

# Tri-Region Partnership



**Cork  
Chamber**  
Advancing business together



Northern Ireland  
Chamber of Commerce  
and Industry



**DUBLIN  
CHAMBER**

# About



The **Tri-Region Partnership** is a collaborative initiative between **Cork Chamber, Dublin Chamber, and Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, working together to enhance all-island connectivity and economic opportunity. With a shared focus on sustainable growth, innovation, and regional development, we aim to foster meaningful collaboration between business communities across the island.

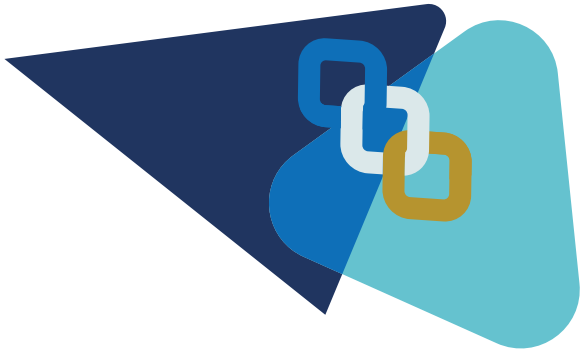
By identifying strategic infrastructure needs, championing investment in connectivity, and encouraging cross-border enterprise, we support a more integrated, competitive, and resilient island economy. This partnership reflects our belief that deeper cooperation—built on mutual benefit and shared ambition—can unlock greater prosperity for all regions.



Through coordinated advocacy, joint projects, and inclusive dialogue, the **Tri-Region Partnership** serves as a platform for aligning business priorities and shaping a future of balanced and sustainable economic progress across the island of Ireland.

# Purpose

To strengthen all-island business connectivity and regional collaboration through coordinated advocacy, strategic investment, and shared economic ambition. We work together to unlock sustainable growth, innovation and opportunity between business, academia and communities right across the island of Ireland.



# Policy and Global Economic Context

**The Tri-Region Partnership** is a vital platform for strengthening economic connectivity across the island of Ireland. At a time of heightened global uncertainty, the partnership between **Cork Chamber, Dublin Chamber, and Northern Ireland Chamber** brings a focused, regional approach to enhancing trade, investment and innovation.

By aligning business priorities across key urban centres, the partnership supports shared goals in infrastructure, enterprise growth, and talent development. It complements wider efforts to deepen UK-Ireland and North-South collaboration, offering a practical pathway to deliver on commitments in areas such as energy, research, and economic resilience.

**The Tri-Region Partnership** enhances market access, supports diversification, and strengthens the island's appeal as a location for sustainable investment and business collaboration. It is collaboration built to enable a more connected and resilient economic future.





# Policy Goals

## Higher-Speed Rail Cork-Dublin-Belfast:



- **Aiming to create a higher-speed rail link that will significantly reduce travel times and enhance regional connectivity.**

A higher-speed rail link between Cork, Dublin and Belfast is a pivotal step in building a modern and sustainable transport network between the Island's three largest economic regions. The All-Island Strategic Rail Review identifies faster intercity connections as essential for reducing journey times, boosting capacity and supporting balanced regional development.

Improved connectivity will link the island's three largest economic and population centres, creating a stronger corridor for trade, tourism and talent. Faster, electrified services can cut emissions and deliver a reliable, future-ready alternative for business and leisure passengers alike.

The implementation of the intercity element of the All-Island Strategic Rail review is more than a transport project, it is an investment in resilience, competitiveness and environmental responsibility. A higher-speed rail corridor will unlock new opportunities, strengthen regional collaboration and support climate goals, helping create a connected, inclusive and future-ready island economy. All involved administrations should commit to completing the intercity higher-speed rail over the next decade.

# Restoration of Cork-Belfast Flights:

- **Restoring domestic flights between Belfast and Cork will enhance business and tourism links, making the island of Ireland a more attractive destination for visitors and investors.**



Until the high-speed rail becomes reality, a government-subsidised Public Service Obligation (PSO) flight between Cork and Belfast represents a strategic and cost-effective solution of bringing Cork and Belfast closer together.

The Cork Chamber Q3 2024 Economic Trends survey reveals that enhanced air connectivity is ranked by members as the second most needed support to strengthen Northern Ireland –Cork business links, just behind rail connectivity.

There are proven examples on the island of Ireland of how a PSO route can build up demand and become a commercially viable proposition. A potential Cork-Belfast route could equally make this transition from a subsidised route to a being operated by a commercial airline.

This route would significantly reduce travel time, reinforce ties between key economic centres, and improve investor and visitor access. In doing so, it provides immediate benefits and serves as a bridge until long-term rail upgrades deliver a higher-speed corridor to compliment it.

# Funding Allocation for Ports



- **Securing investments to future-proof the three major ports, ensuring they can support economic growth and industrial advancements.**

Islands are dependent on maritime trade and ports are not just gateways they are the drivers of economic trade. Dublin, Cork, and Belfast collectively handle the majority of goods moving on and off the island for the two jurisdictions, underpinning supply

chains, industry, and connectivity with international markets. Securing targeted, long-term investment in these ports is critical to ensuring resilience, competitiveness and economic agility.

As global supply routes shift and sustainability imperatives intensify, the role of ports is evolving. These three key harbours are uniquely positioned to support the development of offshore renewables, particularly wind, by providing the infrastructure, proximity and scale required for deployment and servicing.

To realise this opportunity, a coordinated and future-focused approach to port funding is essential. Investment in grid integration, intermodal transport, and port capacity will deliver benefits far beyond the waterfront, supporting regional growth, industrial innovation, and a more balanced, connected island economy that is equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing global landscape.

# All-Island Innovation Clusters

- **Promoting collaboration between industry and education to foster innovation and create competitive clusters across the island.**



Innovation is a key driver of productivity, exports and long-term competitiveness. Building all-island innovation clusters which link industry, universities, further education and government from the Tri-Region Partnership would foster collaboration and create globally competitive businesses.

The governments should support an enabling framework to coordinate and fund cross-border clusters in priority sectors such as life sciences, fintech, advanced manufacturing, clean energy and agri-tech. This framework should support shared research infrastructure, joint skills pipelines, and commercialisation pathways.

An all-island approach will allow businesses to leverage complementary strengths, accelerate innovation adoption, and increase high-value exports. It will also build resilience, attract international investment, and ensure that knowledge and skills flow effectively between regions. With the right enabling framework and support mechanisms, the island can position itself as a competitive, innovation-led economy prepared for the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing global market.



# Enhancing Tourism Links

- **Developing strong tourism links by harnessing regional strengths, place branding and evolving the story of Ireland to represent a modern island.**

Tourism is one of the island's most valuable economic and cultural assets. Strengthening links between Cork, Dublin and Northern Ireland creates an opportunity to grow visitor numbers, extend stays and distribute economic benefits more evenly across regions.

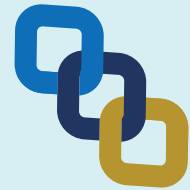
Each location has distinctive strengths: Cork's maritime heritage and food culture, along with access to the Wild Atlantic Way, Dublin's urban experiences and positioning on Ireland's Ancient East and Northern Ireland's unique and vast outdoor and cultural offering. When promoted together, these destinations tell a cohesive, modern story of the island, one that resonates with international visitors seeking authentic, connected experiences.

Investment in transport connectivity, joint marketing campaigns and integrated visitor experiences will support this approach. By aligning with national and regional tourism strategies, we can enhance the visitor journey while supporting local businesses and communities.

Developing these links is essential to create a world-class tourism offering, strengthen regional economies and showcase a confident, contemporary island destination.



# Who we are



## Dublin Chamber

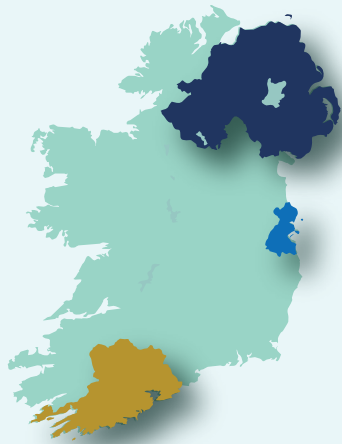
Dublin Chamber is one of Ireland's foremost chambers of commerce with over 1000 member companies. It is the most representative and broadly-based business group in the Greater Dublin Area, providing representation and networking services. Its policy work focuses on developing the Dublin region's infrastructure & transport, promoting competitiveness, and improving local governance. Dublin Chamber is also one of the oldest chambers of commerce in the world, tracing its origins back to 1782.

## Northern Ireland Chamber

NI Chamber is a customer-focused, quality-assured, business support organisation which enables members to grow both locally and internationally and drive the development of the economy.

## Cork Chamber

Cork Chamber is committed to making Cork the best place for business. As the leading business organisation in the south of Ireland, it supports and represents the interests of almost 1,200 businesses employing over 130,000 people across the region. Founded in 1819, Cork Chamber is one of Ireland's longest established Chambers. Supporting sustainable development in the region, Cork Chamber is championing the UN Sustainable Development Goals, through which the Chamber priorities and activities are framed.



**For more information  
please visit:**

- [www.corkchamber.ie](http://www.corkchamber.ie)
- [www.dublinchamber.ie](http://www.dublinchamber.ie)
- [www.northernirelandchamber.com](http://www.northernirelandchamber.com)



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