers for Cork.** The creation of the position, if adopted, must be facilitated by multi-annulated budgets aligned to the policy programme and tenure of the mayor.

It must also be met with a real discussion around devolution of power and budget for key items such as public transport. If we are to compete globally, we must act globally, with a strong leader, accountable to the people, to advocate and drive progress for Cork.

### 2019 FOCUS

- » Housing
- » Public Transport
- » Infrastructure / Ireland 2040 Implementation
  - » International Connectivity
  - » Skills / Talent
  - » Marketing of Cork
- » Sustainability and Climate Change
- » City Centre Rejuvenation
- » Competitiveness
- » Brexit

**Please use your Local and European vote carefully. The candidates, if elected, will be entrusted with delivering social and economic growth over the next five years for you, your business and your family.**





What will Cork look like in 200 years' time? Run in association with the Glucksman Gallery, our 'Future Forms' project invited over 1,000 young Cork to visualise the future of our region.

# #OURTIMETOVOTE



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