



Let's Get NI Moving **AGAIN**

OUR PLAN

Introduction

Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA

This is the DUP's roadmap to get a working Assembly and an All-Party Executive back.

With busy cranes filling our skylines, employment at all time highs and cruises ships regularly visiting our shores, the country is doing well but with Stormont stalled, divisions are growing.

We are determined to get Northern Ireland moving again. We are working to restore the Assembly and Executive and we have ambitious plans to transform public services including health and education. We want to get decisions taken in Northern Ireland on the issues that matter most to you, but we need other parties to join with us and nominate Ministers. We will work with others to get things done.

It's time to get Northern Ireland moving again.

People know that a Northern Ireland Government is required to have a better healthcare system, to really get to grips with the organised gangs and criminality, and to offer the best job prospects for our young people.

Too many fear the peace process has stalled and that we are heading in the wrong direction. Taking decisions locally helps with the bread and butter issues, but it also provides vital stability. It bolsters the peace and strengthens relations. And that's good for Northern Ireland.

We have a comprehensive agenda for Government that we want to see delivered. Making communities stronger, streets safer and rewarding hard work. Providing better jobs and family incomes, a healthier environment and landscape, taking pride in Northern Ireland, and reforming how Government works.

I want to see the Assembly and Executive rejuvenated and re-energised. Others may seek to put obstacles in the way, but the DUP will continue to work to find a way to secure agreement.



**Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA - Leader,
Democratic Unionist Party**



Our 12 Point Plan To Get Northern Ireland Moving Again

1 Let's Get the Assembly Moving Again

Delivery from Westminster is much needed but its impact is impaired by no Assembly. The DUP want to work with others to secure a balanced deal and we remain willing to set up an Executive immediately.

2 Let's Get Our NHS and Mental Health Services Moving Again

Developing next generation healthcare by implementing Bengoa and investing in new services, GPs and health staff, tackling waiting lists, embracing AI and new technology and prioritising prevention. A new future for mental health services by boosting prevention, leading on trauma and increasing investment to transform services.

3 Let's Get Our Schools Moving Again

Ensure the Barnett uplift in education gets to school budgets; lifting the burden of bureaucracy on principals and teachers; an action plan on Adverse Childhood Experiences; and 30 hours for 38 weeks childcare provision for 3-4 year olds.

4 Let's Get Our Economy Moving Again

The Assembly and Westminster has helped deliver a jobs revolution in Northern Ireland. Now it is time to do the same for skills and productivity backed up by infrastructure investment and a business rates system fit for our modern economy. We want to see a sensible Brexit deal but no borders in the Irish Sea.

5 Let's Continue Protecting the Vulnerable

The DUP were the first advocates of a mitigations package for Welfare. We want an Assembly back to produce a new package based on expert advice and end the 'Cliff Edge' created by Sinn Fein's boycott.

6 Let's Protect Mothers & Unborn Life Again

The dangerous vacuum of law and guidance created by Creasy needs fixed. This must be matched by promoting a culture of choosing life in Northern Ireland through perinatal services and valuing children through baby boxes and childcare.

7 Let's Protect Our Green and Pleasant Land

The DUP is committed to passing on our natural wealth to the next generation in a better state than we found it with a new Environmental strategy and action on air, land and water pollution. We will support our farmers and rural communities.

8 Let's Protect Our Animals Better

Northern Ireland to lead on animal protection in the United Kingdom with new offences and tougher sentences matched by public education.

9 Let's Build Stronger Communities Again

Action to bolster social housing, new approaches to affordable housing and improving quality in the private let market while placing economic regeneration at the centre of community regeneration and programmes with positive social and cultural development.

10 Let's Lead the Way on Fighting Crime

Northern Ireland to lead on justice innovation, tackle paramilitary criminality and strengthening and improving our police service.

11 Let's Make the Assembly Better

The DUP wants an Assembly back today but any new Assembly will have to undergo far-reaching reform to deliver more and deliver better.

12 Let's Get Northern Ireland Celebrating Again

The Centenary of Northern Ireland can become a showcase of what Northern Ireland and all its people have achieved. Positive celebrations exploring shared values with a physical legacy and commitment to the Northern Ireland we will shape for the Next Generation.

Let's Get the Assembly Moving Again

All roads lead us back to Stormont. The DUP does not foresee, want, or seek an alternative to the restoration of the Assembly.

The Democratic Unionist Party never wanted the Assembly to cease to function. Restoration was never going to be easy but a list of preconditions just makes it harder. Some decided to run away from the problems in 2017 rather than fix them.

We have been and continue to be a pro-devolution party. Decisions made locally that are directly accountable to the voters is what is best for all of us whatever the challenges and difficulties of power-sharing.

The DUP have been ready, willing and able to serve in an Executive and the Assembly since the March 2017 Assembly elections. We showed our commitment a few short weeks ago when we tried to form an Executive. In September 2017 our Party Leader set out a roadmap to a working Assembly, All-Party Executive and a Fair Deal:

"I am putting forward a common sense solution that can give us the Executive we need and resolve outstanding issues.

I am proposing that we restore an Executive immediately. Put Ministers back into posts so that decisions can be made and that Northern Ireland can have a government again.

But we also agree to bring forward legislation to address culture and language issues in Northern Ireland within a time-limited period to be agreed. If we fail to do that in a way that commands cross community support then the Executive would cease to exist.

This is an offer made in good faith with Northern Ireland and its people's best interest at heart."

This is the quickest and easiest manner in which a working Assembly can be restored. All other political issues can be dealt with in parallel talks. This is the same approach that was used successfully to deal with Policing and Justice issues as well as Welfare Reform.

There should be no doubting the DUP's commitment to get a working Assembly back now and the DUP's commitment to establish an All-Party Executive to deliver on the people's priorities. Let's get Northern Ireland moving again.

Let's Get Our NHS Moving Again

The National Health Service is a British Institution that is a top priority for people here. It is a service that since it was founded has evolved to ensure it can deliver healthcare free at the point of delivery while challenged by growing demand and keeping up with advances in medical science and care. Factors include an older population, growth in chronic conditions, unhealthy lifestyles and access to new drugs or treatment regimes.

The DUP is committed to maintaining the NHSNI as free at the point of delivery and ensuring it can face those challenges.

In terms of resources the DUP has consistently made Health spending a top priority and in the 2016 Assembly election committed to £1 bn more. This is why the DUP used its influence in London to deliver over £400m investment in health. However, money alone is not the answer. Northern Ireland has the highest spend per capita of all of the UK, but all too often only achieve the lowest outcomes. We need to invest more but we must maximise the results from our investment.

The DUP ambition for the NHSNI is that it is not lagging but leading on healthcare in the United Kingdom. This can be fulfilled by investing and reforming.

Real Investment in Real Lives

The DUP used its influence in Parliament to deliver real investment in real lives. Funding from the Confidence and Supply Agreement has proved essential to allow people on waiting lists to be seen, deliver new services and reform NHSNI. As well as allocations for immediate in-year pressures, £200 million was secured for modernising, improving and reforming our health services. The £100 million in the first year was invested in a range of transformation initiatives in the following areas:

- More than 100,000 additional patients diagnosed, assessed or treated from elective care waiting lists through a **£30m** investment.
- **£15m** to support services in local health centres.
- **£15m** for workforce development in nursing and other professions.
- **£30m** to improve hospital and community services.
- **£5m** to prevention and strengthening communities.
- **£5m** to assist with reforming services.

This real investment has occurred all over Northern Ireland. Tangible examples include Day Case Elective Care Centres for varicose veins in Lagan Valley and Omagh, cataract operations at the Mid Ulster, Downpatrick and South Tyrone Hospitals, a new HIV prevention clinic and £6.4m for enhancing the nursing and midwifery workforce.

A number of mental health projects were funded including suicide prevention, talking therapies, substance misuse and forensic mental health services. Multi-Agency Triage has been introduced involving two police officers, a mental health nurse and a paramedic working together to respond to people with mental health problems, and new crisis intervention/ de-escalation services are being trialled in Londonderry and Belfast.

In 2019-20 this real investment in real lives will include:

- **£19 million** for practice-based physiotherapists, mental health specialists and social workers working alongside GPs in local practices.
- **£14 million** for the most urgent cases on hospital waiting lists.
- **£13 million** on staffing and training in physiotherapy, medical specialties, GP development and the ambulance service.
- **£52 million** to enhance community and hospital services, including day case surgery hubs, social services training and investment in mental health services.

- **£13 million** towards more acute care at home and to support prevention.
- **£5 million** for improving quality of care and new IT systems.

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

- **£4.6 million** for psychological therapies
- **£1.8 million** for additional expenditure on medications
- **£2.7 million** to sustain and increase access to mental health services
- **£900,000** for the new Acute Mental Health Facility on the Belfast City Hospital site.

NHSNI's Next Century- A World Leader in Healthcare

In 2021 Northern Ireland will celebrate its centenary and the NHSNI that cares for us in Northern Ireland's next century will be significantly different from the one that has served us since 1948. There must be a move from managing illness to supporting people to stay well. Resources need to shift to the community. Patient feedback should be harnessed better to help drive reform. NHSNI can become a leader by pushing through these reform priorities. This is how.

Resource Commitment

The DUP will increase spend on health by at least £1 billion by the end of the Assembly term in 2021, with the budgetary and commissioning cycle extended to three years. This will include:

- Pursuing a population health-based approach with an increased spend on prevention
- Refocusing resources into the community and primary care, including diagnostics, multidisciplinary teams and expanding first contact physiotherapy
- The Executive to seek a fair, sustainable model for adult social care across the UK.

Next Century Structures

The DUP will support:

- Implementation of the 'Systems not Structures' (Bengoa) Report.
- Reducing bureaucracy by passing legislation to abolish the Health and Social Care Board.
- Enhanced collaboration across organisations such as the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

Patient Centred and Professionally-led care

The DUP is committed to:

- Greater involvement for individuals in their care with full electronic access to medical records and information.
- Clinically-led transformation- it will be frontline professionals leading the change.
- Enthusing and motivating staff including fair pay and conditions for all.
- Promoting innovation and partner with industry and academia.
- Promoting health as an economic driver.

New Facilities and New Services

The new facilities and services the DUP will develop are:

- A new model for learning disability services, which will be able to adapt to and embrace the findings of investigations and a public inquiry into the failings at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.
- A world-leading psychological trauma service.
- Day Case Surgery Hubs for a broader range of surgical specialties with additional nurse endoscopists.
- Short-stay assessment units to avoid requiring admission.
- Improved categorisation and response times for ambulance calls.
- Medical school provision in the North West.

For cancer patients this will include:

- Expediting a new cancer strategy for Northern Ireland.

- More cancer treatments including chemotherapy at local units outside Belfast.

New relationships and roles

The NHSNI will be built around:

- Expansion of new roles such as physician associates and advanced clinical practitioners.
- Boundaries between professions becoming less rigid.
- An enhanced role for both pharmacists and paramedics as envisaged in the Donaldson report, and other professionals including radiographers.

At a community and home level the DUP will implement:

- Community pharmacy playing a much greater role in health care provision, with the potential to become health and wellbeing hubs.
- Further enhance Acute Care at Home provision.
- More community-based paramedics.
- Autonomous neighbourhood nursing teams.
- Greater access to new technologies for monitoring diabetes.
- Collaborate with community/voluntary organisations to improve leisure opportunities for those with disabilities, including access to inclusive beaches.

For vulnerable and older people this will include:

- More Intermediate Care at Home to assist particularly older patients.
- Development of innovative approaches for dementia provision.

New Help for GPs and Local Health Centres

Many of the new services will relieve pressures on our GPs but in addition the DUP will:

- Enhance skills of administrative staff in GP practices.
- Pursue means to minimise the indemnity burden on General Practitioners in Northern Ireland.
- Extend throughout Northern Ireland the multi-disciplinary teams commenced through C&S funding.

Next Century Technology for Next Century Healthcare

Transformative technologies such as AI, the Internet of Things and Blockchain offer the potential to improve services and research. Healthcare data affords us enormous opportunities in terms of predictive analytics and the evolution of personalised medicine. Data can help with understanding of disease including prevention and early detection, evaluating treatment outcomes and developing targeted approaches. This will include

- Maximising benefits from digital technologies with early introduction of a comprehensive electronic health and care record.
- Northern Ireland as a leader in e-health, precision medicine and quality and safety.
- More data analysts to help understand and identify opportunities for early intervention.

Next Century Approaches - Prevention is the best form of cure

We need to place a stronger focus on prevention, health improvement and early intervention. We should continue seeking to reduce inequalities in health, and address the fact that 28% of children in Northern Ireland are obese or overweight. The UK has the highest rate of childhood obesity in Western Europe. We need to improve health behaviours. Exercise and active travel should be promoted.

For our babies, children and younger people the DUP will:

- Promote greater understanding and awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences, mental wellbeing and suicide prevention among staff.
- Support expansion of the Family Nurse Partnership that works with first-time teenage mothers and their children.
- Fortification of flour with folic acid to reduce neural tube defects.
- Support resuscitation skills being taught in schools.

For the vulnerable and older people especially:

- Social and environmental prescribing encouraged including in situations of loneliness and social isolation.

- Measures to prevent people becoming frail.
- Action to prevent falls by older people.

The DUP will also support marking National Emergency Services Day as a public expression of our gratitude to these vital services.

Hospital Sector

The DUP proposes additional investment to overhaul waiting lists, with the prioritisation of a solution for the pension accrual issue that is limiting the activity of senior clinicians.

Huge resources are squandered through patients fit for discharge requiring extended stays in hospital, awaiting confirmation of community care arrangements. The delays impact adversely on patients and ought to be a priority to resolve at a province-wide level. The DUP also supports:

- A new regional elective centre for neurological disease.
- 24/7 access to the full range of services for all stroke patients, with an Acute Stroke Unit at the Ulster Hospital.
- A four-site model for breast assessment services including one to serve the South and South-West of Northern Ireland.
- Better scheduling of operating lists to make theatres more productive.

Open Visiting

The DUP proposes that open visiting should be introduced in hospital wards and care facilities. Evidence shows more flexible visiting arrangements can help aid recovery and are valued by family and carers. A further indirect benefit may be an easing of hospital parking pressures.

Older patients are negatively impacted by unfamiliar surroundings. If a carer is willing and able to continue their support during a hospital admission, it makes no sense to put barriers in their way. Studies indicate involving carers increases patient safety, improves outcomes and contributes massively to patient and family satisfaction.

In a range of international settings open visiting has proved to be effective and popular, with initial scepticism of staff diminishing through experience and collaborative common-sense implementation.

Social Care

With a significantly aging population, we need to develop and agree on a fair, sustainable model for adult social care across the UK.

Adult care and support play a vital role helping tens of thousands of people every week in Northern Ireland maintain their independence and quality of life through support to remain in their own homes as long as possible, or by caring for them in residential and nursing homes. It must reform though to be sustainable and withstand future challenges. While we work on a new national approach we must act locally too.

The DUP will:

- Develop and promote social care as an attractive career with training, professional development and progression.
- Work with independent healthcare providers to stabilise the sector so that it continues to play a key role in the Health and Social Care system.
- Request expert analysis on the potential benefits of independent price regulation within the care sector.
- Further showcase Northern Ireland as an exemplar in innovative solutions for active and healthy ageing.
- Learn from other regions on improving the care we provide our older population, such as the acclaimed Buurtzorg community care model in the Netherlands, and explore the potential for rolling out similar models in Northern Ireland.
- Ensure an ongoing focus on tackling dementia including implementing the regional strategy and innovative approaches to improving services.
- Deliver appropriate support and advice for unpaid carers to help meet their financial, psychological and social needs.

Let's Get Mental Health Services Moving Again

Northern Ireland has higher rates of self-harm and 25% more mental health problems than the rest of the UK. Over 213,000 are estimated to experience significant mental health problems as a result of the 'Troubles', and Northern Ireland has the highest PTSD rate of 30 countries Ulster University investigated. This requires a significant and long-term response.

Resources Commitment

The DUP will put resources behind its vision for mental health provision by setting out to narrow the gap and achieve greater parity of funding between mental and physical health.

Prevention First

The DUP recommends a preventative approach to reduce the extent of mental illness with a stronger focus on building resilience and coping skills.

New multidisciplinary teams in primary care, made possible by the real investment in real lives from the DUP's Confidence and Supply funding, include mental health workers. Child and adolescent specialist support within these teams should also be considered.

Learning from patient feedback needs to be harnessed and utilised to adapt and enhance services. Sanctuaries have been developed in Manchester and Bristol and offer a home-like environment for those suffering severe emotional distress. They are somewhere people can go out of regular working hours which feels safe, and where they can relax.

Leading on Trauma

Psychological trauma occurs everywhere but the terrorist campaigns have magnified the suffering of so many. It was a DUP Minister who announced the establishment of a regional mental trauma service and we want to see this crucial

service operational, fully-resourced and developing expertise and knowledge that can be shared internationally.

A Transformed Service

All parts of our NHS need to transform if we are to maintain the commitment to healthcare free for all at the point of delivery. The DUP believes all our mental health services should operate on a single Northern Ireland service model, so all patients can have the same expectations. A number of specialist regional services could be established and developed to provide for the whole of Northern Ireland, such as:

- Enhanced regional perinatal mental health service with community teams and a mother and baby inpatient unit.
- Community psychiatry for those with learning disability.
- Enhanced eating disorders provision.
- Network of dementia home support.
- Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health crisis management service.
- Psychosis early intervention.
- 24-hour multidisciplinary mental health liaison service including self-harm and substance misuse, across all acute hospitals.
- Enhanced regional addictions provision including timelier access to substitute prescribing.
- Step-down provision for alcohol-related brain damage.

Our priorities for children and young people will be:

- To enhance preventative work in schools.
- To promote awareness training in youth organisations, sports clubs, churches and the community.
- Additional investment in child and adolescent services.

Our priorities for communities will be:

- More strategic approach to role of community/voluntary sector, and seamless boundaries with statutory services.
- Develop a range of community options for individuals to be directed to, and expand social prescribing.

Our priorities for all patients and services will be:

- To improve facilities and develop a range of alternative non-clinical settings.
- An enhanced role for peer support.

- Continuing increasing investment in psychological therapies to significantly improve waiting times.
- Utilising technological solutions including online treatment options.
- Investing more in promoting physical health of those with serious mental illness.
- Full implementation of the Mental Capacity Act, permitting individuals to make their own decisions.

Let's Get Our Schools Moving Again

Real Investment in the Next Generation

Northern Ireland students continually excel, with 30% of A-Level passes in August 2019 achieving A or A* grades, outperforming counterparts across the rest of the UK. Grades in Northern Ireland have continued to improve at a time when results have fallen elsewhere and the number with qualifications has also grown.

Our children are the next generation and the DUP is committed to improving our education system in Northern Ireland. The DUP have delivered over £500 million through the Confidence and Supply Agreement, which has benefited the following:

- 39,000 children through 38 Sure Start projects.
- 40,000 supported by Literacy and Numeracy projects.
- 5,600 children through the Early Years Pathway Fund, at risk of not reaching their full potential.
- £8 million for schools across Northern Ireland, safeguarding the Extended Schools projects for 473 schools.
- £1.3 million for nurture provision, with a number of schools receiving £70,000 per annum to support ongoing programmes.

The DUP has ensured Special Educational Needs will be prioritised with the extra funding received through Confidence and Supply. We will ensure:

- Identification of special needs at an early age.
- Pupil statements should be given when needed.
- Statemented pupils are given the best support possible.
- Further training is given to teachers and assistants in this area.

The DUP have led the way in tackling educational underachievement and low attainment through engagement with local schools and educational bodies. There must be a continued focus on improving outcomes, particularly for Protestant boys from working class communities. We want every child to have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, no matter where they live. We believe:

- Subjects offered should be tailored to the specific needs of pupils.
- Early interventions are key- we support the introduction of a 0-3 strategy.
- Pupil tracking is critical to improving attainment.
- Improved training for teaching assistants.
- Greater focus on apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and trades.

- There should be an increased focus on literacy and numeracy at primary level.

We would seek to address issues such as aspiration, the importance of parental involvement and promotion of education ambassadors.

Frontline First - School Budgets

The DUP is fully conscious that even with the extra resources we secured school budgets are under pressure. We need to ensure funding is not being tied up in bureaucracy. The DUP believes the first priority in education spend is to ensure maximum resources reach the 'frontline' so that every pupil in the classroom is reaping the benefit. We believe there needs to be a reform of the current schools' estate through area planning to ensure that children and young people have access to high quality education delivered in schools that are educationally and financially sustainable.

We support the introduction of a Strategic Small Schools Initiative to ensure parents in isolated communities are not left without realistic educational choices, and a three-year Education Reform Fund to accelerate implementation of agreed Area Planning decisions.

Reducing the burden on schools

We are committed to cutting down the day-to-day pressures on our schools, removing unnecessary bureaucracy, providing greater support for our educational professionals and shifting the culture in education to place greater trust in the skills, expertise and professional autonomy of our teaching workforce.

DUP commitments in this area are:

- Reduce administrative burdens through greater collaboration, co-ordination and central data to remove duplication of information requests and improve lines of communication between schools and educational bodies.
- Reform the model of inspection to a collaborative and co-operative one with a two-way assessment process aimed at school improvement, transforming the Education Training Inspectorate into a Northern Ireland Educational Improvement Service, and an

enhanced new model for District Inspectors.

- Clearer pathways for preparation for Principalship and school leadership roles, and a more comprehensive approach towards post appointment mentoring.
- An enhancement of Continuing Professional Development with greater input and co-design from teaching professionals.
- Improved recruitment and effective training of School Governors, with stronger links between schools and local employers.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events, including abuse, neglect and household dysfunction. The more ACEs a child has, the greater the risk of depression, cancer, heart disease, diabetes and strokes. We need to ensure Adverse Childhood Experiences are addressed. Early intervention will have better outcomes for children and save money in the longer term.

The DUP pledge that:

- £5million per year is invested over the next ten years to tackle ACEs.
- The NI Executive ensures future policy is developed around this issue.
- In the next Programme for Government, a commitment is given by all Departments that the first three years of a child's development is fundamental.
- All practitioners involved in children's lives from birth to pre-school are made aware of the risk factors that can jeopardise child development.
- Funding for early intervention programmes and nurture units should be protected.

Coding

Computer science and coding capability are crucial to local business prospects and companies tell us they do not have sufficient people with those skills to fill all the posts they need.

The DUP propose a 'Cascade Approach'. A one-off investment of £2 million would train a teacher from each school, who in turn would train a colleague or second teacher. Within

twelve months we could have in excess of 20,000 pupils actively involved in coding.

Coding also needs greater focus in Higher Education and adult education. We aim to have thousands of jobs in the IT industry and enough people to fill them.

Childcare

The DUP believes that all parents should have access to good quality and affordable childcare for their children. We need to ensure those parents who want to can access, stay and progress in paid work and in turn contribute to our economy in Northern Ireland. Good childcare can play a key role in the educational and social development of a child.

The DUP fought against the closure of the childcare voucher scheme and ensured this was extended.

In terms of future provision, the DUP is committed to:

- Support working families by introducing a Childcare Act to provide 30 hours of free childcare for 38 weeks for 3-4 year-olds, bringing Northern Ireland in line with elsewhere in the UK.
- In the longer-term, plan to extend such provision to 2-4 year-olds.
- Work with schools to provide wraparound care.

Let's Get Our Economy Moving Again

Employment is at a record high. Unemployment is low, and lower than the UK and Republic of Ireland unemployment rates. Exports have grown. Tourism is booming. Yet overall economic growth remains lower than the national rate, and the problem of low productivity hangs over our successes. It's time to get our economy moving again.

A successful Northern Ireland will be built upon an economy that is internationally focused and leading in sectors providing high quality employment. The DUP recognises the need to create a high value and high productivity economy. The economy will benefit from a mix of large international corporations investing in Northern Ireland and a strong indigenous SME sector in areas including technology start-ups, advanced manufacturing and engineering, and agri-foods. Northern Ireland has a history of entrepreneurship and we must reignite this spirit.

In government the DUP rightly prioritized our private sector, building our international presence through Invest NI and implementing strategies to tackle economic inactivity, innovation and skills.

In the last Assembly term, the jobs target of 25,000 set by the Executive was smashed with 40,000 achieved. It is a clear demonstration how government can make a positive contribution to jobs and businesses. The fundamental challenges our economy now face are skills and productivity so this must be at the centre of the Assembly's future work.

We delivered on jobs, now we must deliver on productivity and growth.

Productivity & Business Growth

Northern Ireland has had lower levels of productivity than other parts of the UK. This is steadily being addressed through high growth sectors.

- A new Industrial Strategy will be underpinned by measures which will enhance local companies' strength in global supply chains.
- The creation of a high-quality business leaders' programme, which will identify and mentor a core of potential leaders who can make a significant difference to the local economy.
- Local businesses will receive greater support to

grow their export potential. Northern Ireland has a global reputation for excellence which can be better harnessed through greater access to trade credit insurance, more focused trade missions and better collaboration between local exporters.

- An Innovation Task Force established and brought together when specific issues in this field are to be addressed. Membership will be based on expertise only.
- We must increase our engagement with world leaders in digital technologies, harnessing their support and applying modern technology towards our economic development planning.

Skills

A strong skills base is essential for a successful economy. Work is changing and skills providers and employees both must be more flexible and responsive to business needs.

- An updated skills strategy which focuses on key growth sectors and aligned with local employers and the new Industrial Strategy.
- Greater promotion of self-employment as a career option for both those leaving the education system and those going through a career change.
- Technology skills learning should be a core element of skills development.
- An overhaul of the work experience system in schools, as part of a drive to encourage greater skills and work awareness from a younger age.
- An overhaul of the apprenticeship system to encourage employers to develop talent—improve employer collaboration with colleges and universities to create apprenticeships and make them more attractive to young people, parents and schools.

Infrastructure

A modern infrastructure is essential if we are to build a prosperous Northern Ireland. Infrastructure investment brings many substantial benefits to Northern Ireland, including improving the delivery services and supporting the growth and competitiveness of our private sector.

We have made significant progress across a number of issues including:

- Investment in our Broadband network across Northern Ireland.
- Funding secured for the York Street Interchange redevelopment.
- Secured the Belfast Region City Deal and advanced deals for elsewhere in Northern Ireland.

Investing in New Roads

Northern Ireland needs to keep investing in new and improved road networks to keep our region competitive. Investment should be focused upon improving connections between our key towns and cities and on schemes that are of strategic and economic importance. The DUP supported projects like the A5 and we will support further proposals such as:

- the York Street Interchange.
- the Ballynahinch Bypass.
- the Newry Southern Relief Road.
- the Enniskillen Southern Bypass.
- Dualling of the A26

We will also invest significantly in road maintenance and improvements.

Better management of publicly owned land

Building on work to date, we will:

- develop a register of all publicly owned land in Northern Ireland.
- maximise use for the development of projects such as Greenways and Park and Rides, and sales where economically best.

Ultimately, the DUP would like to explore the potential of creating one single entity akin to Public Wealth Funds that operate in places like Sweden and Singapore to effectively and efficiently manage all central government owned land and assets in Northern Ireland.

Business Taxes

- The DUP supports an overhaul of the non-domestic rating system, to ensure that it is fair, and better supports those sectors most exposed to it.
- We will continue to support the industrial derating policy, to protect and provide the basis for renewed growth of our manufacturing sector.
- We want Northern Ireland to be the test bed for a Skills and Productivity Tax Credit.

Tourism

We will continue to develop our tourism sector, across Northern Ireland, providing many opportunities for both new businesses and employment for all age groups:

- Renewed focus on attracting quality international events, which showcase Northern Ireland and build on successful delivery of the MTV awards, Giro D'Italia and the Open.
- Build up our community tourism capacity, and look to grow social enterprises in this area.
- Regenerating our built heritage which will contribute towards tourism opportunities
- Modernising licensing laws, respecting local communities and improving economic opportunities for businesses.

Northern Ireland has shown it can compete on the world stage, and considerable progress has been made towards making this a destination for investment and employment. What we have achieved is only the beginning of our economic rebirth.

Public Sector Delivery Structures

There continues to be criticism of how large public sector projects are managed and delivered in Northern Ireland. We will initiate a review of local procurement and delivery processes, and invite world-class international experts to undertake the review and make recommendations for strategic improvement.

Brexit

We want to see a deal that works for the whole of the United Kingdom and which does not leave Northern Ireland behind. But without change, we would not vote for the Prime Minister's agreement. Without change in key areas it would

be bad for Northern Ireland economically and will weaken the foundations of this great United Kingdom.

There must be unfettered access from the Northern Ireland to Great Britain market. The customs and consent arrangements must be revisited and a one-nation approach adopted.

The one-sided approval mechanism for the Assembly takes no account of power-sharing. Indeed, it would lead to Sinn Fein, the SDLP and the Alliance Party ganging up to render unionist votes irrelevant. If you believe in the principles of power-sharing then those principles must be enshrined in any deal.

Furthermore, the East-West checks as proposed would lead to excessively bureaucratic burdens for trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and consequentially higher prices and less choice for consumers.

We trade far more with Great Britain than we do with the Republic of Ireland, European Union and rest of the world combined. Yet the proposals put forward would see our east-west trade subject to the rules of the EU Customs Union, notwithstanding that Northern Ireland would remain part of the UK customs territory.

We do not consider the proposals to be in Northern Ireland's longer-term interests, and they are clearly without support within unionism.

In the last Parliament it was the votes of the DUP that altered the course of events.

We will continue to work to shape a solution in Northern Ireland's interests, and we will judge each situation against what is best for Northern Ireland economically and constitutionally within the Union.

Let's Make the Assembly Better

The DUP wants to see politics and government at Stormont normalised. We have had a long-term objective of seeing government established by those who can agree to govern together. We believe this should be on the basis of a concise agreed coalition plan which can subsequently be augmented by a more comprehensive Programme for Government.

The allocation of Ministerial portfolios should be determined through discussion or negotiation, and formalised by running the d'Hondt process.

We welcome the significantly reduced use of the Petition of Concern and support a move to weighted majority voting, as an essential protection for minorities. We support the removal of community designation which entrenches division and hinders the development of politics. Devolution over the last decade was responsible for many good things, as well as those less good. DUP Ministers oversaw billions being invested in roads, schools and health facilities.

Other areas where the DUP supports improvements in how Government operates include:

- Develop a Northern Ireland Reform Plan to be agreed by Executive parties across all aspects of Government and public services such as health, education, housing and justice, and exploring alternative models of delivery such as mutualisation.
- Fundamental reform of the Northern Ireland Civil Service including examining the benefits from closer collaboration and relationship with the Home Civil Service, and experience from Scotland and Wales.
- Ensure the Northern Ireland Executive will be more robust, and capable of withstanding political differences.
- Removal of the obligation for an immediate election on the resignation of First/deputy First Minister which can incentivise instability.
- Supporting the Assembly to function and other Ministers to continue to act while the vacancy is being filled.
- The allegiance of civil servants should be to the Executive rather than a single Department to promote a more joined-up approach.

- Review of the number of special advisers, and how they are appointed and regulated.
- Greater transparency and improved record keeping.
- Cross-Party Commissions with Ministers augmented by experts to address controversial or particularly challenging issues.
- Further use of Change Funds and Small Business Research Initiatives.
- Greater focus on innovation labs and behavioural insights.
- Normalisation of digital interaction with Government.
- Extend shared services.
- Establish an Office of Data Analytics.

Reforms to the working of the Northern Ireland Assembly the DUP proposes are:

- Review of structure of sitting days so Assembly time is used more efficiently and focuses on legislating.
- Committees to play an enhanced role in the work of the Assembly.
- Reduction in the size of Assembly Committees in line with the number of Assembly Members having reduced to ninety.
- Reduction in the amount of lengthy Private Member's debates and replacement with alternative means of bringing issues to the attention of the Assembly such as Opposition Day motions and the morning hour debates in the US House of Representatives.
- Introduce a standardised approach to the appropriateness for tabling of Assembly Questions in line with Westminster.
- Establish a transparent new system for Assembly expenses based on the Westminster Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) model which oversees and regulates MPs' business costs and expenses independently.

The DUP believes the regime for political donations for the rest of the UK should be extended to and fully implemented in Northern Ireland, enhancing confidence through removing the risks associated with foreign donations.

Let's Continue Protecting the Vulnerable

It was the DUP that first proposed a mitigation package in Northern Ireland when the Welfare Reform process began. A DUP Minister introduced the mitigations package which ended up making welfare better and giving protection for the vulnerable.

Sinn Fein's refusal to form an Executive puts these vital protections for the vulnerable at risk- they are creating a 'Cliff Edge' for those most in need of security.

The DUP is clear the best means of developing and delivering the best mitigation package is through a working Assembly backed up by expert advice. This is what the DUP wants to see happen again. Anything else produced without

proper and full local input and scrutiny would not deliver better reforms nor the best protection for the vulnerable. Assembly action is best.

The DUP supports:

- Drawing from existing research such as the Radar report into Personal Independence Payments and the NIHRC research on social security reforms
- An update of the Evason report to be produced by a panel of experts.
- A new mitigations package and regulations in Northern Ireland based on the updated report.
- The establishment of a dedicated fund for professional tribunal representation for appellants.

Let's Protect Mothers and Unborn Life Again

The ill-thought out, badly drafted and unwisely enacted changes to Northern Ireland's abortion laws have created a dangerous precedent and policy vacuum.

The DUP wants:

- The Assembly to act to fill the dangerous vacuum of law and guidance that the Creasy legislation creates. Our aim will be to maximise support for mothers and protection of the unborn child.

Legislation is only part of what must be done. The DUP is committed to promoting a culture of choosing life in Northern Ireland and this value must flow through into the support and services we provide. The DUP is committed to:

- Baby Boxes- From 2021 each child born in Northern Ireland would receive a baby box.

Based on the Finnish model these boxes provide a complete package designed for parents to start a life with a new baby.

- Enhanced regional perinatal mental health service with community teams and an inpatient mother and baby unit.
- Perinatal Hospice Care- Public debate has focused on the needs of women who are pregnant with a child diagnosed with a lethal or severely life limiting condition. The DUP believes that women who find themselves in these most difficult of situations need the best medical and emotional support including perinatal hospice provision in Northern Ireland.
- Increase in childcare provision to support parents and child development.

Let's Protect Our Green and Pleasant Land

Our land, our waters and our air are Northern Ireland's natural wealth. They change as we grow as a population and an economy, but how we change them and what we put in them is a choice. The choices we make will shape what we hand over to the next generation in Northern Ireland.

In Northern Ireland's new century, the DUP is committed to ensuring our natural wealth is passed on to the next generation in a better state than we found it. The first step will be:

- The 2021 plan – An Environmental Strategy for the first 30 years of Northern Ireland's new century. This plan will include themes such as:
 - Biodiversity.
 - Peatland Preservation and Restoration and management of upland resources.
 - Waste Wealth – developing the circular economy.

This strategy must address our growing population and the need to be economically successful to ensure we have the resources to protect our natural wealth.

Our Natural Wealth - Land, Air and Waters

The enjoyment of our natural wealth is a value held across the political spectrum. Whatever the national and international environmental challenges, we all want clean air, clean water and a clean environment. Northern Ireland's ease of access to the countryside and coastline is a significant positive of life as well as aiding our tourism potential and health and wellbeing.

The 2021 Environment Strategy will be the long-term plan but it will need a programme of actions.

Land

It is often forgotten that land is a limited resource. Northern Ireland's population is growing and we need to shift to a higher value, higher productivity economy. Many of the environmental actions we need are often land intensive e.g. reforestation, some renewable energies and even environmentally friendly projects in the wrong place cause harm. Therefore, the DUP will support:

- A Land Use Strategy for Northern Ireland including the implementation of the Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy developed under DUP Agriculture Minister Michelle McIlveen.
- Move towards a 'net gain' principle in development.
- A reforestation plan for Northern Ireland with a 'one person one tree' planting scheme in 2021 to plant a tree for every person who lives here, as part of the legacy of the Centenary celebrations.

The custodians of much of our land are farmers and a key component of our economy. A positive and sustainable partnership is vital for a successful future with how we support farming and rural development central to this. Future support needs tied to efficiency and sustainability as well as changes to the tax system to encourage long-term investment. A particular issue is ammonia pollution. The DUP supports:

- The development and implementation of a pragmatic Ammonia strategy which recognises the needs of farmers while balancing environmental concerns. Any policy should also take into account the environmental benefits which agriculture provides e.g. a carbon sink, hedge and tree planting etc.

Air

The air we breathe has immediate and long-term impacts on heart and respiratory conditions as well as brain development of children. This places further strains on our NHS and harms the next generation. The present but limited data indicates we have a significant air pollution problem. With a more dispersed population and greater diesel usage than elsewhere in the UK this means we do not have quick and easy options to address these issues, though a shift away from diesel has the added benefit of ending the criminality and environmental harm from fuel smugglers. For domestic vehicles the industry is proceeding on the path of electrification with Electric Vehicles (EV). For HGVs and buses there is a divergence on what the future technology will be with some opting for electrification and others pursuing CNG (and ultimately hydrogen).

The DUP will support:

- Increasing air pollution monitoring in Northern Ireland to fully understand the nature and spread of the problem.
- Programme of Electrification or CNG for the public vehicle fleet.
- A rolling target of electric charging points in public estate car-parking to encourage public sector workers to opt for EV.
- Finding a manufacturing partner to convert the Goldliner fleet to CNG engines.
- Work with Ofgem to develop a Compressed Natural Gas Network for HGVs and buses.
- Reform of the MOT system.

There will be further proposals of action at a national level with particular benefit to Northern Ireland.

Improving Public Transport

The DUP is committed to a Long-term Public Transport Plan to maximise the reach and attractiveness of public transport.

A new Transport Hub recently opened in Londonderry and a similar model will open in Belfast. Passenger numbers and customer satisfaction are improving, and its popularity is likely to continue with new services such as the Glider in Belfast. We will support:

- The continued development of the Glider network across Belfast.
- Extending 'park and ride' facilities across Northern Ireland.
- Improve public transport connections to our 'signature' tourism projects.
- A high-speed rail link between Belfast and Dublin.
- Further help for rural and community transport providers.

Our aim is to provide a mix between public and private transport infrastructure, improve integration between the various services and ensure customers enjoy a value-for-money quality service.

Greenways & Cycle Networks

There is a growing enthusiasm for cycling as a mode of transport. In order to improve connectivity and offer alternatives to car transport, we will support:

- The continued development of the Greenway network throughout Northern Ireland.
- Increase the amount of investment available in the Greenway Fund and maximise the use of publicly owned sites.
- Reform the law for e-bikes and have the Assembly Committee examine the case for e-scooters.

In parallel we will invest in:

- Developing the cycling network across Northern Ireland.
- Improving the visibility and safety of routes
- Develop a quietways network in Belfast,
- In partnership with recognised groups, promote cycling amongst all age groups.

Water

Our waters are a significant resource both for various leisure and sporting activities, as well as the water system we rely on each and every day.

- The DUP appreciates the importance of a strong and reliable end to end water system and its central contribution to our future economic development and clean environment.
- The DUP will increase Northern Ireland Water's public education programmes to reduce water use.

- Prioritise the water system for increased capital spend.
- On flood protection, the DUP will support:
- Infrastructure investment in identified hotspots.
 - A new simplified and expanded flood protection scheme targeted at householders and SMEs in flood risk zones.
 - New community response plans and education in flood risk zones.

For our coastline and seas, the DUP will:

- Fully support the work of the Coastal Management Forum.
- Establish a single lead department.
- Develop and implement a 21st Century Coastal Protection Framework.

Waste Wealth

With waste we face two challenges. First, why is it waste in the first place? For the design of a product and its packaging, it needs to be encouraged that less is used and what is used can be reused, recycled or upcycled.

Second, how we send ever less amounts to landfill and increase our recycling rates. The different types of waste and the manner of their collection can affect both. Along with recycling itself, these 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 and generating more revenue for Councils.

The DUP supports:

- Commissioning a new strategic waste infrastructure plan for Northern Ireland.
- 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.
- A circular economy approach to recycling to create local jobs and economic growth opportunities for Northern Ireland.
- Following the Welsh model and including Incinerator Bottom Ash counting towards our recycling target.

- A Single Waste Disposal Authority for Northern Ireland.
- An Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme.
- Promoting the principle of Energy from Waste.
- Northern Ireland as a test bed for roads using recycled plastics.

The UK's Net Zero Target – Northern Ireland's Contribution to a Just Transition

The United Kingdom is a world leader on climate action and this was reflected in Parliament's decision to increase our CO2 target from 80% of 1990 levels to Net Zero. The significance and scale of this change should not be under-estimated. With the exception of sustaining the NHS, it is the greatest long-term policy and financial challenge for all levels of government for decades to come.

If poorly planned and implemented, these shifts in all aspects of our lives can have a disproportionately negative impact on poorer sections of the community and poorer regions of the UK. With higher levels of poverty and presently one of the less well-developed regions of the United Kingdom, this means it is vital for Northern Ireland that:

- The national commitment is implemented fairly and properly resourced.
- The transition and transformation this involves must be a just one for poorer sections of the community and regions.

Same Distance Travelled

Each constituent part of the United Kingdom's work on climate action must be based on the distinct opportunities and challenges they face. The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recognises this and has recommended different targets for the four constituent parts of the UK that would still enable the nation to achieve its Net Zero target. The same distance travelled in each part of the UK will deliver the national target but not require a common local target everywhere. It must be recognised that Northern Ireland is the UK region with the greatest distance to travel and sectors that will be the most difficult to transform.

In the recent CCC report on Net Zero, it recommended a target for Northern Ireland of 78-80% reduction in CO2 by 2050. However, with no Assembly or Executive it has never been asked for a formal recommendation. The DUP will:

- Support a Northern Ireland Executive request for a formal recommendation from the CCC on a CO2 2050 target.
- Adopt that target and use the Programme for Government and the strategies and plans that flow from it to put it into practical action.

Our Green and Pleasant Land

The primary custodians of our rural areas are the farming community. Their commitment and strength of connection to their farms and businesses are vital to sustaining rural communities, producing high quality food and improving our environment.

Farming support

The DUP has a clear vision for our farmers and is committed to ensuring the necessary policy and financial support to enable all of the different sectors to become more profitable, sustainable and productive.

During the last Parliament through our Confidence and Supply Agreement we secured commitments to the same level of direct support in cash terms as currently received through the Common Agriculture Policy. We 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 in preparation for the UK leaving the European Union.

Future agriculture policy is best delivered through devolution reflecting the needs of each constituent part of the United Kingdom. The Agriculture Bill allows this flexibility. In order to take full advantage of this opportunity and keep our farming and food sector moving forward we want to see devolution restored and a local minister in charge of developing that new vision for agriculture. It is regrettable that we do not have willing partners with whom to form an Executive at Stormont.

As we leave the EU we will have the opportunity

to shape a new agricultural policy to produce the amounts of food we want, to the standards we need, to make our environment better and deliver on climate change goals.

The DUP believes:

- Currently direct support for farms under the CAP is linked to land holding. We believe that this should change and that future government policy needs to reflect the national need for food security and rewarding productive, sustainable farming systems and proven environmental benefit.
- Future agriculture support should be outside the Barnett formula – the significance and differences of farming communities across the UK cannot be reflected through a basic formula. Funding allocations made to agriculture and related areas must be ring fenced in any future budget decisions.
- Increase in support - UK contributions to CAP are greater than what UK farmers receive. That additional funding should, in the first instance, be ring fenced for agriculture and be directed at delivering efficiencies, adapting to changes in markets, increasing profitability on family farms and delivering high environmental and animal welfare standards.
- A Free and Fair Trade policy – We want to see a trade policy that opens up opportunity for our agri food businesses and farming communities. At the same time we recognise that the UK market is lucrative for those seeking trading arrangements in a post Brexit scenario. We must ensure that sensitive sectors like agriculture are afforded protection in our new trade policy. The DUP will not support trade agreements that allow the UK market to be flooded with products that do not meet the high standards of food safety, environmental and animal welfare standards that are demanded of our farmers.
- While the DUP will work to secure a Free Trade Agreement with the EU in a post Brexit scenario if this is not realised we believe that the UK tariff schedule should ensure reciprocal tariffs are placed on all agri food products which are imported from the EU. We would also place a much more sustainable Tariff Rate Quota and Tariff Rate on all imports from the rest of the world to ensure UK farmers have a level playing field for competition.

- DEFRA in particular must strengthen its ability to open new export markets for British produce across the world - we would urge the Government to build upon the work they have done in recent years by employing more staff in this area, greater advertising presence and conduct significantly more trade missions
- Government must also do more in terms of encouraging British people to buy British through more and better advertising campaigns and revisiting Government procurement priorities
- Fairness and transparency in the food supply chain is essential. Far too often farmers find themselves to be the weakest actors within the chain and are at the mercy of large supermarkets, food processors and the food service sector who dictate price. This has been especially true for the beef sector in recent months. The powers of the Supermarket Ombudsman Office needs to be revisited and strengthened so that unfair practices are tackled.
- Reform of the tax treatment of Conacre land should be undertaken so that there is a greater incentive for land owners to release land for productive farming
- We believe that animal health schemes, like like the BVD eradication scheme, provide an important vehicle to driving efficiency on farms. This should be widened out to include Johne's disease in cattle. Tackling TB also needs a holistic approach, continuing with the status quo will not solve the problem and is at a massive cost to the taxpayer.
- We support the establishment of a veterinary school at the Ulster University, Coleraine.

Rural Dwellers

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 jobs allowing rural communities to thrive.

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

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.

Protecting Our National Natural Wealth

Our land, our waters and our air are our natural wealth. It is a common desire that these should be passed on to the next generation in better condition than we found them. Many of the issues around the environment do not stop at the boundaries of the constituent parts of the United Kingdom nor the borders of the United Kingdom. The integrated nature of our economy reinforces the need to work together and work well. Therefore, we believe a national approach to environmental protection is what is needed.

The Food Standards Agency is a non-ministerial government department. This enables it to have:

- a sufficient degree of independence from government
- greater and more diverse range of expertise than regional organisations could attract and sustain.
- provides proper regional structures and integration into a national framework.
- prevents duplication and 'silo' mentality.
- provides a common framework of enforcement. This helps maintain a level playing field for businesses across the UK.

The DUP believes this is the appropriate model and supports:

- An Office of Environmental Protection based on the FSA model. This will provide the best use of resources, access to highest expertise, best crisis management and a consistency of approach.

Let's Protect Our Animals Better

The DUP is committed to high standards of Animal Care. There are a number of areas where the DUP wants to see further legislative and policy action including:

- The introduction of Private Member's legislation banning circuses that contain wild animals.
- The introduction of Finn's Law- this prevents those who attack and injure service animals from claiming the right of self-defence.
- The introduction of pet theft and pet kidnap as specific crimes.
- Supporting a centrally compiled "Banned Offenders" Register for Northern Ireland.

- An increase in the minimum sentence for animal cruelty to 5 years.
- Examine how a scheme to micro-chip cats can be implemented.

In addition to legislative action we need:

- A public awareness campaign on the legislative protections for animals in Northern Ireland.
- The development of dedicated school resources for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 pupils informing them of the hard work and effort required to be a responsible pet owner to counteract the problems of impulse pet purchases.

Let's Build Stronger Communities Again

Strong communities are at the heart of a renewed Northern Ireland. We want people to live and work in communities that are rejuvenated and revitalised and which engender a sense of pride.

The DUP is committed to the physical development of communities by:

- Increasing investment in new social and affordable housing- The case for investment in social and affordable housing is an unarguable one. House building has a hugely positive impact upon the local economy. A safe, secure and warm home also produces health and educational benefits. The DUP commits to an annual social housing target of at least 2,000 new units per year.
- The Re-birth of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)- The DUP supports the transformation of the NIHE into a strategic

housing body. This should include the transfer of its stock to fully utilise assets to make social housing more self-financing. In addition, the NIHE would receive additional powers to tackle the issue of empty homes. This will unlock finance to further increase social housing new build and renovation of existing properties.

- Reintroduce a 'living over the shops' scheme- The future of our town centres does not depend solely upon enhancing their retail offering. They must become places where people live as well. We will further develop the work already started to reintroduce the previously successful 'living over the shop' scheme where landlords were assisted in converting space above shops or offices into residential accommodation.
- A town centre regeneration challenge fund- We will examine the scope for the introduction of a town centre regeneration challenge fund which

local councils, chambers of trade and others could bid into annually to help them develop a range of projects in their towns or high streets to improve social and physical infrastructure.

- Community land trusts for affordable homes- Such trusts are a long-term solution to the issue of affordability and assist in community regeneration. Land prices are a key component in driving up property prices. This model places the land in trust and thus removes it from the cost of the home. Future selling prices are linked to a multiple of local incomes which allows the owner to see appreciation of their investment but still maintaining any re-sale price at an accessible level. The DUP will introduce schemes in different property hot spots across Northern Ireland.
- Bulk buying from private sector landlords- The DUP wants to drive up standards in the private landlord sector. It will introduce a bulk-renting scheme from combines of private

landlord properties. In return for a guarantee of income the properties entered into the scheme must be equipped and maintained to higher standards.

The DUP is committed to the social and economic development of communities by:

- Creating a network of business leaders to engage directly with communities, and who will drive regeneration projects.
- Future community funding programmes such as Peace Funding, should have sustainability and economic regeneration as their core aims.
- Community hubs established within existing facilities with access to technology, to improve awareness of online learning and work opportunities.
- Support for well-structured cultural celebrations, which promote and educate the positives of identity and history.

Let's Lead the Way on Fighting Crime

Northern Ireland has established itself at the cutting edge of justice innovation in the UK. Further reform we envisage includes:

- Increased use of Enhanced Combination Orders.
- Further expansion of problem-solving courts to help reduce reoffending and reduce the long-term burden on the taxpayer.
- Greater use of Supervised Activity Orders.
- Examining the impact of Community Payback Orders in Scotland.

Two and a half decades on from the ceasefires, Northern Ireland and particularly some of its urban communities have not felt the peace they deserve. Too many remain within the grip of illegal paramilitary organisations and crime gangs. As an indication, approximately 1,000 people are still

under threat and there have been examples of suicides amongst individuals under intimidation.

The Paramilitary Crime Task Force comprising expertise from PSNI, HMRC and the National Crime Agency offers significant potential for advances. The DUP supports:

- The efforts being pursued through the Tackling Paramilitarism programme.
- Intensifying the positive work by agencies such as the Education Authority in youth outreach to engage those at risk of joining illegal organisations or entering crime.
- Mentoring of young men.
- Recovered assets being ploughed back into local communities which have borne the brunt of the criminality of particular individuals and groups.

- Criminal Finances Act extension to Northern Ireland to enhance the tools available to address unexplained wealth.
- Visible policing which is important in community confidence, particularly in parallel with actions of the Tackling Paramilitarism programme.
- Ceasing giving a profile to prominent criminal figures, including through agencies consulting them to obtain the views of some communities.
- Addressing the harm caused by commemorations of, and parades associated with, paramilitary activity serving to legitimise ongoing terrorist activity.

On broader policing the DUP will promote:

- Allocation of resources to community policing prioritised and enhanced.
- Capacity and resources to deal with the ongoing republican terrorist threat.
- Increase in officer numbers to the level envisaged by the Patten Report.
- Addressing the vulnerability felt in rural communities.
- Improved communicating back and updating members of the public on how issues have been pursued- a lack of response proves a disincentive to provide further information.
- Addressing criticisms of the 101 service.
- Northern Ireland as a cyber security leader for the UK.

Justice for Victims of Terrorism

The current approach to investigating 'Troubles' cases is unacceptable for innocent victims. Less than a couple of dozen cases are under active work at any point, and there is a clear imbalance. With history gradually being rewritten to justify past violence it sends a dangerous message to impressionable young people. Many are angered by the present arrangements- the status quo of piecemeal and imbalance. The status quo cannot continue.

The DUP considers the best chance of justice for victims to come from a new investigatory team with full police powers, including the ability to

arrest and question terrorist suspects. This team should have a UK-wide remit. It is essential they have full co-operation with the PSNI to ensure access to modern evidence gathering techniques and other technical capacity required to conduct thorough investigations. The expertise of those with longstanding and first-hand experience of policing in Northern Ireland including former members of the RUC and PSNI should be availed of.

The DUP further supports:

- Having the morally unjustifiable victim definition overhauled.
- Defining collusion in legislation.
- Development of an authoritative, evidence-based account of the 'Troubles' period to provide fairness and accuracy.

The DUP fully supports our soldiers and veterans. Our Confidence and Supply Agreement ensured the Government invested more in our Armed Forces and the care of our veterans, and are pursuing full implementation of the Military Covenant in Northern Ireland.

We have consistently called for greater legal protection for our armed forces and for a legacy process that pursues justice for the innocent victims of terrorists who were responsible for over 90% of killings during the Troubles. We will not support any legislative change which helps terrorists escape justice.

Let's Get Northern Ireland Celebrating Again

2021, Northern Ireland's centenary year, should be marked by an illustration of our positive values and pride in what we can achieve with all our talents.

Northern Ireland reaches its Centenary in 2021, and as well as celebration, the Centenary provides an opportunity to show-case all that is good about Northern Ireland and the Union, and build for the next generation and century. The better the planning and more inclusive the events the greater a success it will be for everyone in Northern Ireland. Our plan to achieve this is:

- A steering group to co-ordinate a programme of events to mark the Centenary and best utilise the opportunity to promote Northern Ireland as a destination for investment and tourism. The Steering Group should include historians and business figures as well as political representatives. This programme of events should provide clear opportunities for different perspectives to be heard and discussed.
- A Fund should be established for Centenary events which could be maintained as a legacy fund for signature and community projects. This should include built heritage and funding the restoration of Craigavon House.
- A Centennial Expo to promote all that Northern Ireland can offer as well as a Homecoming event and other initiatives involving the Northern Ireland diaspora around the world. There should be a major global trade push by Invest NI, and Tourism NI should seek to maximise the opportunities the Centenary brings.
- Exhibitions could focus on Ulster's inventors and innovators, and the work of local artists. We should invest in and utilise our museums and folk parks. The Stormont Estate could host a large concert.
- A lasting legacy through a Centenary Greenway and tree planting as part of the Great Ulster Forest proposal, and public realm projects that include monuments and public art.
- A living inheritance- those who have lived through our first 100 years could be presented an award and encouraged to participate in a personal oral history project to document their memories.
- Every child born that year should receive a Baby Box helping give each an equal start in life. Fun days would be held for children.
- Materials and resources should be developed for schools and youth engagement, and the story of the establishment of the Northern Ireland state should be told.
- Commemoratives could include coins, stamps, badges and medals. An anniversary book or history could be commissioned.
- Work with cultural organisations and others in developing projects and events- it is important to have a diverse range of initiatives so there is something to appeal to everyone.
- Establishing the Institute of Ulster-Scots to drive forward a positive research and educational agenda for this vital strand of Northern Ireland's identity.
- Designate a Northern Ireland library as one of the national depository libraries and redevelop it to fulfil its new role.



Democratic Unionist Party
91 Dundela Avenue
Belfast BT4 3BU

www.mydup.com
Email: info@mydup.com