

# Strong Leadership in Challenging Times

Manifesto **2009**



**1 Dodds**







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## Message from Rt Hon **Peter Robinson** MP, MLA - DUP Leader and Northern Ireland First Minister

Dear Friend,  
DUP leadership has revitalised unionism and changed the course of politics in Northern Ireland. We have returned political stability to Northern Ireland and are building a better future for everyone in the Province.

In 2003 the DUP became Northern Ireland's largest political party and the leading voice of unionism. Since then we have strengthened the position of unionism and consolidated Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom.

Just a few years ago republicanism was on the rise and unionism was in retreat. Today all that has changed. Under the arrangements we negotiated at St Andrews, today for the first time since 1972, unionists have control over decision making in Northern Ireland. The Provos' war is over and republicans now support the police and the rule of law. Despite the economic difficulties and the tragic recent murders Northern Ireland's future has never looked brighter. We have only been able to chart this successful course for unionism because of the mandate we have received at the ballot box. On June 4th we are once again asking you to renew that mandate.

Just ask yourself the question, "Is unionism in a better state than it was six years ago?"

Devolution is good for unionism and good for Northern Ireland. It not only gives unionists control over our future but also allows us to create a better society for everyone living here. A peaceful and stable society will allow us to attract investment and create economic prosperity. While the Troubles as we knew them are over the political battle goes on. The DUP has a strong record of defending unionist interests and is proving successful in Government as well.

While this election is to the European Parliament, it is about much more than Europe. It is about the balance of power in Northern Ireland and the message it sends out to the wider world. In every previous election a DUP candidate has topped the poll sending out a clear sign in the only Northern Ireland-wide election that unionism remains the voice of Northern Ireland in Europe. In previous European elections the second preference votes of those who have voted number one for the DUP candidate have seen a second unionist elected.

Every election is about a choice for the voter, but choices have consequences. One unionist candidate wants to return us to the failed leadership of the UUP which left unionism dispirited and in decline. Others would throw away all the progress we have made and plunge Northern Ireland back into crisis with the end of devolution, unionist influence and the prospect of Direct Rule with an ever larger role for Dublin.

Diane Dodds has a proven track record as a public representative and tireless worker. In 2003 she was the first unionist in a generation to win an Assembly seat in West Belfast and is an experienced Belfast City Councillor. As an MEP from Northern Ireland's largest party with direct access to the Northern Ireland Executive Ministers and the assistance of nine MPs in the House of Commons she will be able to work to maximise the influence of unionism and Northern Ireland at home and in Europe.

I urge you on 4th June to vote Diane Dodds number 1.

Yours,




## Candidate Biography:

# Diane Dodds

- Diane was brought up on a small family farm outside Rathfriland
- She was educated at Annaclone Primary School and then Banbridge Academy
- Diane graduated in History and English from Queen's University, where she joined the Democratic Unionist Party
- She qualified as a teacher from Stranmillis College, taking up a teaching post at Laurelhill High School in Lisburn where she taught History and English as well as pupils with learning difficulties.
- In 1998 Diane began working in the North Belfast constituency, developing the DUP constituency service to three offices dealing with 17,000 constituency cases.
- In the 2003 Assembly election Diane became the first Unionist to win a seat in West Belfast for over 20 years.
- Diane was elected to Belfast City Council in 2005 with the highest individual vote of any candidate across Northern Ireland.
- She was a key player in securing the very successful Homecoming parade through the streets of Belfast for servicemen and women from our Armed Forces returning from active duty in Afghanistan and Iraq.







# We're voting **1** Dodds...

Follow the 1 Dodds Campaign at [www.dup2win.com](http://www.dup2win.com)

Join the DUP Campaign on Facebook, Flickr and Twitter

The only Unionist who can top the poll



- Because the DUP gets the **job done** for Unionism
- To support Stormont **Devolution** not Dublin-driven Direct Rule
- To **unite** Unionism, not divide it
- To **top the poll** and assist a second Unionist to get elected
- To **take republicans on**, day in day out on every issue, not run away
- For **control** over decisions of nationalist / republican Ministers
- For a **vision** for unionist success, not despair and defeatism
- To continue rebuilding Unionist **confidence**
- To remain **secure within the United Kingdom**, not place Northern Ireland's future back in jeopardy

- To maintain a **Unionist agenda** in Government
- To implement a reform agenda, establishing a **more normal** way of forming an Executive
- For control over **our future**, not Dublin interference or Sinn Fein chipping away at Direct Rule
- To keep pressure on for further evidence of republican support for **police and rule of law** in republican heartlands, until every last vestige of paramilitarism disappears
- To transfer policing and justice functions **only when the DUP's conditions have been met**

- For a strong united and co-ordinated team providing **genuine influence to deliver** in Europe
- For the **best deal** from Brussels for business, farmers and fishermen
- To reverse a generation of decline and build on **successes at Stormont**
- For decisions taken by accountable local people on the issues that **matter most to you**
- For a **peaceful and prosperous** Northern Ireland
- So schools are **entitled to select** pupils on the basis of ability
- To **ease the burden** on households
- **To prevent Sinn Fein** receiving the morale boost they desperately need

## ... to back a winning strategy!

## Never Forget

It's easy to forget what things were like following the Belfast Agreement just a decade ago:

- No decommissioning yet Sinn Fein permitted in Government
- No republican support for the police, courts or the rule of law
- Provisional IRA paramilitary and criminal activity continuing
- Daily concessions to republicans
- Unionism dispirited, divided and in decline
- Nationalism seen to be winning
- Assembly lunging from one crisis to the next with four suspensions in three years
- Unaccountable republican Ministers
- Unaccountable north-south bodies
- Nationalists dictating the political agenda in Government

Don't go back  
to the bad old days!

## Big Picture **brighter** under DUP

The DUP strategy is working. From a position of weakness for unionism we have safely navigated unionism through difficult and dangerous times and today Northern Ireland is well placed for the future. We were right to demand political arrangements which would prove stable and secure and we were right to proceed when our conditions were met. Just compare where we are today with where unionism was in the years after the 1998 Agreement, or where we would be if we abandoned the present institutions.

- Northern Ireland's constitutional position within the United Kingdom is secure
- Provisional IRA's terrorist campaign is over
- Unionists are in control of our own destiny
- Northern Ireland is more peaceful than for generations
- There is a Northern Ireland Assembly with a unionist majority
- There is a Northern Ireland Executive with a unionist majority
- Widespread support across the community for the political institutions
- Unionists have control over decision making in Northern Ireland
- Republicans support the police, courts and the rule of law in Northern Ireland
- There is political and constitutional stability in Northern Ireland
- There is a united community response to terrorism
- North-South political institutions are now accountable to the Stormont Assembly
- Unionists have increased influence at Westminster
- Unionism has good practical working relations with the Republic of Ireland
- Northern Ireland is an attractive place to live and work
- Republican aspiration of a united Ireland by 2016 is no longer taken seriously
- A peaceful Northern Ireland is attracting foreign investment
- The long term economic prospects for Northern Ireland are sound

Northern Ireland  
is **working** again



## Stable Northern Ireland good for Unionism

For the first time in forty years there are stable political structures in place in Northern Ireland with the prospect of long term peace and prosperity. This is good for unionism.

Some would seek to plunge us back to constitutional instability by chasing unrealisable political goals. However the reality is that the Union is not strengthened if a significant portion of the community does not support the political institutions here. For us to have a stable and healthy society politics must be seen to work for all.

For a generation unionism was under siege, but today unionism is in a position of considerable strength again. 2021 is the 100 year anniversary of the creation of Northern Ireland. We must use the next 12 years to build Northern Ireland for the next 100 years.

This will only be done by working together across the community to build a Northern Ireland where everyone has a place. All people from all backgrounds need to have a stake in Northern Ireland, including those from other parts of the world who have chosen to make their homes in Northern Ireland.



## Keeping Unionism Number One

The European Election is Northern Ireland's only Province-wide election and its outcome sends out a message about who speaks for Northern Ireland. We want the leading Northern Ireland voice in Europe to be a unionist one. Unionists will have the objectives at this election of ensuring that a unionist candidate tops the poll, that two unionist candidates are elected and driving up the turnout in unionist areas.

The only way that this can be done is by voting Diane Dodds number one and transferring to other unionists. The UUP vote collapsed to below 100,000 at the last European Election and no other unionist candidate has any prospect of reaching even this level of support. Only the DUP can top the poll for unionism.

It is clear from every European Election and all recent elections that only a DUP candidate can top the poll for unionism. Previous European Elections have seen the DUP candidate top the Euro poll and the transfers of their voters ensure a second unionist is also elected.

A higher percentage of the nationalist community has historically turned out at election time and if this is the case again there is a very good chance that Sinn Fein would top the poll. While there are some who make their only goal to remove Sinn Fein from Stormont by ending devolution, the DUP wants to see every vestige of republicanism defeated and is battling them every day on every issue. In this election we want to see Irish republicanism defeated and robbed of the opportunity to claim that they speak for Northern Ireland.

**It is essential that at this election unionists turn out, vote DUP number 1 and then transfer to other unionist candidates.**

## Getting it right on Policing and Justice

The DUP supports the devolution of Policing and Justice functions but in order for it to take place the necessary community confidence must be achieved. This confidence depends on:

- satisfactory financial arrangements
- appropriate institutional arrangements and
- tangible republican support for policing and the rule of law

Historically unionism has supported policing and justice powers being exercised in Northern Ireland. It would be good for unionism and good for Northern Ireland, and would assist in combating the terrorist threat and embedding the devolved institutions.

It is essential that we get things right before policing and justice powers are devolved. In reality the Justice Department's powers are relatively limited given the independence of the judiciary and operational independence of the Chief Constable but they are nonetheless symbolically important. Indeed many of the most important justice functions are already exercised within Northern Ireland through bodies such as the Policing Board.







**Financial Arrangements**

It is essential that adequate resources are transferred to allow policing and justice functions to be exercised effectively. There is no point in devolving functions for which the Northern Ireland Executive would be responsible but unable to fund. Transfer must occur in a manner which does not place any additional burden on the existing Northern Ireland Executive budget.

The Assembly and Executive Review Committee is presently considering this matter and the Northern Ireland Executive is in negotiations with the Government. It is clear that there are significant legacy costs outstanding and unless these are satisfactorily addressed it would be unwise and wrong to devolve policing and justice functions.

**Institutional Arrangements**

We have always made it clear that in order for policing and justice functions to be transferred we required the appropriate institutional arrangements to be put in place. Previously we successfully negotiated the 'triple lock' which gave us a veto on the devolution of the powers until we were satisfied that the necessary conditions existed. The triple lock remains in place and through it we have renegotiated the arrangements for devolving policing and justice powers. As a result of recent negotiations we secured new Westminster legislation to amend the existing provisions.

In particular unionists now have a veto over who the Justice Minister will be, through the election of a Justice Minister by way of cross community vote until 2012, and a veto on any future mechanism thereafter.

We have also secured the independence of the Judiciary by removing any role for local politicians in the appointment of judges. Instead judges will be appointed either through an independent commission, or for more senior judges, by the Prime Minister.

While very significant progress has been made in this area some details still need to be resolved, and legislation will be required in the Assembly.

**Republican support for the police and the rule of law**

Under the Belfast Agreement, Sinn Fein Ministers were able to sit in office despite not supporting the police or the rule of law in Northern Ireland. This was a totally unacceptable situation.

The DUP made Sinn Fein support for the police and the rule of law a precondition for the restoration of devolution. In addition we required that individual Ministers pledge support for the police and the rule of law as a condition of their appointment. While some argued that more time was needed to test republican bona fides on this issue, on balance we believed that we were right to restore devolution when we did. Indeed it is clear that the events since then have vindicated this decision.

Ultimately republicans were going to be judged not just on words but also on actions. It is clear that republicans have made very significant progress in this respect, highlighted by the response of the Deputy First Minister to the recent murders in which dissident republicans were denounced and a call made for full co-operation with the police. Indeed on the ground there is tangible evidence of unprecedented co-operation from the republican community which has greatly assisted police enquiries.

We will continue to assess the level of actual republican support for the police and the rule of law and will want to be sure that the very last vestiges of paramilitarism are gone for good.



The very substantial progress that we have made on the issue of policing in recent years is in stark contrast to the position of the UUP which:

- failed to make support for the police a condition of holding office
- wanted the powers devolved by 2005
- accepted there would be a Sinn Fein Justice Minister
- still supports the appointment of the Justice Minister by d'Hondt

While no date has been set for the devolution of these functions, we will continue to work to bring about the devolution of policing and justice only when our conditions are met and all stages have been completed to our satisfaction.





# Priorities for Policing

The DUP's priorities for policing will be:

- Ensure the PSNI has sufficient resources
- Maintain an effective police estate with no community left isolated or vulnerable
- Argue for money from closing police stations to be invested back in visible policing on the ground
- Robust approach to eradicate dissident republican and other paramilitary organisations
- Stiffer sentences for those convicted
- Most up-to-date equipment for police to perform duties
- No more costly Inquiries
- Expenditure on legacy issues should not be permitted to weaken budget for tackling present day crime
- Secure long-term funding for Historical Enquiries Team
- Tough approach to knife crime
- Reduce antisocial behaviour
- Press for Fixed Penalty system in Northern Ireland to assist officers to tackle low level crime and antisocial behaviour
- Free more officers up from desks to carry out operational duties

# DUP Delivering



- ✓ DUP Ministers driving the agenda in Executive
- ✓ DUP control over vital decisions by nationalist / republican Ministers
- ✓ Devolution of policing and justice on DUP terms and when DUP decides
- ✓ DUP control over any future Justice Minister
- ✓ Further evidence of republican support for the police, courts & rule of law
- ✓ Grammar schools and academic selection preserved
- ✓ No Irish language Act
- ✓ Regional rates frozen
- ✓ Assistance with fuel bills for pensioners and low income households
- ✓ Rapid action for flood victims
- ✓ Blocked Direct Rule plans to force us to pay twice for water
- ✓ Divisive 7 super-Council model prevented
- ✓ Greater funding for innocent victims, Loyal Orders and Ulster-Scots community
- ✓ Accountability for North-South contact and greater focus East-West



# Battling in Brussels

The DUP is opposed to adopting the Euro and believes it is essential that the United Kingdom retains the pound as currency.

We oppose the Lisbon Treaty, loss of national vetoes, a President of Europe and the harmonisation of immigration and border controls, and defence and foreign policy.

The DUP supports a UK-wide referendum on the Lisbon Treaty unconditionally. We are concerned that other parties who claim to oppose Lisbon have recently starting entering caveats about their commitment to a referendum. If those parties accept that its weaknesses are as serious as we believe, there should be a referendum without question.

We oppose the excessive legislative burden on so many aspects of life emerging from Brussels. We believe new EU regulations should be time-limited with consideration then given to the impact they have had, particularly on the economy of member states. Their continuation should require a further vote.

Weighted minority voting should apply in the European Parliament with a significant majority (for example one-third of all member states) able to veto legislation.

There should be greater freedom for the United Kingdom to bring forward legislation.

We believe the UK and other member states should have greater control over their own social policy.

We would support a reduction in, and greater transparency around, the allowances of MEPs. The daily travel allowance is wide open to abuse and requires urgent reform.

MEPs should have to produce receipts for expenses

We support a stricter Register of Interests for MEPs

We wish to see full minutes of Committee meetings of the EU Parliament published.

An action plan should be developed to outline how over the course of the next five year term all aspects of the work of the European Parliament can be conducted at Brussels rather than necessitating another large bureaucracy in Strasbourg.

We advocate greater transparency around the Budgets and accounting practices of the EU.

We believe the EU should adopt a more proactive role in dealing with human rights abuses in other parts of the world. The EU should do more to intervene to ensure democracy is upheld in Zimbabwe for example. The persecution of Christians is an area where we want to see greater emphasis being placed.

Other international objectives include:

- support Israel in its efforts to safeguard its people and its future
- build improved relationships with China and India
- support efforts to reduce global poverty

We know only too well in Northern Ireland about organised crime. We support co-operation and effective international action to tackle drug runners, people traffickers and money launderers. We support an EU-wide freeze on terrorists' assets.

## Brussels' burden on Business

The DUP would like to see some of the effective measures introduced by DUP Ministers replicated in Europe.

We support reduced regulation and an end to directives which restrict small businesses and increase their costs. We oppose sudden surprise additions to regulations which can lead to job losses and business failures.

EC Treaty Article 137(2)(b) provides that Directives adopted on employment or working practices "shall avoid imposing administrative, financial and legal constraints in a way which would hold back the creation and development of small and medium-sized undertakings". The DUP will endeavour to ensure this commitment is delivered on.

In these difficult economic times, more must be done to allow businesses to access finance. Over implementation of legislation and regulations should be avoided. The DUP would support a freeze on legislation which places any further burden on business during the economic downturn.

## Freedom to Fish

The Common Fisheries Policy has had a disastrous impact on our local fishing industry.

The DUP will continue to work to oppose its devastating consequences. We want to see the maximum short-term aid provided to help keep fishermen in business. It is crucial that Northern Ireland has the strongest possible voice at the EU Fisheries Council.

## Internet Safety

The internet must be safe for children. The DUP supports the Safer Internet programme, and encourages reporting of illegal or harmful content. We advocate the stiffest possible action against online predators and the use of all innovative technology to thwart those who would prey upon children. Service providers should exercise due care to ensure that the internet cannot become a safe haven for criminals.

Those who produce child pornography or traffic in it must be punished to the maximum extent of the law. We welcome those social networking sites that have agreed to bar known sex offenders from participation.

We support measures such as more effective age checks to dissuade those at risk of the problems of online gambling.





## Assisting Victims

Under the Belfast Agreement victims were sidelined and their needs ignored. The DUP made a firm commitment to tackle this unacceptable situation and holds a strong record of placing the needs of victims at the forefront of the political agenda.

In 2003 the DUP published a policy paper calling for the introduction of a Victims Commissioner. In December 2005 that goal was met through the appointment of the interim Commissioner, Mrs Bertha McDougall. The report she produced has proved to be an invaluable tool in the reform of provision for victims.

Peter Robinson, when he was DFP Minister, allocated £36million for victims doubling the amount previously available. This has led to an increase in all areas of victims funding including to groups and individual victims and their families.

Victims must be entitled to justice and the DUP unreservedly rejects any moves to introduce an amnesty of any kind. The so-called Eames-Bradley report from the Consultative Group on the Past made many grave errors of judgement not least the suggestion of a £12,000 payment which equates the perpetrators of terrorism with innocent victims.

The DUP has long been a strong supporter of the Historical Enquiries Team and their important work. We will continue to fight to ensure its continuation.

The DUP has been clear and consistent that the perpetrator of an act of terrorism should not and must not be equated with the innocent victims of terrorism. We are at an advanced stage in the process of bringing legislation to the Assembly to amend the 2006 Direct Rule definition, which would prevent the perpetrators of terrorism from obtaining pecuniary benefit from victims funding.

The DUP want to ensure clear strategic direction with targeted, effective action which will make a real and tangible difference to victims' lives. The new 10 year strategy placing victims at the heart of policy will guide our future direction. The new service will allow for tailored solutions for individuals and families based on their identified needs.

It is imperative that every service to victims is of a consistent and high quality including all statutory, professional and voluntary provision. We have commissioned a Comprehensive Needs Assessment which will identify the needs of the sector, the best practice that currently exists and new schemes and services we need to provide.

The new victims service and funding arrangements due to be operative at the end of this financial year will facilitate longer term planning by ensuring longer term guaranteed funding.

Through the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund we have provided over £2 million of support for individuals last year. This support will continue. Although there have been some criticisms of the Fund in the past it remains the most effective tool we currently have to reach victims not associated with groups.

In Ministerial office, the DUP have continued support to almost 50 victims groups through the core funding scheme operated by the Community Relations Council. All groups saw an increase in their core funding last year and that will continue this year. The DUP recognises the valuable and critical role many of these groups play in the community and are committed to ensuring they receive the support they deserve.

The Eames-Bradley process and concluding report represents a wasted opportunity to address some fundamental legacy issues. This report is entirely unacceptable and deeply flawed in most of its core principles and conclusions.

The suggestion of equating innocent victims with the cowardly criminals who perpetrated terrorism is an outrage to all decent people. The DUP has been categorical in its utter rejection of this approach. Justice is, and must remain, the cornerstone of our democracy. Any suggestion of amnesty will be robustly rejected by the DUP. All victims must have the entitlement to obtain justice.

## Promoting Local Bands

The DUP is delivering for Marching Bands right across Northern Ireland. Providing the means and resources through which our Marching Bands can grow and develop assists this vital part of our Ulster-Scots Culture.

The DUP is ensuring that the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure and associated arms length bodies such as the Arts Council are recognizing properly the cultural excellence offered by our Marching Bands which for too long was passed over by Government and elements of the Arts Community.

The Musical Instruments for Bands funding programme administered through the Arts Council now sits at £200,000 for 2009/10, for replacing worn out instruments and purchasing new ones. This year the process was brought forward by 2 months to help bands with the timing of the grants.

Development Officers are now being funded through the Arts Council, and the DUP is bringing changes to the Ulster-Scots Agency funding schemes to focus on community and culture development which will enable community groups and Marching Band associations to apply for development worker funding assistance.

## The DUP working in partnership with the Orange Institution has delivered:

1. De-rating of Orange Halls
2. New compensation arrangements for attacked Halls
3. The Strategic Review of Parades – Parades Commission to be scrapped
4. Greater funding for The Twelfth and other Orange activities
5. Reform of the Community Festivals Fund – funding taken from Republican festivals and re-allocated to Orange events
6. Additional £1million to Ulster-Scots Agency
7. No Irish Language Act
8. Working for equality of funding between Irish and Ulster-Scots Culture
9. Secured £1million benefiting 40 Orange Halls





# St Andrews Agreement: Transforming devolution

The St Andrews Agreement has brought about fundamental changes to how devolution operates in Northern Ireland.

All key decisions require cross-community support which means that unionists have a veto on any change we oppose. While this also applies to nationalists, it is republicans who are agitating for change. The status quo is clearly much more in the interests of unionism.

Unlike in the period after 1998 where nationalist ministers were free to follow their own agenda, today the unionist-dominated Executive must approve any major decisions.

Only a few weeks ago, in response to the behaviour of Margaret Ritchie, the courts confirmed the primacy of the Executive over the wishes of individual Ministers.

Indeed academic commentator Professor Henry Patterson has commented,

"the unionist political class... now has an effective veto on key governmental decisions for the first time since 1972."



## The Real Alternative

Despite what some may suggest, the real choice for unionists is not between the current form of devolution and some unionist panacea, but between the present arrangements or Direct Rule with Dublin interference and republican influence.

We are committed to delivering a better form of administration in Northern Ireland and are working to achieve this. While the present arrangements at Stormont are far from perfect they are, without doubt, the best available for unionism at this time. Those who pretend that there is some better option that has any chance of being obtained at this time are setting out to deceive people or living in a fantasy world.

The best way to deliver a better form of government is by working within the present arrangements and not by returning to years of Direct Rule which was in effect Dublin Joint Rule with Sinn Fein pulling the strings. Does anyone seriously believe that any deliverable alternative to this form of devolution at this time would be better for unionists? Everyone knows that the alternative is Direct Rule with Dublin interference and republican influence.

We have already seen the UUP fail to deliver but others actually make failure their goal. As supporters of the present constitutional arrangements the onus is on unionists to make Northern Ireland work. Whatever the frustrations are with the present arrangements or the pasts of some of the individuals returned to Stormont, the route of unionists plunging Northern Ireland back to years of further negotiations and constitutional instability would be madness for unionism.



## What if Direct Rule had continued?...

In March 2007 some argued that devolution should not be restored. Some just wanted it delayed while others wanted it abandoned altogether.

But what if, despite the gains we made in negotiations, we had thrown it all away. In addition to failing to deliver all we have achieved in the last two years to transform Northern Ireland, you can be sure that -

- there would have been an ever greater role for Dublin in the affairs of Northern Ireland
- As always republicans would have taken advantage of dealing directly with the UK Government and secured even more concessions in areas such as 'on the runs'
- unionists would have been marginalised and sidelined with little or no input into the future of the Province.
- Northern Ireland would have been plunged back into constitutional instability allowing republicans to argue it was a failed political entity
- Political instability would have damaged our economic prospects and deterred international investment
- our young people would have continued to leave Northern Ireland in large numbers

In some areas we don't need to speculate, as we know exactly what the Government would have done. Specifically:

- An Irish Language Act would have been introduced
- Academic Selection by schools would have been prohibited
- Separate additional water charges would have been introduced
- Domestic, manufacturing and business rates would have been significantly higher
- A damaging Single Equality Act would have been introduced



# Devolution: Giving unionists control

Today devolution gives unionists control of our own destiny. Under Direct Rule unionists were powerless and under the arrangements negotiated in 1998 nationalists and republicans had considerable power to pursue their own agenda.

Under the arrangements negotiated at St Andrews and passed by Parliament, Unionist agreement is required for any significant decision in Northern Ireland. This position has been reinforced in the courts within the last few weeks. In circumstances where nationalists are challenging the status quo this is a vital safeguard.

As well as security about our constitutional future, through post St Andrews devolution we can:

- Prevent the advancement of a republican-leaning 'equality' agenda
- Halt the advance of a far left social agenda
- Safeguard Academic Selection



## Standing up for ourselves: standing up to republicans

Unionism has consistently been undermined by the UK Government's willingness to appease republicans. The reality is that there is no surer way of securing our future than by acting on our own behalf.

In the last two years we have demonstrated that we can work alongside republicans to benefit the whole community but equally we are prepared to stand up to them in defending our own interests when necessary.

Unlike the days when the Ulster Unionist Party negotiated on behalf of unionism we are prepared to fight for our interests. Today no one can say that republicans get the better of unionists in negotiations.

Twice in the last twelve months republicans attempted to revert to the negotiating tactics that had worked with the UK Government and the Ulster Unionist Party. On both occasions they failed.

*"Recall that when the DUP first started to go into negotiations with Sinn Fein, some predicted that the wily republicans who'd managed to tie two Governments in knots would eat them alive. No one is saying that now"*  
Belfast Telegraph Editorial, 6 June 2008



## A good deal for householders

The DUP has always been a low tax party. Rather than taking an ever increasing amount of money from householders we want to ensure that the resources the Executive already has are spent effectively. This is especially the case during the present economic downturn.

While we opposed it, the Assembly after 1998 opted for large annual increases in the household Regional Rate and paved the way towards effectively requiring convergence with the much higher levels of Council Tax in Great Britain. The Direct Rule administration followed through on this policy and the Regional Rate was increased by almost 20% in a single year and 60% over 5 years.

However before the restoration of devolution we renegotiated the previous Executive's arrangement with the Treasury as part of the financial package which led to devolution. As a result of these negotiations, and in line with DUP policy, we have been able to:

- Freeze the household Regional Rate for three years in cash terms, meaning an effective cut in the Regional Rate
- Further defer the introduction of separate Water Charges

The combination of these two steps by the Executive has meant that the average householder has saved well in excess of £1000 over this Assembly term than would have been the case under Direct Rule.

In order to ensure that the sum we raise is spent efficiently we have also created within the Department of Finance and Personnel, the Performance and Efficiency Delivery Unit.

There is still much more work to be done in this area to ensure that householders receive the best value for money possible but we are committed to this objective. While there are some who would wish to reopen the Budget which froze the Regional Rate, for us the Regional Rate freeze is non-negotiable.

## A good deal for older people

Devolution has also brought about a better deal for pensioners. We have introduced a series of new measures for pensioners including:

- 20% Rate reduction for those over 70 years old living alone
- appointment of a specific Older Person's Advocate
- extension of free travel to over 60s
- additional £150 fuel payment to assist pensioners at risk of fuel poverty

We will also continue to lobby the Westminster government for an increased state pension, linked as soon as possible to earnings.



## Religious Freedoms

We affirm everyone's right to apply religious values to public policy and the right of faith-based groups to participate fully in public programmes without renouncing their beliefs or removing religious symbols.

The DUP will oppose EU directives which curtail religious freedoms and campaign for victims of religious persecution. Religious liberty should be improved across the European Union, and amongst candidate countries and those bordering the EU such as Belarus which may become candidate countries in the future.

The DUP has concerns about how the EU seeks to define harassment and the compatibility with freedom of speech, conscience, association and religion. We oppose shifts in human rights legislation which threaten freedom of speech, with the right to take offence seeming to take priority.

The DUP supports the work of faith-based communities who are often able to obtain greater success than statutory organisations in hard to reach communities on issues such as substance abuse and domestic violence for example. We are keen for churches to become further involved in community development work.

We understand the opposition of some individuals and groups to applying for funding from the National Lottery, and are working to try to deliver a more appropriate alternative for them.

The DUP supports protection for marriage as a union of man and woman. We support the courageous efforts of single parent families to provide stable homes for their children. We also commend the efforts of foster and adoptive families.

The DUP will continue to promote the dignity and sanctity of all human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life.



# Combating the credit crunch

Northern Ireland has not been immune from the global economic downturn and many people have suffered. A devolved administration has limited scope to affect world markets and most taxation matters are dealt with by Westminster but the Executive was well placed to react to the downturn, limit its impact and prepare for economic recovery.



We have set the right priorities for Northern Ireland by putting;

- The Economy as the centre-piece of the Programme for Government and Budget

Householders have already been assisted in dealing with the present economic climate by taking pressure off domestic budgets through:

- Reduction in household bills
- Hardship payment to 150,000 people

Business has also been assisted by the Executive limiting the impact of those taxes over which it has control by:

- Business Rates freeze
- Manufacturing Rates capped
- Small business rates relief scheme

In addition the Executive is making a significant contribution to the local economy through:

- Northern Ireland's largest ever spend on capital projects
- Much needed reform of the planning system
- Improving procurement to assist local businesses
- Maintaining pressure on banks to support viable businesses

Devolution is also providing an incentive to attract foreign investment by:

- Providing the political stability that investment requires
- Permitting local representatives to lead the case for foreign investment

We have demonstrated the advantage of devolution by being able to harness the wisdom of the whole community through:

- Establishment of the Cross-Sectoral Advisory Group

While we are doing all in our power to deal with the present problems it is equally important that we build for the future.

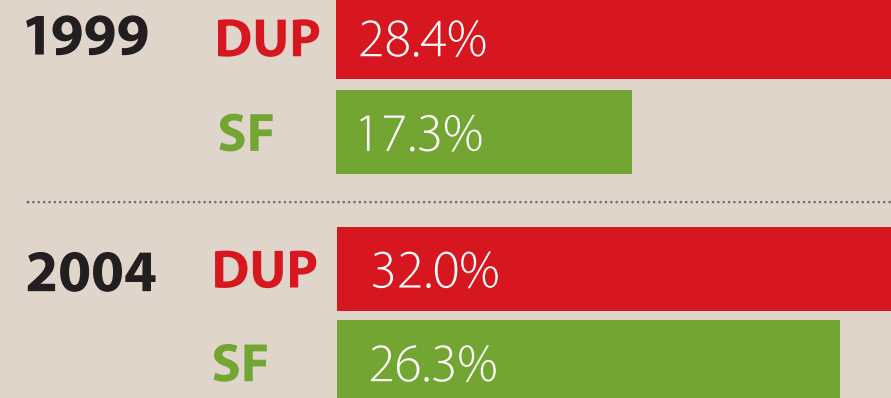
## Bill of Rights

We are unconvinced of the need for a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, and consider the report of the Bill of Rights Forum to be a long way removed from any proposal capable of securing cross-party consensus.

Some may have imagined that they could use a Bill of Rights as a 'Trojan horse' for their political prejudices but it is for politicians with a mandate from the people to make policy decisions.

# Make sure Unionism keeps on winning!

## LAST TWO EUROPEAN ELECTIONS:



It's a straight choice between the DUP and Sinn Fein. Don't waste your vote.

# 1 Dodds



## Our reform agenda

We have always opposed unnecessary political bureaucracy and argued for a move to a more normal form of government in Northern Ireland. However this will only be achieved through the existing political structure and discussion with other political parties. We have a clear agenda in this area and have already begun to succeed.

We have already:

- Prevented the return of the Civic Forum
- Blocked the creation of new all Island bodies
- Prevented the expansion of a politically driven north south agenda
- Begun the move away from allocation of departments through d'Hondt

In our last manifesto, for the 2007 Assembly election, we stated that a fair deal did not represent our final destination and that there was further progress to be made. It is our intention to bring about major reform of the institutions of Government:

### REDUCING NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Up until ten years ago, the province had only six Government Departments. We see no reason why that should not be the case again.

### REDUCING NUMBER OF ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

The current 108 Stormont Assembly Members was an artificial figure contrived to assist fringe parties. A total of 54 or 72 would be more appropriate, providing either 3 or 4 from each of the 18 constituencies.

### OFMDFM

The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister should be streamlined and reconfigured as a strategic Department, not overlapping the work of other Government Departments, and re-titled the Department of the Executive.

### DISPENSING WITH DESIGNATIONS

As politics normalises, the practice of designation and cross-community votes for contentious matters should be replaced with a requirement to obtain a broad percentage of support across the Assembly.

### CIVIC FORUM

The unrepresentative Civic Forum should be abolished with the savings reinvested in frontline services.

### ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The AERC, which was created at the DUP's insistence, should have a continuing role in monitoring the efficiency of Northern Ireland Government institutions in the years ahead.

### CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

The DUP has embarked upon wide-ranging reform of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. We have an excessive number particularly of senior civil servants even by Whitehall standards. Departments still operate too much in silos unconcerned with what the others are doing. Resources and services should be shared between departments where possible.

### ABSENTEEISM

The high level of public sector absenteeism is unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the DUP.

### COMMISSION CULL

The large number of non-elected Commissions in Northern Ireland does not provide good value for money. On the mainland an Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently been established by merging a number of predecessor organisations. The existing related Commissions here including the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People should similarly all be encapsulated within a single streamlined body the performance and cost-effectiveness of which could be subject to regular and rigorous review.

### PARADES COMMISSION

The DUP supports the abolition of the Parades Commission which has only served to make the resolution of parades issues more difficult.

### FORMING AN EXECUTIVE

Over the last decade the DUP has consistently maintained that a Government formed voluntarily would prove more appropriate, with a common agenda and commanding support sufficient to encompass both main traditions.

### NORTH-SOUTH EFFICIENCY

A review of North South structures is taking place. The DUP is engaging fully on how they can be improved. We have already ensured they are now accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly, and we want to ensure they become less costly.

### ASSEMBLY MEMBER SALARIES

The DUP has called for Assembly Members' salaries to be frozen in the current economic climate. We advocate overhauling current practice to ensure Assembly Members have no role at all in determining their salaries or allowances, thereby removing any potential accusation of a conflict of interest.

### EARLY PROGRESS AT STORMONT

Already in Government, the DUP has initiated the Performance and Efficiency Delivery Unit, a new high-level public sector efficiency task force to examine the scope for generating new cash-releasing efficiencies.

We set about slashing the unacceptable delays for planning applications which were driving business away from Northern Ireland. We have introduced measures to streamline planning processes and fast-track applications with wealth generating potential.

Nigel Dodds has introduced a new ten day prompt payment policy across all Government Departments.

Red tape and bureaucracy must be reduced. We are committed to ensuring value for money from public spending and have begun to tackle head-on factors such as overstaffing, absenteeism, poor working practices, and resistance to change. Our aim is to root out waste and inefficiency, and provide modern high-quality efficient public services incorporating best practice internationally, yet meeting the specific needs of the people of Northern Ireland.



## A Better Environment

The DUP wants our environment preserved and enhanced both for the present day and our future generations. The DUP is keen for environmental goals to be balanced alongside economic growth and job creation. While the scale of the impact of human activity on our climate is still to be precisely determined, common sense dictates that we should become more energy efficient, conserve resources and take measured and reasonable steps to reduce any impact on the environment. Policies should be based on sound science and technology and should not damage the economy.

We support technology driven market-based solutions which will decrease emissions, reduce excess greenhouse gases and increase energy efficiency. Improving energy efficiency is the fastest, most cost-effective way to reduce emissions, and it leads to savings for the Government, economy and consumers. Thousands of homes across Northern Ireland can be made more energy efficient through improved loft insulation or cavity walls. We support measures to promote innovation in renewable energies.





## Health

As an increasing number of patients obtain treatment in countries across Europe, it is important that appropriate common standards are assured. People from Northern Ireland must have confidence in the service they will receive in other European countries. Health care professionals across Europe must be suitably registered with a recognised regulatory body.

The commencement of devolution in Northern Ireland has not yet brought the improvements to our local health service that might have been expected. Despite unprecedented levels of investment the same problems continue to bedevil the system. The DUP wants to see health bureaucracy slashed and decision-making streamlined. The opportunity for fundamental reform through the Review of Public Administration has unfortunately not been fully realised.

It is crucial that extensive powers are devolved to local commissioning groups, to seek to drive performance and innovation. We want to see greater returns for each pound invested.

The DUP wants to see the emphasis placed on prevention of illness and promotion of good health. Poor diet, a lack of exercise, binge drinking, smoking and illicit drug use all contribute significantly to ill health in the province.

The cuts in services which the Minister for Health intends to make will have a drastic impact on many of our most vulnerable people. The efficiency savings demanded by the Treasury in London were meant to be found from waste and duplication, not frontline services and key health care posts. Further savings can be made in areas such as generic drug prescribing.

Advances in medical technology are revolutionising medicine. Information technology will continue to play an increasing role. Modernising record-keeping will mean faster, more accurate treatment, fewer medical errors and lower costs.

Medical research must be based on sound science and ethics. We support stem-cell research, which is offering hope for many diseases, without the destruction of embryonic human life. We support a ban on human cloning.

Since the family is the basic unit of society, we fully support parental rights to consent for medical treatment for their children.

We support free personal care in Northern Ireland for those with medical need.



## Improving Mental Health

Mental health is a key area to get right in Northern Ireland. Those working in this field or who have experience of services are immensely disappointed at the progress on implementing the recommendations of the Bamford report. Of the 704 recommendations very few have been acted on. All of the effort expended by the Expert Committees appears to have gone to waste. Very little has been done to build capacity to allow the proposed radical shift towards community based care.

Investment should be directed at preventing illness and promoting mental wellbeing. Mental health promotion should take place in a range of settings- in schools, primary care, the workplace, further and higher education, rural areas, marginalised communities and faith groups. A priority area for the DUP is the provision of proper psychological therapies. Less than 10% of those with common mental health problems receive any counselling or therapy. The prescribing of antidepressants and other medications in parts of Northern Ireland exceeds many times over that in other parts of the United Kingdom.

The talking therapies help individuals cope with difficult times and cause lasting positive change to their personality and behaviour. They are more effective in preventing relapse. We should be seeking to replicate progress made in Scotland. Patients should receive treatment without delay but constructing an adequate service will take several years. We believe that an interim target should be that no patient would have to wait more than two weeks for an initial assessment and the commencement of therapy. Many more trained therapists are needed.

The DUP is concerned that so little of the Equal Lives report on Learning Disability has been implemented. We recognize the huge burden that caring responsibilities can place on families. We believe that one week's guaranteed respite per quarter is not too much for carers to expect.

A greater share of resources should be channelled into a dedicated budget for Child and Adolescent Mental Health services. There is a need for more family and child psychotherapists and better out of hours services must be developed as well as CAMHS assertive outreach teams.

The number of people needing dementia care will grow rapidly in the years ahead. Specialist domiciliary services should be available 24 hours daily, and crisis response teams should serve older people as well as younger.

Highly trained and experienced professionals are required to deal with the expanding numbers of people with autism. Much greater awareness and skills are necessary within primary care. There are a large number of adults with autistic spectrum disorders who must also receive proper support.





## Improving Education

Northern Ireland requires a well-educated, highly-skilled workforce for an increasingly competitive global marketplace. Our education system has proved immensely successful and is envied by others particularly elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

The DUP believes we should be building on our successes as well as addressing weaknesses. Every child is unique with specific needs, and should receive an education which will maximise his or her potential. We do not believe in a one size fits all education system.

Since each child has different needs, a range of schools offering different educational options is essential for children to develop their individual skills to full potential. For those children who do not wish to pursue an academic path, attractive vocational opportunities must be available, with recognised accredited qualifications.

Investing in the early years is essential. The Millenium Cohort Study found that by age 3 children from disadvantaged backgrounds are already one year behind more advantaged children in social and educational development. Children who attend good-quality pre-school have better cognitive and intellectual outcomes, with the difference particularly marked amongst those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Research from the United States indicates that investment in pre-school education can cause savings in the longer term up to 13-fold. We are determined to see the level of affordable childcare in Northern Ireland increase.

### THE DUP ADVOCATES:

- encouraging parents to be more closely involved in every aspect of their child's education
- sufficient resources at primary level with attention given to pupil-teacher ratios
- intensive one-to-one booster sessions to enhance literacy and numeracy for children who are struggling in these areas
- greater resources for those with special needs, radical reform of 'statementing' process, and continuing pressure for Minister to bring forward without any further delay proposals to modernise and improve SEN services
- improved support for children on the autistic spectrum, their parents and families, including better access to invention at an early stage
- attracting and retaining the best teaching talent for our schools
- young newly qualified teachers having the opportunity to gain experience, and not see their talent wasted or lost
- principals and teachers making best use of their time, not overburdened with bureaucracy
- incentivising school leaders particular at less popular or underperforming schools
- strong discipline to reduce the number of violent incidents occurring in schools, exclusions and suspensions
- reducing truancy levels
- opposing special privileges for integrated and Irish Medium schools which consequently drain resources away from other sectors
- more attractive vocational opportunities to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training
- businesses being incentivised to develop high quality apprenticeships
- producing more craftsmen and technicians to compete with other European countries
- working to ensure those who wish to pursue a university education particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds are not deterred by fees
- pressing for the removal of the cap on student numbers in Northern Ireland
- increased opportunities for education and re-training for adults, particular in wake of the changing economic climate



- reform of the administrative arrangements for education, rationalising the number of bodies, streamlining decision-making and ensuring consistency province-wide in services such as access to home transport and special needs provision
- the statutory entitlement of Protestant church representatives on school Boards of Governors preserved
- with the new Education and Skills Authority becoming the single employing authority, ensuring equal opportunity for all teachers across different sectors
- a single new body for the controlled sector responsible for ownership of schools and promotion of its ethos rooted in Christian values



### POST-PRIMARY TRANSFER

As a result of DUP negotiations at St Andrews a grammar school education will still be available in Northern Ireland. Even the Minister now accepts this. That is the legal position and there is nothing that Sinn Fein can do to alter it. Had the retention of academic selection not been secured by the DUP, Northern Ireland would now be on an irreversible path towards a wholly comprehensive system.

We still believe the CCEA test could have had the potential to assist in resolving the transfer issue. However, we have been left by the Minister with a system of unregulated entrance tests. Although not ideal, this is not the chaos some would attempt to claim. Ultimately, the process will not be dramatically different from the previous situation, except schools will be responsible for the tests.





# Priorities for the Agri-Food sector

The agri-food sector is of vital importance to the whole of the Northern Ireland economy. While this sector is more likely to survive the impact of the economic downturn better than others, there are still many challenges facing both primary producers and processors. As a Party the DUP are committed to deliver for the sector in Europe, Westminster and Stormont.



There are many key challenges facing the sector over the coming years:

## REFORM OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Over the next term of the European Parliament there are likely to be significant changes to the Common Agricultural Policy. The DUP will work at all levels of Government to ensure that a deal is reached which helps protect the farming sector in Northern Ireland. The DUP will fight to ensure that Northern Ireland gets its fair share from the Common Agricultural Policy. The DUP support the policy of providing single farm payments to help compensate for the higher animal welfare and environmental standards expected from Europe. The DUP will work to ensure that cross compliance rules are simplified and administration for the scheme is kept to a minimum.

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The DUP are opposed to the principle of removing funding from farmers through modulation to allocate to wider rural development schemes. We believe modulation disadvantages larger, more intensive farmers and too much money is lost through administration. The DUP are supportive of funding going to rural communities but this funding should not be taken from farmers.

## EU LEGISLATION

We believe that much of the legislation coming from Europe places European farmers at a competitive disadvantage against other parts of the world. Examples include recent legislation on pesticides, the review of less favoured areas and the double tagging of sheep. The DUP will both lobby to influence new legislation coming from Europe and work in Northern Ireland to ensure that it is not gold plated when implemented. More needs to be done to ensure there are clear labelling rules to ensure consumers are aware of the true origin of the produce they are buying.

## ENVIRONMENT

The DUP recognise the great cost that a raft of environmental legislation has placed on the agri-food sector in Northern Ireland. We believe an off-farm solution needs to be found for organic wastes produced in the intensive sector.

One of the greatest threats to our countryside is from the under-grazing of farm land particularly in less favoured areas. The DUP have concerns about proposed changes to the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowance Scheme since the removal of support to those farming large areas of land will result in further de-stocking of hill areas.

One of the greatest threats to the Northern Ireland livestock sector will come from the setting of increasingly stringent targets regarding greenhouse gas emissions. Vital research work needs to be carried out within Northern Ireland to provide more reliable data on the environmental benefits of the livestock sector.

## MILK SECTOR

At current dairy product prices, neither farmers nor processors are making money. The DUP have been working to stabilise the market and improve returns for the sector. The DUP successfully lobbied both DEFRA and the European Commission for the re-introduction of European support for the Northern Ireland dairy sector through intervention and the re-introduction of export refunds.

In the short term the DUP will continue to lobby the European Commission to use all tools available to help support the sector in the current climate. The DUP have concerns about future plans to remove European support mechanisms and abolish milk quotas. The DUP are willing to support moves from the Northern Ireland processing sector to produce new innovative products and decrease their reliance on commodity products.

## RED MEAT SECTOR

The DUP support the outcome of the red meat task force and are working to ensure the recommendations are implemented. Whilst returns to beef producers have increased over recent months, we believe that the margins are not sufficient to prevent a further decline of the red meat sector. The DUP believe that meat imported into the European Union should be produced to the same high quality standards that are expected from local producers.

## ANIMAL HEALTH

One of the greatest challenges facing the local agricultural sector is the cost of animal diseases. We believe that it is not enough to simply manage disease levels that currently exist in Northern Ireland. Currently TB is costing the Northern Ireland Government over £20 million per year to manage.

The DUP believes that there must be a strategy from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development which has at its heart the eradication, not control, of Bovine TB in Northern Ireland. This strategy must not only tackle the incidence of the disease in agricultural livestock but must also focus on the reservoir of infection

which is present amongst wildlife. The example set by the Welsh Assembly Government in this area should be used as a model on which the strategy in Northern Ireland could be based. Through the DOE, Sammy Wilson has already given approval for a cull of badgers to help eradicate the disease.

We further believe that every effort should be taken to prevent diseases from entering Northern Ireland. There is concern that over the summer months, Bluetongue could enter Northern Ireland. All efforts should be taken to stop this and other diseases from entering. Farmers who import cattle from known risk areas are not only threatening their own business but are putting the whole sector under threat.

The DUP are highly critical of the way in which the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland handles potential food scares. We believe the FSA in Northern Ireland should be accountable to the devolved Government and take decisions that are both science-based and proportionate. The reputation of the Northern Ireland food industry cannot but put at risk from bodies not answerable to Government in Northern Ireland.

## VALUE OF DEVOLUTION

The DUP believes devolution has been of immense importance to the farming community. Local DUP Ministers have been working on behalf of farmers not only here in Northern Ireland but also in Westminster and Brussels.

Due to the enhanced accountability measures the DUP are able to influence decisions made by DARD. The DUP will hold the DARD Minister to account through the Agriculture committee, the Assembly and the Executive.

Since the return of devolution the DUP has developed a track record of delivering for agriculture in Northern Ireland. Recent areas where the DUP have delivered for the farming sector include:

- Extended period for the spreading of organic manures following wet weather last summer
- Re-introduction of export refunds and intervention at EU level to assist the dairy sector
- Keeping environmental governance under the control of a local Minister and prevented the creation of a costly, bureaucratic and unaccountable independent Environmental Protection Agency
- Simplified the process for the registration of farm wastes
- Ensured that sufficient funding was in place for the Farm Nutrient Management Scheme
- Resolved the problems created by the dioxin scare from contaminated feed sourced in the Republic of Ireland
- Helped resolve the problems around the administration of the farm modernisation scheme
- Scrapped PPS14 and replaced it with a new balanced policy for rural dwellers



## Empowering Disadvantaged Communities

The DUP is working to assist those from disadvantaged areas. Securing a fair level of funding from Europe will be one aspect of this. Local representatives can only have a marginal input into matters such as sentencing by the courts and the benefits system but the local Executive can do more on a number of other issues. New measures must be pursued to seek to tackle these challenges. Opportunities for involvement and project delivery from community groups, social enterprises, church groups and charities should be encouraged:

### LACK OF SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Intensive one-to-one sessions to boost literacy and numeracy
- Make education more relevant to people's lives and ambitions
- Tackle cycle of unemployment over multiple generations within some families
- Exposure to vocational opportunities pre-14 years
- Remove barriers to obtaining a job or training, reducing the numbers of economically inactive
- Easier access to education for adults
- Computer skills training
- Broad access to good youth services
- Timely professional input from psychologists and speech and language therapists
- Offering after-school and homework clubs
- Good careers advice

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

- Audit infrastructure and capacity of communities
- Offer opportunities for individuals to become involved and acquire responsibility
- Promote co-operation rather than fragmentation which has characterised loyalist areas
- Equip groups to ensure full involvement in community planning when commences in new Councils from 2011
- Community business and social enterprises encouraged
- Promote entrepreneurship and business start-ups
- Volunteering promoted at school etc through eg teaching of citizenship
- Encourage upwardly mobile who currently leave these areas to retain stake in community
- Engage businesses and churches
- Provide positive role models to look up to in community
- Finalise plans for Unionist Academy

### HOPELESSNESS AND SUICIDE

- Engrain coping skills at early age
- Promote mental wellbeing and healthy lifestyle
- Cognitive behavioural and other talking therapies readily available
- Reduce reliance on anti-depressants and other prescribed medications
- Encourage teaching of life skills and personal development

### FAMILY BREAKDOWN

- Improve relationship education and support in effort to keep families together
- Promote parenting skills
- Provide appropriate respite care for families
- Appropriate recognition for carers
- Programmes for reducing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections

### EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT

- Target resources at high risk children
- Intensive visiting programmes by health professionals to at risk families with young children
- Promote parenting skills
- Early intervention

### SPIRALLING LEVELS OF DEBT

- Teach better skills in managing personal finances
- Maximise uptake of available benefits
- Good debt advice available at community level
- Greater transparency in home credit market
- Encourage banks to operate a customers' charter

### ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

- Greater investment in alcohol and drug addiction services
- Establish residential centres which remove those affected from their own everyday community and environment
- Greater community awareness of adverse effects of alcohol and drug use

### HOUSING

- Provide sufficient affordable homes
- Deal rapidly with derelict properties
- Target most needy areas
- Reduce homelessness
- Establish areas encompassing all types of tenure

### CRIME

- Visible policing to reduce crime and fear of crime
- More police officers on patrol rather than devoted to paperwork
- Follow-up programmes for offenders
- Facilitate greater community police officer involvement in local activities
- More measures to reduce anti-social behaviour



# What others are saying

"The spectacle that Sinn Fein makes in Stormont must be a constant frustration. Behind closed doors, does anyone in their party profess to believe that taking part in Stormont debates is bringing Irish unity a day closer?"

**Fionnuala O'Connor, Irish Times**

"On the big issues it is DUP five Sinn Fein nil"

**Eamonn Mallie**

"The reality Sinn Fein has to contemplate after its ard fheis this weekend is that the party is in the doldrums in Northern Ireland and struggling for any kind of relevance in the republic. The process of selling the guns was played long and skilfully. But now it's over, leaving Sinn Fein looking rather like a lumbering, flightless dodo. Adam's strategy has come unstuck. Sinn Fein is floundering"

**Liam Clarke, Sunday Times**

"The Sinn Fein President is wrong when he says, 'we are closer to bringing about Irish reunification that at any time in our past'. I don't believe any realist sees the present situation as a sort of staging post on the road to inevitable unity"

**Fergus Finlay, Irish Examiner**

"Until the next election, it will be hard to tell how many republican voters are still believers and how many have been detached by the sight of the DUP rubbing Sinn Fein noses in one defeat after another"

**Fionnuala O'Connor, Irish Times**

"They (DUP) have been running rings around Sinn Fein during the last 12 months. They have been quicker on their feet, faster to the punch and generally more adept at doing the business"

**Denis Bradley, Irish News**

"The good news for the Democratic Unionist Party, whether you agree with its policies or not, is that it has played a blinder on the big issues"

**Liam Clarke, Sunday Times**

"Sinn Fein has been completely out-negotiated and outperformed by the DUP in Government"

**Margaret Ritchie, SDLP Minister for DSD**

"Sinn Fein are unhappy about their inability to make progress on their agenda for change. A key difference, post St Andrews is that ministers can no longer force through legislation in their own departments"

**Sunday Life Editorial**

"Recall that when the DUP first started to go into negotiations with Sinn Fein, some predicted that the wily republicans who'd managed to tie two Governments in knots would eat them alive. No one is saying that now"

**Belfast Telegraph Editorial**

"When you look at how the Executive is run there is one overwhelming reality and that is the DUP are running government, and Sinn Fein are running behind. That is the single biggest conclusion about the nature and culture of our government"

**Alex Attwood, Irish News**

"What she (Education Minister) can't do, as it were, is to make policy or legislation without the agreement of other Executive members....the provision which was put in place at St Andrews to prevent Ministers going on solo runs has clearly worked. In that respect you could say from the unionist point of view it is working, from a nationalist point of view it ain't working"

**Prof Rick Wilford, School of Politics, Queen's University Belfast - Irish News**

"The Northern Ireland Act 1998 provided a legal framework within which the Executive Committee, Ministers and the Assembly were to operate. That framework was significantly altered by the Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2006"

**Mr. Justice Morgan, Judgement re CTI funding**

"Sinn Fein has, for some time, been very unhappy with the outcomes of government and its domination by the DUP"

**Declan O'Loan, SDLP MLA**

"Once again we are seeing the evidence that Sinn Fein were outflanked and outmanoeuvred by the DUP at St Andrews and are out of their depth in government"

**Alasdair McDonnell, SDLP Deputy Leader**

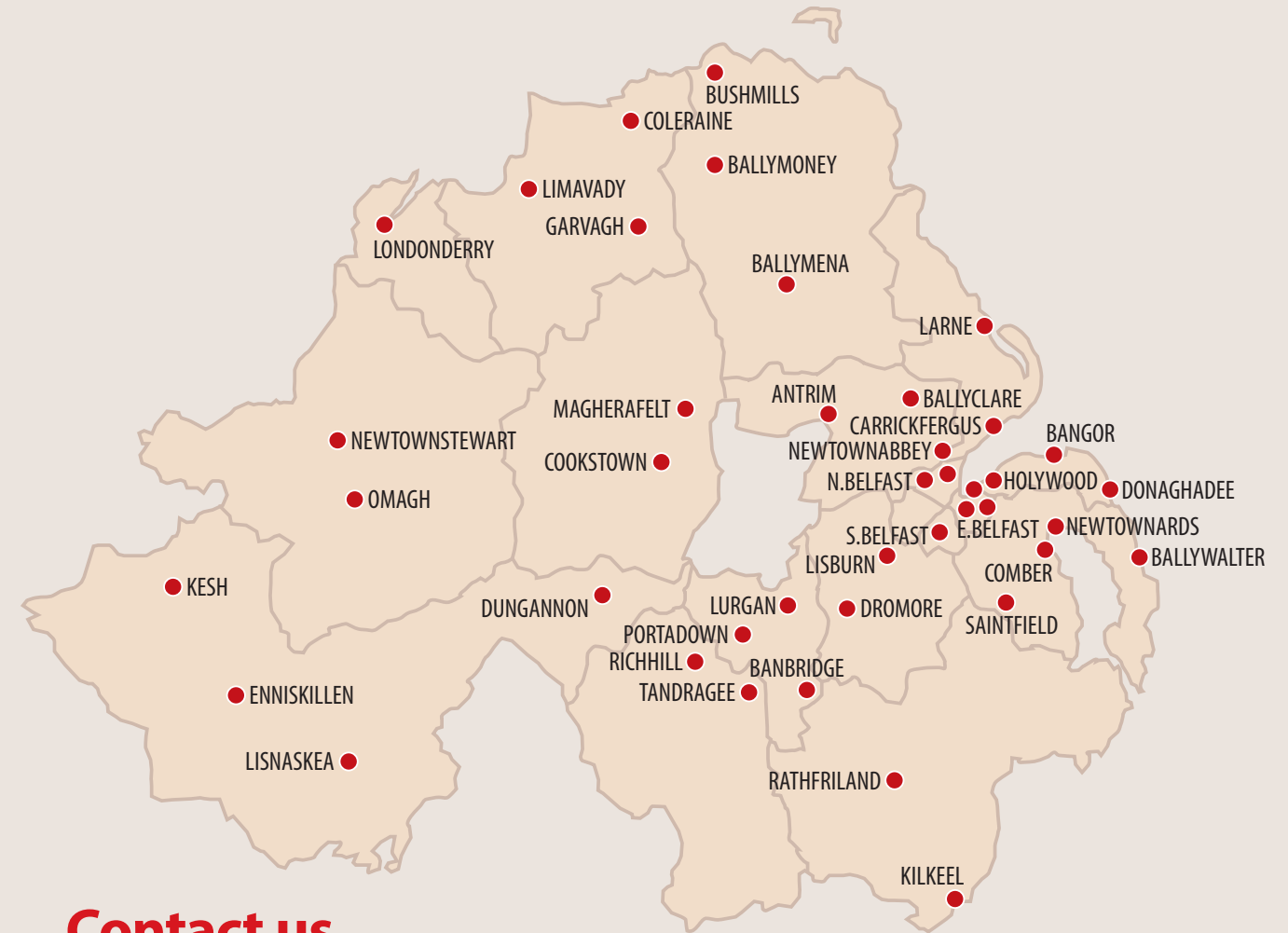
"The unionist political class... now has an effective veto on key governmental decisions for the first time since 1972"

**Henry Patterson, Professor of Politics, University of Ulster**

"it is their (Sinn Fein's) naked ambition to top the poll in this election. That must not happen. As a propaganda coup it would have unparalleled impact across the world. Only the DUP stands in their way. The figures speak for themselves, both in terms of the advance of Sinn Fein and the fact that only the DUP can face them down. Sinn Fein's best hope is that you stay at home, or waste your vote elsewhere"

**DUP 2004 European Election candidate, Postal communication**

# An Unparalleled Service



## Contact us

Antrim	9446 3384	Bushmills	2073 1303	Limavady	7776 6060
	9446 3273	Carrickfergus	9332 9980	Lisburn	9266 8001
Ballyclare	9334 2727	Coleraine	7032 7327		9260 3003
Ballymena	2564 1421	Comber	9187 0900		9266 8378
Ballymoney	2766 9753		9187 1441	Lisnaskea	6632 0722
Ballywalter	4275 7840	Cookstown	8676 4952	Londonderry	7134 6271
Banbridge	4066 2426	Donaghadee	9188 9620	Lurgan	3831 0088
Bangor	9145 4500	Dromore	9269 8866	Magherafelt	7963 2664
BELFAST		Dungannon	8775 2799	Newtownards	9182 7701
Ballysillan Rd	9071 7072	Enniskillen	6632 0722		9182 7990
Belmont Ave	9047 3111	Garvagh	2955 8045	Newtownstewart	81662392
Castlereagh Rd	9045 9500	Glengormley	9034 2525	Omagh	8224 7702
Cregagh Rd	9045 5936	Holywood	9042 1250	Portadown	3833 2234
Holywood Rd	9065 7785	Kesh	6632 0722	Rathfriland	07751 558 331
Ravenhill Rd	9045 4255	Kilkeel	4176 9900	Richhill	3887 0500
	9045 8900	Larne	2826 7722	Saintfield	9751 0545
Shore Road	9077 4774			Tandragee	3884 9000
Woodvale Road	9074 4008				



# Strong Leadership in Challenging Times

## Manifesto **2009**



[www.dup.org.uk](http://www.dup.org.uk)

**Party Headquarters:** 91 Dundela Avenue, Belfast. BT4 3BU Tel: 028 9047 1155

**Stormont Office:** Room 207, Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3XX

**Westminster Office:** DUP Whip's Office, House Of Commons, London SW1A 0AA