Leadership to Put Things Right!

Parliamentary and District Council Election Manifesto 2001

Published by The Ulster Democratic Unionist Party, 91 Dundela Avenue, Belfast, BT4 3BU
Printed by J.C. Print Ltd., Belfast.
Dear Friend,

Unionism has paid a heavy price for the UUP endorsement of the Republican Agenda being delivered through the Belfast Agreement.

On each and every detail the DUP analysis of the deal has been proved accurate. The following were SUPPORTED by the UUP and OPPOSED by the DUP:

- Terrorists in government
- The RUC destroyed
- Murderers released
- Executive all-Ireland bodies set up

The weakness, incompetence and poor judgement of the UUP leadership has brought us to the present crisis. This election gives us all an opportunity to stop the rot and start to put things right.

In this booklet the DUP programme is set forth. This manifesto has a significance that the manifestos of other parties do not have. It will be the mandated blueprint to be pursued by my party. Unlike the UUP we do not dump our manifesto as soon as the polls close. You can trust the DUP to keep its pledges.

Your Friend,

Ian R. K. Paisley, DUP LEADER
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BROKEN PLEDGES OF UUP REWARD IRA/SINN FEIN

The broken pledges of Tony Blair and David Trimble have allowed IRA/Sinn Fein free reign to reap all the benefits of the appeasement process without giving anything in return – not even the decommissioning of a single bullet. IRA/Sinn Fein Ministers were placed in government and given control of half of the Northern Ireland budget courtesy of Mr Trimble and the UUP. In past elections the UUP has feebly said: “No guns – no government!” and “No hand in all guns – no hand in government!” These Trimble pledges, like so many UUP manifestos promises, lie broken and discredited.

The UUP Leadership simply can’t be trusted any more. Without the trading of illegal weaponry and the demanding of the IRA terror machine, the IRA/Sinn Fein Mutiny must be kept out of government. It’s time to send the message that the collapse of democracy must end. Only a vote for the DUP will signal the clear determination of the unionist people for no more concessions to the IRA and no more rewards for IRA/Sinn Fein.

REPUBLICANS WANT TRIMBLE TO WIN

All last you have a chance to stop the rot and put things right. The current process of appeasement is illegal and dangerous, and must be reversed. A vote for the Trimble-led UUP will be taken as a green light for a further rash of concessions. The UUP has failed to deliver the promises of the Agreement. The DUP is prepared to stand up for the democratic institutions of the Agreement and assert the people’s interests. A vote for the DUP will be taken as a green light for a further rash of concessions. The UUP has failed to deliver the promises of the Agreement. The DUP is prepared to stand up for the democratic institutions of the Agreement and assert the people’s interests.

DUP – UNITED AND STRONG

All the DUP candidates are united in their unanimous support for this manifesto. The DUP is divided and split along the fundamental issue of their party platform. As a united and committed party only the DUP can deliver the full time, vigorous and principled representation you deserve. Others are so badly divided they cannot even agree on the basic principles that they stand for. That’s why despair is spreading. We stand united in our common purpose.

Help us to maintain and improve that level of service on your behalf by voting for your DUP candidate.

BRITISH SYMBOLS AND IDENTITY UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK

Day by day our British heritage and way of life is under attack. The symbols of the State, including even the National Flag and the image of Her Majesty, are being torn down. Everything Gaelic, republican and Irish is promoted while everything British, unionist or Orange is derided and reviled. Traditional parades are banned and the Union Flag can no longer fly on most days from government buildings. The Agreement is being used to undermine every expression of British identity.

If allowed to continue the Britishness of Northern Ireland will be totally submerged. Don’t let it happen!

RUC DISBANDED - IRA MAINTAINED!

Northern Ireland was supposed to be protected by the Agreement. The RUC is being destroyed. Yet the IRA remains intact, still carries out violence, and is continuing to import new arms. The Patten Report found directly from the Belfast Agreement that set out the intent and parameters of the Patten Commission, indeed leading DUP spokesmen welcomed the Patten Commission and fully expected the RUC had been saved! The despised institutions of the Agreement, including the plans to remove the RUC from the face of the land and emblems of the RUC, are being done at the behest of a republican movement which has not given away a single weapon. Knowing violence renews the notion of our security forces to pretend society is secure.

This is your chance to reject those who have failed the RUC and demand its retention, not destruction.

UUP FORCES RATEPAYERS TO PAY FOR ALL-IRELAND GOVERNMENT

Under the Belfast Agreement all-Ireland bodies with executive powers have been set up with unionists in a permanent minority. The despised institutions of the Anglo Irish Agreement have been extended and enhanced as the result of the cave-in of the UUP. The range and powers of the all-Ireland bodies are being already being increased. An entry into united Ireland government is being set in place in which UUP Ministers are playing an active role. So enthusiastic are these Ministers that they and their UUP colleagues voted for a 7% increase in your Rates rather than cut spending on the all-Ireland bodies!

WORKING FOR YOUR BENEFIT - AS PROMISED!

Consistent with our electoral pledges the DUP has energetically fought to improve the living conditions of individuals, families and communities in Councils, the Assembly, its Committees and in Parliament. At the same time we have maintained our resolve opposition to IRA/Sinn Fein refusing - unlike the UUP - to give credibility or legitimacy to representatives of armed terrorism. On the ground the DUP is in touch with local opinion, listening and responsive to the unionist community’s needs and interests. The DUP constituency help and advice service is second to none. We want to make it even better.

Only a vote for the DUP will signal the clear determination of the unionist people for no more concessions to the IRA and no more rewards for IRA/Sinn Fein.

TERRORISTS REJOICE AS VICTIMS ARE FORGOTTEN

Victims of terrorism endure a life sentence of grief and pain yet terrorists walk out of jail early. Remember how we were told that terrorists would stay in prison unless violence was over for good?

UUP forces ratepayers to pay for an all-Ireland government by making us give to IRA/Sinn Fein Ministerial Ministries whilst the terrorist Ministers were placed in government and given control of half of the Northern Ireland budget courtesy of Mr Trimble and the UUP. In past elections the UUP has feebly said: “No guns – no government!” and “No hand in all guns – no hand in government!” These Trimble pledges, like so many UUP manifestos promises, lie broken and discredited.

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HELP US TO FIGHT FOR YOU - AS PROMISED!

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Massive Crime Increase Requires Zero Tolerance

The release of terrorists from jail and the rewarding of evildoers has sent a message that crime pays. This will be a lasting legacy of Trimble’s Belfast Agreement.

At every level in our society disrespect for law and the enforcers of the law is dramatically increasing. Drug dealing, extorting, burglaries and violent attacks, including those on senior citizens, are now commonplace. Gangs of youths, in some areas, terrorise decent residents and a demoralised police force is unable to provide the protection that people need and are entitled to expect.

With a raft of ‘Human Rights’ legislation and regulations governing the action that can be taken against wrongdoers, society will increasingly become more vulnerable.

In other communities, people, who like ourselves, find it unacceptable that law-abiding and peace-loving citizens are held to ransom by lawbreakers, forced the introduction of tougher penalties. In New York, the policy of Zero Tolerance made a dramatic change and similar results have been seen elsewhere.

Unless the gloves are taken off, our society will be the prisoners and the lawbreakers will be in control.

Human Rights and Equality - for Unionists as well!

Issues of equality and human rights have been largely hijacked by those engaged in or sympathetic to republicanism. We believe that unionism must demand and exercise its rights and use the system created to its own benefit.

Standing on the sidelines will not produce any advance for our just cause. The current make-up of the Human Rights Commission is a denial of the rights of a large section of unionism which is totally unrepresented. Discrimination in the appointment of the Commission against those opposed to the Belfast Agreement means unionists can have little confidence in its impartiality.

The scandalous denial of civil, religious and human rights to the Loyal Orders throughout Northern Ireland, and particularly exemplified by the stand-off at Drumcree, must be ended. The Parades Commission has demonstrated that it is not prepared to acknowledge and respect the basic human right of freedom of assembly and procession but is willing instead to acquiesce in the face of threats of violence from republican-infiltrated agitators. The Parades Commission must be wound up.

We believe in real and meaningful equality for women and ethnic minorities. We hold that this principle should be built into mainstream government policies and not relegated to token programmes or projects. In this way the problem of discrimination can be effectively and resolutely tackled.

DUP - The Farmer’s Proven Champion

The DUP has always championed the farmer’s case and consistently fought for a fair deal for our farmers in Europe, at national level and locally. We believe our farmers are entitled to fair economic rewards and incentives.

Northern Ireland farm produce must be promoted across Europe whilst our industry must be defended against unethical European competitors. There should be fair rewards for the producer and fair prices for the consumer. There must be no question of farmers or consumers being exploited with profits going mainly to middle-men.

The Foot and Mouth epidemic has shown up shortcomings in some current arrangements particularly in relation to smuggling and fraud. These must be tackled with the utmost urgency. All sectors of agriculture are suffering terribly at the present time and urgent action is needed on a range of issues.

We seek:

• The lifting of the EU beef export ban;
• Fair distribution of milk quotas;
• Fair labelling of goods which are accurate and competent without being burdensome;
• Accurate targeting of financial and social help in the rural community;
• The inclusion of the farming community in the Rural development programmes;
• Equal treatment under the Leader2 programme;
• A grant system to assist with farm equity development;
• A centralised economic strategy which permits flexibility with banks during times of crisis;
• The delivery of the Pig outgoers scheme and the adequate assistance and guidance to those who require it;
• The establishment of a Young Entrants and Farming Retirement Scheme;
• A Farmland Planning Easement Scheme in order to achieve development of rural land and permit farm families to live in the countryside.

DUP Rates Best

The DUP has the best record for keeping your Rates down at both District Council level and has tried through its votes in the Assembly to bring down the Regional rate increase to the rate of inflation. Other parties have been profligate with your money hiking up the Rates without delivering the services you need and deserve.

By contrast the DUP has managed to keep District Rate levels down whilst still maintaining excellent levels of public services. Rates are lowest where the DUP has control. The DUP and other parties all voted to increase your Regional Rate by a massive 7%—nearly 3 times the rate of inflation. The DUP called for that rate to be reduced to the rate of inflation by cutting the spending on all ministerial bodies. However, the DUP and the others, preferred to maintain the all-Ireland aspects of the Belfast Agreement rather than reduce the financial pressure on existing Services. This is despite the same parties having criticised Direct Rule Ministers for imposing the same level of Rates increases in the past.

We believe in real and meaningful equality for women and ethnic minorities. We hold that this principle should be built into mainstream government policies and not relegated to token programmes or projects. In this way the problem of discrimination can be effectively and resolutely tackled.
On Capital spending the picture is the same. The DUP is concerned that over the last two years in primary school funding has been cut by £65m. We believe that this amount of money is essential to enable them to deliver the whole curriculum. The DUP has been successful in persuading the department to show recent figures which show that the amount of money spent on education is clear of debt, whereas others have still not reached this level.

The DUP believes that the present IRA/Sinn Fein Minister has abused his position in the allocation of funding across sectors of education in Northern Ireland. Irish Medium and integrated schools are to be treated differently than state controlled schools.

The DUP has used the Assembly to challenge this political use of public resources.

**FAIRNESS AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION - NOT REPUBLICAN BIAS**

The DUP has been successful in bringing about an investigation into the safety of public transport for children travelling to and from school. We have also been successful in lobbying for more Road Safety Education Officers.

The DUP has through the Chairmanship of the Assembly’s Environment Committee brought about an investigation into the safety of public transport for children travelling to and from school. We have also been successful in lobbying for more Road Safety Education Officers.

The DUP has challenged this blatant discrimination through questions, motions and the Education Committee. The DUP believes in the need to raise school standards. There is a necessity to ensure that the resources spent on education are used to their full potential and that young people are given the best educational start in life.

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**Fishing Communities must not be cast adrift**

The DUP is committed to having the fishing industry elevated within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. For too long fishing has been the poor relation. The retention of our fishing fleet with adequate and substantial funding to keep the industry viable is essential. The right to fish is a core issue as far the DUP is concerned.

A strategy worked up with the fishing industry should include appropriate mechanisms to derive decision making down to a local level and ensure accountability.

Our fishing industry produces a top quality product and there is clearly room for development through further processing. Help for the fish processors will create more employment and prosperity not only for the fishing villages but also for the economy of the Province as a whole.

The DUP is working for the provision of a decommissioning scheme that makes it cost effective for those fishermen who wish to leave the industry to do so. We are also campaigning for appropriate compensation for fishermen who are forced to "tie up" their vessels because of EU regulations and are therefore unable to make a living at certain times of the year.

**EQUALITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

People with disabilities must have their rights recognised and enshrined in the Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. We are committed to ensuring that the rights and needs of people with disabilities are respected and upheld by law. No one should be left isolated or marginalised simply because of their disability.

1 in 6 of our population has some form of disability and their rights must be protected and discrimination totally eradicated. Progress has been made but much more still remains to be done. No one should be left isolated or marginalised simply because of their disability.

**PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT**

The DUP supports a waste management strategy which will substantially reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

We have been in the fore in seeking greater protection of Areas of Special Scientific Interest and endangered species, birds and animals.

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EXTENDING FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION TO ALL

The DUP believes in the basic right of everyone to have the opportunity of higher and further education if they so wish. Promoting improved access and establishing affordability are the key principles underpinning our approach.

Higher and further education is the medium for life long learning offering new opportunities and options which are vital in the development of a knowledge based economy. It is essential that higher and further education is structured and funded to provide the capacity to cope with change and create the ability to re-skill to meet the needs of a changing work environment.

Enhancing and enlarging this sector and tailoring the programme of education to meet the modern skill requirements and labour demands is an imperative. We are committed to the improvement in standards of adult literacy and numeracy.

We believe in:

• The abolition of full time undergraduate tuition costs;
• The introduction of means tested non-repayable grants for the socially disadvantaged;
• A means tested discretionary loan system providing low cost student loans;
• A one-stop shop to deal with student administration;
• An increase in the number of third level education places in Northern Ireland;
• The establishment of a N Ireland Student Endowment Fund and a co-ordinated approach to encourage business, industry and all government departments to contribute to that Fund;
• Better co-ordination between further education and industry is essential as is the tailoring of further education courses to meet the demands of the labour market;
• Improved linkages between Schools Career advice and industry;
• Consolidation and improvement of vocational and basic skills;
• Development of the modern apprenticeship scheme.

Meeting Housing Need and Waging War on Poverty

The DUP is committed to building disused and derelict communities. In the areas of housing, urban regeneration and through partnership with the community and voluntary sector we are determined to bring about improvements to the lives of ordinary people.

• Under DUP Ministers a number of major successes have been achieved. We stopped the practice of imposing year on year Housing Executive rent increases above the rate of inflation. We gave the go ahead for a massive redevelopment scheme for BELFAST expected to create around 3,000 jobs. We also secured £6.6 million of funding to provide the physical and economic regeneration of inner north BELFAST as well as the development of a comprehensive strategy aimed at tackling the chronic housing needs in north BELFAST.
• By providing further help to the elderly through increases in the Winter fuel Allowance and the announcement of a new Warm Homes Scheme we set out to assist the elderly in particular.
• We have also secured the passage of new street trading legislation to combat illegal trading.
• The DUP is committed to tackling the high levels of antisocial especially in our rural communities.
• We are committed new legislation to combat and social behaviour as well as lighting to ensure that housing in Northern Ireland continues to benefit from the current high level of investment.
• The DUP will continue to work to ensure that decent, affordable housing is something that can be enjoyed by all our citizens.
• We have set in train new strategies for urban regeneration in our towns and cities throughout the Province through the development of new and innovative partnerships that can take a more holistic view in assessing problems and developing solutions.
• We are totally committed to ensuring that urgent action is taken to strengthen areas of weak community infrastructure, particularly in unionist areas.

PROTECTING ALL OUR CHILDREN

We lobbied successfully for the creation of a Children’s Commissioner. The DUP Chairman of the Committee at Stormont has instigated an enquiry into the creation of this post to ensure that the process is completed as quickly as possible.

It is essential that the powers of the new Commissioner are sufficient to meet the demand for the protection and advancement of the rights of children in our modern society.

DUP delivers for our Senior Citizens— but battle is not over

The DUP alone promised to bring in free fares for senior citizens on public transport and we alone are delivering on that promise. We will continue to help our older people.

There needs to be a more coherent and cohesive approach to issues involving older people. Our senior citizens are to be valued and respected for the contribution they have made in the past and for the continuing role they can play.

Senior citizens are entitled to live with dignity and in comfort. They should not have to rely on benefits or be denied access to adequate health and social services.

The DUP will continue to work for:

• Decent levels of income for all senior citizens with the link to average earnings for the state pension to be re-instated;
• The State Pension to be free of tax in all circumstances;
• A minimum income standard for all pensioner households as recommended by the Social Security Select Committee;
• Special support for the over 80s with an increase in the basic pension for this group;
• The maintenance of the Winter Fuel Allowance;
• Access to good quality affordable housing with security and a co-ordinated approach to encourage business, industry and all government departments to contribute to that Fund;
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A Healthy Society is a First Priority
Since 1969 Jim Finucane has led his constituents' fight for justice and fair treatment. The DUP offers a positive alternative to the divisive and bitter politics of the past. 

The DUP

The DUP is committed to promoting economic development strategies which will enable Northern Ireland to compete in a rapidly changing global economy.

We support policies which will build strong competitive industries to help transform the economy from one based not just on the manufacture of traditional goods but also high-tech, value-added goods.

The DUP believes that this policy will ensure the skills built up in the traditional sectors such as engineering and textiles. The intensive cost of electricity in Northern Ireland places local businesses at a huge disadvantage when compared with their competitors in GB. The DUP will support local businesses as they campaign to lower this cost burden to companies large and small.

Many businesses, particularly small organisations, find the amount of legislation, its complexity, and the frequency of legislative change inhibits their ability to manage the business and make it grow.

The DUP will support the business community as they seek to lessen the extent of the red tape that is constricting economic growth.

We support the establishment of a single development agency which will incorporate the work presently undertaken by the IDB, LEDs and the IDC.

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The DUP

The DUP is committed to promoting economic development strategies which will enable Northern Ireland to compete in a rapidly changing global economy.

We support policies which will build strong competitive industries to help transform the economy from one based not just on the manufacture of traditional goods but also high-tech, value-added goods.

The DUP believes that this policy will ensure the skills built up in the traditional sectors such as engineering and textiles. The intensive cost of electricity in Northern Ireland places local businesses at a huge disadvantage when compared with their competitors in GB. The DUP will support local businesses as they campaign to lower this cost burden to companies large and small.

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