



AIB publishes its third Sustainability Report

- **Almost 14,000 homes financed by AIB in 2018 as housing remains a key concern for our stakeholders.**
- **50% of AIB business accounts are now held by women, up 33% from 2017 following a series of women focused initiatives by AIB**
- **AIB to sponsor Climate Finance Week Ireland 2019 to further support Ireland's programme to address climate change.**

22nd May 2019

AIB has today published its third [Sustainability Report](#) which outlines the progress the bank is making in response to the key social, environmental and economic issues which have been identified by stakeholders as areas which the bank should help address. Through this report, AIB aims to provide greater transparency and rebuild trust among its stakeholders in order to create long-term value as a sustainable business in the economy and the community.

Assured by Deloitte and subject to Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards, almost 1,400 stakeholders were engaged across five key stakeholder groups to understand the current economic & social issues they felt AIB was best placed to address. This resulted in ten macroeconomic topics being identified by the stakeholders involved, they were also asked to choose in order of importance between a range of material topics that reflected how the bank operates. Some of the most important material topics chosen focused on transparency, regular customer engagement and privacy and helped underpin the approach taken to the macroeconomic issues within the report.

Housing remains one of the biggest social issues in Ireland today, and supporting the continued development of a sustainable housing market was identified by the stakeholders involved as an area of importance for the bank. Last year AIB helped finance almost 14,000 homes, including funding for almost 5,000 new homes and over 500 social housing units. Through a joint initiative with the Irish Mortgage Holders Organisation (IMHO) and iCare Housing, AIB have also helped keep over 500 families in their homes with an enhanced Mortgage to Rent scheme.

Digitalisation remains a key focus and AIB are at the forefront of digitally-enabled banking in Ireland, with on-going investment in technology and innovation. There are now 1.38 million digitally active AIB customers who last year alone carried out 45 million transactions online.

Innovative businesses can change the way we live and work which is why AIB continues to support **Entrepreneurship**, with a particular focus on female-led companies. 50% of all AIB business accounts are now held by women, up from 33% in 2017. Over 500 participants also took part in AIB's Women in Enterprise programme which was held last year.

Speaking about the AIB Sustainability Report, Colin Hunt, Chief Executive Officer of AIB said "Our approach to sustainability starts from the inside – with our Purpose, which is to back our customers to achieve their dreams and ambitions. As the global economy becomes more complex we have a central role to play in Ireland's programme to become more sustainable. We are committed to being

a sustainable bank and addressing the issues that are facing our society and our environment today and into the future.

“At a time when trust in the banking industry has been damaged in the court of public opinion, it is more important than ever for AIB to actively demonstrate the value we create for our customers, communities and our people. While there is much work to be done, this report demonstrates our progress thus far and our commitment to stay the course in order to rebuild trust in AIB.”

AIB has also announced its sponsorship of [Climate Finance Week Ireland 2019](#) in a further effort to support Ireland’s programme to address climate change. This is in addition to the work AIB is already doing through investment in clean energy and in ensuring all AIB office buildings have a more sustainable footprint.

ENDS