

European and Local Government Manifesto 2014

Standing up for
Northern Ireland
in a growing EU

More efficient
Local Government

Backing business
and job creation in
the Northern Ireland
economy

Fighting for a
fair deal for farmers
and fishermen

Increasing EU funding
in Northern Ireland

Promoting
fundamental rights



**STANDING
UP FOR
NORTHERN
IRELAND**


DUP
www.mydup.com





Message from DUP Party Leader Rt. Hon. Peter Robinson MLA

Northern Ireland will go to the polls on the 22nd of May to elect Members to the European Parliament and Councillors for eleven new District Council Areas.

For just over 40 years our relationship with Europe has been constantly changing. More and more power and authority has been transferred from the UK to Brussels, yet the British people have not been given a say since 1975. It is time the British people were allowed to voice their opinion on what type of relationship we have with the European Union. That is why the DUP and our MEP Diane Dodds have campaigned for a referendum. A vote for Diane is a vote for change.

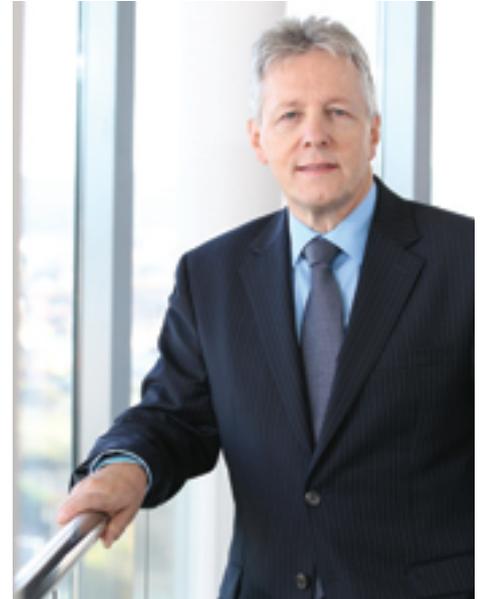
While the DUP advocates change in Europe, this election marks the start of a new era in local government. The implementation of new larger council areas will provide savings for ratepayers and better services for everyone throughout Northern Ireland.

The changes in local government boundaries will not alter the DUP's consistent record of delivery. We will build upon the successful constituency service built up by our Councillors, MLAs and MPs over many years. We will continue to work towards the delivery of yet more streamlined, responsive and efficient government.

Despite the global downturn, the DUP has continued to deliver on a local, national and European level. Our party's proud history of low taxation, demonstrated over many years in District Councils, will continue. Both in setting the regional rate and the district rate our pledge remains the same: we will continue to work to deliver the lowest household bills in the UK.

In Europe, our MEP will not be constrained by the national interest of European party groupings. Diane has a proud record of being an independent voice, putting Northern Ireland first. While others have been constrained, Diane has been able to speak out for the farmers, fishermen, business leaders and people of Northern Ireland. Diane will continue to be your independent voice in Europe.

In our 2014 manifesto the Democratic Unionist Party is setting out our plans and priorities for Europe and the new District Councils. On the 22nd of May, with your support we will continue to keep Northern Ireland moving forward.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Peter Robinson". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Your MEP – Diane Dodds

After serving the people of Belfast for more than 10 years, Diane was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in May 2009. She serves on the EU's Agriculture and Fisheries Committees, and has published four directories signposting businesses, community groups and churches to European funding.

Diane grew up on a small family farm outside Rathfriland in County Down and was educated at Annaclone Primary School, Banbridge Academy and Queen's University. A teacher by profession, Diane qualified from Stranmillis College before taking up a post at Laurelhill High School in Lisburn, where she taught History and English, as well as pupils with learning difficulties.

Prior to her election to the European Parliament, Diane had become the first unionist in a generation to win an Assembly seat in West Belfast. In 2005, she was elected to Belfast City Council with the highest individual vote of any candidate across Northern Ireland.

As a non-attached MEP, Diane successfully negotiated full membership of the EU Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. In this role, she has fought to get the best deal for our farmers, the environment and the wider rural community. She also secured representation on the EU Fisheries Committee and in this position authored two pieces of legislation that now give local fishermen greater flexibility to fish cod stocks in the North Sea.

In Europe, Diane has made it a priority to expose the red tape and costly practices that strangle our businesses and pick the pockets of our taxpayers. She is a leading member on the Steering Group of the Single Seat Campaign, which aims to make savings of €200 million every year by basing the Parliament in one location.

Diane has also championed religious freedoms on the European stage, fighting the corner of Christians persecuted across the world through speeches and seminars. She is also a member of the Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Israel.

During her first term as an MEP, Diane identified a need to increase the level of EU funding coming into Northern Ireland. She has published a 'Signposts to Funding' series, comprising four directories that outline different opportunities for businesses, faith-based organisations and community groups.

At home, Diane is a keen supporter of many charitable causes. She has volunteered for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal and has fundraised for several organisations, including the Friends of the Cancer Centre,

anti-human trafficking group No More Traffik and the Mandeville Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital.

When not working in Brussels, Strasbourg or her Lisburn office, Diane enjoys spending time with her family at home, and especially the new addition to the family, her grandson Henry.







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Northern Ireland Moving Forward



Under DUP leadership, Northern Ireland has been moving forward.

We are the only party standing up for Northern Ireland in Europe, Westminster, the Assembly and District Councils.

Unionism united at every level of government is Unionism that is confident and strong. In this election it is important that the Unionist vote is not shredded and a strong Unionist voice is heard.

Only the Democratic Unionist Party offer a united Unionist voice.

As we move forward, we do so in the knowledge that at no time in our lifetime has the union been more secure. But this should not lead to complacency and more needs to be done. The DUP is the only party with a strategy to lead Northern Ireland into its second century more robust and stronger than ever before.

Our record stands for itself. The DUP has delivered. Without the strong voice of the DUP water charges would have been introduced; rates would be higher; grammar schools would be no more; student fees would have trebled and legislation would have been introduced redefining marriage.

The economy stands stronger because of the work of the DUP. Outside of London, Northern Ireland currently attracts the highest rate of inward investment, more than any other region of the UK. Month after month, our unemployment rate continues to fall. Over 17,000 new jobs have been created in challenging economic times.

Our record is one of standing up for business. That is why we have saved businesses millions of pounds through Industrial de-rating and the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme. For our economy to be rebuilt, an environment for businesses to thrive needs to be created. That is why the DUP placed the economy and jobs at the heart of recovery.

Much has been done, but more still needs to be achieved. We cannot afford to be complacent. That is why a vote for the DUP is a vote to build on the foundation which has been laid, and to keep Northern Ireland moving forward.

But Unionism must be vigilant. The exposure of the "On the Run" administrative scheme has only served to prove that more work needs to be undertaken to move Northern Ireland forward to a peaceful society. The DUP will not tolerate the diminution of justice. While some content themselves by only making statements of condemnation the DUP wants to get something done for victims.

While other Unionists in the past had been weak and caved in to Republican demands and political side-deals, it was the DUP that stood up for justice and demanded that the scheme end and those responsible be held to account.

That is why the DUP has been the party fighting for victims. In both Westminster and the Assembly we have been to the fore in fighting for the definition of a victim to be changed. A classification of victims that equates perpetrators and the injured party is not only wrong but also immoral. That is why the DUP introduced Private Members legislation in an attempt to change the law. The DUP will continue to provide a voice for the voiceless in Northern Ireland.

The DUP is the only party not afraid to take the tough decisions. At every level of government, our MEP, MPs, Ministers, MLAs and Councillors, are standing up for Northern Ireland.

On 22nd May a vote for the DUP is a vote for the party standing up for Northern Ireland. A vote for the DUP is a vote to look forward.

Over the past decade, the DUP has been the largest Unionist party. Much has changed and more needs to be done. While we remember the past and those who have suffered, this election is an opportunity to once again keep Northern Ireland moving forward.





7 ways we're keeping Northern Ireland Moving Forward





1. Strengthening Unionism

Support for Northern Ireland's position in the United Kingdom is at an all-time high.

2. Securing Relative Peace

While terrorist threats remain, Northern Ireland is enjoying the most peaceful era for many decades.

3. Bringing More Jobs

We have attracted more foreign direct investment to Northern Ireland than at any point in our history.

4. Delivering Lower Taxes

Northern Ireland has the lowest household taxes of anywhere in the UK.

5. Helping Students

We have not followed the policy in England of increasing Student Fees to over £9,000 and have frozen them in real terms for Northern Ireland helping to make higher education available to all.

6. Attracting International Events

Because of the progress that has been made Northern Ireland has been able to attract significant events such as the G8, the World Police and Fire Games, the Irish Open, the MTV awards and the Giro cycling race.

7. Investing in Health

We have invested in our health service facilities by opening the new £270 million South West Acute Hospital and are providing funding for work to start on the £250m new Children's Hospital.



The Right Priorities

- ✓ Standing up for Northern Ireland in a growing EU
 - ✓ Backing business and job creation in the Northern Ireland economy
 - ✓ Fighting for a fair deal for farmers and fishermen
 - ✓ Increasing EU funding in Northern Ireland
 - ✓ Promoting fundamental rights
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A Record of Delivery

- ✓ The best Parliamentary record of any Northern Ireland MEP
 - ✓ Published four funding directories to help local community groups, churches and businesses secure millions of pounds
 - ✓ Organised over 120 public meetings across Northern Ireland to highlight funding opportunities
 - ✓ Holds key roles on the European Parliament Agriculture and Fisheries Committees, highlighting the needs of our farmers and fishermen
 - ✓ Thousands of constituency cases dealt with right across the Province
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Standing up for Northern Ireland in a growing EU

A New Relationship with Europe

The DUP believes that our relationship with Europe is important. However, in the past three decades, there has been a steady transfer of powers from our sovereign Parliament at Westminster to the corridors and back alleys of Brussels and Strasbourg.

These changes have been hard-felt by people living across Northern Ireland. Local businesses, farmers and fishermen have all been suffocated by EU red tape that determines when, where and how they can work, while bureaucrats in Brussels continue to pick the pockets of our taxpayers. We live under the continual threat of losing more and more of our national sovereignty, and with every day that passes, we appear less able to control our own destiny.

Diane Dodds and the DUP advocate changing the UK's relationship with the EU and will work to bring about a new association that prioritises trade and cooperation, rather than federalism and integration.

EU Referendum Long Overdue

The DUP will continue to campaign for the people of Northern Ireland to have their say on the UK's relationship with the European Union. We welcome the announcement by the Prime Minister that if elected, he will hold a referendum on Europe during the next term of Parliament.

- While our preference is to hold a referendum now, Diane Dodds will fight to ensure that a date for a poll on EU membership is announced by the end of 2016.
- We will seek a commitment from the Labour Party and Liberal Democrats that a referendum will take place regardless of who holds the keys to Downing Street after the next General Election.
- We will encourage a real debate on the European question in the next term and lead calls for a new relationship with Europe which preserves national sovereignty and prevents ever closer union.

Less European bureaucracy is good for the UK. It is good for democracy in this country and good for businesses and households across our Province. The Prime Minister has promised to bring back powers from Europe and while this approach is to be welcomed, we will wait and watch to see how successful he is in doing this.

Diane Dodds will remain committed to providing a voice for those living and working across Northern Ireland who hold major concerns regarding the EU.

Reforming Europe

The DUP believes fundamental changes are needed to ensure that taxpayers in Northern Ireland reap the benefits of greater European cooperation.

Over the past five years in the European Parliament, Diane Dodds has consistently highlighted the extortionate cost of Europe to our taxpayers. She has also publicly questioned the lack of transparency and accountability in many EU areas, including its numerous quangos.

The DUP remains concerned with inconsistencies in the enforcement of EU legislation. While Northern Ireland is often forced to gold plate European laws, we see other countries escape penalties for non-compliance.

In the new term, Diane will:

- Pursue a level playing field in Europe.
- Work towards building an EU that is more transparent
- Seek better value for money for businesses and households across Northern Ireland.

The Cost of Europe

The European Union is costing people in Northern Ireland billions of pounds every year. The DUP will continue to oppose the historic trend of waste and inefficiency in Europe and promote greater savings.

The UK is currently a net contributor to the EU, as we pay more into the budget than we get back out. Our annual contribution is in the region of £19.1 billion. This is money from the pockets of businesses, families and households across Northern Ireland.

Supporting a Single Seat

Diane Dodds and the DUP will continue to fight for a Single Seat for the European Parliament to increase efficiency and generate savings. In the past term, Diane Dodds has been an integral member of the Single Seat Campaign's steering group in the European Parliament. She has addressed seminars and co-signed many amendments to European legislation calling for one base for Parliament's activities. At present, the European Parliament splits its work over three locations; Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg. MEPs move from Brussels to Parliament's official seat in Strasbourg for one week every month, costing EU taxpayers €180 million annually and €1 billion every seven years.

This arrangement means that almost three times the amount of infrastructure, technical support, communications and interpreting is needed. Annual costs for maintaining Parliament Buildings in Strasbourg hits tens of millions, despite the premises being closed for 317 days every year.

The price of a multi-seat European Parliament

€180m	The additional yearly running costs of a multi-seat European Parliament, including depreciation on buildings
€600m	The cost of the European Parliament's new buildings in Strasbourg, its official 'Seat'. Many buildings were previously rented
€80m	The amount the City of Strasbourg overcharged the European Parliament for rent of buildings in previous years
+150%	The average increase in hotel prices during parliamentary sittings in Strasbourg. Most guests are EU officials
€20m	The European Parliament's value to Strasbourg's economy. This could be greater if it was a permanent home to another institution
€600m	The cost of a new building for the European Parliament's administration in Luxembourg, an agreement by EU governments

The environmental cost of the 'travelling circus'

19,000t	The amount of CO ₂ created by moving thousands to Strasbourg each month, making the city's air quality worse
2x ✈ ✈	Most MEPs need two connecting flights from home to Strasbourg, as there are few direct connections, creating even more pollution
317	The number of days a year the Strasbourg buildings are empty, but still heated or air-conditioned, and lit
409km	The distance that convoys of large trucks must travel between Brussels and Strasbourg each month carrying materials and papers
409km	Four days later they bring thousands of trunks back to Brussels, the European Parliament's headquarters
40%	The amount MEPs voted to cut CO ₂ across the EU by 2030, and the amount of their CO ₂ which could be saved by having a Single Seat

Source: www.singleseat.eu

Cutting EU Quangos

The DUP wants to see a cut in the number of unnecessary and costly EU quangos. We will promote the abolition of European bodies that duplicate functions offering little end reward for the people of Northern Ireland.

- The number of EU quangos has doubled since 2004.
- In the past three years, spending on the EU's 56 quangos has risen by a third.
- In 2012 alone, the cost of EU quangos reached £2.5 billion.
- Under the 2014-2020 EU budget, quangos will receive a 4% spending increase.

Annual savings of over €400 million could be made to the EU budget by cutting EU quangos. Diane Dodds and the DUP are committed to working toward this goal in the new term.

Transparency and Accountability

In the next five years, Diane Dodds and the DUP will work to make the European institutions more transparent and more accountable to the people of Northern Ireland.

Spending on Europe's unaccountable civil service is unacceptably high and is set to rise by almost 2% between 2014-2020. This increase comes despite the EU already employing 3,000 unelected officials with salaries of over €144,000, while public service employees lose their jobs or face a pay freeze in the UK.

In addition, despite not being elected by people anywhere in Europe, twenty-eight European Commissioners are also responsible for much of the red tape that we as citizens in Northern Ireland face in our everyday lives.

Diane Dodds will:

- Seek fairer and more proportionate salaries for EU officials, especially given the recent economic climate.
- Push for greater spending cuts in the growing Brussels bureaucracy in line with national austerity measures.
- Promote a legislative process that is more democratic and transparent.
- Ensure that effective public consultation is at the core of EU legislation, in order to ensure accountability.

Defending the UK Economy

The DUP opposes an EU banking union and believes that the United Kingdom should retain complete control over its financial affairs.

With every piece of legislation that is passed in Brussels and Strasbourg, the European Union seems to interfere more and more with the everyday lives of people in Northern Ireland. The DUP continues to believe that the United Kingdom and other EU Member States should have greater control over their domestic policies, including their economic affairs.

Diane Dodds and the DUP will oppose further economic integration as it neither recognises, nor solves, the cause of the EU's economic problems, the folly of a single currency.

- We believe the financial crisis has justified the UK's decision not to join the euro. The UK Government now retains the flexibility to vary a range of economic powers and practices in order to spark growth.
- The global economic situation has shown that a European monetary union does not work. The eurozone project, which was politically inspired, is now in crisis.
- We believe that the UK should not join an EU banking union. The UK should not have to share the burden of debts accrued by the banks of failing eurozone countries, such as Greece and Spain. We are of the view that Northern Ireland's taxpayers should not have to help solve a problem that they did not create.

Preserving UK Foreign Policy

The DUP will continue to defend the UK's right to devise and govern its own foreign policy. We will resist any attempts to harmonise Europe's defences.

In the past five years, Diane Dodds has actively voiced opposition to the European External Action Service (EEAS), which employs 3,500 people and costs taxpayers across Europe almost €500 million every year for its role in representing EU interests throughout the world.

We in the DUP believe that this agency undermines national foreign policies across Europe, at a ludicrous cost and should be abolished. We will pursue this goal in the next five years.

No to EU Military Integration

The DUP will oppose any form of EU military integration and will defend the UK's sovereign right to govern its own defences and national security policy.

Diane will:

- Oppose any plans for an EU Military Headquarters.
- Reject any attempts to centralise the procurement of weaponry and defence equipment throughout the EU.
- Lobby the UK Government to opt out of any proposals for a common EU defence strategy.

A British Justice System

We will continue to defend the sovereignty of the British criminal justice system against further encroachment by the European Union.

Diane Dodds has actively opposed the role of unelected judges within the European Court of Justice (ECJ) and European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in overruling UK decisions on sentencing and deportation. She has spoken fervently against the decision of the ECHR last year that whole life sentences without the opportunity for release are a breach of human rights. Diane believes life should mean life.

Diane has also voted against all attempts by the European Parliament to adopt a common EU approach to criminal law. The DUP will at all times seek to preserve the UK's democratic right to prosecute, try, convict, sentence and deport on its own terms.

Diane will:

- Continue to oppose the role of unelected judges within the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights. She will defend the independence and efficiency of the British criminal justice system.
- Reject any plans for a single European criminal justice system. She will advocate tough sentencing at a national level.
- Reject any plans to create an EU Public Prosecutor to fight financial crime.
- Oppose further harmonisation of rules relating to immigration, asylum and visas across the EU.
- Reject the European Commission's use of national justice scoreboards to compare how criminal trials are conducted throughout EU Member States.
- Continue to oppose the ludicrous ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) giving prisoners the right to vote.

Immigration

The DUP will continue to defend the UK's sovereign right to protect its own borders and remain outside the Schengen Agreement.

While we believe that free movement across the EU brings many economic benefits, it has also become apparent that the influx of immigrants can create many economic tensions.

Diane Dodds believes that the costs of immigration are most keenly felt within our welfare system, especially in regard to health provision and social housing. We will advocate tighter controls on EU immigration into Northern Ireland in order to reduce the burdens on our Province's nurses and doctors.

The DUP will also oppose further EU enlargement, as this threatens to aggravate illegal immigration, increase cross-border crime, and direct EU funds away from worthy projects in Northern Ireland. It would also create uncertainty within internal trade in relation to the quality of produce entering our markets.

Diane will:

- Reject any attempts to further harmonise EU rules on immigration and asylum.
- Lobby the UK Government to place immigration at the forefront of negotiations aimed at bringing back powers from Brussels to Westminster.
- Promote a strategy that will better align economic need with EU immigration into the UK.
- Oppose further EU enlargement.
- Encourage flexible visa arrangements for students in Northern Ireland taking part in exchange schemes across Europe and further afield.

Organised Crime

Free movement across Europe has increased organised crime between our borders and escalated the problem. The DUP believes that a coordinated approach must be taken by EU Member States to tackle the damage that it is causing to our society and the economy.

The decision taken by Sinn Fein and the SDLP to block the UK's National Crime Agency from operating in Northern Ireland is totally abhorrent.

Over the past five years, Diane Dodds has promoted the need for full political and public support for those charged with combating organised crime. In the European Parliament, she has illustrated the extent of fuel laundering in Northern Ireland and the vastly detrimental economic impact it is having locally.

Moving forward, Diane will:

- Press the case for a more coordinated and well-resourced strategy for tackling organised crime, including fuel and money laundering, human trafficking and drug crimes, across EU borders.
- Continue to highlight the implications that organised crime can have for funding terrorist activity in regions of the EU, including Northern Ireland. We believe an EU strategy must prioritise combating organised crime in these contexts.
- Promote a more targeted approach to specifically tackling cross-border food fraud across the EU.



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Backing business and job creation in the Northern Ireland economy

Securing our place within the Single Market

The DUP recognises that the Single Market is one of the European Union's most transformative assets. We want to maximise the economic opportunities that it presents for Northern Ireland.

As a region of the UK, Northern Ireland is now part of a Europe that is better connected than ever before, by air, rail, sea and online. With better connectivity there is an inherent potential for economic growth, via the free movement of labour, goods, capital and services. Diane Dodds wants to help businesses and individuals in our local communities to exploit this potential.

We are committed to promoting Northern Ireland's highly-educated and high-skilled workforce at an EU level and showcasing our region of the UK as an hospitable business environment within the Single Market.

The DUP will:

- Target the growth potential offered by the free movement of goods and services between Northern Ireland and the rest of Europe.
- Promote new growth sectors in Northern Ireland such as tourism, the creative industries and energy.
- Promote greater investment in our air travel infrastructure, in order to improve our position within the Single Market.
- Ensure that educational and training qualifications held by residents of Northern Ireland are professionally recognised throughout the EU.
- Protect Northern Ireland consumers and ensure that they have confidence to avail of the wide selection of products and services available to them through the Single Market.

Trade

The DUP supports an export-led economic recovery in Northern Ireland. We want to help local businesses to identify existing and emerging global markets into which they can supply indigenous products and services to the rest of Europe and further afield.

While we believe the UK would be better equipped to negotiate trade in its own right, the DUP will work to ensure that our interests are upheld in EU agreements.

Over the past five years, Diane Dodds has voted in favour of EU trade agreements with countries including the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. These agreements have reduced barriers to trade between Northern Ireland and the rest of the world in several areas, including agriculture and pharmaceuticals.

In the next term, the DUP will:

- Continue to support EU legislation that positively reduces trade barriers between Northern Ireland, other countries in the EU and the rest of the world.
- Support targeted investment in our digital and transport infrastructures in order to maximise the potential for transferring products, services and capital developed in Northern Ireland to other parts of the world.
- Promote the use of e-commerce as a way for businesses to increase exports and meet consumer demand. We will vote in favour of any EU proposals that would increase confidence in online trade.
- Showcase Northern Ireland products and services at a European level. We will use examples of local innovation to promote greater trade links with the rest of Europe, the Far East and North America.
- Assist local companies and first-time exporters to diversify into new export markets across the globe.

Boosting Business

The DUP recognises that the dawn of political stability in Northern Ireland has been met by turbulent economic times. Businesses across our Province continue to operate within a tough financial climate. Many fear for their future.

We are committed to getting Northern Ireland's economy back on track by promoting a business environment that benefits local enterprises, fosters entrepreneurship, and encourages investment both in research, innovation and from abroad.

The DUP believes that any regulation is better made locally and must be more flexible to meet the conditions needed to encourage growth.

Diane will:

- Oppose further EU red tape for Northern Ireland's businesses. We are of the view that new legislation in Europe must always be a last resort.
- Actively seek to increase levels of inward investment in Northern Ireland by supporting measures that reduce burdens on businesses.
- Continue to showcase the ingenuity of Northern Ireland's businesses on the European stage.
- Support proposals that would allow small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to better exploit the freedom offered by the Single Market.
- Seek more effective enforcement of current legislation.

Attracting Inward Investment

Despite the continuing consequences of the global economic recession, Northern Ireland has created more new jobs than in any other period in its history.

Much of this success has been due to the fact that our Province has attracted disproportionately more foreign direct investment than the rest of the UK. Many firms, including Citi Group, Allen and Overy and Coca Cola have increased their investment within our shores. The DUP is committed to safeguarding this progress and attracting increased levels of inward investment in Northern Ireland.

In Europe, Diane Dodds has consistently defended Northern Ireland's EU regional aid status, which allows the Executive to offer both foreign and indigenous companies financial incentives to invest in Northern Ireland. She will continue to press the case for the retention of our 100% Assisted Area Status in order to allow continued, targeted growth within the private sector.

The DUP advocates the devolution of corporation tax-varying powers to Stormont. Northern Ireland has become the most desirable place outside of London for Foreign Direct Investment in the UK and we believe that having the opportunity to lower the rate of corporation tax would provide our business leaders with a level playing field on which to better compete with the Republic of Ireland for inward investment by major global companies. We will continue to lobby the UK Government for a measured and phased transfer of these powers.

Supporting Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are the very fabric of the economy in Northern Ireland. The DUP wants to see a competitive business environment in which SMEs can thrive, unburdened by Brussels.

Over the past five years, Diane Dodds has worked tirelessly to represent the interests of Northern Ireland's SMEs in the European Parliament. In 2012, she collaborated with the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), The Institute of Directors, and Confederation of British Industry (CBI) to launch 'Signposts to funding opportunities for Businesses', which aimed to assist small and medium sized enterprises in combating the effects of the economic crisis.

The EU already overly regulates Northern Ireland's businesses, determining how, when and where they operate. Regulation should be scaled back.

The DUP will continue to oppose further regulation and seek to provide start-up assistance and access to finance to new and existing businesses in our communities.

Diane will:

- Oppose any attempts by the European Commission to place further red tape on SMEs in Northern Ireland. We will promote the needs of smaller businesses at every stage of the legislative process.
- Support any changes to employment laws that provide SMEs greater flexibility to fulfil their growth potential. We will push for a review of the Working Time Directive
- Advocate simplification of EU laws and processes to ensure micro businesses are able to readily understand the impacts and opportunities.
- Lobby for easier access to finance for small enterprises.
- Promote funding opportunities under the EU's Horizon 2020 Programme across the Province, to spearhead research among SMEs.
- Encourage uptake of funding from the COSME programme to support local entrepreneurship.
- Signpost details of relevant European and domestic funding opportunities to businesses in Northern Ireland through public engagement.

- Assist new SMEs through start-up packages, training, business-model support, micro-incubators and other forms of investment support for self-employment.
- Facilitate peer mentoring and buddying between SMEs, both in Northern Ireland and across Europe in order to share best practice and discuss challenges facing businesses.
- Protect intellectual property rights of SMEs.
- Seek to implement the EU Services Directive more effectively and fully.
- Work to remove gold-plating to ensure a level playing field for all SMEs in the enforcement of EU laws. We will promote better implementation rather than new legislation.
- Oppose proposed data protection rules which could stifle competition and growth.
- Support SMEs in identifying and entering new export markets for products and services, both within the EU and further afield.

- Provide assistance to new SMEs in future growth sectors such as tourism, ICT and the creative industries, and to those investing in innovative and emerging technologies.
- Encourage more SMEs across Northern Ireland to get online and to exploit economic opportunities presented by e-commerce. We will promote a more secure online and cross-border environment for SMEs.



Promoting Research and Development

The DUP believes that greater EU funding must be made available between 2014-2020 for research and development activities in Northern Ireland. This investment will allow businesses and public sector organisations across our Province to discover new knowledge about existing products and services, which can then be applied to spark growth in the future.

Diane will:

- Promote collaboration between our universities and SMEs towards targeted research and development aimed at encouraging economic growth.
- Work to improve the capacity for R&D within industry, agriculture, horticulture and biomedical sciences.
- Support local examples of 'smart region' models across Northern Ireland in order to spearhead research and innovation and nurture growth among our enterprises.
- Support uptake of the EU Horizon 2020 Programme for Research and Technological Development, as well as other initiatives which fund research aimed at creating employment and increasing competitiveness.

Sustainable Tourism

As Northern Ireland continues to emerge from a landscape scarred by decades of terrorism and political instability, the DUP believes it is important to harness the clear tourist potential underlying our Province's rich natural and industrial heritage.

In Spring 2012, Diane hosted an exhibition in the European Parliament to showcase Northern Ireland's tourism and economic potential.

Northern Ireland has already so much to offer tourists from across the world, such as the new Titanic building and the DUP want to build on this progress in order to secure the benefits for our local economy in times ahead.

In the next term, Diane will:

- Continue to advocate for a reduction in Air Passenger Duty.
- Support farmers who aim to diversify into tourism by operating holiday accommodation, such as self-catering cottages and caravan camping grounds, or leisure enterprises, through the EU Rural Development Programme.
- Encourage greater investment in the shared tourist potential of Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Western Scotland through the EU's INTERREG Programme. We will promote shared cultural heritage, such as projects relating to Ulster-Scots or Orangeism.

Energy

We are committed to reducing energy costs for businesses and consumers across Northern Ireland. With fuel poverty continuing to affect many households, Diane Dodds has at every opportunity sought to challenge the European Commission to adopt a positive strategy aimed at making energy costs more affordable for our citizens.

In the past five years, Diane has actively promoted EU investment in energy efficiency projects. She has signposted the EU's Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, which encourages greater energy savings and a better uptake of renewable energy. Diane has also worked with the European Commission on the extension of the gas pipeline to the West of Northern Ireland.

Moving forward, Diane will:

- Challenge the European Commission and European Parliament to proactively tackle rising energy costs across Europe.
- Encourage greater UK investment in Northern Ireland's energy infrastructure, particularly electricity, oil and gas networks. We want to realise easier access to the electricity grid for businesses entering and operating in the renewable energy sector.
- Support SMEs and encourage job creation in the production and storage of wind and wave energy.
- Lobby for EU funding for projects that increase our Province's capacity for storing and supplying renewable energy.
- Explore the potential for anaerobic digestion through co-digestion of wastewater treatment sludge and agricultural material.
- Promote education among the public and government agencies of the benefits of supplying food waste for anaerobic digestion, in order to reduce landfill.

The Environment

While protecting and promoting Northern Ireland's environment, the DUP will seek to utilise the many economic growth opportunities offered. We want to promote an innovative approach to harnessing our natural resources and encouraging diversification into renewables.

Diane will:

- Promote EU and UK investment in projects that develop best practice models for land and habitat management in Northern Ireland, particularly in less favoured areas.
- Work to protect indigenous plants, including heather, as well as preserve coastal wildlife.
- Seek to increase environmental tourism by creating new scenic trails and routes across our Province.
- Encourage the continued celebration of Northern Ireland's wildlife, including endangered species.

Connected Health

The DUP remains committed to improving the ways that healthcare is delivered in Northern Ireland. Our Province is a leading authority in the area of connected health, and has actively promoted the use of new and innovative health technologies which can improve patient experiences and provide a boost for our local economy.

Under the stewardship of the DUP, the Department of Health has collaborated with Invest NI to make the vision of e-health a working reality. More and more patients across Northern Ireland can now be monitored remotely from their own homes.

Over the past five years, Diane Dodds has been committed to promoting Northern Ireland's Connected Health and Prosperity Agenda in Europe.

In January 2013, she hosted an exhibition in the European Parliament, attended by the EU Health Commissioner, Tonio Borg, to showcase some of the innovative devices and practices that have been implemented by health care professionals in our region of the UK.

In the new term, Diane will:

- Work to increase EU investment in Northern Ireland's innovative approach to connected health.
- Continue to showcase state of the art health technologies developed and used in Northern Ireland on a European stage.
- Exploit the local economic opportunities offered by the development of new and innovative health practices and medical devices.
- Seek to increase the research capacity of our universities and industry, in order to adopt a knowledge-based approach to developing connected health.

Mobile Data Charges

The DUP welcomes the recent decision of the European Parliament to abolish data roaming charges across the EU by the end of 2015. We are committed to ensuring that consumers and businesses have confidence to exploit the Single Market.

In the next five years, Diane Dodds will:

- Promote more flexible mobile phone contracts for consumers, including 12 month terms.
- Encourage greater transparency within mobile phone contracts, especially in regard to removing jargon.
- Work to give customers the right to end a contract if the promised conditions, such as internet speeds, are not met.

Increasing Access to Broadband

The DUP will promote greater EU investment in Northern Ireland's digital infrastructure. We want to roll out broadband services and increase access to ICT in order to allow consumers and businesses to better exploit the internet.

Diane will:

- Encourage the continued deployment of high-speed broadband across Northern Ireland, in order to increase access to the internet and encourage business start-ups in rural areas.
- Encourage greater uptake of ICT among existing small and medium sized enterprises, in order to increase operational efficiency and provide opportunities for expanding into online, cross-border markets.
- Source EU funding for investing in the digital economy in Northern Ireland, in order to encourage growth and expansion.
- Work in Europe to complement the work of the Invest Northern Ireland-led Digital Northern Ireland 2020 project.
- Promote the use of ICT by community groups and enterprises in the social economy, in order to help reduce levels of social exclusion.
- Foster entrepreneurship to develop new digital services and products.





4

**Fighting for a
fair deal for farmers
and fishermen**

Agri food is a key driver of the Northern Ireland economy. It sustains an estimated 100,000 jobs and contributes some £5bn in sales. It is also a key exporter of produce with some £2.6bn in external sales.

As a party dedicated to growing the economy and providing jobs and incomes for families we are deeply committed to the sector and the family farms which produce the raw material.

Since becoming a Member of the European Parliament Diane Dodds has continuously engaged with farmers and those living in rural areas across our Province. Diane's unwavering support for Northern Ireland's agricultural sector has been highlighted by the numerous local visits, the dozens of rural road shows and the daily work carried out by a dedicated team in her constituency office.

In Brussels, as a member of the Agriculture Committee, Diane has lobbied the Commission, spoken out on the issues affecting Northern Ireland's family farms and raised countless questions and amendments to reports. Most importantly Diane has been a voice for farmers on CAP reform.

Reform of the Common Agriculture Policy

Diane has played an active role in the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy as a member of the European Parliament Agriculture Committee. As the first DUP MEP to have the privilege to serve as a full time member of the committee Diane has worked tirelessly to protect the interests of agriculture right across Northern Ireland during the reform process.

CAP Budget

The budget for the CAP has been under considerable pressure from other policy priorities in the European Institutions. Diane has worked with other MEPs to ensure that the budget for CAP was maintained as much as possible. DUP MPs have worked to ensure that Northern Ireland's percentage share of the overall UK allocation of the CAP budget stayed the same as in previous budget allocations.

Single Farm Payment

The Single Farm Payment is crucial in supporting food production and the wider agri food sector in Northern Ireland. The DUP has huge concerns about the current policy implications of CAP reform on the issue of support. However Europe has decided that there will continue to be support, but eventually this will be levied at a common per hectare payment. We will continue to fight for a system of support for agriculture that prioritises

food security as well as supporting productive, sustainable and competitive agriculture. This will include a sensible rate of transition from the current system to the new European proposals

Environmental sustainability

The DUP believes in the sensible management of the countryside and the preservation and protection of the unique and beautiful landscape of Northern Ireland. We have always opposed the introduction of environmental measures in Pillar 1 of the CAP believing that these are better placed in the Rural Development aspect of the policy. During the reform process we fought against the more unmanageable and harmful proposals from the Commission. Northern Ireland is now in a position where there are a series of environmental measures in Pillar 1 and a legislative requirement for 30% of the Pillar 2 budget to be maintained for agri environment schemes. We believe that locally DARD should review its schemes where targets have not been met and implement schemes which have increased environmental and climate benefit.

Young Farmers Scheme

This element of the CAP is compulsory and supported by the DUP. Start ups in agriculture are massively capital intensive. The average age of landholders in Northern Ireland is around 57 years. In order to grow the sector we need to introduce new people. Therefore we continue to fully support this aspect of reform.

Red Tape

Northern Ireland can, quite rightly, take pride in the quality and traceability of its food. However farm businesses continue to operate under a costly and burdensome set of rules from the European Institutions and indeed our own Agriculture Department. Diane Dodds has voted against unnecessary bureaucratic burdens such as some aspects of sheep EID. The DUP will continue to try and protect our local industry from over regulation from Brussels.

Less Favoured Areas / Areas of Natural Constraint

The DUP is committed to the continuation of support for areas in Northern Ireland where it is more difficult to make a financial return from the land because of the natural constraints of the area. While there is provision for this policy to be reviewed with CAP reform we believe that this should wait while there is further discussion on these matters at a European level. We therefore support the continuation of the scheme throughout the Pillar 2 mechanism.

Rural Development

We need to see a vibrant rural economy and support service provision for rural dwellers. Diane has been both a critic and advocate of rural development spending over the past five years. Certain schemes have had a positive impact on communities and businesses, such as the farm modernisation scheme, farm diversification and support for local community organisations. For many of these schemes money has been severely limited and the schemes have often been oversubscribed.

In the 2007-2013 programme period money was slow to get out on the ground and the audit requirements and administrative burden pushed people to withdraw from schemes. Diane has taken a stand against the DARD Minister's use of strategic projects, many of which have been awarded between £250,000 and £1million. Many of these were applications favouring certain sporting organisations and initiatives which Councils couldn't fund.

Moving forward Diane will aim to ensure that Rural Development funding is directed towards driving efficiencies in agriculture, managing the countryside with an emphasis on environmental and climate benefit and supporting sustainable rural businesses to drive the economy forward.

Going for Growth

Going for Growth is an important industry led road-map to delivering growth and increasing profitability for primary producers. It is essential that the implementation of the Common Agriculture Policy is used appropriately to meet the aims and objectives of "Going for Growth". The DUP recognises that without the primary producer we have no supply chain. Hence the importance of a slow transition towards a flat rate protecting productive family farms across Northern Ireland.

While others sit back and wait, the DUP through Arlene Foster has delivered on "Going for Growth" through the extension of the gas network across Northern Ireland, rolling out the agri food loan scheme, reviewing the agri food sector and reviewing the way in which we market and promote agricultural produce within the UK and abroad. These actions are delivering and growing confidence within the industry. This confidence has been borne out by the fact that there are an unprecedented number of food companies applying to Invest Northern Ireland for support to grow and establish new businesses. Diane Dodds has taken the lead as an MEP in Europe to fight for the extension of the gas pipeline to the west of Northern Ireland and to ensure increased financial assistance can be provided to small businesses.

The DUP is also aware of the need for greater access to broadband in rural areas. We are committed to building capacity and infrastructure to aid business start-ups, job creation and growth in rural communities.

Agriculture and the Environment

The future of agriculture and the wider countryside rests on sustaining and enhancing the environment right across Northern Ireland. We as custodians of the environment must endeavour to ensure the next generation can enjoy the same benefits.

Over the past five years, Diane Dodds has taken a keen interest in ensuring that Countryside Management Schemes from DARD are accessible and deliver tangible outcomes for the environment. In the next round of funding, where 30% of the rural development budget is set aside to deal with the environment and climate change issues, DARD must deliver a policy which caters for all, not just the select few and provide education not penalties.

Other Government organisations like the Northern Ireland Environment Agency - while important to ensure standards are maintained, should take a pragmatic approach to inspections and enforcement. The Agency should place a greater emphasis on education and raising awareness, rather than a sole focus on inspections, to deliver greater environmental benefits. A greater understanding of the practical issues facing farmers is a must, especially in relation to the impact weather conditions can have on farm businesses.

If re-elected Diane Dodds will:

- Continue to fight for an implementation of the Common Agriculture Policy which will deliver for farmers, the environment, rural economy and rural dwellers.
- Ensure that the European Commission, conducts as a matter of urgency, a review of sheep EID requirements, the functioning of the supply chain across Europe, the designation of the areas of natural constraint, nitrates and phosphorous legislation and if necessary the implementation of the Common Agriculture Policy, with clear outcomes which will deliver a more balanced approach to legislation.
- Work with the DUP team at Council, Stormont and Westminster to deliver on reducing the burden of red tape on farmers and agri food businesses.
- Continue to promote agriculture at home and in Europe to ensure consumers know the benefits of buying produce from Northern Ireland and to open up new markets.

Freedom to fish

Seafood remains a vital industry to our coastal communities and the DUP continues to believe that Northern Ireland's fishing industry, as well as wider marine environment would be better served divorced from the interference of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Until that reality is secured Diane Dodds will continue to lobby at the heart of Europe to help secure an economically viable and sustainable local fishing industry.

Diane and the DUP have delivered on commitments made prior to the last European Parliament election. Working together at Stormont, Westminster and in Brussels they have maximised the short term aid available to local fishermen, whilst working to relieve the disastrous consequences of a failed centralised fisheries management regime.

Diane has delivered local fishing issues to the heart of Brussels. Be it cod recovery, annual quota negotiations, fisheries conservation, international mackerel disputes or the management of Strangford Lough, Diane Dodds has made sure that local issues have been raised at the highest levels in the European Parliament and Commission.

In the years ahead the reformed and regionalised Common Fisheries Policy brings with it major new challenges, most notably the landing obligation. This is accompanied by the opportunities contained in the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). It is essential that Northern Ireland's seafood industry's priorities continue to be channelled directly to decision makers at all levels in the fisheries management chain in a fair, but robust way, just as Diane Dodds and her DUP colleagues have been doing since 2009.

More often than not it is the Fisheries Administration in Northern Ireland (DARD) who have failed local fishermen, fish processors and ancillary industries. Their rigid and sometimes unfair interpretation of EU Regulations, especially those that might afford opportunities to local fishermen have let our entire seafood industry down. Diane Dodds' regular contact with the seafood industry has emphasised there is as much frustration with DARD's Sea Fisheries Division, as there is with the CFP.

If re-elected Diane Dodds will:

- Continue to advocate for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the CFP.
- Until withdrawal is secured work to ensure proper regionalisation of the CFP.
- Promote the unique aspects of and sacrifices already made by Northern Ireland's fishing community.
- Ensure all the funding opportunities afforded by the EMFF are delivered to Northern Ireland's Seafood industry.
- Work with the DUP team to remove local 'gold-plating' of EU fisheries regulations.



Diane Dodds M.P.
www.DianeDodds.co.uk



08-36-55

Pay Communities Across Northern Ireland

Over Six Million Pounds...

And Still Counting!

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EU Funds, Government, Trusts, Foundations & Other Funders





Diane
Dodds
MEP

Funding directories by
Diane Dodds
MEP

5

Increasing EU funding in Northern Ireland

Consolidating Peace

The DUP welcomes the €240 million that has been agreed for a PEACE IV Programme in Northern Ireland and the border region of the Republic of Ireland between 2014 and 2020

There can be no doubt that the allocation of European peace funding has positively contributed to the political progress that Northern Ireland has witnessed in the past two decades. However, in a society indelibly scarred by many years of terrorism and wanton violence, the legacy of the past must continue to be confronted.

Innocent victims in our community who have suffered the most should receive comprehensive support in rebuilding their lives, and we must ensure that our young people do not fall victim to the same divisive influences of the past.

The DUP believes that the PEACE Programme in Northern Ireland, and other EU funds, post-2013 must have a strong economic focus in light of the global financial crisis and should include the following aims;

1. Supporting innocent victims of terrorism.
2. Combating youth unemployment.
3. Tackling social exclusion, improving education, skills and lifelong learning.
4. Supporting the aim of shared education.
5. Greater inclusion of projects in the social economy, and those benefiting women, the elderly and faith-based groups.
6. A quicker turnaround for applications.
7. A fair allocation of peace funding.

Signposts to Funding

Diane Dodds and the DUP continue to actively promote the diverse range of funding opportunities that are available to groups and individuals in Northern Ireland through the European Union.

Over the past five years, Diane Dodds has published four funding directories to signpost relevant EU funding opportunities for community groups, businesses, churches and faith-based organisations. She has distributed over 50,000 copies and conducted 120 public information workshops across Northern Ireland.

Her first and fourth funding directories - 'Signposts to funding for Community Groups and Not-for-profit Organisations' - were launched in 2011 and 2013. They outlined approximately 80 possible streams of funding from several sources: the EU, corporate bodies, government sources, trusts and foundations. Over 40,000 copies were distributed Northern Ireland-wide and 50 public workshops conducted.

Funding for the Future

In June 2012, a second directory - 'Signposts to funding opportunities for Businesses' - was published, aiming to help small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) offset the consequences of the economic crisis. Over 8,000 copies were distributed. EU initiatives outlined included:

- The European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for Northern Ireland.
- The Leonardo Vocational Partnerships.
- The Seventh Framework Research Programme

Diane's third directory - 'Signposts to funding for Churches and Faith-based organisations' - was launched in November 2012, outlining EU and national funding programmes such as Youth in Action and the Grundtvig Senior Volunteering Programme. So far, over 3,000 copies have been distributed at 30 public seminars.

Throughout her first term as MEP, Diane has also held 20 public information sessions to offer practical advice on how to fill out funding application forms effectively. She remains committed to getting the maximum amount of money back out of Europe for people here in Northern Ireland.

The DUP will strive to raise awareness of future EU funding and increase the number of applications from worthy organisations in Northern Ireland.

During the past five years, Diane Dodds has successfully assisted the Apprentice Boys in securing £3 million of EU funding through the PEACE III Programme for its Siege Heroes Museum and Shared Space Visitor Centre in Londonderry. She has successfully lobbied for EU funds for the Orange Order to develop the resources of Schomberg House and Sloan's House.

Currently for every £1.58 Northern Ireland taxpayers pay into the EU Structural Funds, they receive only £1 in return. This situation is unacceptable, and we in the DUP want to maximise the amount of EU grant assistance received by projects working in our Province.

Diane will encourage and assist uptake of the following EU funding programmes:

- PEACE IV
- INTERREG VA
- Horizon 2020
- European Social Fund
- European Regional Development Fund

- European Rural Development Fund
- Connecting Europe Facility
- Creative Europe Programme
- Europe for Citizens Programme
- COSME
- Employment and Social Innovation Fund
- Erasmus for Entrepreneurs Programme
- Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme

At a time of global economic uncertainty and high unemployment, Diane also supports the continuation of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme under the 2014-2020 ErasmusPlus Programme.

This funding will allow businesses and organisations that carry out vocational education and training to work with similar groups elsewhere in the EU to improve training, skills and employability. We want to see better uptake of this funding by enterprises in Northern Ireland.



Core Services/Programmes

Introduction
A dedicated service, which provides support for the activities relating to bereavement and a funeral.

...provide support, both with a bereaved family and with a bereaved individual.

...provide it in several different groups within the community.

...provide a bereavement support group in the community.



6

Promoting fundamental rights

In the past five years Diane Dodds has used the European Parliament as a platform to raise awareness of the loss of universal freedoms in many societies around the world.

She has fought her corner for Christians suffering persecution across the globe, while promoting the rights of the most vulnerable constituent groups in our own society, including children, older people, and those living with disabilities.

Definition of a Victim

The DUP believes that there must be a clear distinction between the perpetrator of criminal and terrorist activity and the status of an innocent victim.

In the European Parliament, Diane Dodds has fought to establish this definition of a victim in EU legislation. She responded to a European Commission consultation on a package of measures which aimed to strengthen the rights of victims of crime and violence.

Within her response Diane emphasised that anyone injured physically or psychologically in a crime for which they were responsible must not be considered a victim. She also recommended a distinction between support for victims of isolated crime and victims of a consistent campaign by terrorists.

In September 2012, Diane was pleased to vote in favour of EU Directive 2012/29/EU which set out minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. This legislation is vital for supporting victims of terrorism across Northern Ireland.

Moving forward, Diane will fight to ensure that these rights are applied fully across all EU regions.

We will:

- Work to ensure that a proper distinction between innocent victims and victim-makers is made in all pieces of EU legislation.
- Lobby for greater EU funding for projects that support victims of terrorism in Northern Ireland, their families, and marginalised communities in the next programming period 2014-2020.
- Ensure that the views of innocent victims are incorporated into any legislation that seeks to consolidate peace and stability in Northern Ireland.

Safeguarding Christian Expression

The DUP believes that the freedom of religious expression is a fundamental right that should be protected. In Europe, Diane Dodds has worked hard to raise awareness of the plight of marginalised Christian communities around the world.

In April 2013, Diane co-hosted a seminar in the European Parliament alongside Dutch MEP, Bastian Belder, to present the stark reality of Christian persecution in Nigeria. The event allowed victims of direct persecution to share their experiences and outline the everyday difficulties that many Christians in Nigeria face in the labour market and education.

Diane has also consistently raised awareness of religious persecution in other parts of world, including China and North Korea, which is ranked on The World Watch List as the most difficult place on earth to live as Christian.

In the new term, she will:

- Continue to raise awareness of Christian persecution in communities and countries across the world.
- Work to ensure that the promotion of freedom of religion and expression are at the core of all EU legislation, especially in relation to development, foreign affairs and employment laws.
- Ensure that Christian values and celebrations are given their rightful place within the diary and operation of the EU institutions.

The Right of the Unborn Child

The DUP advocates the right to life of the unborn child and will oppose any attempts to weaken Northern Ireland's law on abortion at Stormont, Westminster or in Europe.

In the European Parliament, Diane has consistently fought to oppose any EU legislation that would promote, facilitate, or invest in abortion. We believe that this approach reflects the views of the majority of people in Northern Ireland on this issue.

Diane has voted in favour of preventing funds from the EU budget going to family planning programmes which involve coercive abortion. She has also actively opposed the practice of sex selective abortion, which is operated in several countries, primarily in Asia.

Preventing Child Exploitation

The DUP recognises that a Europe which is better connected by global communications, through the internet and social media, is one that leaves our children at a greater risk from criminals and paedophiles.

In the European Parliament, Diane Dodds has been committed to the fight against child sex exploitation. In 2013, she co-signed a Written Declaration to highlight the prevalence of online child sexual abuse content and promote a strategy of international cooperation for reporting and prosecuting violations.

Child sex exploitation transcends national borders and the DUP will continue to lobby the European Parliament to put in place a coordinated approach to assisting law enforcement agencies in tackling this crime.

Tackling Human Trafficking

The DUP seeks to put in place robust legislation to tackle human trafficking in Northern Ireland. We want to send a clear message across Europe that it is not acceptable to purchase and traffic human beings for sexual exploitation.

The DUP is concerned that to date only two human trafficking convictions have been successful in the courts in Northern Ireland. We believe it is time for action.

In her role as an MEP, Diane Dodds has sought to raise awareness of the growing problems presented by the rise in trafficking and exploitation crimes across Europe.

Throughout her term in office, Diane has backed calls for strong local, national and European legislation to tackle these crimes and lobbied the European Commission to provide support for affected victims.

In October 2013, she hosted an event in conjunction with local charities to mark EU Anti-Trafficking Day and highlight the life of misery and exploitation experienced by trafficking victims.

During the next five years, the DUP will present Northern Ireland's proactive approach to combating human trafficking crime as a model for stronger, coordinated legislation on an EU-wide basis. She will lobby for EU funding for projects that provide practical and psychological support to victims of human trafficking.



Raising awareness of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

In October 2012, Diane Dodds hosted an exhibition in the European Parliament in Strasbourg to mark the first World Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Day.

The conference was attended by delegates from the International Federation for Spina Bifida and from countries across the world and aimed to raise awareness of the condition, which occurs where a baby's spinal cord has not properly developed during pregnancy.

During the event, delegates met with MEPs to discuss prevention of condition, lobby for equality of treatment and support services, and explore employment opportunities for those living with Spina Bifida.

Diane Dodds and the DUP remain committed to promoting active ageing among those living in Northern Ireland with disabilities. We will continue to fight for an adequate level of health and social provision to allow all in society to fulfil their transformative potential.

Combating Domestic Violence

The DUP finds it alarming that one in four women living in the UK will experience domestic abuse. We want to see effective and coordinated action across Europe to send a signal that violence of any kind against women and girls is unacceptable in our society.

In February 2013, Diane Dodds voted in favour of a European Parliament Resolution which set out recommendations for the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. She has also lobbied for adequate social housing to allow victims of domestic violence to proactively remove themselves from abusive environments.

Diane will continue to oppose all forms of domestic violence and promote an EU action plan which encourages prevention, better provision of services for victims and tougher sentences for offenders.

Supporting EU Bill of Rights for Cancer Patients

The DUP is a strong advocate for the rights of cancer patients across Northern Ireland. In February 2014, Diane welcomed world-renowned cancer specialist from Queen's University, Prof Patrick Johnston, to the European Parliament for the launch of the European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights.

In Northern Ireland we have seen the difference that a comprehensive cancer care and research programme can have on patient outcomes. The Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights aims to address the disparities that currently exist in cancer care from one European country to the next.

The bill of rights is underpinned by three key principles that we fully endorse:

1. The right of every European citizen to receive accurate information and be involved in their own care.
2. The right of every European citizen to access specialised cancer care underpinned by research and innovation.
3. The right of every European citizen to cost-effective health systems that ensure optimum cancer outcomes.



7

More Efficient Local Government

All DUP Councillors pledge to:

- ✓ Deliver the best public services at the lowest possible rates
- ✓ Work to build economic prosperity
- ✓ Promote and defend the symbols of the Union
- ✓ Help build strong local communities
- ✓ Work with others for the benefit of all

On the 22nd of May Northern Ireland will vote in an historic election. For the first time since 1973, local government in Northern Ireland will be radically reformed. The old 26 District Councils have been merged, and in the case of Belfast, enlarged, to form 11 new District Councils.

It is estimated that the merger of District Councils in Northern Ireland will deliver millions of pounds in savings to local ratepayers. As Northern Ireland moves to bigger council areas so duplication of services can be reduced, efficiencies can be made in procurement and more ambitious infrastructure plans can be put in place. These changes will benefit the economy.

At a time when the rising cost of living is having a greater impact on people throughout Northern Ireland, keeping rate bills below inflation is essential for us all.

DUP Councillors elected to the new council areas are pledged to build on the successful foundation left by their predecessors. The DUP has long been the party of low rates and prevented the direct rule plans for the introduction of water charges.

Throughout the darkest days of our history, DUP representatives served the community without fear. That legacy will continue into a new era for local government.

Standing Up for Northern Ireland for the long-term

Unionism has been on the right path under the leadership of the DUP. The Democratic Unionist Party is the only unionist party that has the strength to succeed in representing the interests of all those who want to keep Northern Ireland moving forward. A vote for the DUP is a vote for the only strong Unionist party that has a strategy for the future of Northern Ireland.

Whatever the difficulties, whether a global economic crisis, austerity or cultural aggression, the DUP has remained focused on moving Northern Ireland forward. By building our own political institutions, by building our economy and by building on the desire for a successful Northern Ireland, the DUP will deliver the greatest good for the people of Northern Ireland within the Union.

The deceit and debasement of the 'On the Run' letter scheme is a reminder of the alternative to devolution. A reminder of what is done when power is in the hands of anyone but the people of Northern Ireland.

On 22nd May, stand with the DUP as we work to build prosperity in Northern Ireland. Stand together with the DUP for Northern Ireland. Together, Unionism will be strong - let's keep Northern Ireland moving forward.

7.1 Low Rates

The DUP is the party of low rates, whether it is at Stormont, where the party has kept rates increases to no more than inflation, or in local Government where the party has led the way in implementing rates freezes. Indeed, in DUP-led Ballymoney and Castlereagh Councils, rates were cut this year, allowing ratepayers to keep more money in their pockets. The DUP is committed to providing the best public services at the lowest cost to the ratepayer.

As a result of the DUP's commitment to low rates, we have the lowest household taxation anywhere in the UK. Average annual household taxation in Northern Ireland is £812, compared to £1322 in Scotland, £1433 in England and £1633 in Wales. We have worked hard to keep your rates down.

The DUP will work hard to keep your household bills down.

2013/14 ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD BILLS IN THE UK



Graph shows average rate bills in Northern Ireland compared to total household charges in the rest of the UK

There is a significant difference between what householders in Northern Ireland are paying and what those in the rest of the United Kingdom are paying. This represents real help in difficult times and is a direct result of the work of the DUP. Prior to devolution, both under Direct Rule and under an SDLP Finance Minister, increases in the regional rate were well above inflation. In fact, during the last year of direct rule, the regional rate increased by 19%. This was a scandalous move by unaccountable Ministers that the DUP was determined to halt.

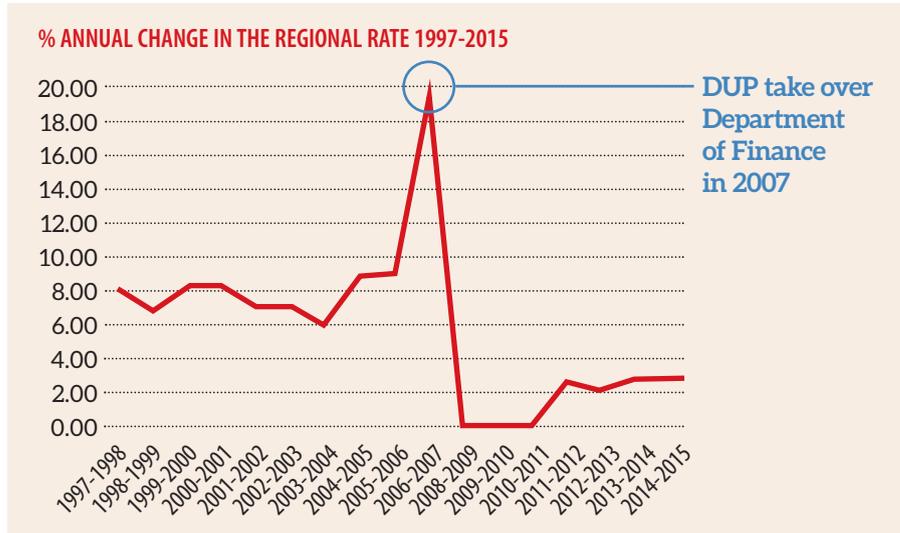
That is why, since devolution in 2007, under DUP stewardship of the Department of Finance, increases in the regional rate have either been zero or by no more than the rate of inflation.

The graph below shows the difference that having a DUP Finance Minister makes.

Instead of hiking up rates and adding to pressure on families and businesses, DUP Councillors will seek to grow the rates base by encouraging new enterprise and investment and by making District Council areas business friendly environments.

We are making a contract with every ratepayer in Northern Ireland:

Every DUP candidate in this local government election is pledged to deliver low rates to the electorate.



Judge us on our record of low taxation

- ✓ We delivered on our pledge not to introduce water charges.
- ✓ The DUP is the party which has frozen the regional rate in real terms.
- ✓ In DUP-led Councils this year's rate was cut.

7.2 Building the Economy

Building a sustainable economy will require innovative and ambitious policies and changes to the way things are done.

For District Councils to make meaningful economic change, Stormont will need to enact further legislation. That is why our Finance Minister, Simon Hamilton MLA, is committed to making the necessary changes to the law which will allow local government to access new powers and allow councils to invest in capital projects/economic investment.

Planning is one economic tool that is being devolved to the new District Councils. The old planning system was notoriously slow and often uncertain. The devolution of planning to District Councils presents an opportunity for change, however the DUP believes that opportunity has not been fully utilised. The DUP does not believe that the current planning system can deliver the economic change that is required. Further amendments to the Planning Act 2011 are required to ensure that economic considerations are given due weight. We want a planning system which is fit for purpose in challenging economic times.

The DUP will:

- Work to introduce legislation which will enable local government to better fund infrastructure projects.
- Place job creation at the heart of planning.
- Work to ensure community plans are meaningful and ambitious, and deliver for people rather than create more bureaucratic mess.

Legislative change

The DUP will do what is necessary at Stormont to ensure that District Councils have the economic tools they need to make a difference. DUP Finance Minister Simon Hamilton will examine the need for legislation to create Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and introduce it if required. TIF has been used in Scotland for community improvement infrastructure redevelopment. The waterfront in Edinburgh and shopping districts in Glasgow are being overhauled and redeveloped. TIF allows the future gains in rates to be utilised in the building phase of development.

Utilising Borrowing Potential

The Northern Ireland Executive is restricted from borrowing money from the European Investment Bank (EIB). Our new District Councils will not face this constraint.

Our DUP Ministers pledge to work with District Councils to deliver EIB investment. This investment will allow District Councils to invest in capital projects within and across council areas. District Councils have the potential to be drivers for economic change; the DUP at Stormont will facilitate District Councils that want to effect real meaningful change and attract jobs and investment to their area.

Planning

As part of the reform of local government, the majority of planning powers will be transferred from the Department of the Environment to District Councils. This will mean that planning decisions will be made at a local level.

These new planning powers will allow the local community, local representatives and planners, to work together to develop planning in the local area.

While these powers will be of benefit to the local area, the DUP believes the powers given to District Councils do not go far enough. The planning system in Northern Ireland is still not fit for purpose when it comes to implementing significant inward investment proposals.

Losing significant investment opportunities has cost thousands of jobs (as has happened recently when major national retailers encountered intolerable obstacles in the planning system). That is why the DUP proposed a more flexible approach to planning. The DUP wants to see economic considerations placed at the heart of planning to allow us to attract new developments and create employment opportunities.

That is why we proposed the introduction of "Special Economic Planning Zones." This would have allowed the Executive to relax planning regulations for developments that would produce significant economic growth and job creation. This tool is vital to future economic growth in Northern Ireland.

- The DUP will continue to press for Special Economic Planning Zones to be created.

Community Planning

District Councils will be required to draw up community plans and review the plan every four years. If these plans are to be of any value they must be ambitious and deliver for people not create more bureaucratic mess.

The DUP will:

- Seek to produce a community plan to deliver better services in partnership with other agencies, businesses, voluntary and community groups by 2015.
- Ensure that Community Plans are meaningful and ambitious, and deliver for people not create more bureaucratic mess.
- Ensure that local community groups and individuals are given the capacity to engage fully in the process.

7.3 DUP – Promoting and defending our symbols

The Democratic Unionist Party is committed to upholding and promoting our place within the United Kingdom. Nationalists and Republicans have conceded that Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom however they have waged a war against the flag and symbols of the nation of which we are a part. They fail to recognise that support for a United Ireland is now at an all time low.

DUP Councillors will:

- Support the flying of our nation's flag, the Union Flag, 365 days a year.
- Defend the symbols and emblems of our nation.
- Welcome members of the Royal Family to District Councils and support our Armed Forces.

The Flag

The DUP supports the flying of our nation's flag, the Union Flag, 365 days a year.

The display of the Union Flag is the recognition of British sovereignty over Northern Ireland. It is the principle of consent in action, a principle we are told that all sections of Irish nationalism (north and south of the border) accept.

The shift in flag flying policy across the United Kingdom in the past decade has been toward more frequent displays of the Union Flag.

The flying of the Union Flag from the main civic building of councils every day across Northern Ireland is a rightful and proper manifestation of Britishness.

Parading

The DUP believes it is time for a new start on parades. The DUP believes that a new start requires:

- The abolition of the Parades Commission.
- The separation of the administrative, mediation and adjudication roles.
- These new structures should be based on international human rights standards and guidelines from organisations like the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Support Our Armed Forces

The DUP has a long tradition of supporting our servicemen and women. At Westminster, Stormont and in local government the DUP has sought to give a voice to those who have served our country.

The greatest service that can be given in terms of recognition is to remove the barriers to the implementation of the Military Covenant for ex-servicemen. Within the present legal limits DUP Ministers have done their utmost to help ex-personnel. However, the Section 75 duties that were part of the Belfast Agreement negotiated and supported by the Ulster Unionist Party and Progressive Unionist Party block the full implementation of the Military Covenant.

The DUP supports:

- The celebration of all major Royal occasions.
- Welcome home parades and/or ceremonies for local regiments and those based in Northern Ireland following overseas deployments.
- The selection of armed forces charities during the years of service by DUP representatives as civic dignitaries.
- The Westminster Government to enact the recommendation in the Veterans' Review to make the necessary changes to Section 75 to enable the full implementation of the Military Covenant for ex-servicemen in Northern Ireland and allow them to be treated equally with those in Great Britain.

7.4 Building the Community

As our economy grows it is important that people and families feel the benefit of recovery. To keep Northern Ireland moving forward it is essential that we build our communities so that people benefit, contribute and feel safe. That is why the DUP will continue to protect hard working families, provide opportunity for the young and fight for our older people.

The DUP will:

- Ensure that older people feel safe in their homes.
- Work towards making Northern Ireland an age friendly region.
- Work to eliminate animal cruelty in Northern Ireland
- Continue to work to keep our streets and community clean and by innovative means, free from dog fouling.

Ensuring Older People are treated with respect

While it is still statistically less likely that an older person will be the victim of a criminal act, the effects of crime are much more serious and detrimental to physical health, mental health and general wellbeing of older people. Older people know that the fear of crime is one factor that makes them reluctant to engage with their community and to even leave their homes.

More needs to be done by the police. While crime against older people is significantly reduced when compared to other age groups in society, the clear-up rates for crimes against older people are significantly worse. Recorded clear up rates for crimes against the elderly are around half the rate for the rest of the population, only 1 in 11 crimes against older people result in the perpetrator facing justice. If older people are to feel safe, they need to be reassured that when they are victims of crime, their case will be taken seriously and justice will be done.

To act as a real deterrent for others, the perpetrator of criminal acts against the elderly must be punished more severely to act as a real deterrent for others. That is why the DUP has consistently called for mandatory minimum sentences for those who commit violent crimes against older people. Minimum tariffs must be set at a level that provides a real deterrent and gives older people the comfort that they will not be the victims of crime and if they are that the perpetrator will be sufficiently punished.

The DUP supports initiatives in District Councils to educate older people about their rights when they face or are confronted with elder abuse. More and more older people are being placed under pressure to part with their money and property; very often it is family members who are abusing their elderly relatives. District Councils must educate older people in their area, but the Assembly must also legislate to set out significant penalties for those who abuse a position of trust with an older person.

The DUP supports:

- Measures that make older people feel safe and allow them to contribute to their community.
- Measures designed to increase clear-up rates for crimes against the elderly.
- Mandatory minimum sentences for those who attack older people.
- Education and legislation aimed at helping older people facing elder abuse.

Animal cruelty

Since 2012 the care of domestic animals has been the responsibility of local government. Recent court cases have served to highlight the fact that not enough is being done to protect animals in Northern Ireland.

Officers dealing with animal cruelty in District Councils must be given the necessary legislative tools and proper resources to tackle the problem.

The DUP will work across District Council areas, with charities and voluntary groups to ensure a coordinated effort is put in place to eradicate animal cruelty in Northern Ireland.

The DUP supports:

- Stronger legislation being introduced, setting minimum sentences for cases of animal cruelty brought before the courts.
- Money being made available within council to properly resource the work of Animal Welfare Officers.
- Measures that allow abused animals to be rehomed without delay.
- Education for young people in schools on responsible animal ownership.

Parking schemes

For communities to thrive, local small businesses need to be placed at the heart of the area. Too often local businesses are unable to survive because they have become inaccessible. That is why the DUP in Belfast have proposed flexibility in parking. The high numbers of parking tickets issued in urban shopping areas has caused a downturn in economic activity. People need to be encouraged to shop local.

In many busy areas where on-street car-parking is in scarce supply there are large car parks available that are attached to churches and community halls. The DUP believes that these spaces could be utilised to help alleviate the shortage of parking that exists.

- The DUP support creative ways to get people shopping in small and medium businesses throughout Northern Ireland.

Dog fouling

The DUP recognise that dog fouling is a major issue for many of our towns and cities. It is the most offensive type of litter on our streets and it is consistently raised as a public concern.

DUP Councillors:

- Support the greater use of poovers and other technologies in your area.
- Increase dog warden patrols.
- Continue to promote responsible dog ownership through education in schools and the community and voluntary sector.
- Have a zero tolerance approach towards dog fouling.

7.5 Working Together

The DUP understand the importance of getting things done. That means we all have to work together to keep Northern Ireland moving forward. To deliver the best services, lower rates and improved infrastructure, will require working with others at a local level and between local government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

The key to delivering the best possible service at local government will be to work with other branches of government and across political parties, as well as working with the local community.

Your DUP Councillors will:

- Work across District Council areas to maximise savings and encourage efficiency.
- Work with the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure delivery, especially on infrastructure projects.
- Work alongside local communities to ensure their involvement in decision-making process and to deliver projects for the benefit of local communities.
- Work with other representatives to get things done.

Working Within District Councils

The new District Councils will require more decisions to be taken by Qualified Majority Voting. This will require greater co-operation within District Councils to get things done. We will work to ensure the best possible outcome for all of the people across a council area and will not be afraid to take the tough decisions in the best interests of everyone.

Taking tough decisions does not mean compromising our culture. Unlike others, we will not allow the republican agenda to dominate District Councils. We will work with other unionists to ensure the symbols and culture of unionism are promoted and preserved.

The DUP will not be afraid to take tough decisions.

Working across Council Areas

The new District Council areas provide a unique opportunity to make savings by working together. The increased size and the greater equalisation of populations mean real economies can be made in sharing services and procurement. The DUP will work across councils to ensure that efficiencies can be made and we will ensure that these savings are passed on to the ratepayers.

Working across council areas provides the opportunity to place infrastructural investment at the heart of local government. Investment in infrastructure and capital projects is essential to sustain our economic recovery. This will provide a short-term boost for the local construction sector. It will also deliver longer-term benefits in economic regeneration through better roads, better business facilities, helping attract foreign direct investment and stimulating economic growth. With the new powers and increased size, local District Councils, working together can be at the heart of economic change.

The increased size of District Councils provides huge potential to invest in local infrastructure projects. The increased rates base, planning powers, greater borrowing capacity and the power of community planning give local government the tools to make changes not accessible to the Stormont Executive; but only if we work together across council areas. That is why the DUP will press for shared services across council areas. We believe that the new 11 councils provide ample opportunity to work together to improve efficiency.

That is why the DUP will work to ensure that each District Council will produce its own long-term infrastructure investment plan within the first year in which the council is fully functioning. These infrastructure plans will be joined up across District Council areas, to ensure maximum impact and full economic potential.

- The DUP will ensure that by working together efficiencies and savings are made for the benefit of everyone across all council areas in Northern Ireland.



Standing up for
Northern Ireland
in a growing EU

More efficient
Local Government

Backing business
and job creation in
the Northern Ireland
economy

Fighting for a
fair deal for farmers
and fishermen

Increasing EU funding
in Northern Ireland

Promoting
fundamental rights



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