## 2022 Northern Ireland Assembly Election – Comparison of manifestos and key priorities

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<tr>
<th><strong>Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sinn Fein</strong></th>
<th><strong>Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Alliance</strong></th>
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| **Build quality and safety** | - Build 100,000 social and affordable homes over the next 15 years in urban and rural communities across the north.  
- Revitalise the Housing Executive so it can start building houses again  
- Following the independent review, ensure Invest NI prioritises regional balance and support for local business development | - Prioritise social housing developments in the planning system  
Place a legal requirement for councils to complete social housing planning applications within three months and provide funding for additional staff as required.  
- Explore the use of incentives to free-up development land for affordable and social housing. | - Overhaul the planning system, including an introducing a statutory requirement for pre-application discussions for major and regionally significant applications.  
- Completion of nearly 3,000 un-finished and un-adopted roads in the next Assembly.  
- Make housing a stand-alone issue, including an ambitious social housing strategy to deliver thousands of new social housing units per year.  
- Mandate the Executive to have all public sector bodies search their property portfolios for the development of social and affordable housing.  
- Aim to build at least 9,500 private homes per year for the next 15 years.  
- Enhance Co-Ownership Housing’s investment plans and press for a new category of Intermediate Rent of high quality, well managed, affordable homes for rent for tenants who cannot or do not wish to access home ownership.  
- Set-up a £5m Accessibility Fund to adapt and approve access to buildings for disabled people.  
- Prioritise the refurbishment of sub-regional stadia across NI in the new Assembly. | - Prioritise the retrofitting of housing for renewable energy sources and insulation.  
- Ensure any reforms to social housing provision do not jeopardise fairness, quality or diminish equality of access.  
- Ensure good relations are a specific aim of regeneration and community planning.  
- Develop a comprehensive strategy to rejuvenate our high streets and town centres. |
| Education, skills and training | - Supporting 20,000 jobs in the next 5 years.  
- Delivering a modern career service in schools.  
- Expansion of the DUP’s apprenticeship programme.  
- Building more new schools in the next 5 years.  
- Modernisation of the curriculum for the 21st century workplace. | - Use the protocol to unleash the potential for well paid jobs in a stronger economy.  
- Invest in rural communities, create good jobs and ensure a good quality of life for everyone so the next generation has a future here.  
- Focus on creating good jobs; promoting regional balance; improving productivity and increasing decarbonisation in a New Economic Strategy | - Proper funding of the skills strategy, increasing Northern Ireland’s low uptake of apprenticeships and demanding the UK Government make good on promises to replace lost European funding  
- Expand apprenticeships and FE courses. Fund more apprenticeships, including employer-led apprenticeship programmes and link directly with an improved careers service in schools to ensure 16-18-year-olds are fully aware of all opportunities available. | - Establish a NI Job Skills Fund to ensure the proper organisation and funding of job skills training, apprenticeships and life-long learning.  
- Ringfence funding of at least £35m a year for the Job Skills Fund.  
- Establishment of a single education system.  
- Tackle educational under-achievement through a digital system capturing every child’s life journey.  
- Overcome the Covid-19 pandemic learning gap through a detailed, multi-year funded plan.  
- Conduct a review of secondary school buildings, facilities, staffing and investment.  
- A new strategy to support lifelong learning. | - Deliver the new Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland to address upskilling and retraining opportunities in the green economy.  
- Support a strong 14-19 Strategy to bridge the interface between school and college, apprenticeships, and training.  
- Invest in research and development to ensure Northern Ireland is a global leader in areas such as the green economy. |
| Net zero and the environment | - Delivering energy efficiency schemes to support better-insulated homes.  
- Supporting calls for a Windfall Tax on energy firms.  
- Make going green affordable to homes in NI. | - Increase decarbonisation in a New Economic Strategy  
- Bring forward legislation in the Assembly to ban petroleum licensing, drilling, and extraction– including fracking  
- Ensuring Climate Action Plans are developed in partnership with farmers, workers and sectors and are economic, social, and rural proofed  
- Putting in place the structures provided for in climate legislation including; | - Ensure the NI Executive declares a climate emergency  
- Ensure a just transition support workers to develop new skills that will allow us to lead emerging and transformed Industries  
- Build a Green Economy a Green New Deal, to support our move to net zero and to create a new generation of well paid, socially productive, jobs.  
- Introduce a Biodiversity and Nature Restoration Bill  
- Committed to climate change mitigation and supporting the UK’s target of net zero by 2050.  
- Ringfence NI’s share of the UK Government’s £3.84bn Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.  
- Lead the New Green Industrial Revolution and establish NI as a hub for ‘Green Tech’.  
- Rapidly increase the EV charging network, including making changes to planning regulations to mandate EV charging in new developments and regeneration projects. | - Deliver a Green New Deal to create at least 50,000 sustainable jobs by 2030.  
- Create a new Department for Energy and Climate Change.  
- Deliver an improved Northern Ireland Climate Change Act.  
- Establish an Economic Strategy which will support clean and inclusive growth.  
- Implement an immediate statutory ban on all current and future fossil fuel exploration. |
### Just Transition

- Just Transition Commission – to ensure fair and just transition
- Just Transition Fund for Agriculture to support farmers in adopting more sustainable practices
- Climate Change Commission

- Work on an all-island basis to meet climate, environmental and biodiversity objectives

### Climate Change

- Increase water and sewage infrastructure investment and change NI Water’s structure to the mutual, not-for-profit model.
- Review energy security and prices and consider merging the NI regulator with UK Ofgem and Ofwat regulators.
- Develop new clean and affordable energy sources, including hydrogen as a fuel.
- Grow a circular economy linking farming, food, energy, and health, delivering green growth.

#### Procurement

- Establish an Independent Infrastructure Commission including an annual Infrastructure Assessment.
- Review Invest NI and the Strategic Investment Board.
- Review Public Appointments and ensure guidance on future board appointments.
- Reform the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.
- Introduce a Social Value Act to drive social change through procurement.
- Create an independent infrastructure commission with a 30-year vision to prioritise, report on and drive delivery of infrastructure projects

#### Other key pledges

- Removal on the NI Protocol. Replacing with a new arrangement set against the DUP’s 7 tests to determine whether NI’s position is respected as part of the UK.
- Investing an extra £1 billion to cut NHS waiting lists using a partnership with the independent sector.
- Introduce a social care cap
- Implement Bengoa reforms for a better health service.
- Prioritising Health Commitment to making health the Executive’s number one spending priority for the next three years, ensuring people can see a GP when they need one and campaigning for support and services for those with, or waiting on, an ASD diagnosis and their families
- Cost of living scrapping of VAT on energy bills to cut household costs.
- £230 to every household in the north at a

- Launching the New Ireland Commission, to identify how to create a future for Ireland that is reflective of society's aims, for climate change, equality and inclusion, etc.
- Pass emergency legislation to free up £300 million of funding to tackle the cost-of-living emergency.
- Propose an NI Agriculture Bill

- Seeking common sense alternatives to the NI Protocol.
- Have independently audited annual reports on expected healthcare demands to make recommendations on training numbers in the health service.
- Improve stabilisation of the healthcare workforce, such as a new ban on the use of off-contract agency workers once immediate health and social care pressures subside, stabilise the Trust non-clinical banks and introduce exit surveys for all staff leaving the health and social care system to properly monitor reasons

#### Communities, Arts & Sport

- Introduce social prescribing and create well-being centres that have access to sports and leisure at the heart of communities.
- Ensure any reforms to social housing provision do not jeopardise fairness, quality or diminish equality of access.

#### Shared Future, Equality & Human Rights

- Reform the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.
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<th>Cost of £177m</th>
<th>for staff departure to assist with staff recruitment and retention.</th>
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<td>£33m for extending by a month the current business rates relief package</td>
<td>- Better support for improving mental health, including <strong>teaching the importance of good mental health in the school curriculum.</strong></td>
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<td>£6m to freeze Translink fares on public transport</td>
<td>- <strong>Support City Deals/Growth Deals</strong> through partnerships between the UK Government, local councils and Stormont to potentially deliver <strong>£1.3 billion in investment</strong> using funding principally from Westminster and Stormont.</td>
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**Plan for Irish Unity**
- Establish a Citizen’s Assembly on Irish Unity.
- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**
  - Social inclusion strategies on Anti Poverty; LGBTQI+; Disability; and Gender Equality
- **Better support for improving mental health**, including **teaching the importance of good mental health in the school curriculum.**
- **Support City Deals/Growth Deals** through partnerships between the UK Government, local councils and Stormont to potentially deliver **£1.3 billion in investment** using funding principally from Westminster and Stormont.
- **Reduction in Corporation Tax.**
- **Establish ‘Freeport NI’** as well as a **‘Trusted Trader’ scheme** to enable businesses outside of secure port zones to zero tariff rates.
- **Achieve true gender equality** including equal opportunities, pay and protection from discrimination.
- **Calling for the establishment of a Fuel Poverty Task Force.**
- **Roll out of the GB Warm Homes Discount** which is a sum of money credited to an electricity (and in some circumstances gas) account of the eligible recipient.

**Create a comprehensive and cross-cutting shared future strategy to drive forward cohesion, sharing and integration.**

- Introduce a Single Equality Act for Northern Ireland covering age discrimination protections in goods, facilities and services.
- Support a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland that reflects international human rights standards and meets the needs of all citizens, and which can be used as a pre-scrutiny tool for legislation and policy decisions across government.