

YOUR LABOUR TEAM



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December 2009 Budget:

The Labour Party would have produced a budget that contained a fair balance between expenditure cuts and revenue-enhancing measures.

- ✓ A budget based on the principle that those who have the most must contribute the most.
- ✓ A Budget based on fairness and solidarity.
- ✓ We would have negotiated a reduction in the public sector wage bill.
- ✓ We would have protected those on Social Welfare.

Fairness is not a luxury or an optional extra. Fairness is the glue that keeps society together in a crisis. This budget was manifestly unfair. It targeted the poor, public servants and children. It lets the bankers, the property speculators and the backers of Fianna Fáil off the hook.

Thanks for voting "Yes to Lisbon" in October!

Dublin South East voted 78% in favour of the Lisbon Treaty on the 2nd of October. This was the third highest YES vote in the country and was vital to ensuring Ireland's continued membership of the European Union.

The Labour Party ran a vibrant campaign in Dublin South East with a specific focus on converting all the areas of the constituency that voted NO the last time.

During the campaign, we found that the biggest single obstacle to securing a yes vote was public fury at Fianna Fáil's destruction of the economy. The success of the referendum showed wise voters putting the national interest ahead of punishing the government.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Dublin South East Labour Party
Spring, 2010



Ruairi Quinn TD



"FIANNA FÁIL" MEANS NEVER HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY

Two years into the worst recession Ireland has ever faced, Brian Cowen still can't tell you why your living standards have fallen and your future has been so damaged.

This Fianna Fáil government won't apologise for:

- Letting unemployment rise to 12%.
- Allowing the property boom to put our country's livelihood on the line.
- Presiding over the total collapse of our banking system.
- Not holding a public inquiry into the banking crisis.
- Forcing everyone to pay higher taxes for fewer public services.

Fianna Fáil want you to forget their record in power. But the facts speak for themselves:

- They created the inflation of our economy that has increased the cost of goods and services.
- They created the property bubble with crazy tax breaks for developers and builders that has left thousands of our people in negative equity.
- They have destroyed a quarter of a million jobs in the last two years.
- They condoned the corruption and greed that has poisoned our society.
- They have destroyed the Tiger economy and forced our young people to emigrate again.

Brian Cowen and his colleagues will not accept any responsibility or accountability.

- Bertie Ahern says it's all due to the fall of Lehman Brothers in the United States. Nothing to do with him or his then Finance Minister, Brian Cowen.
- As far as Cowen and Fianna Fáil are concerned, the recession just happened.
- Brian Cowen refuses to have a public inquiry into the collapse of our banking system even though the Central Bank Governor says there should be one.

Labour says there must be accountability. Responsibility must be accepted by those who caused the damage. Fianna Fail need to be removed from office and Labour pledges itself to work relentlessly for real change that can restore our prosperity and trust in public life.

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**Senator
Ivana Bacik**

has joined the Parliamentary Labour Party. We are delighted to welcome her to the work of the Labour Team in Dublin South East.

Ivana, who lives off the South Circular Road, is the Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology at Trinity College Dublin (previously held by Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese).

Ivana has a track record of campaigning on education rights, equality and social policy issues, women's rights, criminal justice and anti-racism.

She can be contacted at ivana.bacik@oir.ie
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DublinBikes

The launch of the DublinBikes scheme has been a great success. It was spearheaded by the Labour Councillors. Since its launch last autumn, over 22,000 people have signed up to the scheme.



Photo: 'Sir James'

Once you sign up, you can visit one of the 40 stations around the City and take a bike. The first 30 minutes are free and a nominal charge is applied to people who use a bike for longer. See www.dublinbikes.ie for info.

Dartmouth Square

Dartmouth Square is now heading for permanent public ownership following Dublin City Council's successful court application to wind up Marble and Granite Tiles, the company which owned the site for the last four years.

The company is now in liquidation and its assets will be put up for sale. Dublin City Council has signalled its intention to put in an offer for the property in a move that will technically wipe out debts owed to Dublin City Council. This will ensure that the purchase will be virtually cost neutral for the local authority.

Carbon Tax

The Government has introduced a carbon tax. The tax is based on the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by each particular fuel. The more unfriendly the fuel is to the environment, the higher the tax.

FUEL TYPE	INCREASE IN PRICE
Diesel	4.4%
Petrol	3.5%
Natural Gas	6.0%
Peat Briquettes	10.0%
Coal	11.1%

The table shows how prices are affected by the new tax. The tax was applied to petrol and diesel on Budget day. The tax on home heating oils and gas will commence on 1st May 2010. The Government has yet to work out when it will apply the new tax to solid fuels such as coal and briquettes.



photo: Informatique

Dublin City Draft Development Plan

The Draft Dublin City Development Plan is open for consultation until the 11th of March. An interactive website has been set-up where you can view the Draft Development Plan.

For the first time, you can make a submission online, join a discussion forum, access relevant documents and check for updates and progress on the Plan. Make sure you have your say!
<http://www.dublincitydevelopmentplan.ie>

LABOUR WILL LEGISLATE TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC LIFE

Labour have proposed a series of measures to restore public confidence in business and public life. We want to restore integrity in our politics and our economy. Never again will golden circles be allowed to dictate the direction of our economy.

- ✓ End the link between big money and politics
- ✓ Clean out the boards of banks
- ✓ Make good corporate governance the law
- ✓ Control land and property speculation
- ✓ Regulate political lobbying
- ✓ Introduce Whistleblowers legislation
- ✓ Restore the Freedom of Information Act.

New cycle lane along the Grand Canal

Dublin City Council has received funding to construct a new €10 million cycle lane along the north bank of the Grand Canal. When completed, there will be a dedicated cycle lane linking Rathmines to Fairview. The lane will be properly separated from the main road. Junctions along the canal will be redesigned to ensure cyclists receive priority.

The new 7 kilometre cycle lane will cross the River Liffey at the new Samuel Beckett bridge. The proposals also include plans to build two new pedestrian and cycle bridges over the Grand Canal from Grove Road to Portobello Road and from Grand Parade to Charlemont Place.

Facts about Education:

Did you Know?

For the Year 2008/9:

- 498,914 pupils in 3,303 Primary Schools
- 341,312 pupils in 732 Secondary Schools
- 2008 saw the highest birth rate since 1896. The 74,500 children born in 2008 will start school in 2012!
- The Department of Education and Science failed to spend €396 million of its 2009 budget for new permanent school buildings.
- €48 million was spent on renting temporary prefabs in 2008.
- 210 schools each spent €100,000 on renting temporary prefabs. That's a total of €21 million!
- 184 schools each spent €50,000 on renting temporary prefabs. That's a total of €9.2 million!