



Press Statement

16th February 2011

Dublin business calls for frequent interaction with elected officials

Some 65 Dublin city centre business leaders came together this morning to elicit the vision for the city from a panel of candidates running for election across the political parties.

Businesses took the opportunity to highlight some of the difficulties facing businesses as local manifestations of shortcomings at national level. Matters tabled for discussion included the concentration of social infrastructure within the city's retail core, safety and security, transport and access to the city, upward rental reviews and rates.

The event, hosted by Dublin City Business Improvement District and chaired by broadcaster and historian John Bowman, brought together a panel consisting of Michael Mulcahy TD (Fianna Fail), Oisín O'Almhain (Green Party), Maureen O'Sullivan TD (Independents), Kevin Humphreys (Labour) and Ruadhan MacAodhain (Sinn Féin).

The session culminated in a call from business to engage more frequently with elected officials on an on-going basis. This will serve to ensure Dublin city centre can reach its full potential as a driver for the national economy and there was broad agreement by the panel of candidates that this is something which should be implemented under the new government. In particular, the suggestion of a publicly elected mayor with executive power and autonomy to implement city policies was strongly supported by both panel and audience alike.

Richard Guiney, CEO Dublin City BID said, "Dublin business accounts for approximately €4 billion turnover per annum and employs almost 100,000 people. As such it is a key driver of the Irish economy and is perhaps the only city that can lead Ireland out of recession. In order to reach this potential there needs to be a collective vision which can only be achieved by deeper engagement between the various stakeholders including the business community and our elected representatives"

For further information please contact:

Elizabeth O'Herlihy
Dublin City BID
086 8152946

About Dublin City BID

Dublin City BID is a not for profit organisation charged with creating a welcoming and economically viable city environment. It represents over 2,000 businesses in the city centre and works with its partners to enhance the appeal of the city centre as a place for shopping, recreation and business development by increasing footfall and improving overall trading performance.