

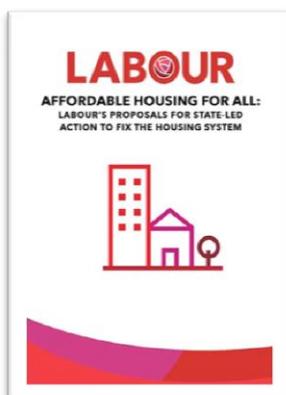
## Where Labour Stands... on Housing

- Labour wants to **spend €16 billion, over five years, to deliver 80,000+ homes**
- The €16 billion would come from:
  - €5 billion from the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund
  - €500 million/year from existing taxes instead of putting money into the “rainy day fund” (the rainy day is now!) (no new taxes required)
  - The remainder would come in the form of loans from the European Investment Bank and from an State-led investment vehicle to allow credit unions to invest some of their €14 billion in savings to support the building of public housing
- **Ireland has sufficient, zoned land to build 80,000+ homes.** Building on public land would keep the **average build cost at €200,000** or less per home.
- Labour would build **traditional council housing and a new form of public housing** that would be available to all at an affordable cost (also called “cost-rental”, the Vienna Model).
  - Labour would bring the relevant agencies under one roof, including the Housing Agency, the Housing Finance Agency, the new land agency and parts of NAMA (including their residential land holdings), and immediately commission builders to build homes
  - Over time, Labour would put the capacity to build and manage housing back into local councils through regional Housing Executives that would be part of local government
- Labour wants to **strengthen tenants’ rights**, and also to **support single-property landlords to comply with the law** and best practice. (Labour has introduced a series of laws to boost tenants’ rights and to support those who are homeless).

- Labour supports **rent controls**, and would extend these to the whole country.

Labour’s housing strategy is called *Affordable Housing for All* and it contains 70 specific policies.

See: <https://www.labour.ie/manifesto/affordable-housing-for-all/>



## Where Labour Stands... on Climate

- **Labour played an active role in the all-party Oireachtas Climate Action Committee.** (Seán Sherlock TD is Labour's representative). Labour will push for the full implementation of the report's recommendations.
  - Labour accepts that Ireland's current emissions are 60 million tonnes of greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide/CO<sub>2</sub>) annually. This must fall to 33 million tonnes by 2030, and to net zero by 2050.
- Labour led and drove the Committee to adopt the concept of **Carbon Budgets**. This means five-year carbon budgets to set maximum level of emissions for every sector of the economy, which will reduce annually. To be consistent with the Paris Agreement, Ireland's emissions should reduce by 5% to 10% per year.
- Brendan Howlin has called for a **Department of Public Expenditure and Climate Action** to put carbon budgets on a strong, all-of-government footing, enforced by the Department holding the purse strings.
- Labour successfully included the idea of a **Just Transition** in the report, meaning plans for people to have decent, sustainable livelihoods if their jobs are displaced in the move to a low carbon economy.
  - e.g. Brendan Howlin addressed Bord na Móna workers at SIPTU's conference in Tullamore and spoke about ensuring good new jobs in energy retrofitting for buildings, sustainable forestry and peatland restoration.
  - Labour, uniquely, sought the establishment of a **Just Transition Task Force**, with funding, to deliver new green jobs, especially in the regions.
- Labour's clear preference is for **ring-fencing funds from carbon taxes** to pay for home retrofitting and other ways of reducing energy poverty, while also making electric vehicles more affordable and developing public transport, especially rural transport.
  - Labour wants **ambitious targets for home energy retrofitting, of 100,000 homes, including all council housing**
- Also: Labour included **community electricity generation** in the report. Labour supports **changes to CAP to encourage emissions reductions** and proposed an **Income Diversification Task Force** for farmers. Labour pushed for **continuous cover forest systems** and **targets for peatland restoration to better store carbon**.

## Where Labour Stands... on Workers' Rights

- **Labour has proposed new laws to protect workers**
  - The Protection of Employment (Uncertain Hours) Bill 2016
  - Protection of Employment (Measures to Counter False Self-Employment) Bill 2018
- Our European Manifesto states:
  - Working with our sister parties across Europe, we will demand stronger European **rules that uphold and promote the right of workers and trade unions to engage in collective bargaining**, including a Framework Directive
  - Workers who are in precarious work in the gig economy or are contracted into dodgy bogus self-employment arrangements need to have **better protections**.
  - We will seek **binding EU rules to require employers to give workers a minimum level of pension cover**, including measures to curb the creeping extension of retirement ages, especially for manual workers
  - Labour will campaign for a **European floor of workers' rights**
  - We believe that workers should have a **right to retrain** if their jobs are replaced by technology
  - There needs to be **greater protection for workers against excessive scrutiny**, and the unfair pressure of unreasonable work targets
  - Labour MEPs will back proposals to alter European rules to support **workers' right to disconnect outside of working hours**, in a context where email and other work activity has encroached into people's private time and is unpaid
  - Working with our colleagues in the trade union movement, **we will promote the merits of a four-day working week or six-hour day (without loss of pay)** to counter-balance work done outside of regular hours or through mobile devices
  - There needs to be **improvements to work-life balance for parents and carers**
  - **Working people deserve a pay rise**, especially those on low pay. We will work to reverse the recent trend where the share of economic growth going to workers has declined

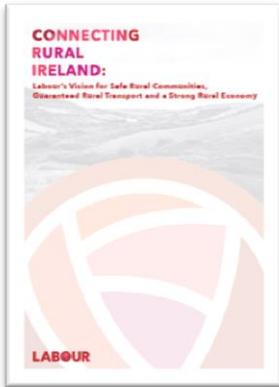
Our Local Manifesto states:

- **Labour will demand that all local councils provide decent pay and conditions** to their employees and to anyone contracted to deliver goods or services, with requirements for decent pay and conditions, paying the Living Wage as the minimum
- **Council employees and contracted employees must have the right to trade union recognition and collective bargaining**

## Where Labour Stands... on Broadband

- **Labour wants to see fibre-to-the-home rural broadband delivered**, and **Labour would make the necessary investment** to see that happen.
- But **Labour wants the network to remain in public hands**. It is outrageous for the public to pay €3 billion to a private venture capital company, when it is only investing €220 million of cash. Fine Gael chose the approach of giving away the network in July 2016, when Labour had left Government.
- The venture capitalists intend to rely on **operating revenues** to make up the rest of the total cost of delivering the network, but a commercial semi-state company could do the same. **A State company would pay a dividend to the people**, rather than private profit.
- By maintaining ownership of the broadband network, **the State would be better placed to guarantee the affordability of rural broadband into the future**. Whatever about Internet access being necessary now, it will absolutely essential in 25 years' time. But there is no guarantee that the Government will be able to control the prices charged by a private monopoly in 25 years' time.
- We don't even know **who will own the network** at that stage, because **the Government's proposal would allow the shares in the company to be sold after nine years**. **Vulture funds could buy the network**, just like they bought Eircom and milked its assets for cash profits.
- **Labour's solution is for a State-owned company to own the broadband network**. It would provide access to the network on a wholesale basis, creating a market for multiple retailers to sell Internet access and other services directly to homes and businesses. This company should be profitable, and should repay some of the cost of delivering the network. **A State-led approach is clearly better value for money**.
- The European Commission has approved a similar model for Croatia, so there is **no barrier in EU State Aid rules** to Labour's proposal.

## Where Labour Stands... on Rural Ireland



Labour launched a revised Rural Policy on 15<sup>th</sup> May: **Connecting Rural Ireland: Labour's Vision for Safe Rural Communities, Guaranteed Rural Transport and a Strong Rural Economy**

For more detail go to:

<https://www.labour.ie/manifesto/connecting-rural-ireland/>

The policy includes the following sections:

1. Rural Transport Guarantee
2. More Rural GPs
3. Combat Rural Crime
4. Rural Housing and Municipal Services
5. Rural Connectivity - Broadband and Mobile Phone Coverage
6. Restoring Town Councils and Revitalising the Rural Economy
7. Lower Insurance Premiums
8. Supports for Farmers and the Fishing Industry
9. Farm Modernisation
10. Climate Action
11. Promote Rural Tourism
12. Protect Postal Services, Libraries and Community Spaces
13. Eradicate Illegal Dumping and Dog Fouling

### **Labour will ensure rural Ireland is socially, economically and digitally connected**

- Labour has a vision for a connected, prosperous rural Ireland.
- A State-wide investment plan to revitalise disadvantaged rural communities, provide a clear pathway to affordable rural broadband, and support the self-sustainability of rural towns.
- A Rural Transport Guarantee, Rural Hackney Scheme and School Bus Guarantee will ensure connections to reliable, affordable and integrated transport networks.
- More Gardaí, more GPs and more post offices, libraries and community spaces
- Plans to fast-track Rural Broadband, to restore Town Councils and to lower insurance costs for rural businesses and farmers

## Where Labour Stands... on Children and Young People

Labour wants the elimination of child poverty, and we are committed to a whole-of-government approach to ensure that no child is left behind.

- Labour recently brought a Motion on a Fair Start for Every Child to the Dáil, which can be seen here: <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2019-02-06/speech/344/>
- Labour's New Democratic Programme states "The first duty of Government is to provide for the wellbeing, education and development of the children, regardless of origins, and to give them all an equal chance to fulfil their potential." <https://www.labour.ie/manifesto/labours-new-democratic-programme/>
- During Labour's time in Government, priority was given to addressing child poverty: Labour pushed for the free GP care for under-6s. Fianna Fáil cut Child Benefit, Labour raised it. Labour advanced free pre-school children for children from age 3. And Labour invested in, and expanded the ABC (Area-Based Childhood) programmes, which aim to enhance opportunities for children in the most deprived areas. Material deprivation fell during Labour's time in government, from a height of 30% down to 20%.

### Food poverty:

- Labour's local manifesto states: "Local Councils should support **schools to provide meals** at lunchtime. This will ensure that every disadvantaged child has a hot nutritious meal every school day." [Providing school meals is a power of local government]

### Housing:

- **Labour's housing policy would build 80,000 units of public housing by investing €16 billion** over five years. Labour brought forward the **Housing (Homeless Families) Bill 2017** to oblige local councils to have regard to the best interests of the children of homeless families.

### Education:

- Labour proposed a **free schoolbooks scheme**, and would allocate €20 million for it. Labour would then extend this to secondary schoolbooks. Labour's existing policy is for **education to be genuinely free of charge**, beginning with primary education. Labour would **prohibit what are effectively mandatory donations** to support schools, and would progressively extend free education, including to apprenticeships and vocational education.

### Health:

- Labour is committed to the creation of a **single-tier national health system**, where everyone can access the treatment they need on the basis of medical need, not their income. Labour introduced the **free GP care** for under-6s, and our ambition is to continue that roll out to under-18s initially, before free-of-charge GP care can be made universal.

### Participation:

- **Children and families must have access to community-based arts and cultural activities.** Labour's European manifesto pledges to promote voucher schemes (**European Culture Cheques**) that support **young people's access to culture**. Labour's local manifesto pledges a range of supports for children and young people's participation in arts and culture, including **longer opening hours** for libraries and arts centres, **outreach initiatives** by libraries and arts centres targeted at marginalised and disadvantaged groups, and **support for community arts organisations**.

## One-Page Highlights of our Local Manifesto

Achieve better local government that serves the whole community and improves everyone's lives.

**GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT** Labour Councillors understand the job of local government, and we get it done well, delivering the basic things that matter to people like clean streets and parks, road repairs, street lighting and recycling facilities. **More money for the basics – tougher targets – direct provision of basic services like waste – a new role of Community Warden with the power to issue fines – accessible council websites and application forms**

**LEADERSHIP ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION** Local government can promote action on the environment. **Climate Action Committees – Climate Action Funds – 100,000+ homes insulated annually, including all council housing – improved recycling facilities, especially for plastic – local deposit schemes – water fountains in Council buildings – promote a Green New Deal for new sustainable jobs – publish councils' carbon emissions – generate wind and solar power -- improve cycling and walking infrastructure – protect against illegal dumping and pollution**

**BUILDING HOUSING AND SUPPORTING TENANTS** End the homelessness crisis. Build quality public housing rented out at a fair, affordable rent and open to everyone. **€16 billion, over five years, to deliver 80,000 homes – more housing allocations to people with high needs – more power over management companies – regulation of rents – certainty of tenure – support single-property landlords – planning powers back in local government – good planning decisions – preserve green space – large fines on vacant sites – implement the 1973 Kenny Report – maximise people's independence in old age**

**IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL** Every place to be a good place to live. **Easy access to clean, healthy environments like parks, gyms and walks – Recreation areas, community buildings and youth cafés – rural public transport – rural hackney schemes – longer opening hours for libraries and arts centres – local councils working with community, voluntary and neighbourhood groups – public spaces for use by community groups – promotion of inclusive community arts and cultural activities – local policing forums – Make Way Days (disability action)**

**SUPPORTING WORKERS' RIGHTS, JOBS AND ENTERPRISE** Enhance the economic role of local councils. Local councils must pay decent wages, including to contractors. **Local economic plans focused on jobs disadvantaged areas – better public transport links to local shops – Nightlife Commissioners to support the night economy – affordable childcare facilities provided by councils**

**DELIVERING LABOUR'S VISION OF EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS** **Support the UN Sustainable Development Goals – Publish statistics on local inequalities – support families and children, LGBT+ communities, new communities and people with disabilities**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY** Strengthen elected councils. **A Citizens' Assembly to discuss stronger local government – restore Town Councils to every urban area over 5,000 people – reconfigure Municipal Districts to cover rural areas – seek greater accountability of public agencies to elected councils – government agencies to pay local commercial rates – fair taxation of property at local level, avoiding a sudden spike in LPT due to the revaluation of properties – the option of introducing tourist levies, to fund local arts and heritage – directly-elected mayors with adequate resources – a Yes vote for directly-elected mayors in local votes being held in Cork, Limerick and Waterford – participatory budgeting at local level – more diversity in the political system**

## One-Page Highlights of our European Manifesto

Labour and our allies want a Social Europe that recognises the failings of the current model and dedicates itself to improving people's lives. European workers need a pay rise and public investment in services.

**LIMITING THE HARM FROM BREXIT** Protect people's jobs and livelihoods where these are threatened by Brexit. **Protect the Good Friday Agreement – Use EU Globalisation Fund for Irish workers – help exporters – an open Irish border – continued EU funding for Ireland and Northern Ireland**

**LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE ACTION** Co-ordination and co-operation at EU level. **Climate-neutral by 2050 – EU Sustainable Development Pact strict ecological targets – UN's Sustainable Development Goals – a Just Transition for workers – a Green New Deal – taxing of greenhouse gases fairly, making polluters pay and using funds to assist households to overcome energy poverty and to make clean technology affordable – better recycling, particularly plastic – better packaging laws – reform CAP to promote sustainability**

**GREATER EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC HOUSING** The State must provide affordable public housing, with EU support. **EU structural funds to match spending by councils on public housing – flexibility for public housing in national debt rules – an EU-wide plan for Affordable Housing and Clean Public Transport.**

**SUPPORTING WORKERS' RIGHTS, JOBS AND ENTERPRISE** The fight to restore a Social Europe. **Elimination of zero-hours contracts and bogus self-employment – investment for sustainable jobs – reinforce workers' rights – taxation on robots/AI that displace jobs – a four-day working week or six-hour day (without loss of pay) to counter-balance unpaid work outside of regular hours – more Qualified Majority Voting on anti-discrimination, social security and social protection of workers – reform the Eurozone – a European Central Bank (ECB) mandate to lower unemployment as well as inflation – an EU-wide living wage policy – a renewed European Maternity Directive – a European Social Action Plan: binding rules to strengthen welfare systems – end tax evasion – digital taxation and Financial Transaction Tax at European level – Irish autonomy in other tax policy while ensuring corporations pay their fair share.**

**IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL** Practical steps to reduce poverty. **A new Social Contract for Europe – a European Child Guarantee – shared European public services, such as for very specialised surgical procedures, the development of "orphan drugs" and treatment for rare diseases**

**DELIVERING LABOUR'S VISION OF EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS** A Social Europe. **A Social Progress Protocol in EU treaties – digital rights for all: access to the internet, personal privacy online, and protection from online harassment – an EU Gender Equality Strategy – full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) – new EU rules to remove obstacles for LGBTQI people to live freely with respect – a fair system of migration and refugee integration**

**STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT** Strong action to promote and reinforce European democracy. **Opposition to racist and xenophobic anti-migrant policies – Labour will advocate Ireland's tradition of military neutrality – we promise clear and open language on EU matters – We back the call for Europe Day (9<sup>th</sup> May) to become a public holiday in all member states, to celebrate peace and unity in Europe**