



# Dublin can do better with Labour

Labour's 10 Point Plan  
for Dublin

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# Labour's 10 Point Plan for Dublin

## 1. Getting Dublin Moving: More Buses, Cheaper Fares

Dublin's transport crisis is one of the greatest challenges facing this city. Decades of bad planning and under-investment has left us with a creaking transport system that simply cannot cope with the scale of change that has taken place in our capital city over the last ten years.

**Labour in government will tackle the transport crisis as a matter of urgency.** In the long-term we need rail based solutions including Metro, the rail inter-connector and more Luas lines/extensions.

In the short-term we will increase the current Dublin Bus fleet by 50 per cent, or 500 buses; extend the Dublin Bus network to major residential areas within a 25 mile radius of the city; introduce a €1 adult fare and 50 cent children's fare on the entire Dublin Bus network within this 25 mile radius. Our plan will deliver a €1 fare for all journeys; with 500 more buses so you can get one.

## 2. A first-class health service for Dubliners

Rebuilding the health service will be the first priority, and one of the most difficult tasks, facing the next government. **We believe that Dublin deserves a world-class health system.**

As well as our national strategy for reform and investment in the health service we are also proposing specific plans for the Greater Dublin area.

**These include:**

- providing 600 community care beds in Dublin;
- putting Medical Assessment Units in all hospitals;
- making provisions for out-of-hours GP services.

## 3. Keeping Dublin safe

Crime continues to cast a shadow over this city. Gangland crime is on the increase while many of our urban areas are plagued with juvenile and adolescent crime and anti-social behaviour.

Labour believes that we have a responsibility to ensure that people are free to live in peace and safety, free from harassment, intimidation, vandalism and fear.

We are committed to tackling the problem of crime head-on. Labour in government will ensure that we have more Gardai on the beat in neighbourhoods, visible in communities they know, serving people they know.

Labour will establish local district courts in each of the main areas of Dublin city and county.

**In this way, local judges can:**

- build up an understanding of the impact of anti-social behaviour, including drug abuse and drug pushing, on local communities;
- get to know the offending families;
- acquire an appreciation of local needs in terms of the community sanctions and community service orders they impose.

We will also continue to work on tackling the drugs issue, giving fresh political impetus to the National Drugs Strategy.



## 4. New solutions for housing

Labour is committed to improving the quality and affordability of Dublin housing.

Our policy has three main strands.

- Firstly, **for those who want to own their own home**, Labour proposes a "Begin to Buy" home purchase scheme which would allow a person in employment to buy a stake in a home, with the state meeting the rest of the cost. As the individual's financial circumstances improve, he or she can increase their equity in the home.
- Secondly, **Labour will address the problem of social and affordable housing**, by ensuring that the Affordable Housing Schemes deliver a minimum of 5,000 homes per year.
- Finally, **Labour is committed to eliminating homelessness** during the lifetime of the next government, as defined by the homeless charities.

## 5. Keeping Dublin as our Capital City

The introduction of the decentralisation programme flew in the face of all established procedures for ensuring sound decision-making and threatens both to waste taxpayers' money and damages our public services.

There was no strategic plan. There was no government memorandum. There was no risk assessment or business case in respect of any of the proposals made. There was no human resource plan. It did not conform to the principles of the National Spatial Strategy.

There is a real danger that major property commitments have been entered into, which will only offer partial service and create wasteful duplication.

The tragedy is that the great potential of decentralisation has been placed at risk by a ham-fisted decision by Government. **We propose to create a framework where the best elements of the present decentralisation programme can be secured and further potential opportunities developed for the future.**

An Immediate audit will be undertaken of the existing proposals. We shall proceed with those which have a sound business case, a good regional fit, and can take the critical steps necessary for successful completion.

Where the specific proposals are found wanting, we will seek to identify alternative opportunities for decentralisation which have the potential to succeed given a sensible and well planned timescale. This must be part of a wider Regional Development Strategy.

We will reverse the decision to move some of the core policy planning units of government departments away from Dublin City. It would undermine the continuing effectiveness of policy development. It is our clear preference that "stand alone" business units be moved under the decentralisation programme.

## 6. Developing our Cultural Capital

Dublin city prides itself on its unique cultural and literary heritage. In a sense it defines who we are as a people and is a major factor in attracting tourists to our capital city.

Labour wants to ensure that Dublin maintains its status as one of the cultural centres of Western Europe.

Our vision for Dublin, as a cultural capital, has three infrastructural strands:

- **Science Museum:** we build an interactive discovery centre which will celebrate Ireland's scientific achievements as well as introducing children and families to scientific concepts through fun, interactive exhibits.
- **Dublin City Museum:** we will develop, in conjunction with the Dublin Civic Museum, a museum exclusively dedicated to Dublin, celebrating its unique history by exploring various aspects of Dublin life through the ages.
- **Convert the GPO into a city lending library.** Dublin badly needs a major public lending library. Labour will house this municipal facility in the historic GPO in the centre of the city.



## 7. Re-claiming our capital for people

As well as being a burgeoning economic and commercial centre, Dublin should fundamentally be a pleasant place in which to work and live.

Labour has three main proposals for developing our city's public spaces.

- Firstly, **we will pedestrianise College Green.** We will launch an international design competition to decide how a pedestrianised College Green should look, optimizing its potential for social and cultural activities.
- **We will also campaign for the opening up of city parks** such as Fitzwilliam Square and Dartmouth Square to the public.
- Thirdly, **we intend to open up the area around the Dodder and the Tolka rivers,** by commissioning full linear parks along the Dodder and Tolka.

## 8. A Place for your child: Twenty-first century schools for twenty-first century Dubliners



Education is a basic human right, yet because of bad planning and short sightedness on the part of the government, many children in Dublin are finding it impossible to secure school places.

The situation is particularly urgent in suburbs of Dublin which have witnessed huge population growth in recent years. We need a long-term strategic plan to ensure that the number of school places match demand.

Labour in government will give the National Treasury Management Agency the task of tracking residential development and population patterns, and of developing a model that will be able to predict when and where demographic change will lead to a demand for school places.

We will also give the NTMA the power to procure land and build world class, eco-friendly schools according to new guidelines established by the Department of Education.

## 9. A Fair Deal for all Communities

Despite unprecedented economic growth over the last ten years, poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion is still a reality in 21st century Ireland.

No where is this more evident than in our capital city, where social inequality still abounds.

**Labour in government will tackle the problem of long-term poverty and social exclusion.** We will replace this government's failed and confused RAPID programmes with a "Fair Deal for Communities" initiative, earmarking a proportion of the relevant NDP funds – not less than 5 per cent of capital funding– to Fair Deal areas.

## 10. Better City Government

**Dubliners deserve a greater say over the running of their City.**

We will establish a Greater Dublin Authority, with a directly elected City Mayor. This body will have responsibility for strategic planning and transportation.

The Dublin Transport authority will be accountable to the Greater Dublin Authority. The GDA will also have responsibility for Dublin Bay. It will draw up an action plan for Dublin Bay to protect and preserve its amenities.

# Labour's Candidates for Dublin



## Tommy Broughan TD

Tommy Broughan is currently a sitting TD for **Dublin North East**.

He was first elected to Dáil Éireann 1992 after previously serving on Dublin City Council in 1991. He was returned to the Dail in 1997 and again in 2002.

Formerly a teacher, Tommy is the current Labour Party Spokesperson on Communications Marine and Natural Resources



## Joan Burton TD

Joan Burton is currently a sitting TD for **Dublin West**.

She was first elected to Dublin County Council in 1991 and was Member of Dail Eireann 1992-1997

She served as Minister of State for Social Welfare 1992-1994, Minister of State for Justice 1995-1997 and was Minister for Overseas Development 1995-1997.

Joan was elected to Fingal County Council 1999 for Castleknock and was subsequently elected Labour TD for Dublin West in May 2002.

She is a former lecturer at DIT and at the University of Dar Es Salaam Tanzania



## Cllr Eric Byrne

Cllr Eric Byrne is one of Labour's two Dail candidates for **Dublin South Central**.

He has twice previously been elected to the Dail, in the 1989 General Election, and in a by-election in 1994 following the resignation of John O'Connell.

Eric Byrne is a serving councillor on Dublin City Council and topped the poll in the 2004 Local Elections in the Crumlin/Kimmage ward winning over 4,000 votes.



## Joe Costello TD

Joe Costello is currently a sitting TD for **Dublin Central**.

He was Member of Dáil Éireann 1992-1997 and was elected to Seanad Eireann 1997-2002 when he was Leader of the Labour Senate Group.

He was subsequently elected to Dail Eireann in May 2002.

A former Secondary School Teacher Joe Costello is the current Labour Party Spokesperson on Defence and European Affairs.



### **Cllr Aidan Culhane**

Cllr Aidan Culhane is a Labour Party General Election candidate for **Dublin South**.

He is the Labour Party group Leader on Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council where he has served since 1999. He topped the poll in the Dundrum ward in the 2004 Local Elections.

Aidan Culhane is a freelance editor by profession.



### **Eamon Gilmore TD**

Eamon Gilmore is a sitting Deputy for **Dun Laoghaire**.

He was first elected to the Dail in 1989, and has been returned at each subsequent election.

He served as Minister of State at the Department of the Marine in the Rainbow Government (1994-1997).

He is the current Labour Party Spokesperson on the Environment and Local Government.



### **Senator Derek McDowell**

Senator Derek McDowell is the Labour Party General Election candidate for **Dublin North Central**.

Derek was elected to the Seanad on the Industrial and Commercial Panel in July 2002 having previously served as TD for Dublin North Central from 1992-2002.

He is a former Party Spokesperson on Health and Finance.

A solicitor by profession, he is married to Vikki Barrett.



### **Cllr Oisín Quinn**

Cllr Oisín Quinn is one of Labour's two candidates for **Dun Laoghaire**.

A first-time candidate, Oisín Quinn has been a member of Dublin City Council since 2004.

A former Chair of the Labour Lawyer's Group, Oisín Quinn is a practicing barrister specialising in employment law.

Oisín Quinn is 36 years old and is married with a young family.



### **Ruairi Quinn TD**

Ruairi Quinn is currently a sitting TD for **Dublin South East**.

He was leader of the Labour Party from 1997-2002 having served as Deputy Leader 1990-1997.

Ruairi Quinn has served as Minister for Finance 1994-1997, Minister for Enterprise and Employment 1993-1994, Minister for the Public Service 1986-1987, and Minister for Labour 1984-1987. He was Minister of State, Department of the Environment 1982-1983

Ruairi Quinn was first elected to Dáil Éireann 1977-1981 and was reelected in 1982 and at each subsequent election.

Formerly an architect he has published numerous articles on housing, urban design, planning and environmental issues. He has also published a political biography, "Straight Left."



### **Pat Rabbitte TD**

Pat Rabbitte TD is the Leader of the Labour Party and Dail Deputy for **Dublin South West**.

He was elected Leader of the Labour Party in October 2002 in the first leadership contest based on a ballot of all Party members.

He has served in Dail Eireann since 1989 and was Democratic Left Minister of State to the Government 1994-1997 and Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with responsibility for Commerce, Science and Technology.

Pat Rabbitte is a former National Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union and a former President of the Union of Students in Ireland.

Originally from Mayo, he is married with 3 daughters.



### **Brendan Ryan**

Brendan Ryan is the Labour Party Dail candidate for **Dublin North**.

He was selected as Labour's candidate for the constituency in September 2005, following the announcement from sitting TD Sean Ryan (Brendan's brother) that he would not contest the next election.

Originally from Donabate/Portrane, Brendan Ryan has lived in Skerries since 1977.



### **Roisin Shortall TD**

Roisin Shortall is currently a sitting TD for **Dublin North West**.

She was first elected to Dail Eireann in 1992 having been first elected to Dublin City Council in 1991.

She is the current Labour Party Spokesperson on Transport and member of the Oireachtas Transport Committee.

Formerly a teacher, Roisin was born and reared in Drumcondra and now lives with her husband and three children in Whitehall.



### **Senator Joanna Tuffy**

Senator Joanna Tuffy is the Labour Party General Election Candidate for **Dublin Mid West**.

She contested the 2002 General Election in Dublin Mid West, just missing out on the final seat.

She is a serving Senator, and was elected from the Administrative Panel in 2002.

Joanna Tuffy lives in Lucan and is a Solicitor by profession.



### **Dr Mary Upton TD**

Dr Mary Upton is currently a sitting TD for **Dublin South Central**.

She was first elected to the Dail in 1999 in a by-election following the death of her brother Pat Upton. She was re-elected in the 2002 General Election.

A food scientist by trade, Dr Upton is the current Labour Party Spokesperson on Agriculture and Food.



### **Cllr Alex White**

Cllr Alex White is one of Labour's two General Election candidates for **Dublin South**.

Alex White was elected to Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council for Knocklyon, Rathfarnham and Ballyboden at his first attempt in June 2004.

A barrister by profession, he is a former RTE producer and active trade unionist.

