

Candidates



DC Cahalane
CEO
Republic of Work

<https://youtu.be/uovmnfzMaVk>

I'm DC Cahalane and I'm seeking your vote for the Cork Chamber board. For the last ten years I've worked in the technology industry, both with multinationals and probably where I'm better known, with startups.

Formally I worked as Chief Marketing Officer at Trustev and VP Growth & Marketing at Teamwork.com and I count myself very fortunate to have been a small part of these two global success stories, built here out of Cork. Prior to technology my background was in hospitality and the events industry.

Last year, along with my business partner, Dave Ronayne, we opened REPUBLIC OF WORK at 12 South Mall, a city centre innovation campus. We're coming up on our first year in business and we're delighted how much the businesses of Cork have embraced what we're trying to do.

Key Objectives

I've experienced first-hand what it's like to run businesses in other cities, both here in Ireland and more frequently overseas and we're incredibly lucky to have such a strong and vibrant business organisation like Cork Chamber championing the region and the businesses located here.

In this fast-paced modern world, where Cork finds itself, not competing against Dublin, but with other European regions, it's important that we are constantly innovating our thinking.

My background in growing fast paced, international, startup businesses has always given me a unique perspective that's focussed on less talk, more action and delivering lean, budget friendly solutions to whatever challenges have come my way.



Seamus Downey
Taxation Partner
EY

Seamus Downey is a Taxation Partner in EY with over 18 years' experience working with a variety of indigenous and multinational companies across a range of industries, including technology, agriculture, logistics, distribution, manufacturing and engineering. Seamus is actively involved in EY's Entrepreneur of the Year programme, supporting local entrepreneurs accelerate growth and he has worked with some of the world's fastest growing companies.

Seamus a West Cork native, graduated from University College Cork with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Higher Diploma in Computer Science. He is an Associate of the Irish Taxation Institute and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

Key Objectives

I will bring a fresh perspective to the Chamber by drawing on my vast experience having served a number of indigenous and multinational companies on a wide range of business & taxation issues. For example issues such as US tax reform and Brexit mean that it is critical for Cork to further enhance its position as a leading city to work and live.

The collective knowledge of the Chamber can be fully leveraged for all members and for Cork and I will help to continually improve the service and relevance of the Chamber's offering.

As a champion for Innovation in EY, how Cork and the wider region embraces and adapts to technological advancements will be critical for the next 10 years with my focus on creating new opportunities, ideas and tangible results.

Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) is critical as to how Cork will grow and innovate. Diversity is about our differences, seen and unseen whether that is in terms of age, ability, education, gender, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity. Inclusion is about creating an environment in Cork where people feel valued and are able to achieve and contribute their full potential. D&I can be of significant competitive advantage to Cork in how we attract and retain the best talent and the Chamber can help drive further opportunities for businesses to connect with each other, our communities and our culture, bringing a different perspective to ways of working.



Thia Hennessy
Dean
CUBS (Cork University Business School)

Thia was recently appointed Dean of Cork University Business School (CUBS). With a student body of 3,500, CUBS is one of Ireland's largest business schools and together with the IMI, recently acquired by UCC, is Ireland's foremost executive education provider.

Thia is responsible for the development of CUBS which includes the refurbishment of the Trustee Savings Bank building.

As Professor of Agri-Food Economics, Thia is one of Ireland's leading experts on the impact of policy on the food sector.

Originally from Tower, Thia joined UCC from Teagasc where she was Head of economic research. Thia is also a member of the IMI Board of Directors.

Key Objectives

With over 20 years of economic and policy research experience, I am ideally placed to contribute to the Chamber's mission to influence policy to drive economic growth. I have specific expertise in the agri-food sector, where I have focussed on researching the impact of government policy, including Brexit and Climate Change policies, on economic performance. If elected, I can bring this expertise to the Cork Chamber Board to ensure that this important indigenous sector can continue to prosper despite the challenges that lay ahead.

I am very committed to embedding the newly established Cork University Business School in the Cork business community. Education and a supply of skilled and talented graduates is of critical importance to all member companies and to the continued economic growth of Cork. I believe that by strengthening the links between the Chamber and UCC, we can ensure that education programmes, at undergraduate and executive levels, continue to meet the changing needs of the business community in Cork. If elected, I will connect Cork Chamber members with the many international business researchers and thought leaders that visit our University on a regular basis.

I respectfully request your support in the upcoming Cork Chamber Board elections.



Niall Kenny
National Sales Director
AB Sales

Grew up in Bishopstown and now living in Dripsey with my wife Jean & my two sons. Schooling included The North Mon and UCC. Previous jobs include Van Sales and franchise Sandwich Shop owner.

I'm National Sales Director for AB Sales, since it's foundation in Oct. '06, which brings together complimentary services like Print, Promotional Products, Signage & Catering Supplies. Proud Sponsors of The Rebel Plunge Swim, as part of the Cork Harbour Festival, promoting Cork as a premier tourist destination.

We are now into our Sixth year of membership in Cork Chamber & I pride myself on being a fully active participant. Over the years I have been on the task force for the annual conference and I'm currently filling one of their Ambassador roles. I've also completed one of the Chambers Business hubs.

Key Objectives

When elected to the Cork Chamber Board I would hope to represent the SME's in the city and county and in my role as a Board member I will :

- Volunteer to work on the Board's committees in areas where your own work and life experiences will best be used
- Take an active role in discussing and developing all new policies and procedures for all chamber matters.
- Take an active role in reviewing and evaluating the major programs designed to serve the membership and committees
- Prepare for each meeting by doing any homework necessary to be informed and to take an active role in meetings
- Make sure that your opinions and thoughts on all matters that come before the Board are presented in a way that represents the interests of the membership
- Avoid any conflict between my personal interests as a citizen and my interests as a member of the chamber and Board of Directors
- Have a willingness to make the commitment necessary to give the proper attention to Chamber responsibilities.
- Use my business and work experience to assist in the exercise of sound judgment in considering problems of the Chamber as they relate to the overall program of community development.



John McAllen
Regional Business Manager
Bank of Ireland

John joined Bank of Ireland in 2015 as Head of Business Banking in Munster.

Bank of Ireland has a footprint of 28 branches in Cork and is Irelands leading Business and Corporate Bank.

Prior to his appointment he worked in FMCG and has sixteen years' experience as an energetic and results driven commercial executive within a high growth business.

John is married with four children and is an active member of both his local community and GAA club.

John holds an honours Master Degree in Business.

Key Objectives

Cork Chamber is the leading business organisation for the promotion and development of economic and commercial activity in the region.

As an election candidate I believe through my work experience that I am well placed to understand the challenges and opportunities that business owners face.

Working in Bank of Ireland I get to meet a very diverse range of customers from Personal to Corporate and hear directly their views from a broad perspective and how they would like to see Cork develop.

I believe that I can play an active part on the Board and am excited for the Chambers plans as it seeks to enhance on the significant progress that has been made within the region over the last number of years.