

GCC DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2022

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Overview:

54 new members

Well attended events programme

Active Lobbying and engagement

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OVERVIEW

The second half of 2021 continued to be impacted in part with Covid restrictions and Chamber events and meetings adapted to be held virtually when necessary but maintained a high level of engagement and membership support offered throughout. We are pleased to have welcomed 54 new member organisations to Chamber since the last AGM and continue to see new faces engaging with us on a weekly basis.

Since the start of this year, momentum around our consistently busy events programme has quickly built back up, as well as daily interactions with the membership, industry sectors, and many States departments and officials. We have been involved in a range of consultations and met with States officers and politicians in the past 12 months. Chamber is currently seeking new members for the office team to help support the high level of activity and enable further membership growth and support.

Activity over the last month in fact has been one of the busiest yet, and we are currently active in industry support including ADL, East Coast Development Board, Secondary Pensions workshops, Energy transition, blue economy, charities, the creative industry, visitor economy and retail. This is in addition to the day-to-day support given to members and start-ups. Thanks, needs to be given, not only to the in-office staff – currently consisting of just myself and Alexandera Rowe, but also to the input and expertise of our Executive Board and Industry Groups for whose time we are enormously grateful.

We are ever conscious of ensuring full representation across all corners of the business community and undertake audits of event attendees and industry groups to ensure this is occurring.

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Financially, we have seen an increase in sponsorship interest this year, as well as opening up event space hire for use outside of office hours. Contact magazine revenue was down at the start of the year, but the autumn issue is already well ahead of advertising commitment and should be back up to expected levels of revenue.

The popular Lunch & Learn series as well as the OGH panel lunches have offered us the platform to engage in, explore and support a conversation around critical topics front of mind to the membership and wider island community. We are pleased to continue to offer the majority of these events as free to members, within the benefits of membership, and are conscious of continuing this emphasis on accessibility to allow, in particular, small and medium businesses to partake in what Chamber can offer.

Sponsorship has been integral in allowing us to achieve all that we have in the last year, and thanks goes to Islands, BWCI, JT and a host of other organisations for their support.

Based on membership voting we selected Guernsey Employment Trust as our Charity of the Year and have been working closely with them on how best to partner and offer them effective support.

As we enter a new presidential term we will be revisiting the strategy as established in 2020, and look forward to welcoming new members to the executive board to develop on from the considerable work that has been achieved by Elaine Gray and her team over the last two years.

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Activity Overview

Lobbying and engagement including: Consideration and support for introduction of the Anti-discrimination Law; SME support for preparations around Secondary Pensions and consultation on the roll out; East Coast Development Board; sustainability; third sector and creative industries; connectivity; recruitment crisis; housing shortage; tax review; and energy transition.

72 pages of Business Brief produced, along with x2 **110 pages of Contact** magazine across two issues on the themes of World Class and Home Grown.

Events

Organised **45 Chamber hosted events**, both in-person and physically. Space hire has increased as a small form of income, and we are also offering the space at a discounted or complimentary rate for charity members including a rotating gallery space for the Guernsey Art Network and a 'quiet' space to be used for autistic attendees of the Pride celebrations in September.

Over 2,000 event attendees

Sent **90 newsletters**, with average of 48% highly engaged subscribers and an increase to **3,326 subscribers**.