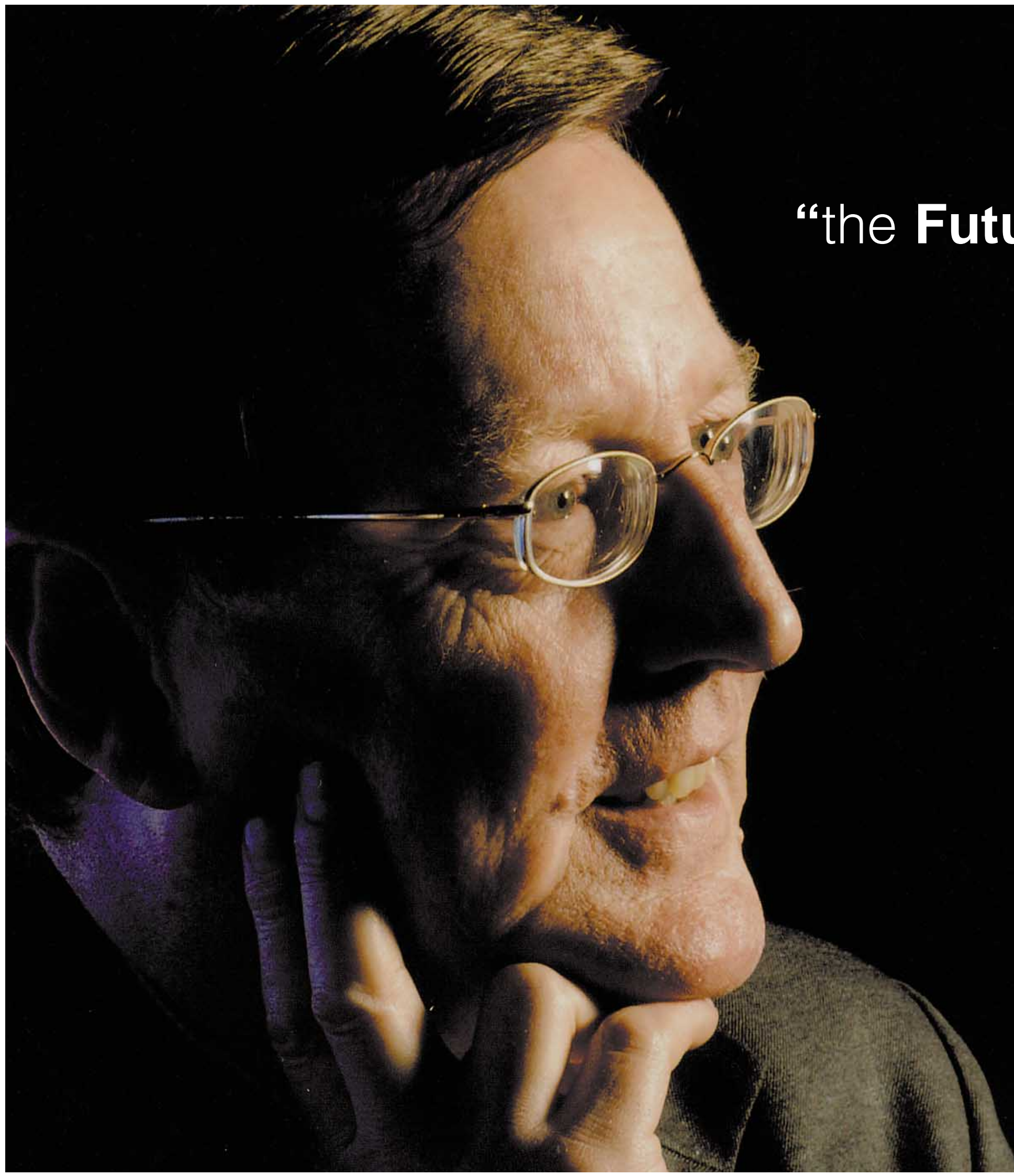




Ulster Unionists

Manifesto 2003



“the **Future** not the **Past**”

A dozen years ago Ulster Unionists were marginalised politically, unable to prevent the Government acting over our heads. Paramilitaries, loyalist and republican were wreaking death and destruction across the province.

All that has changed. We are no longer marginalised. Ulster Unionism is now respected. Its consent is sought. Recent events have shown clearly that today we are at the centre of politics.

Violence has greatly diminished. We have had the most peaceful summer for a generation. The end of October marked fifteen months since the last sectarian murder. Most paramilitary crime is now related to racketeering. Attempts by dissident republicans to start a bombing campaign are regularly frustrated.

There has been political progress. The Assembly and Executive was established. In it nationalists and republicans, for the first time ever, participated fully, helping to make Northern Ireland work as part of the Union. It demonstrated how the local administration could be more effective and more accountable.

But the job of firmly establishing peace and democracy is not yet finished. The failure to end completely paramilitary activity inconsistent with the obligation in the Agreement to use exclusively peaceful means, triggered a crisis. It made the Ulster Unionist Council resolve that it had to be "demonstrably clear that a genuine process of transition was proceeding to a conclusion".

Efforts were made in recent weeks to get republicans to engage in genuine acts of completion. Progress occurred. Republicans talked of pursuing their objectives peacefully.



They defined the Agreement as providing full and final closure of the conflict. But they failed to decommission in a manner to maximise public confidence or to give the assurance that this time the process would be completed.

Nonetheless, the job can be completed. We know what is needed. We understand the difficulties. We have stuck at it. And we know that there is no one else in the unionist community who can do it!

We want to see the Assembly restored, but only when republicans have dealt conclusively with the issues of decommissioning, continued paramilitary activity and the effective winding-up of their private army.

We want to see the Assembly improved. The Committees have not fulfilled the policy making role envisaged in the Agreement. Some Ministers, who under the Agreement were to exercise their functions on behalf of the Assembly, acted irresponsibly. Collectivity needs to be strengthened.

Above all, the Executive should be fully representative. The unionist majority in the Assembly was not reflected in the Executive, because of the divisions within unionism. Independent members and small parties do not count when the Executive is being formed. Moreover, certain unionist members did not turn up to discuss matters or vote when Executive decisions were to be made. It is necessary to do more than enjoy the perks of office and write letters in order to do the job.

We call on people to vote for a Unionist majority in the Executive. We call on them to strengthen Ulster Unionists, the largest unionist party - the only unionist party that will persistently, responsibly, work in the interests of unionism as a whole. Continued vote splitting only weakens unionism and creates opportunities for republicans.

If the Assembly and Executive are reformed, we will work to make the local administration more effective. We will vigorously pursue the Review of Public Administration with a view to reducing the layers of administration, and putting added substantial functions into a revitalised local government – putting power as close to the people as possible.

We will face up to the hard choices that will have to be made as we renew our infrastructure, particularly on environmental matters. As part of the work we did in putting the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative in place, before suspension. There are certain pledges that can be made on infrastructure.

We know these can be delivered:

- An integrated primary healthcare centre (polyclinic) in every major population area,
- Replacement of all mobile classrooms with permanent accommodation within five years,
- Completing the dualing of major roads – Belfast to Enniskillen, Larne, Londonderry, and Newry,
- A National Stadium as a centre of excellence for sport.

Other initiatives we will pursue will include:

- To promote a radical, pro-active Community Relations policy to focus on where the need is greatest, such as sectarian interfaces,
- to seek the extension of free personal care for the elderly,
- to expand nursery school provision, maintain academic selection and increase resources for vocational courses and training,

- to seek a safer and more secure society by persuading Parliament to extend to Northern Ireland recent legislation on anti-social behaviour and pressing for more effective court processes and stiffer sentencing,
- to expand social and cultural opportunities and further develop tourism.

In the next Assembly Ulster Unionists' target for Ministerial office will include major spending departments such as Health and Education. The extent to which this can be done depends crucially on the level of support we receive at this election.

We will also seek the devolution of policing and justice powers but only when we have a fully peaceful and democratic society and where there is whole-hearted support for the single, lawful accountable, Police Service of Northern Ireland (incorporating the RUC).

In short we believe that as we finally resolve the problem of para-militarism, the prospects before the people of Northern Ireland are truly exciting.

The begrudgers and those clinging to the violence of the past must not be allowed wreck our future.

Let us build on progress, let us renew our determination, finish the job, and take Ulster forward, together.

David Trimble

Devolution worked because Ulster Unionists worked

Introduced Children's Commissioner

Invested £400 million in school buildings



Achieved lowest rates of unemployment for decades

Increased support for students in both higher and further education



Combated foot and mouth disease

Opened the Northern Ireland Brussels office to lobby EU directly

Supported rural development schemes



Delivered £8 million on football strategy

Created Ulster Scots Agency



Funded regional cancer centre

Increased health budget by £1 billion



Delivered free transport to the elderly

Launched warm homes scheme



Devolution will work because Ulster Unionists will continue to work

Providing an integrated health care centres



Supporting midwife led maternity units

Reducing bureaucracy and improving efficiency in public administration



Dual carriage roads to Enniskillen, Larne and Londonderry

Increasing numbers of police officers on the ground



Delivering a community relations policy based on tolerance and mutual respect

Tackling the economic disadvantages of business



Developing a rural energy strategy

Replacing all mobile classrooms with permanent accommodation



Introducing a common funding formula for all schools

Expanding nursery provision

Supporting parity of esteem for Ulster Scots.



Delivering a national sports stadium



A healthy society

A modern society demands a modern health service. The Ulster Unionist Party believes that only a health service free to all and accessible to all can meet the needs of the 21st Century. We are determined to see changes at all levels within the National Health Service to deliver a more effective and efficient service. With our higher per capita spend than the rest of the UK, much needs to be done.

To achieve greater accessibility and improve hospital waiting times we are committed to developing integrated polyclinics in every major town and we will also support the piloting of midwife led maternity units in Counties Tyrone and Down and look again at acute provision in Tyrone.

Our key commitments are:

- Delivering an effective and efficient healthcare service, well-financed and freely accessible to all.
- Directing resources to health promotion and towards advances in medical science.
- Providing in every major area of population an integrated healthcare centre (polyclinic).
- Continued work to reduce waiting lists and waiting times.
- Supporting midwife led maternity units in Counties Tyrone and Down.
- Reducing bed-blocking and improved services for our senior citizens with health problems.
- Pressing for the introduction of free personal care.

We believe that GPs and other health professional are pivotal to improving the overall health within society and we strongly support the initiatives around "Investing For Health". Prevention is always better than cure, yet when things do go wrong we believe that early diagnosis followed by early treatment is essential. Therefore, we will continue to work to shorten waiting lists and waiting times and to develop better services for those with chronic illness. We will continue to work to reduce bed-blocking and we will press for the introduction of free personal care for the elderly.

Healthcare can never be regarded as a privilege, it is an entitlement. We in the Ulster Unionist Party are committed to our local healthcare system and to making it work for you.



A prosperous society

The vibrant economy of Northern Ireland was one of the great successes of devolution. We have the lowest rate of unemployment for decades and the Northern Ireland economy is outperforming that of many other regions of the UK. In the new Assembly the Ulster Unionist Party will build on these successes. We will further maximise inward investment opportunities whilst continuing to support the development of our indigenous industries. Allied to this, we will seek to improve the links between business and education. To help this overall strategy, we are committed to developing further our third level education colleges and universities.

Northern Ireland businesses are disadvantaged by higher costs particularly in the areas of transport, electricity and, most recently, insurance. The Ulster Unionist Party is committed to tackling these three constraints in the Assembly, in the British/Irish Council and at Westminster.

Our key commitments are:

- Tackling the economic disadvantages of Northern Ireland industries.
- Highlighting the current insurance problems for business and delivering measures to reduce further energy costs.
- Bringing increased investment in the rural development and developing a rural energy strategy.
- Supporting the Northern Ireland fishing industry.
- Promoting policies to increase linkages between education and business.
- Implementing greater investment in research and development both by industry and local universities.



A skilled society

Education in the last Assembly was cynically used as a political football and we are determined that this should never be allowed to happen again. The future prosperity of Northern Ireland and its ability to compete in the world's markets depends on the skills of our workforce and on the education of our young people.

Academic selection has served most of our young people well over the years and we believe that a revised form of academic selection allied to pupil profiles will maintain the high standards of achievement that we have. However, we also are committed to increasing the resources available to vocational courses and training so as to maximise the potential of all our young people.

The Ulster Unionist Party is pledged to address under achievement particularly among boys and supports increased resources to improve adult literacy.

Our key commitments are:

- Supporting academic selection allied to pupil profiles for transfer from primary to post primary education.
- Expanding access to nursery school provision.
- Replacing all mobile classrooms with permanent accommodation within 5 years.
- Introducing a common funding formula delivering equitable funding to all schools.
- Increasing the places available at our local universities and colleges.

Over the next 5 years we are committed to seeing all mobile classrooms replaced by permanent accommodation through the resources made available from the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative (RRI). The provision of free and accessible nursery places to all pre-school children remains a priority, as is delivering a common funding formula for all schools based on need.

Like health, education is an entitlement and not a privilege and the Ulster Unionist Party are determined to see that entitlement available to all.



A modern society

A modern society demands modern housing and transport system to meet the needs and expectations of our citizens. We need to modernise our infrastructure and our local administration must be as efficient and effective as possible.

We are committed to concluding the Review of Public Administration as soon as possible and we will move rapidly to implement the radical changes needed to improve the way local services are administered.

The Reinvestment and Reform Initiative (RRI) releases great opportunities for investment in strategic projects and in the infrastructure of Northern Ireland. The Ulster Unionist Party will act responsibly to ensure that the maximum benefit is realised from this unique opportunity. We will use the resources made available to improve our road network and our water infrastructure. We note that a direct rule Minister has

announced proposals for water rates. As a responsible political party we will ensure that any rates will be fairly applied and that the money will be properly used. We will maximise the efficiency of the water service to minimise the potential costs.

To improve safety on our roads particularly in built up areas we will seek to introduce stringent traffic calming measures to help address the number of pedestrian deaths.

The Ulster Unionist Party believes that to reduce congestion and environmental damage, investment is required in public sector transport in order to deliver an integrated transport system to both rural and urban users. We are committed to seeing the dual-carriaging of the roads from Belfast to Coleraine, Londonderry, Enniskillen and Newry.

Our key commitments are:

- Using RRI funds to improve Northern Ireland's infrastructure in a planned and responsible way.
- Reducing congestion and pollution by investing in Public Transport.
- Pushing forward the Review of Public Administration to reduce bureaucracy and improve efficiency.
- Supporting strong measures to reduce deaths on our roads.
- Maximise the efficiency of the Water Service to minimise any potential costs.
- Committed to seeing the dual-carriaging of the roads from Belfast to Coleraine, Londonderry, Enniskillen and Newry..



A safe and just society

Ulster Unionists have always been the party of "law and order" and we are the only major party in Northern Ireland to have consistently supported the RUC and the PSNI. We have never had a private army wearing red or black berets and we have worked successfully for the last decade to see the development of a safe and just society.

Our representatives on the Policing Board continue to press for more police officers to perform frontline duties both to prevent and detect crime. We remain totally opposed to the current system of recruitment to the Police and we believe that the merit principle should apply in all areas of public appointments.

We want to create a society in Ulster where everyone can feel safe - not least our senior citizens - whether walking the streets or in their own home. As terrorism recedes, we must ensure that it is not replaced by a culture of lawlessness and gangsterism, founded on drugs and other illegal activity.

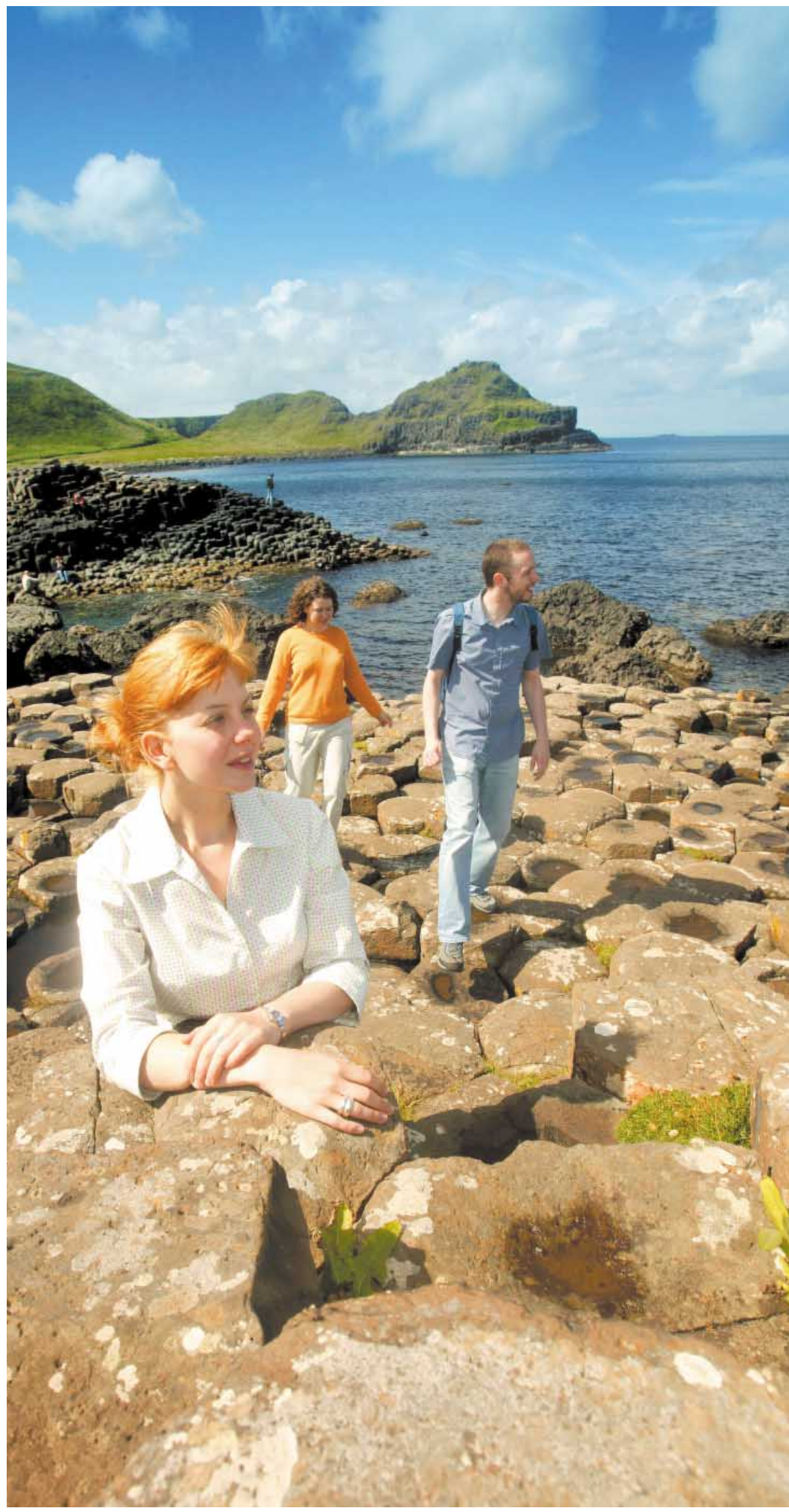
Our key commitments are:

- Demanding that the Assets Recovery Agency has the resources to tackle paramilitary and organised crime.
- Increasing the numbers of police officers available for frontline services.
- Removing 50/50 recruitment from the Police.
- Delivering a community relations policy based on principles of tolerance and mutual respect focussed on key problem areas.
- To dual the major roads - Belfast to Enniskillen, Larne, Londonderry and Newry.

The Ulster Unionists led the campaign for the establishment of the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA). We fully support its efforts to tackle the criminal godfathers and hit them where it hurts: in their pockets. We will work to secure further resources for the ARA, and ensure it is fully equipped to deal with both loyalist and republican criminal gangs.

Ulster Unionists are committed to developing a society in which everyone is valued and everyone is respected. We must also make sure that those who suffered and their needs are not forgotten.

We are committed to delivering a radically changed 'Community Relations' policy based on respect and tolerance focussed on key problem areas. Northern Ireland must become a tolerant, pluralist society welcoming to all and inclusive of all. We stand for an multicultural, multi-ethnic society in which everyone plays a part.



A society for the **future**

We recognise the importance of a clean and healthy environment and the need to safeguard the quality of air, water and land. We will ensure existing legislation is rigorously enforced and, where necessary, will work to introduce new legislation to tackle pollution and polluters. We support the campaign for tighter controls for the preservation and development of our natural and built heritage. We will ensure that the Planning Service adopts a more pro-active role in challenging developers who breach planning laws, bringing them before the courts where stiffer penalties are awarded.

We will continue to support the development of Culture, Arts and Leisure. It was an Ulster Unionist Minister who increased capital funding on libraries, for the arts and for the Sports Council, including £8 million for the Football Strategy. Ulster Unionists are committed to the development of a national stadium for sport

We will continue to support the development of Ulster-Scots heritage initiatives and we are pledged to

Our key commitments are:

- Introducing new legislation to tackle pollution and polluters.
- Campaigning for tighter controls for our natural and built heritage.
- Continuing support of Ulster-Scots heritage initiatives by increasing resources to deliver parity of esteem.
- Increasing the budget available to the Ulster Scots Agency so as to bring parity of esteem. We also support the continued development of the arts within society particularly within local communities. We are committed to supporting the wealth of talent both in the performing and visual arts and we will support the continued development of our local film industry.
- Securing a National Stadium as a centre of excellence for sport.
- Promoting Northern Ireland as a branded tourism product attracting a 'Museum of Sea and Air' to the Titanic Quarter.

Ulster Unionists are committed to promoting Northern Ireland Tourism as a product. We believe with our lakes, our mountains and our rivers we have a unique product that is under-utilised. We support the upgrading of the rivers estate and the inland waterways to expand the tourism potential of the Province.

Northern Ireland has a great heritage in major industries such as shipbuilding and the aerospace industries. We believe this heritage should be celebrated and promoted through a 'Museum of Sea and Air'.

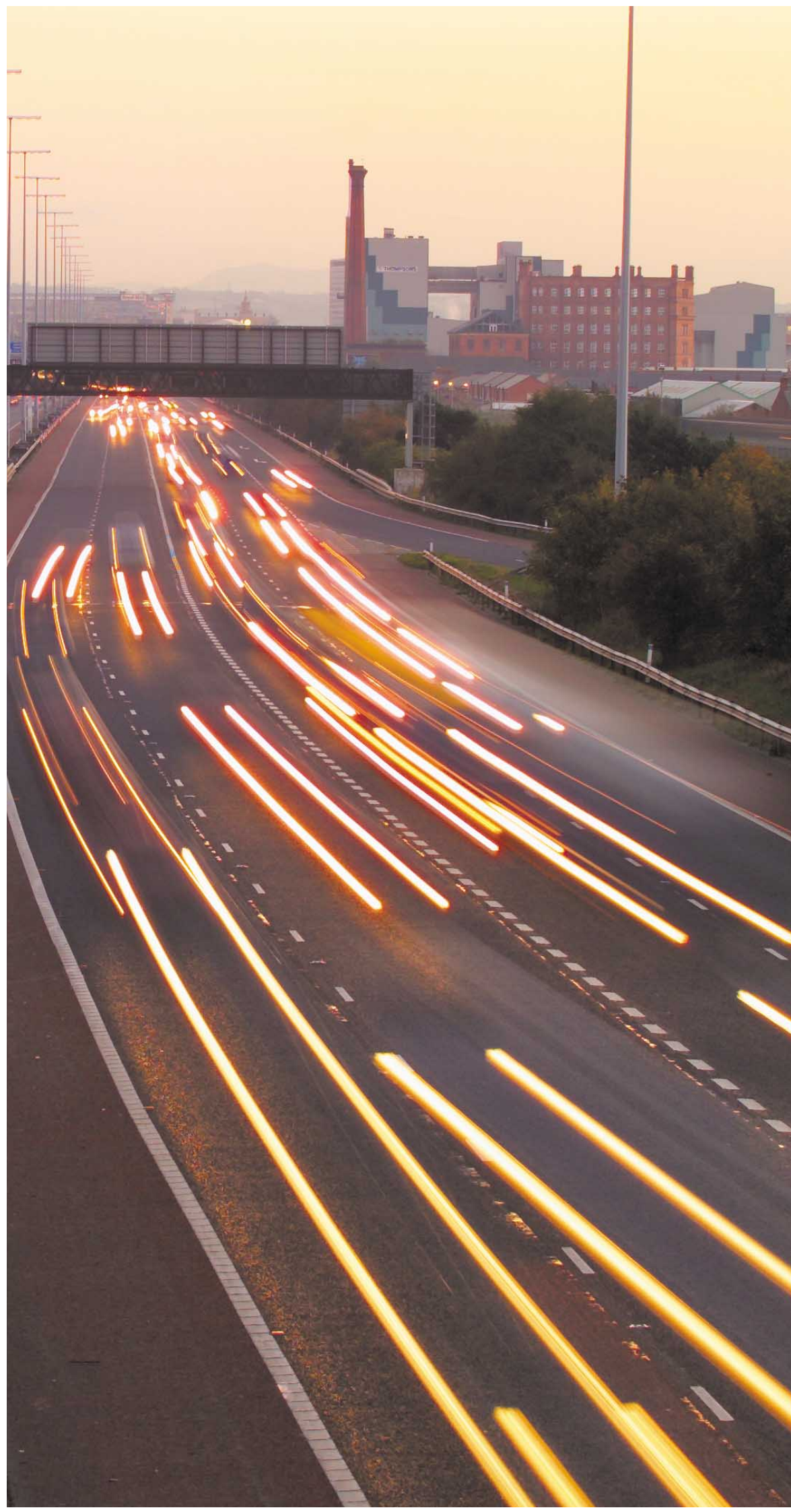


Ulster Unionist Charter

All your Ulster Unionist MPs and Assembly candidates agree to the following:-



1. Ulster Unionists will work for and serve in an inclusive, democratic Assembly.
2. Ulster Unionists demand and will work towards the end of all paramilitarism, loyalist and republican.
3. Ulster Unionists will hold firmly to the requirement for 'acts of completion', dealing conclusively with decommissioning, terrorist activity and the effective winding up of paramilitary organisations, making it clear that the transition to peace and democracy is being brought to a conclusion, before Sinn Fein can participate in a Northern Ireland Executive.
4. Ulster Unionists support new powers to monitor paramilitary activity and impose sanctions. We will press the International Monitoring Commission and the Government to act decisively with paramilitary breaches, regardless of political considerations.
5. Ulster Unionists look forward to a normal security profile in a peaceful environment, retaining the Home Service RIR. We seek the devolution of policing and justice powers but will only consent when there is a fully peaceful and democratic society with wholehearted support for the Police.
6. Ulster Unionists will oppose any amnesty or apparent amnesty for fugitives from justice (OTRs).
7. Ulster Unionists are determined that policing and sentencing powers and anti-social behaviour legislation keep pace with the rest of the UK.
8. Ulster Unionists are committed to the merit principle in employment, human rights, equal citizenship and equality of opportunity for all.
9. Ulster Unionists will work for the social and economic betterment of all our citizens regardless of class, gender, colour, race, nationality or religion.
10. Ulster Unionists will ensure Northern Ireland remains British, an integral part of the United Kingdom.



Our **Key Pledges** for the next Assembly

In the next Assembly Ulster Unionists target for Ministerial office will include major spending departments such as Health and Education.

These are our key pledges for the next Assembly. We have done our homework. We know these can be delivered.

- An integrated primary healthcare centre (polyclinic) in every major population area.
- To replace all mobile classrooms with permanent accommodation within five years.
- To dual the major roads - Belfast to Enniskillen, Larne, Londonderry and Newry.
- A radical, pro-active Community Relations policy to focus on where the need is greatest, such as sectarian interfaces.
- To promote a National Stadium as a centre of excellence for sport.



Your **Ulster Unionist** candidates

EAST ANTRIM

Roy Beggs
Roy McCune
Ken Robinson

NORTH ANTRIM

Robert Coulter
James Currie

SOUTH ANTRIM

David Burnside MP
Adrian Cochrane-Watson
Jim Wilson

WEST BELFAST

Chris McGimpsey

EAST BELFAST

Michael Copeland
Sir Reg Empey
Jim Rodgers

NORTH BELFAST

Fred Cobain

SOUTH BELFAST

Esmond Birnie
John Hiddleston
Michael McGimpsey

EAST LONDONDERRY

Norman Hillis
David McClarty
Edwin Stevenson

FOYLE

Mary Hamilton

WEST TYRONE

Derek Hussey
Robert Wilson

MID ULSTER

Billy Armstrong
Trevor Wilson

FERMANAGH & SOUTH TYRONE

Tom Elliot
Arlene Foster
Bob Mulligan

UPPER BANN

Sam Gardiner
George Savage
David Trimble MP

LAGAN VALLEY

Norah Beare
William Bell
Jeffrey Donaldson MP
Jim Kirkpatrick

NEWRY & ARMAGH

Danny Kennedy

SOUTH DOWN

James Donaldson
Dermot Nesbitt

STRANGFORD

Lord John Kilclooney
Bob Little
David McNarry

NORTH DOWN

Leslie Cree
Alan McFarland
Diana Peacocke

Contact details:

Ulster Unionists

Cunningham House
429 Holywood Road
Belfast
BT4 2LN

Tel: 028 9076 5500

Press: 028 9076 5510

Fax: 028 9076 9419

Email uup@uup.org

www.uup.org

Simply British



UlsterUnionists