



**Local Government  
Manifesto  
2019**

*The Party for  
Northern Ireland*





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## Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA

### Leader Democratic Unionist Party

On Thursday 2nd May Northern Ireland goes to the polls to elect Councillors to our eleven local Councils. The work of our Councillors is sadly often overshadowed by events at Stormont or Westminster but their work is of vital importance to local communities across Northern Ireland. Councils are now responsible for a wide range of services as well as setting the local element of the rates.

The Democratic Unionist Party prides itself on being the party of low rates in our councils and we are pledged to continue that at this election.

At this election I'm asking you to support your Democratic Unionist Party candidates to deliver for you.

As the largest Unionist Party we have proved we can work in local councils, Stormont, Westminster and Brussels to get things done for Northern Ireland.

We were able to deliver over £1 billion extra for the people of Northern Ireland. That is helping our hospitals and improving our mental health services. It's helping provide after-schools clubs to give our young people the best start in life. It's helping to build new roads to reduce journey times and reduce accidents. For our rural communities, it's helping deliver better broadband for everyone.

No other party delivered a single penny for the services you rely on.

The DUP could have achieved so much more if we had a working Assembly. The DUP is ready and willing to re-enter government without pre-condition with political talks in parallel. The time for holding the institutions to ransom for political demands is long past.

We have shown you what a strong DUP team can achieve when you give us the strength to deliver.

On 2nd May don't waste your vote. Send a message and vote for the strongest unionist party to deliver for Northern Ireland. Support your local DUP candidates.

**Voting matters.**  
**Voting DUP delivers.**





## Rt Hon Nigel Dodds MP

### Deputy Leader, Democratic Unionist Party

The DUP has shown that it has the strength to stand up for Northern Ireland. This strength comes from your votes. Now is the time to strengthen the hand of Unionism and the Democratic Unionist Party. Now more than ever it is important that Unionists send a strong message in support of the Union and against a divisive border poll demanded by Republicans.

Vote for the strongest possible unionist representation in Local Government by voting DUP. Our local government pledges, on which all our candidates stand at this election are designed to deliver for you and your family.

We support the lowest possible rates, more and better jobs through new powers and City Deals, stronger communities through partnerships with community groups, sporting clubs and public bodies and we will be celebrating Northern Ireland's centenary by showcasing all that is good about Northern Ireland and its people.

At this election, vote for the unconditional restoration of the Assembly now. The time for delays, obfuscation and excuses are over. People want an all-party Executive back taking decisions on issues that matter to everyone and working through their differences in government; not sitting outside.

By voting for the DUP on 2nd May you are signalling your support for a strong, united unionist party that will work for the benefit of everyone in Northern Ireland.

We have taken a principled position on working to achieve the best possible outcome for Northern Ireland as we leave the European Union. We believe that the United Kingdom as a whole should leave the European Union and that the result of the referendum result should be respected. For us we will not countenance a trade barrier within the United Kingdom.

I urge you to support your local Democratic Unionist candidates on Thursday 2nd May to ensure the best possible services at the best value and give us the strength to deliver for you.

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## Introduction

**In the June 2017 elections, Unionists united behind the DUP like never before and returned more Unionists to Parliament.**

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In 2017 we pledged to 'Stand Strong for Northern Ireland! This is what the DUP has done in negotiations, as the UK leaves the EU, and against republican demands for a border poll.

Now it is time to unite behind the DUP again on 2nd May and strengthen Unionism in every Council in Northern Ireland.

The DUP has been able to deliver more for Northern Ireland because of your votes. More votes for the DUP meant more influence and delivered more for Northern Ireland through the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

### **This Agreement:**

- **Protected pension increases and winter fuel payments**
- **Supported our Armed Forces and veterans**
- **Provided over £1 billion more on what matters to all of us**

Increased investment of £1 billion is being spent on our NHS, our schools, our roads, our rural communities and our most deprived areas.

It has helped people get operations, supported GPs and increased mental health support. It has enabled local schools to maintain extended hours programmes. It will see vital infrastructure projects delivered. It will provide rural communities and businesses with broadband fit for the 21st Century. It will ensure those in poverty have the help they need.

Voting matters. Voting DUP delivers.

On 2nd May don't waste your vote, support your local Democratic Unionist Party candidates to ensure we can deliver more for you.

Voting matters.  
**Voting DUP delivers.**





# Our Vision and Plan for Northern Ireland

*"We wish to build a prosperous, growing and global Northern Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom. In 2021 Northern Ireland will be 100 years old, and as we stand on the cusp of a new century we want a Northern Ireland built on all the talents and strengths of everyone, on the basis that all enjoy equality of opportunity at each stage of their lives."*



## THE VISION

### *The DUP - A Strong and United Team - Working for Northern Ireland*

The DUP team from Council to Assembly and Westminster to Brussels is focused on delivering this positive vision. Our ethos of teamwork maximises what can be achieved.

## PARLIAMENT

The DUP has secured much needed extra investment with the first phase of the Confidence and Supply Agreement. However, Democratic Unionist Members of Parliament have used their influence far beyond that.

The party has acted decisively to protect Northern Ireland, respect the Union and to honour the 2016 referendum result as the United Kingdom leaves the European Union. We supported a delay to reforms of Child Tax Credits helping thousands of working families.

We influenced government thinking on welfare reform to ensure they provided extra resources and altered the roll out of reforms, often copying the measures our Assembly had already introduced in Northern Ireland.

This clearly shows what can be achieved when people unite behind the DUP.

## COUNCILS

Councils, both individually and collectively are bigger than some of our government departments. They account for over half a billion pounds of spending every year and employ thousands of people. They continue to function in the absence of the Assembly.

Councils are discharging more powers now than at any time in their history. However we want to go further and with the DUP-secured City Deals, do even more to create jobs, boost skills and make life better.

Voting for the DUP on 2nd May will help give your local

**Voting matters.  
Voting DUP delivers.**

DUP team the strength to deliver for you, your family and your community.

## NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

The DUP teams in Councils and in Parliament can achieve much but so much more could be achieved with a working Assembly.

The Assembly should never have been collapsed.

Since 2017 the DUP has stood ready to form an all-party Executive.

In August 2017 we offered to restore the Assembly and Executive with talks running in parallel. The Hillsborough Agreement, the Stormont House Agreement and the Fresh Start Agreement were all negotiated with an Executive and Assembly in place.

We do not need to choose between a government and negotiations; we can and should have both. The DUP still stands ready to form a government NOW with no preconditions and all-party talks in parallel.

If Sinn Fein demands 'Talks first - Government later' then the DUP will engage in any talks to secure a fair and balanced deal which can command the support of unionists and nationalists.

Our commitment to establish a government doesn't blind us to the public frustration over how the Assembly and the Executive operated in the past. Too often devolution was characterised by taking a series of smaller decisions and a reluctance to take some of the big decisions. Too often there were backlogs and logjams holding government back from doing all it can. If Northern Ireland is to flourish in its new century after 2021 then it needs an Assembly and Executive ready willing and able to make the big decisions that can transform Northern Ireland.

For our part we want to be sure that any future Executive and the parties who will be entitled to sit in it will be willing to take the necessary decisions required to reform.





## A Real and Lasting Legacy for People with Disabilities

In the next term your DUP councillors want to deliver real change for people with disabilities.

We have the highest level of disability in the UK. The 2011 Census found 326,803 people in Northern Ireland to have disabilities, which includes 26,553 children. Further analysis and extrapolation has seen the number of wheelchair users estimated to be 32,680.

**The DUP Council Teams will commit to:**

- **Region-wide provision of accessible play areas.**
- **New Council facilities that will be above DDA standard through engagement with disability groups.**
- **Event programmes or events that address the specific needs of people with disabilities.**
- **A feasibility study into the first fully accessible indoor waterpark in Europe.**

A few Councils are already trying to do more for people with disabilities with programmes of investment in playgrounds already planned and examples of inclusive playparks. However, the DUP wants to see an equality of provision develop across Northern Ireland not a postcode lottery.

There are nearly nine hundred playparks in Northern Ireland but in some council areas only 10% of playparks have inclusive equipment. This simply isn't good enough.

Those with higher needs need more specialist equipment. An example is specially adapted swings that allow children to sit in their wheelchair and use the equipment. There are only six of them across Northern Ireland, not even one per Council area. This simply isn't good enough.

Beyond some practical barriers with some smaller playparks, it is possible to have a higher proportion of playparks that have inclusive equipment and a spread across Northern Ireland of fully inclusive playparks

Despite the Disability Discrimination Act, we still have Council buildings such as leisure centres which can be difficult for people with disabilities to use. These groups need to be involved in the design stage of new facilities so that investment doesn't simply deliver a legal minimum but a high quality facility. We want to see better changing facilities for children, young people and adults with disabilities. It would also be a challenge to the rest of the public sector to match the commitment of local government.

Events that could be more accessible include town centre shopping initiatives, cinema events and Christmas celebrations to cater for those with autistic spectrum disorders for example.





## Leaving the European Union

**Since the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union the Democratic Unionist Party has stood strong for Northern Ireland in exit negotiations.**

We believe the result of the referendum in 2016 must be honoured.

The Democratic Unionist Party has consistently and repeatedly indicated that we could not support the Withdrawal Agreement because of the construction of the backstop.

This backstop, or Northern Ireland protocol, is included in the agreement between the EU and the UK Government and should it become operational, requires that Northern Ireland at any time in the future could be subject to the rules of the Customs Union or parts of the Single Market whilst the rest of the UK was not.

Were the backstop to become operational Northern Ireland would sit in a separate legal position from the rest of the United Kingdom in economic and trade terms.

In those circumstances there is the strong possibility that we could have a long-term outcome whereby Northern Ireland would inevitably pull away from its biggest trading market in Great Britain, as there would be new internal barriers within the United Kingdom.

Fifty-six per cent of Northern Ireland's trade is with the rest of the United Kingdom, compared with 15% to the Republic of Ireland.

In our recent discussions with the Government good progress has been made on how domestic legislation would assist in ensuring the economic integrity of the UK as a whole and recognising Northern Ireland's particular situation sharing a land border with the European Union.

All concerned recognise the need to ensure that as we leave the European Union the economic and constitutional integrity of the United Kingdom is maintained. The DUP does not want to see a hard border between Northern

Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Equally as we leave the EU we cannot support any new trade barriers within the United Kingdom.

The DUP wants to see a sensible agreement concluded between the United Kingdom and the European Union that works for all parts of the United Kingdom. We want to secure the United Kingdom's departure from, and our future relationship with, the European Union on terms that accord with our key objectives to ensure the economic integrity of the United Kingdom and respect the democratic outcome of the referendum.

For our part we will continue to use our position and influence within Parliament and with the Government to strongly argue the case for Northern Ireland and to work through each of the legislative stages in Parliament to eliminate the risk of any damage to Northern Ireland and its place within the internal market in the UK.

The arguments we have advanced are well understood across Parliament and there is strong recognition in the House of Commons that Northern Ireland cannot be subjected to new and onerous trade barriers within the United Kingdom as the price of leaving the European Union.





## Delivering for Everyone in Northern Ireland.

Since 2017 your vote delivered more than **£1 billion** more for Northern Ireland.

The DUP Agreement with the Conservative Party has delivered for Northern Ireland. Even our opponents accept that more has been achieved for Northern Ireland as a result of electing ten DUP Members of Parliament who hold the balance of power.

Extra resources alone cannot solve every problem, but additional money has been able to provide vital investment. Without it we would have seen more and more front-line services slip back and no support for new services to develop. The work of Confidence and Supply has been vital in key services like our NHS and our schools.

### MORE FOR OUR HEALTH SERVICE

The injection of funding from the Confidence and Supply Agreement has proved absolutely essential. As well as allocations for immediate in-year pressures, **£200 million** was secured for health transformation. The £100 million in the first year has been invested in a range of transformation initiatives including funding extra capacity to help with waiting lists. It has permitted progress on multidisciplinary teams in primary care, elective centres and workforce development, with examples including:

- £30m towards Elective Care Waiting Lists.
- £750,000 to Day Case Elective Care Centres for varicose veins in Lagan Valley and Omagh, and cataracts at Mid Ulster, Downpatrick and South Tyrone Hospital.
- £2.5m reform of Elective Care pathways.
- New HIV prevention clinic in Belfast Health Trust with more patients getting treated.
- £6.4m for improving the nursing and midwifery workforce.

A number of mental health projects were funded including:

- £540k suicide prevention.
- £403k talking therapies.
- £610k recovery model.
- £190k to prevent substance misuse.
- £189k for forensic mental health services.
- £165k Mental Capacity Act training.
- £274k 'Think Family'- to improve outcomes where parents have mental health issues.

A multi-agency street triage project is being piloted involving two PSNI officers, a paramedic and a mental health nurse, as well as two crisis de-escalation projects. One is underway in the North West using a community/voluntary model, and another is just commencing in Belfast with a clinical model supported by a community sector partner. The new multi-disciplinary teams in primary care include mental health workers.

The Confidence Agreement and Supply Agreement is also providing a further **£50 million** specifically to mental health over five years. In the first year this resulted in:

- £900,000 for Belfast Trust Acute Mental Health Facility
- £2.7 million to sustain and increase access to mental health services
- £1.8 million for additional expenditure on medications
- £4.6 million for psychological therapies





### MORE FOR CHILDREN

Our children and the next generation of Northern Ireland have been supported through Confidence and Supply. Since 2017, the Department of Education has received £16.5million, which has benefitted local schools in a number of ways including;

- 38 Sure Start projects received £6.4million, benefitting 39,000 children
- Literacy and numeracy projects have received £700,000, with 40,000 registered users with access to classroom resources
- Nurture Provision received £1.3million, with a number of schools receiving £70,000 per annum to support ongoing programmes. It is a fact that this scheme would have been under threat of closure but for C&S support
- Early Years Pathway Fund, which supports 5,600 children by aiming to improve the development of children who are most at risk of not reaching their full potential within the school system, has received £2.3 million
- Extended Schools have received £5.8 million, which has safeguarded the fund for the foreseeable future.

Schools across Northern Ireland benefitted from this investment:

- Belfast, 126 schools receiving £2,328,726
- Londonderry City and Strabane, 71 schools receiving £1,282,867
- Fermanagh and Omagh, 40 schools receiving £576,632
- Causeway Coast and Glens, 41 schools receiving £679,573
- Mid and East Antrim, 22 schools receiving £387,493
- Antrim and Newtownabbey, 25 schools receiving £440,988
- Mid Ulster, 22 schools receiving £360,896
- Lisburn and Castlereagh, 17 schools receiving £318,839
- Ards and North Down, 15 schools receiving £292,812
- Newry Mourne and Down, 67 schools receiving £1,067,884
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, 27 schools receiving £494,292

The lasting effect of this investment will be to help our future generations achieve a better, well-educated and ambitious future for themselves as well as their community.

Voting matters.  
Voting DUP delivers.





## Our Councils

At this election all Democratic Unionist Party candidates are campaigning on five key pledges. A vote for the DUP on 2nd May will give us the mandate to deliver on our pledges to you.

- 1** High Quality Services At The Lowest Possible Rates
- 2** More And Better Jobs Through Extra Powers And City Deals For All Of Northern Ireland
- 3** The Building Of Partnerships For Stronger Communities.
- 4** The Promotion Of The Union For The Benefit Of All
- 5** Celebrations for Northern Ireland's Centenary in 2021





## High Quality Services At The Lowest Possible Rates

The DUP is the party of low rates and we have consistently upheld our commitment to keeping rates low while delivering high quality services.

High rates bills are a barrier to new businesses and harm established ones. High rates hurt those on lower and fixed incomes hardest. Family incomes have only begun to recover after years of stagnation. The DUP believes you should be the beneficiary of growing incomes.

At this election we commit to:

***“A real terms rates cut by keeping any rises below the rate of inflation over the full Council term”***

This commitment can only be fulfilled through a long-term plan to control your rates bill. How each Council deals with these issues varies but the DUP wants to see a consistent and strong approach to rates control across Northern Ireland.

Your local DUP team will work to promote in each Council a Long-Term Plan for Low Rates containing:

- An 'Invest to Save' fund which will make long-term savings – sometimes to change a large organisation there is an up-front cost but there are medium and long-term benefits. Councils need to have a fund that can do just that.
- Anti-Avoidance Programme, to identify those failing to pay - People who avoid paying rates cost you more. Rates avoidance can be minimised by ensuring close co-operation between council departments and the Rates Collection Agency.
- Rates-Based Growth Strategy – New developments and new businesses can boost the incomes of

- your local Council so when planning for the future of the Council area how that increases the rates base is crucial.
- Efficiency targets – This means better use of the money you already give to Councils. Without efficiency targets Councils will simply carry on with previous practices and anything new would be additional rather than replacing the outdated.
- New Income target – As public bodies Councils aren't always the best about identifying new commercial revenue schemes but such initiatives can help keep rates low.
- Overhaul of procurement – Councils in other parts of the United Kingdom have overhauled how they procure goods and services and made substantive savings. Northern Ireland Councils should use this experience and expertise to do the same. Equally, Councils need to do more to collaborate on joint procurement to maximise savings.
- It's Your Money – new transparency measures on Council spending including publishing all expenditure above £500 or more on credit and purchase cards.
- Leading the way on Electric vehicles
  - More electric vehicles in the Council vehicle fleet - Funding is available through the Department for Infrastructure to provide grants for the purchase of electric vehicles and the supply of public sector workplace chargers.
  - For use by Council staff during the working day- This was trialled by two local Councils. Council travel expenses stand at 65p per mile, an electric vehicle runs on 2p per mile.





## More And Better Jobs Through Extra Powers And City Deals For All Of Northern Ireland

'City deals' are bespoke packages of funding and decision-making powers negotiated between central government and local authorities. These began in 2012 with two waves of deals in England followed by Councils in Scotland and Wales. However, no City deal had been progressed in Northern Ireland. This is why the DUP included a government commitment on City Deals in the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

This resulted in the first ever City Deal for Northern Ireland being announced in the last budget. It secured £350 million of new Treasury funding towards an investment package of £900m over the next fifteen years. The deal for the Greater Belfast region covers six councils extending from Newry to Ballymena; from Antrim to the Ards Peninsula. This City Deal will invest in the digital economy, tourism projects, new infrastructure and jobs with skills programmes to help people secure those jobs.

The DUP is committed to securing more City Deals for all of Northern Ireland so that every Council secures a long-term investment package to deliver more and better jobs and the infrastructure it needs to prosper.

### ...through Promoting the 'Circular' economy

Bins are what are most associated with Councils in many people's minds. Beyond providing this vital service to ratepayers there are our broader responsibilities to the environment and opportunities for new jobs.

Targets require Councils to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to increase our recycling rates. Failure on either costs both Councils and ratepayers. The different types of waste and the manner of their collection can affect both. This and recycling itself are key features of what is called the 'Circular' economy with a potential value for Northern Ireland of £150m. It is how savings can be made and jobs created by dealing with our forms of waste better, as well as handing on an environment to future

generations we can be proud of. Therefore, your local DUP will support:

- Driving up recycling rates throughout the Province by implementing a recycling collection model that encourages householders to recycle, while ensuring the collection of high quality materials.
- Support a circular economy approach to recycling to create local jobs and economic growth opportunities for Northern Ireland.
- Work across Councils to develop shared recycling facilities for Northern Ireland
- Follow the Welsh model and include Incinerator Bottom Ash counting towards our recycling target.

### ...through more powers

The reform of local government had envisaged giving regeneration powers to Councils. These powers can drive forward regeneration of towns and villages across Northern Ireland and local economic growth. This ultimately didn't happen for a variety of reasons. The DUP believes that further discussion and work should be undertaken on whether additional powers could be devolved to councils and how that might benefit ratepayers.

In the event that further powers were to be devolved then there will be a requirement to improve protections for minorities. These have proven to be highly ineffective with community relations harmed especially for Unionist minority communities in the West and Border areas.

The general interpretation of the law has been more restrictive than was intended and the use of independent legal counsel has seen inconsistent legal advice provided to Councils across Northern Ireland.

This problem needs addressed regardless of whether or not further powers are given down to Councils but it would be impossible to progress any further powers without new measures on minority protections.





## The Building Of Partnerships For Stronger Communities.

Everyone benefits from living in strong and safe communities. Councils are at the forefront of delivering at a community level. Therefore they are central to achieving that goal. Government can never do it all and often fails when it tries.

The DUP is committed to a partnership approach between communities and councils and between councils and local departments.

To build stronger communities your local DUP team will support:

- One public estate – when new facilities are being developed all opportunities for co-siting with other government services should be explored with public buildings that are used more often, shared services and development costs spread. This is especially important in the areas of health and education.
- Making Bengoa reforms a reality – The DUP is committed to implementing the Bengoa reforms

for our NHS. Central themes of these reforms are primary care and public health including prevention and early intervention in areas like child development and mental health. Councils can contribute to both, and in particular will support community-based initiatives to reduce loneliness and social isolation.

- Dementia Friendly - Every Council to have a Dementia Friendly Champion and move towards attaining dementia friendly status. Dementia can affect young and old but is an increasing issue as life expectancies rise. Dementia awareness can be embedded in Local Development Plans as advised by the Royal Institute of Town Planners, JAM cards can be welcomed at Council facilities and all staff and Councillors trained to be dementia friendly.
- Dog fouling – In any community survey the issue of dog fouling is almost always in the top three issues for residents. It isn't just unclean but a public health risk. Those who act irresponsibly are a

disservice to the many responsible dog owners. In the next Council term, your local DUP team will ensure there is a dog warden for every DEA and invest in the latest equipment to clean away dog fouling quickly and effectively.

- Getting communities active – Sports clubs across Northern Ireland are the locus of many communities across Northern Ireland. Councils can form a range of partnerships with local sports clubs to provide improved facilities and programmes to get more people active especially young people.
- People's policing priorities - Policing and Community Safety Partnerships focused on burglaries; anti-social behaviour; the growing scourge of drug abuse; protecting vulnerable groups including young people, older people and victims of hate crime; in rural areas tackling equipment and livestock thefts.
- Neighbourhood policing – Your local DUP team will fight for increased police visibility in the community.
- Using new Council powers under Local Development plans to support more social and affordable housing.
- Front line staff development – Council workers in many communities are the public face and frontline of people and government. Thus awareness amongst staff on adverse childhood experiences, mental health and suicide awareness should be part of the standard training package for all frontline

Council staff.

- Active Lifestyles – When developing new leisure facilities, parks and walkways design priorities will be to encourage exercise and active travel.
- Child and family friendly places – Our cities, towns and villages will see huge change over the next few years as how we shop, live and travel changes. As we shape and design the places where we will work, live and play in the coming years the approach should be one that is child and family friendly.
- Rural hubs – The heart of many rural communities are the community activities that run in the full cross-section of halls in rural areas. Your local DUP team will support capital and revenue programmes to maintain this significant but unsung work.
- National Emergency Services Day – Your local DUP team will support local services of thanksgiving and a memorial to mark this important day.
- Improving the infrastructure for ultra low emission vehicles. At present there are no hydrogen fuelling stations in Northern Ireland and the number, and type, of electric car charging points is patchy and does not measure up to those available in other European countries. It is the UK Government's aim to "accelerate the development of the zero emissions market" and in order for that to be achieved the current infrastructure needs improvement and investment.





## The Promotion Of The Union For The Benefit Of All

The Union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland is beneficial to every citizen in Northern Ireland. Being a part of the fifth largest economy in the world and sharing in its prosperity ensures that we are able to invest in the future as well as avail of public services free at the point of need. The DUP has negotiated additional financial assistance for Northern Ireland so that every citizen can benefit both now and for the future. More remains to be done but Northern Ireland is well placed to be able to take advantage of new economic opportunities.

In addition to the significant economic benefits the United Kingdom is bound together by historical, cultural, social and family bonds forged over the last century. We welcome those new communities that have made Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom their home and will support and assist them as they make their contribution to society.

### Representation matters at every level.

In the 2014 Local government election, Unionists were under-represented because of vote shredding caused by too many Unionist candidates and failing to transfer across Unionist parties. The result of this has been Unionism having a weaker voice in decision-making in Committees and Council chambers, being under-represented in civic positions and splintered Unionism when it needs to be united. Let's not repeat those mistakes in 2019.

Voting matters.  
**Voting DUP delivers.**

In the Westminster election of 2017 more voters, more Unionists gave their vote to the DUP than ever before, and returned ten DUP MPs. In 2010, there was only one Unionist MP in Belfast. In 2017, Unionists voted and united electing three Unionist MPs. Decline is not inevitable. Unionism grows when Unionists vote and when they unite.

The UK wide results meant the 10 strong DUP team could ensure the voice of Northern Ireland could be heard like never before – if it had been divided across multiple parties it would have been weaker. The DUP negotiated and delivered the Confidence and Supply Agreement that is helping people in Northern Ireland today and its investment in health reform, roads and rural broadband will leave a lasting legacy for all of us. Northern Ireland benefitted from unity and strength. Now is the time to give your local DUP team the same strong voice in your local Council.

At this election don't waste your first preference vote on those who are too weak and divided to be able to speak for you.





## Celebrations for Northern Ireland's Centenary in 2021

Councils can play a significant role in supporting arts and culture across Northern Ireland. The DUP is committed to them developing and supporting local identity and cultural expressions. The DUP wishes to promote a positive expression of Britishness. We want to see our cultural wealth available to all and to see the Ulster-Scots culture take its full and rightful place in Northern Ireland's cultural diversity. We have strong and distinct identities that are not presently fairly represented, and we want to see that imbalance end.

The cultural wealth and diversity of the identities here is distinct from elsewhere. This provides clear opportunities to not copy the tourism offering of elsewhere but to develop and promote our own distinct mix.

In 2021 Northern Ireland will be 100 years old. We want this milestone to be positively marked with appropriate events and celebrations. We also see it as the start of a new century for Northern Ireland with the opportunity for everyone to look forward to a better and shared future. Councils, and other elements of government, will play a key role in delivering positive events and displays.

A feature of the celebrations must be the individual and collective contributions made to politics, science, culture, sport and business over the past 100 years. These proud and diverse contributions have often been overlooked or under-appreciated. This will enable us to recognise these contributions.

The future focus must be to build Northern Ireland's new century and strive for it to be a Northern Ireland of all our talents and showcase what is great about Northern Ireland and its people.

### The DUP will work to promote:

A positive and broad programme including:

- A Northern Ireland Expo – A major international event showcasing Northern Ireland produce, talent, research, business and investment opportunities.
- A Homecoming Event – An international promotional programme to encourage our diaspora and everyone else to visit and enjoy Northern Ireland. This is

a perfect opportunity to reset and relaunch Northern Ireland's diaspora policy building on:

- The Ulster-Scots/Scots Irish migrations.
- Later migrations especially to North America and Australia.
- Migrations to Commonwealth countries.
- The global linkages the new communities in Northern Ireland add.
- International events – We will seek to secure major international events for 2021.
- A Public Holiday and Major Event – The May bank holiday of 3rd May 2021 should be declared a full public holiday with appropriate major events.
- A lasting legacy – This can be promoted through public art projects and environmental projects e.g. the development of centenary woods and centenary greenways.
- 100 years 100 people 100 events 100 places – A major exhibition on the first 100 years.
- A Celebration fund for local community events – Council support for local community events and celebrations.
- Local education and good relations programmes – It is important this event is used to dispel myths and allow all to engage, debate and discuss the significance of the anniversary.
- Armed Forces Day National Event – This is hosted by a local Council and so far has been held in every part of the UK except Northern Ireland. It would be appropriate for our military traditions and service to be recognised as part of the centenary year.



## Continuing to work on the policies that matter to you

### EDUCATION

With pressure on school budgets it is vital to ensure the money spent ends up down at the schools not held back by central bureaucracy.

Good educational opportunities underpin our entire view of building a prosperous and responsible society. The constraints on education spending have contributed to an escalating crisis in school budgets, so we believe the immediate priority should be to ensure the maximum resources are delivered directly to the pupil in the classroom through advocating a 'frontline first' approach. This includes reform of the current schools estate through Area Planning, introducing a Strategic Small Schools Initiative to ensure isolated communities are adequately considered during the decision making process, a drive to reduce bureaucracy and earlier intervention for Special Needs pupils to enable greatest focus on those most in need.

Much work has been done to tackle the issue of educational underachievement, especially by young Protestant males. However, it remains a concern and we must pursue innovative solutions to this problem including an overhaul of career advice and a greater focus on apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and trades skills.

We must also ensure that our children and young people are equipped to deal with the future by investing in coding and computer science to seek to establish Northern Ireland as a leader in digital skills and technologies. We already have some great examples of young people with innovative ideas, and this is an area where our emerging talent can truly excel.

### HEALTH

Health and social care in Northern Ireland faces a range of challenges and significant reform is essential to ensure high quality services. Proposals from the DUP to improve health and care in Northern Ireland include:



- Implementation of the 'Systems not Structures' (Bengoa) Report
- Transformation to be clinically-led, encouraging and empowering frontline professionals to enact change
- Increase spend on health by at least £1 billion by end of Assembly term, with the budgetary and commissioning cycle extended to three years
- Pursue a population health-based approach with an increased spend on prevention
- Facilitate partnership working towards accountable care

- Refocus resources into the community and primary care, including diagnostics, multidisciplinary teams and expanding first contact physiotherapy
- Flexible visiting in hospital wards and care facilities which can help aid recovery and is valued by families and carers
- Greater involvement for individuals in their care with full access to medical records and information
- Maximise benefits from digital technologies with early introduction of a comprehensive electronic health and care record

- Enthuse and motivate staff including fair pay and conditions for all
- Executive to seek a fair, sustainable model for adult social care
- Promote health as an economic driver
- Northern Ireland as a leader in e-health, precision medicine and quality and safety





### TOURISM

Tourism is a key economic sector across all the local council areas, each with their own unique offering, and forecast to continue as one of Northern Ireland's main areas of growth well into the next decade. Already locally hosted global events are showcasing us to new audiences, and we continually gain prestigious recognition as a 'must see' destination.

It is vital that co-operation is deepened between Councils, Tourism NI and others in the sector to produce effective strategies that maximise our tourism potential.

To support this sector, we will:

- support the promotion of community-led tourism to ensure benefits are seen right across local communities.
- seek greater investment in training opportunities to meet sector needs, be it through Apprenticeships, expanding the Tourism Academy concept or encouragement of community-based training schemes.
- seek greater investment in restoring many significant historical sites which have strong tourism potential, but have fallen into disrepair. There are many public-

private partnership opportunities in this area.

- examine opportunities for maximising niche tourism opportunities.
- consider innovative measures to promote the Province-wide tourism product.
- continue to work towards securing large, prestigious events to be hosted right across Northern Ireland.
- ensure East-West tourism links are sufficiently recognised as part of a UK promotion of tourism.
- work with our airports, to ensure they are meeting the needs of the travellers, business or leisure.
- continue the work at Westminster to secure a better deal on APD and Tourism VAT rates.

### RURAL COMMUNITIES

Primary agriculture, and the industries it sustains, are the backbone of the rural economy and the fabric of our rural communities. The DUP has a clear vision for our farmers- to support the sector to become more profitable, sustainable and productive. Through our Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Conservative Party we have secured commitments to the same direct support in cash terms as currently received until the end of this Parliamentary term. We have also ensured that the

needs of our farmers are reflected in the forthcoming UK Agriculture Bill and will continue to make changes to the Bill. Future agriculture policy is best delivered through devolution and the Agriculture Bill allows this flexibility. However it is regrettable that we do not have willing partners with whom to form an Executive at Stormont.

Your DUP councillors will support local agri-food businesses through farmers markets, food awards and promotional events. This has proved beneficial to many businesses to date and the promotion of high-quality local produce will continue to be our priority.

A healthy rural landscape is the lifeblood of the country therefore it is important that we protect and improve the environment. The DUP has supported the creation of environmental farming schemes, which deliver tangible environmental benefits. Agriculture and the environment must work hand in hand and your DUP team will take a pragmatic approach on Council to sustainable farm development going forward. We also want to encourage local Councils to improve facilities including parks, outdoor trails, greenways and utilising public assets better to allow greater access to rural areas.

Through rural development funding the DUP has

championed the need for supporting growth and the creation of rural business. We believe that by doing this we will create more wealth and job creation in these areas, allowing rural communities to thrive. In today's market place many shop fronts are on the Internet allowing rural business a new opportunity. The DUP have delivered £150m to be invested in an ultra-fast broadband programme prioritising rural areas. This will tackle the digital divide and support rural businesses held back by poor digital access.

The DUP is also aware of the wider social challenges faced by farmers and rural dwellers. **We have delivered:**

- £701,000 for Assisted Rural Travel Scheme
- £150,000 for Farm Family Health Checks
- £847,000 for Rural and Regional Community Development
- £102,000 for Rural Support Charity

In the next Council term, the DUP will continue to deliver on the wider needs of rural dwellers and we want to do more to facilitate greater access to childcare services.

Such provision is lacking in many rural areas and restricts the ability of parents to find a satisfactory work-life balance.







### VALUING OUR OLDER GENERATION

The DUP has always sought to value the contribution of our senior citizens and to prioritise the needs of our older generation.

Through our Confidence and Supply Agreement the DUP fought for and secured winter fuel payments and the triple lock on pensions for everyone across the United Kingdom. The party will continue to campaign for:

- Protection of pensioner benefits in recognition of a lifetime of hard work by our older generations.
- maintaining free public transport for over 60s.
- preserving the Lone Pensioners Allowance.
- the ending the unfair treatment of women pensioners.
- maintaining Northern Ireland's position of having the lowest household taxes in the whole of the United Kingdom.
- an increase to the maximum period of imprisonment for offences involving violence or neglect directed against older or vulnerable people.
- a fair and sustainable model for adult social care and provide appropriate support and advice for carers and access to respite services.

### VETERANS

The Democratic Unionist Party commends the contribution made by men and women from Northern Ireland who have served in the United Kingdom forces in many theatres of conflict across the globe, and in Northern Ireland itself. We consider it essential to repay the debt of those who have served. That is why we identified full implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland as a priority in our Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Conservatives. Other DUP proposals on veterans issues include:

- Enhance and better integrate a network of Veterans Champions across Councils
- Individual Councils to prepare an Action Plan for addressing veterans' needs
- Agencies and Government Departments to have a contact point for veterans issues
- Adequately fund central support for liaison and co-ordination of organisations and individuals
- Pursue suitable potential locations for a veterans centre
- Fully embed the mental trauma service with a view to developing expertise and knowledge that can be shared internationally
- Government should deliver on a previous No. 10 report that called for an Armed Forces champion in Northern Ireland
- Press Government on establishing a Veterans Commissioner role
- Legislate to ensure equality protection for veterans in Northern Ireland through amending Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, or placing a duty on public authorities to act in line with the Armed Forces Covenant
- Introduce a formal medical check for personnel who have recently ceased service

Voting matters.  
Voting DUP delivers.





### THE PAST

The DUP has a proud record on victims and legacy issues. In Government we quadrupled funding for victims. We have stood against a rewriting of our history and efforts to introduce an amnesty.

Current arrangements for dealing with the past are utterly unacceptable. There is a clear imbalance, and continuation of the status quo will lead to further re-writing of the narrative of the 'Troubles'. Innocent victims are not seeing progress on investigations into the murders of their loved ones.

The Democratic Unionist Party considers the best opportunity for justice to come from a dedicated investigatory team with full police powers including the right to arrest and question terrorist suspects. We have made clear we are not prescriptive about what form this takes, but the present arrangements are falling a long way short and victims deserve investigations to take place.

It is essential this is properly resourced and has access to modern evidence gathering techniques and other technical capacity required to conduct thorough investigations. We consider it important to avail fully of the expertise of those

with longstanding and first-hand experience of policing in Northern Ireland including former members of the RUC and PSNI.

The remit should extend beyond Northern Ireland and encompass murders on the mainland. We have pressed for cases considered by HET to be re-examined where the family request this.

We support the legacy role of the Police Ombudsman being transferred, and investigations into retired officers should be on the basis of criminal behaviour.

We believe the current definition of a victim to be unacceptable. A perpetrator of an unlawful act cannot at the same time be a victim of the act they have perpetrated. Someone who pulled the trigger or planted a bomb should not be treated in the same manner as their innocent victims.

Setting the terrorist campaigns in proper context is essential and hence we encourage Government to consider the development of an authoritative, evidence-based account of the period to provide fairness and accuracy.

Voting matters.  
Voting DUP delivers.





A full range of our policies and consultation proposals can be found on our website under the sections Policies and Publications.

## Your views

The Democratic Unionist Party is keen to hear your views as we continue to develop our policies and proposals for inclusion in future manifestos and policy development documents. We would welcome any contribution you would like to make. Please forward views to: [consultation@dup.org.uk](mailto:consultation@dup.org.uk)

We look forward to hearing from you.



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