"the Future not the Past"

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

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

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

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

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

Efforts were made in recent weeks to get republicans to engage in genuine acts of completion. Progress occurred. Republicans talked of pursuing their objectives peacefully.
They defined the Agreement as providing full and final closure of the conflict. But they failed to decommission in a manner to maximise public confidence or to give the assurance that this time the process would be completed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**We know these can be delivered:**

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

Other initiatives we will pursue will include:

- To promote a radical, pro-active Community Relations policy to focus on where the need is greatest, such as sectarian interfaces,
- To seek the extension of free personal care for the elderly,
- To expand nursery school provision, maintain academic selection and increase resources for vocational courses and training,
- To seek a safer and more secure society by persuading Parliament to extend to Northern Ireland recent legislation on anti-social behaviour and pressing for more effective court processes and stiffer sentencing,
- To expand social and cultural opportunities and further develop tourism.

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

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

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

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

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

David Trimble
Devolution worked because Ulster Unionists worked

- Introduced Children’s Commissioner
- Invested £400 million in school buildings
- Achieved lowest rates of unemployment for decades
- Increased support for students in both higher and further education
- Combated foot and mouth disease
- Opened the Northern Ireland Brussels office to lobby EU directly
- Supported rural development schemes
- Delivered £8 million on football strategy
- Created Ulster Scots Agency
- Funded regional cancer centre
- Increased health budget by £1 billion
- Delivered free transport to the elderly
- Launched warm homes scheme
**Devolution will work** because Ulster Unionists will continue to work

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[www.uup.org](http://www.uup.org)
A healthy society

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

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

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

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

Our key commitments are:

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

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

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

Our key commitments are:

- Tackling the economic disadvantages of Northern Ireland industries.
- Highlighting the current insurance problems for business and delivering measures to reduce further energy costs.
- Bringing increased investment in the rural development and developing a rural energy strategy.

- Supporting the Northern Ireland fishing industry.
- Promoting policies to increase linkages between education and business.
- Implementing greater investment in research and development both by industry and local universities.

Our farming industry has suffered many difficulties in recent years and in the coming months new and novel solutions to old problems will be required. Ulster Unionists support greater investment in the rural economy. Farm diversification schemes need greater levels of investment and we propose an early retirement scheme for farmers. We believe that only a strong Ulster Unionist team will be capable of promoting the needs of our fishing industry and we are committed to tackling the years of neglect that has seen its near disappearance.
A skilled society

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

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

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

Our key commitments are:

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

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

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

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

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

The Reinvestment and Reform Initiative (RRI) releases great opportunities for investment in strategic projects and in the infrastructure of Northern Ireland. The Ulster Unionist Party will act responsibly to ensure that the maximum benefit is realised from this unique opportunity. We will use the resources made available to improve our road network and our water infrastructure. We note that a direct rule Minister has announced proposals for water rates. As a responsible political party we will ensure that any rates will be fairly applied and that the money will be properly used. We will maximise the efficiency of the water service to minimise the potential costs.

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

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

Our key commitments are:

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

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

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

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

Our key commitments are:

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

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

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

We will continue to support the development of Ulster-Scots heritage initiatives and we are pledged to increasing the budget available to the Ulster Scots Agency so as to bring parity of esteem. We also support the continued development of the arts within society particularly within local communities. We are committed to supporting the wealth of talent both in the performing and visual arts and we will support the continued development of our local film industry.

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

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

Our key commitments are:

- Introducing new legislation to tackle pollution and polluters.
- Campaigning for tighter controls for our natural and built heritage.
- Continuing support of Ulster-Scots heritage initiatives by increasing resources to deliver parity of esteem.
- Securing a National Stadium as a centre of excellence for sport.
- Promoting Northern Ireland as a branded tourism product attracting a ‘Museum of Sea and Air’ to the Titanic Quarter.
Ulster Unionist Charter

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

1. Ulster Unionists will work for and serve in an inclusive, democratic Assembly.

2. Ulster Unionists demand and will work towards the end of all paramilitarism, loyalist and republican.

3. Ulster Unionists will hold firmly to the requirement for ‘acts of completion’, dealing conclusively with decommissioning, terrorist activity and the effective winding up of paramilitary organisations, making it clear that the transition to peace and democracy is being brought to a conclusion, before Sinn Fein can participate in a Northern Ireland Executive.

4. Ulster Unionists support new powers to monitor paramilitary activity and impose sanctions. We will press the International Monitoring Commission and the Government to act decisively with paramilitary breaches, regardless of political considerations.

5. Ulster Unionists look forward to a normal security profile in a peaceful environment, retaining the Home Service RIR. We seek the devolution of policing and justice powers but will only consent when there is a fully peaceful and democratic society with wholehearted support for the Police.

6. Ulster Unionists will oppose any amnesty or apparent amnesty for fugitives from justice (OTRs).

7. Ulster Unionists are determined that policing and sentencing powers and anti-social behaviour legislation keep pace with the rest of the UK.

8. Ulster Unionists are committed to the merit principle in employment, human rights, equal citizenship and equality of opportunity for all.

9. Ulster Unionists will work for the social and economic betterment of all our citizens regardless of class, gender, colour, race, nationality or religion.

10. Ulster Unionists will ensure Northern Ireland remains British, an integral part of the United Kingdom.
Our **Key Pledges** for the next Assembly

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

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

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

**EAST ANTRIM**
Roy Beggs  
Roy McCune  
Ken Robinson

**NORTH ANTRIM**
Robert Coulter  
James Currie

**SOUTH ANTRIM**
David Burnside MP  
Adrian Cochrane-Watson  
Jim Wilson

**WEST BELFAST**
Chris McGimpsey

**EAST BELFAST**
Michael Copeland  
Sir Reg Empey  
Jim Rodgers

**NORTH BELFAST**
Fred Cobain

**SOUTH BELFAST**
Esmond Birnie  
John Hiddleston  
Michael McGimpsey

**EAST LONDONDERRY**
Norman Hillis  
David McClarty  
Edwin Stevenson

**FOYLE**
Mary Hamilton

**WEST TYRONE**
Derek Hussey  
Robert Wilson

**MID ULSTER**
Billy Armstrong  
Trevor Wilson

**FERMANAGH & SOUTH TYRONE**
Tom Elliot  
Arlene Foster  
Bob Mulligan

**UPPER BANN**
Sam Gardiner  
George Savage  
David Trimble MP

**LAGAN VALLEY**
Norah Beare  
William Bell  
Jeffrey Donaldson MP  
Jim Kirkpatrick

**NEWRY & ARMAGH**
Danny Kennedy

**SOUTH DOWN**
James Donaldson  
Dermot Nesbitt

**STRANGFORD**
Lord John Kilclooney  
Bob Little  
David McNarry

**NORTH DOWN**
Leslie Cree  
Alan McFarland  
Diana Peacocke
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