

SINN FÉIN VISION FOR DUBLIN CENTRAL

A PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY AND BUILD A BETTER FUTURE



FÍS SHINN FÉIN DO BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH LÁIR

ÁIT CHUN TEAGHLAIGH A THÓGÁIL AGUS TODHCHAÍ NÍOS FEARR A BHAINT AMACH



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Executive summary

Our communities are filled with energy, creativity, constant inspiration and care, and they deserve a city that works for them. People want safe neighbourhoods, better public services, affordable housing, and real opportunities for their families.

For years, Dublin's inner city areas have been abandoned by the government, with empty promises and no real change. They have also failed to protect our communities from the escalating cost of living crisis, leaving many struggling to make ends meet.

Sinn Féin is driven by our determination to make Ireland a better place to raise a family and build a future. That means supporting workers, families and communities.

We will invest in the things that matter to you – in housing, childcare, health and communities.

We will deliver the facilities that the people of Cabra, North Inner City and North West Inner City deserve, and this commitment to invest in such projects across the state will be a key part of Sinn Féin's overall plan to tackle poverty and disadvantage and ensure equal opportunities for all.

Community is everything. It is the beating heart of life in Ireland and Sinn Féin is absolutely committed to backing communities held back by neglect and cuts, ensuring they can reach their full potential.

Now is the time to come together to work for a Dublin that is vibrant, safe, and fair.

Our plans are fully costed and fully funded, and we will bring real improvements to Dublin's inner city, ensuring these areas are a better place to raise a family and build a future.

Sinn Féin priorities for Dublin Central include:

- Making housing affordable and bringing homeownership back into reach for working people
- Delivering affordable childcare for parents
- Investing in working-class communities, including sports facilities, play facilities, community facilities, youth facilities, arts facilities and public spaces
- Delivering healthcare services that work, including proper mental health and addiction services
- Investing in people with disabilities
- Ensuring carers are properly supported
- Providing better supports for the business community, workers, and social enterprises
- Ensuring our public transport is safe, affordable, reliable and accessible
- Ensuring our community, visitors, workers and local businesses feel safe on the streets
- Making our streets more sustainable, greener, and cleaner
- Prioritising regeneration of our city through the key projects

Achoimre fheidhmeach

Tá ár bpobail líonta le fuinneamh, cruthaitheacht, inspioráid leanúnach agus cúram, agus tá cathair a oibríonn dóibh tuillte ag na pobail seo. Teastaíonn comharsanachtaí sábháilte ó dhaoine, mar aon le seirbhísí poiblí níos fearr, tithíocht inacmhainne, agus fíordheiseanna dá dteaghlaigh.

Le blianta anuas, tá ceantair i lár chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath tar éis a bheith tréigthe ag an rialtas, le gealltais gan cur leo agus gan aon athrú dáiríre. Theip orthu freisin ár bpobail a chosaint ón ngéarchéim mhéadaitheach a bhaineann le costais mhaireachtála, rud a fhágann go mbíonn sé deacair ar go leor daoine greim a choinneáil faoin bhfiacail.

Tá Sinn Féin spreagtha ag an diongbháilteacht atá againn áit obair níos fearr a dhéanamh d'Éirinn chun teaghlach agus todhchaí níos fearr a thógáil. Ciallaíonn sé sin tacú le hoibrithe, le teaghlaigh agus le pobail.

Déanfaimid infheistíocht sna rudaí atá tábhachtach duit – tithíocht, cúram leanaí, sláinte agus pobail.

Cuirfimid na háiseanna ar fáil atá tuillte ag muintir na Cabraí, na Lárchathrach Thuaidh agus Iarthuaisceart Lár na Cathrach, agus beidh an tiomantas seo chun infheistíocht a dhéanamh i dtionscadail den sórt sin ar fud an stáit mar chuid lárnach de phlean iomlán Shinn Féin dul i ngleic le bochtaineacht agus míbhuntáiste agus comhdheiseanna a chinntiú do chách.

Tá an pobal i gcroílár gach ruda. Tá sé mar chroílár shaol na hÉireann agus tá Sinn Féin go hiomlán tiomanta do thacaíocht a thabhairt do phobail atá á gcoinneáil siar ag faillí agus ciorruithe, ag cinntiú gur féidir leo barr a gcumais a bhaint amach.

Tá sé in am dúinn teacht le chéile chun saothrú i dtreo Baile Átha Cliath atá bríomhar, sábháilte agus cothrom.

Tá ár bpleananna costáilte agus maoinithe go hiomlán, agus déanfaimid fíorfheabhsúcháin ar lár chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath, lena chinntiú gur áiteanna níos fearr iad na ceantair istigh inti le teaghlach agus todhchaí a thógáil.

I measc thosaíochtaí Shinn Féin do Bhaile Átha Cliath Láir tá:

- Tithíocht a dhéanamh inacmhainne agus a chinntiú go bhfuil úinéireacht tí indéanta
- don lucht oibre
- Cúram leanaí inacmhainne a sholáthar do thuismitheoirí
- Infheistíocht a dhéanamh i bpobail den lucht oibre, lena n-áirítear áiseanna spóirt, áiseanna súgartha, áiseanna pobail, áiseanna óige, áiseanna ealaíon agus spásanna poiblí
- Seirbhísí cúram sláinte a oibríonn a chur ar fáil, lena n-áirítear seirbhísí cearta meabhairshláinte agus andúile
- Infheistiú i ndaoine faoi mhíchumas
- A chinntiú go dtugtar tacaíocht chuí do chúramóirí
- Tacaíochtaí níos fearr a chur ar fáil don phobal gnó, d'oibrithe agus d'fhiontair shóisialta
- A chinntiú go bhfuil ár n-iompar poiblí sábháilte, inacmhainne, iontaofa agus inrochtana
- A chinntiú go mothaíonn ár bpobal, cuairteoirí, oibrithe agus gnólachtaí áitiúla sábháilte ar na sráideanna
- Ár sráideanna a dhéanamh níos inbhuanaithe, níos glaise agus níos glaine
- Tús áite a thabhairt d'athghiniúint ár gcathrach trí na príomhthionscadail



Cost of Living

Ordinary people in Dublin's inner city are all worse off as the result of the government failure to protect people from the cost-of-living crisis.

Wages and social supports have not kept pace with inflation. House prices, rents, childcare, food, and energy bills leave workers and families struggling to get by.

Sinn Féin would deliver immediate and long-lasting benefits to workers and families and help ordinary people struggling with the cost of living.

Sinn Féin's cost of living package 2024-2025 includes:

- Abolish the USC (for all workers on the first €45,000 you can earn)
- €450 electricity credits and extend the reduced VAT for electricity and gas
- €10 a day childcare for all.
- Extend parental leave and benefit to 52 weeks
- Reverse August and October's petrol and diesel hikes
- Abolish local property tax
- Increase carers allowance and relax means testing
- €500 carers and disability lump sum payment
- Double child benefit payments in October and December 2024.
- €1,500 cut in student fees
- €100m for affordable student accommodation
- Abolish apprenticeship fees
- Abolish the TV licence

Secure, Adequate and Affordable Housing

Sinn Féin are committed to bringing homeownership back within reach for working people in Dublin Central.

Too many people have delayed starting a family because they do not have a secure home.

We believe that everyone should have a home of their own. A home is not just a roof over your head. It is fundamental to the well-being of people, families, communities, public service delivery, the economy, and the nation.

Sinn Féin's housing plan will deliver 300,000 new homes – private, public, and affordable – and allow people to rent and build homes in their communities.

This requires a whole of government approach to housing, whether you are a first-time buyer, a social housing tenant, a family looking to expand, a low- or middle-income family, or an older person looking for appropriate long-term security and safety.

We will move heaven and earth to stand up for renters and deliver homes for working people.

Sinn Féin's new public housing model will focus more on mixed-income housing with an appropriate needs-based volume of age-friendly housing, housing for people with disabilities and wheelchair users and culturally appropriate homes for Travellers.



Inner City Flat Regeneration

Within the first six months in Government, Sinn Féin would agree to an accelerated multi-annual inner city flat complex regeneration programme. The budget of €50m would be doubled to €100m a year for five years to accelerate upgrading older inner-city flat complexes in Dublin City.

Childcare

Childcare has been far too expensive for far too long.

There is a growing issue with the availability of childcare places in Cabra, North Inner City and North West Inner City.

Thousands of our children are on waiting lists for spaces that are not there.

Childcare is an essential service; it is time it was given the investment and priority it needs.

Sinn Féin, in government, will deliver affordable childcare to our community. We would:

- Give all parents access to childcare at €10 a day per child. So, if you have a child who attends childcare full-time, five days a week, you will go from paying €800 per month to paying €200 per month.
- Increase the number of childcare spaces by providing more local authority-led childcare facilities.
- Extend parental leave and benefit to 52 weeks.

Education

Sinn Féin recognises that parents struggle with costs even when their children enter the public education system. Under Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil, free Education is a myth. In practice, education is too expensive from primary level right up to third level.

We will reduce the cost of education for parents by phasing out so-called 'voluntary contributions.'

We will increase funding for schools to end the need for these contributions and legislate to phase them out entirely over a term of government.

In government, Sinn Féin would:

- Increase funding to expand School transport by 100,000 additional seats
- Extend hot meals to all primary schools and commence roll out to secondary schools
- Provide free schoolbooks for senior cycle
- Increase funding for the free school books scheme in primary schools
- Recruit more than 1,500 additional SETs and almost 1,900 additional SNAs to better support and deliver appropriate school places to children with Special Educational Needs
- Halve the cost of fees at third level to €1,500 and abolish them over three years
- Immediately abolish fees for apprentices in 2025
- Invest €100m in 2025 to unlock shovel-ready student accommodation projects

Youth Services

The best way to strengthen our communities is by making them vibrant places to live, where people - especially young people - have opportunities for growth, expression, good education, and decent jobs. Cabra, North Inner City, and North West Inner City desperately need places like this.

Sinn Féin will prioritise investing in our youth services.

Out of hours, young people should have more spaces to meet, including youth cafes and school and community facilities. We want all young people to have high-quality youth services and will prioritise investment in this area.

Sinn Féin also recognises the lack of funding for programmes such as SICAP and LEADER, which are vital for communities. We will increase funding for such programmes.

In government, Sinn Féin would:

- Increase investment in youth services, including Universal Youth Hubs
- Deliver additional funding for SICAP, LEADER and the community services programme
- Invest in Community Centre including youth services and Family Resource Centres

Community Development, Sport and Culture

The provision of sporting and cultural activities faces mounting pressure for providers and parents as the cost of living escalates, creating increased inequalities in Dublin Central.

For example, there is only one public swimming pool in the North Inner City, which has resulted in a significant challenge for families, young people, and children in the area.

Multiple sports groups in Cabra and the North West Inner City desperately need new indoor sports facilities; there is a considerable shortage of playing grounds and green spaces and a desperate need to upgrade the currently existing facilities in the area.

These communities live with the barriers created by austerity. They live with intergenerational disadvantage, poverty, and young people are denied access to opportunities.

It's time to repair that damage, invest ambitiously in community development and build a better future for all.

Sinn Féin will put €1bn of the Apple Tax money into an Equality for Communities Fund to invest in working-class communities that Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have left behind and that bore the brunt of austerity cuts at a time when this tax should have been collected.

Such investment will be a key part of an overall plan to tackle poverty and disadvantage, and ensure equal opportunities for all.

The success of Team Ireland athletes at the Olympics reminds us of the power of sport to unite and uplift communities, and the importance of investing in our young people to foster ambition, determination and perseverance.

Sinn Féin believes in showing ambition for our young people, addressing this inequality of access, and easing the burden for parents and families struggling with the cost of living.

- Sinn Féin's proposal to deliver the Activity Card for Sport and Culture would empower children and ease the burden on parents
- Our proposal would see every child between the ages of 4 and 18 receive a card worth €130, which they could spend on extracurricular sports or arts activities
- We would also invest in sports, including the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) and grassroots football



Healthcare Services

Our community deserves health services that work.

Local health services in Cabra, North Inner City, and North West Inner City are under severe pressure, and people are suffering from a lack of respect for their needs, including a lack of access to GPs, and dental services and a significant deficiency in mental health and addiction services.

Lack of mental health support and dual diagnosis services is pervasive throughout the North inner city and North West inner city, exacerbating health inequalities in the areas.

Young people find themselves unable to access timely assistance, and even when they manage to do so, it often occurs when their situations have worsened considerably.

The availability of addiction services in the inner city is hindered by such obstacles as premises access, leaving Cabra and other areas without essential addiction services and supports.

Healthcare reform is a core priority for Sinn Féin. Our multi-annual plan would deal with overcrowding, reduce waiting lists, improve patient safety, and deliver free-at-the-point-of-use healthcare.

Our plan spans all care sectors, supports best practice, challenges the worst inefficiencies and inequities, and recognises that investment is needed to deliver reform.

Our plan addresses capacity, processes, and workforce planning. We would bring healthcare into the 21st century with a major investment in digital transformation. We have previously published comprehensive proposals in our documents *Priorities for Change in Health and Social Care (2023)* and *Alternative Budget for Health 2024 (2023)*. In the coming weeks, we will be publishing our full 5-year health plan.

Sinn Féin would take big, bold steps towards universal healthcare over a 5-year term.

We would provide full medical card cover to all workers up to the median income by upgrading 150,000 GP visit cards a year to full medical cards. In 2025, we would also cap monthly medicine costs at €50 for all other households, phase out car parking charges, and reduce prescription charges.

Sinn Féin would set a zero-tolerance approach to hospital trolleys and overcrowding as a target for all hospitals. To achieve this, we would invest in 5,000 hospital inpatient beds out to 2031, including replacements for 1,000 unsuitable beds. This is in addition to a current pipeline of c. 1,000 beds and the c. 1,200 beds funded since 2020. We would also invest in diagnostic capacity, theatre space, and aligned discharge capacity in the community. We would accelerate the delivery of public only elective hospitals to tackle waiting lists. We would legislate to apply safe staffing levels and waiting list targets.

Within our hospital investment plan, Sinn Féin would prioritise investment in children's healthcare. The agonising waits faced by children with scoliosis and spina bifida are unacceptable, and these children are not alone. Thousands more are languishing on waiting lists with untreated complex conditions. Sinn Féin would end the calamity of mismanagement of paediatric orthopaedics, mandate transparent care pathways for all children, ensure funded training for more specialist surgeons, and expand protected surgical and recovery capacity. Every child should have the opportunity for early intervention and wrap-around supports to manage their health. We would ensure that, where domestic services cannot treat a child on time, children who can travel have access to treatment abroad.

Sinn Féin would drive on essential home and community care reforms to relieve pressure on acute hospitals. We would invest in primary care, develop a landmark public GP contract, employ public dental teams, establish a Pharmacy First model for common conditions, and deliver a transformation in home care and home support. We would deliver 2,000 community beds over a term of Government.

Sinn Féin's Mental Health Action Plan would deliver an integrated early intervention service for children and young people, expand access to Jigsaw and primary care mental health services, fund the full complement of inpatient and intellectual disability CAMHS teams, and deliver 20 more early intervention in psychosis teams. We would also invest towards achieving universal counselling in primary care.

Sinn Féin would implement multi-annual funding frameworks to deliver national strategies, such as for cancer, stroke, eating disorders, and women's health, to name a few, which have been starved of adequate investment. Sinn Féin would set aside €90m in recurring funding across a range of strategies in 2025, in addition to €17m for our community addiction and recovery plan and €15m to ensure a continued supply of new medicines and therapies. We would establish a structured care programme in women's health to deliver a high-quality, life course approach to women and girls' health and wellbeing. This would include access to therapies and medication, including contraception and HRT.

Sinn Féin would underpin delivery with strategic workforce planning to ensure a sustainable supply of frontline workers. We would double the number of third-level training places for health and social care over a term of government. We would maximise opportunities for domestic students and graduates to reduce reliance on international recruitment.



Disability and Care

A Sinn Féin government would invest in people with disabilities. We would implement an unprecedented investment programme to deliver a rights-based approach to disability services.

People with disabilities in Dublin Central are struggling to access the services and support they need.

The extra costs of having a disability are significant and are a key factor perpetuating poverty among people with disabilities. The cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated the financial hardship faced by people with disabilities.

The failure of government to ensure housing is affordable is driving an exodus of critical staff and undermining already stretched services. Their failure to address the housing crisis has fed into extremely high rates of vacancy across children's disability network teams and teachers being pulled from special education roles.

In government, Sinn Féin would prioritise:

- Implementing an unprecedented investment programme to deliver a rights-based approach to disability services, including fund therapies, respite services, residential care and de-congregation, personal assistance services, home support hours, day services, and access to specialist and mainstream community services
- Increasing core disability-related social welfare schemes by €20 in 2025
- Investing in lifelong inclusion in learning by hiring an additional 1,500 additional Special Education Teachers and 1,900 SNAs; and extending the Fund for Students with Disabilities (FSD) across Further Education and Training in 2025
- Funding targeted recruitment and retention measures for children's disability services and a Community Care Access Fund to speed-up access to mental health and disability diagnosis and interventions
- Reforming the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passenger's Scheme
- Doubling the funding for housing adaptation grants
- Putting in place a Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO) Training and Development Fund and a Disability Inclusion Fund for all Local Authorities to support their specific disability inclusion requirements in line with the UN CRPD and Public Sector Duty

Carers are the backbone of our society. Every day they look after and care for some of our most vulnerable citizens. The unpaid caring work of many family carers goes unrecognised.

It's also unfair that Carers Allowance is means tested.

In government, Sinn Féin would abolish the means test for Carers Allowance.

In addition to increasing the rate of payment for the Carer's Allowance in Budget 2025, Sinn Féin would raise the income threshold to €1,460 for a couple and €730 for a single person so that thousands more carers will become eligible for payment. And those who are already eligible but on a partial payment will see their rate increase.

Public Transport

Our community has struggled long enough with public transport that doesn't meet our needs.

People deserve a system that works for everyone – reliable, affordable, and easy to get to work, school, and services. It's time for a change.

Sinn Féin plans to invest significantly in our public transport system to reduce carbon emissions and create a safe, affordable, reliable, and accessible public transport network for Dublin.

To get more people using public transport, we must tackle the issue of cost, accessibility, and safety. Sinn Féin is committed to investing in fully wheelchair-accessible train and bus stations.

We want a sustainable, all-island transport system that's green, affordable and reliable, serving people of all ages and abilities locally and nationally.

In government, Sinn Féin would prioritise:

- More frequent, affordable, and accessible public transport, including more frequent bus routes and the expansion of 24 bus routes
- Making the temporary 20% fare reduction on public transport permanent and extending it to commercial operators
- Making the 50% reduction in fares for young people and students permanent
- Making public transport safer, including the establishment of a dedicated transport police
- Reforming and expanding our school transport system, including 10,000 more school bus places
- Incentivising active travel by expanding Bikes and building more greenways
- Revising the privatisation of the public transport system will ensure fair pricing, transparency, and accountability and reduce delivery failures like ghost buses
- Extend Dublin Bus, the Dart and Luas to 1am
- Cancelling the tender for the Luas and giving it to Iarnród Éireann to ensure it is better integrated with the Dart and Train Station
- Ensuring Dublin's transport system is safe and accessible for disabled people

Keeping Community Safe

Dublin is a city many are proud to call home, but parts of the city have become dangerous, run-down, and plagued by crime and anti-social behaviour. Residents in areas like Dorset Street, Parnell Street, Moore Street, Mountjoy Square, and so many others, no longer feel safe in their neighbourhoods.

The government has failed to support these communities and provide adequate Garda resources, leaving them vulnerable to crime.

Sinn Féin is committed to addressing these issues.

A Sinn Féin government would commence the largest Garda recruitment drive in the state's history and introduce retention measures to reduce resignations and build Garda numbers.

We would review the Community Safety Innovation Fund to ensure communities that are harmed most by criminality see the proceeds of those crimes returned to them.

We would prioritise the regeneration of the inner city, ensuring safer streets, better policing, and real investment in the future of Dublin's communities.

Sustainability and Climate Action

Climate action presents one of the greatest opportunities for economic, social and environmental progress in Dublin Central.

Decades of Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Greens have set Ireland on the path to climate failure. In the same way that they won't fix housing and health, neither will the climate crises.

The transition to net zero cannot burden the less well-off disproportionately.

At the heart of Sinn Féin's vision is just transition in which no one is left behind.

Cabra, North Inner City, and North West Inner City areas have many green spaces, but their quality varies greatly. Every community deserves access to clean, well-maintained parks with trees, playgrounds, and allotments.

To support real climate action, Sinn Féin has proposed a dedicated public park and woodland fund, which would allow local authorities to apply for funding to assist in purchasing or developing parcels of land for use as public parks and green areas.

We would also reform how retrofitting is funded, targeted, and delivered. Our policies would ensure that at least 75% of the funding for residential and community retrofits would be directed at those on low and modest incomes so that achieving our climate targets goes hand in hand with alleviating energy poverty and social deprivation.

In government, Sinn Féin would prioritise:

- Tackling high electricity prices, some of the highest in the EU
- A new fund for urban parks, green areas and woodlands across the city and country
- An alternative vision for renewable energy through increased public, community and domestic ownership ensures that ordinary Dubs feel it in their pocket

- Empowering communities in climate action by increasing democratic participation and engagement
- Support for new community wealth-building initiatives and establishment of community wealth-building units
- Making retrofitting accessible and affordable with a fairer retrofitting plan
- A truly just transition, including the establishment of Just Transition Commission
- A restriction on LED Billboards to reduce demand and overconsumption
- A moratorium on Data Centres in Dublin to make sure the lights don't go out
- Taking Waste Collection Services back under the control of local authorities

Supporting workers and businesses

We are committed to advancing a productive, enterprising economy where local businesses can survive and flourish.

We want to make Dublin Central and our local areas the best places to live and work, where the power of public spending is used to drive decent wages and fair employment, as well as thriving businesses.

To help with the cost-of-living crisis, we will abolish the USC for average workers, easing the burden on lower and middle-income families. We will promote community wealth-building, employee-owned businesses, and workers' co-ops to drive innovation and job creation.

We want to support businesses in scaling up rather than selling up, ensuring support is in place through a new enterprise agency dedicated to driving domestic businesses. Supporting high-wage and high-productivity jobs and proper terms and conditions will benefit workers, business owners, and the overall economy of our city.

Sinn Féin in government would prioritise:

- Abolish the Universal Social Charge (USC) for average workers
- Introduce a Living Wage for workers while also putting appropriate safeguards in place for those financially vulnerable businesses who may not be able to afford this change immediately
- Modernise licensing laws and associated costs in the night-time economy, easing the burden on local businesses
- Establish an Irish Enterprise Agency to support local businesses
- Create a Community Wealth Building Fund to assist local authorities in developing and implementing CWB strategies and establish a Workers' Co-operative Development Unit & Fund
- Facilitate better funding options and timely access to supports for local businesses, startups, and social enterprises, with stronger supports focusing on green technologies, sustainability and digital innovation
- Enhance education and training opportunities, including increasing apprenticeships, upskilling, reskilling, and supporting ongoing education programs to build a skilled workforce in Dublin city
- Career supports for young people with disabilities

Local Democracy

We currently have the most centralised system of local government in Europe with limited democratic decision-making powers and insufficient funding and resources for local authorities. This means that far too many decisions are made by unelected officials.

In recent years, town councils have been abolished, while powers in housing and planning, water and waste have all been centralised or privatised. This is where change needs to start.

A Sinn Féin government would work to address this through a review of local government with a view to increasing powers and responsibilities of both elected Council and those who elect them.

In government, Sinn Féin would prioritise:

- Working hard to improve local areas by investing in public spaces, leisure and sports facilities, transport infrastructure and the local environment
- Putting the delivery of social and affordable housing back at the top of the Council agenda
- Abolishing the Local Property Tax
- Bringing waste collection services back under the control of local Councils
- Making your Council work better for you; consulting, listening, and delivering for the community
- Tackling red tape and delays at local authority level, particularly in relation to planning and the delivery of housing and infrastructure
- Exploring the introduction of a Tourist Tax to fund local Councils
- Getting local Councils back doing the things they once did well including the maintenance of roads, delivering local services - including waste services, cleaning our streets, and delivering and maintaining homes for which they are responsible

Arts, Cultural Infrastructure and Regeneration

Supporting Irish artists

Dublin Central has the potential to be transformed, not with flashy projects aimed at tourists, but with top-quality facilities designed for the people who live, work, and move to the area.

Sinn Féin's recent Arts Survey identified that almost three-quarters of respondents were unsatisfied with their area's local arts facilities and spaces. The need for workspaces and venues is a pressing issue, made all the more urgent by the threat excessive rents and private developers pose to establish hubs for culture.

From pubs like The Cobblestone to the temporary homes of struggling arts companies.

As well as empowering local authorities to protect existing centres of intangible cultural heritage in planning law and examining measures for making space for art in development plans and using a minimum visual arts requirements for the public realm, Sinn Féin proposes to develop a dedicated Arts Spaces Capital Programme to build and redevelop arts workspaces and venues.



Sinn Féin recently hosted an Arts Assembly and met with and listened to over 100 artists and arts organisations in The Complex, Dublin's northwest inner city.

As part of our engagement, we shared our draft priorities for the arts with them.

We are setting out a vision for an artist-led democratic transformation of the Arts Council to make it more rooted and relevant in communities.

This must be backed up by significant, sustainable, multi-annual funding and with a dedicated capital programme, such as what exists for sport, to deliver workspaces, venues, and studios, not to mention the housing our artists need.

Key Regeneration Projects

Dublin City urgently needs regeneration to revitalise its inner-city neighbourhoods and create thriving and sustainable communities. In government, Sinn Féin will prioritise key regeneration projects to transform our city and improve the quality of life for residents, families, workers, visitors and our business community.

Moore Street Battleground Site

The development of a modern historical quarter - shaped around the Moore Street Battleground site - is about preserving our revolutionary history, our language and culture, but it is also about putting heritage and culture at the very centre of the social and economic regeneration of the North Inner City.

A living museum with platforms for up-and-coming and well-known artists and performers, making permanent the Moore Street Market – Dublin's oldest food market – and tying in with the new City Library, the Hugh Lane Gallery and the Writers' Museum on Parnell Square, to breathe new life into Dublin's North Inner City, which has been neglected for too long.



Despite successive governments consigning so much of Dublin's north inner-city to serious neglect, we believe that the preservation and development of Moore Street is something that people of Dublin can be enthused by and get behind.

This area is crying out for the right investment and the care it deserves – the kind of attention that would benefit all who inhabit our capital city and all those who visit or pass through it.

In 2021, the Dáil unanimously passed the Sinn Féin Ceathrú Cultúir 1916 Bill to protect the 1916 battle site and the historic street market as a Culture Quarter, which would breathe new life into the North Inner City and facilitate the ambitious plans put forward by relatives of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation as part of the Moore Street Preservation Trust.

Yet, for too long, successive governments have planned to turn the Moore Street area over to the whim of private developers.

A site of such historical and cultural significance deserves so much better than that. Sinn Féin is firmly committed to delivering the vision for Moore Street set out by the Moore Street Preservation Trust.



Moore Street Market

When most Dubliners and non-Dubliners alike are asked about Moore Street, the market is one of the first things that comes to mind.

The Moore Street Market is Dublin's oldest food market, dating from around 1850, around the Great Hunger years. It predates the construction of the GPO and Sackville Street – now O'Connell Street. The market has continued to this day, even during very turbulent times. Dublin had many outdoor and indoor markets up to the recent past, but the advent of large supermarkets and the value of the city centre land soaring saw the closure and demise of most across the city.



The market's footprint was much larger until the building of the ILAC Centre led to the closure of much of the west side of Moore Street, resulting in the end of the Rotunda Market, Taaffe's Market, Anglesea Market and Norfolk Market. Many felt at the time that the end was in sight for the Moore Street Market, and if the developers had had their way, it would have also become a footnote in history.

The closure of the other markets impacted the remaining market. While the market stall holders have survived, it hasn't been without a struggle - against dereliction, Dublin City Council neglect, displacement and Luas disturbance, making many stalls barely sustainable.

Sinn Féin believes that a revived market is essential to the restoration of the area and an appropriate historical and cultural quarter, and we agree with many of the needs identified by the traders themselves and by the Expert Group on the Moore Street Market.

Smithfield Market

The market in Smithfield has the potential to become a vibrant national food market, similar to the famous markets in Lisbon or Bilbao. With its rich Victorian heritage and stunning architecture, it should no longer be left derelict.

Sinn Féin is committed to revitalising places like Smithfield, turning them into bustling hubs that showcase the best Irish food, culture, and craftsmanship while preserving their historic charm.



PICTURE: CAROLINE QUINN

In government, we will ensure these markets are put to good use, benefiting both locals and visitors alike.

Parnell Square Cultural Quarter

The Parnell Square Cultural Quarter aims to transform Dublin's north inner city by creating spaces for learning, literature, music, innovation, and cultural exchange. This development will enrich the city's cultural scene and help revitalise the area.

However, progress has been slow, and immediate improvements are needed, including better pe-



PICTURE: DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL.

- **Concept designs from 2016 for a new City Library at Parnell Square**

destrian paths, new street art, and a welcoming public space near the Garden of Remembrance. The project also faces delays due to funding issues.

There is an urgent need to expedite the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter project delivery to fully realise the original vision and potential of this landmark initiative.

Sinn Féin is committed to speeding up the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter project to bring this important vision to life as originally planned.

Greater Dorset Street Project

The Greater Dorset Street Project aims to transform this historic street into a vibrant and accessible urban quarter. Currently, Dorset Street suffers from vacant buildings, litter, air pollution, traffic issues, and poor maintenance, all of which need urgent attention.

The project envisions a future where Dorset Street thrives with education, culture, local business, and tourism. In 2018, residents and businesses teamed up with Dublin City Council to gather ideas for the street's future through the Greater Dorset Street Together project. Their goal is to create a people-focused, fully revitalised residential and commercial area.

Greater Dorset Street at the moment:



IMAGE: THE GREATER DORSET STREET TOGETHER PROJECT

What it could be:



IMAGE: THE GREATER DORSET STREET TOGETHER PROJECT

Key proposals include better pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, improved outdoor spaces, restoring historic buildings, enhancing parks, and improving waste and water management. However, progress has been slow, with the Dublin City Council not fully engaging with the residents, leaving the project stalled.

Sinn Féin supports the Greater Dorset Street Together proposals. In Government, we would prioritise this project to ensure it is delivered without further delays, creating a better future for Dorset Street and its residents.

Mountjoy Square

The transformation of Mountjoy Square is currently in progress under the collaborative efforts of a group of residents and Bernard Seymour Landscape Architects, the esteemed firm that designed the public realm plan for the vicinity of the city library.



IMAGE: DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL REPORT

- **Computer-generated images of the proposed Mountjoy Square Park redevelopment**

The primary objectives of this project revolve around a holistic revitalisation of the area. Central to this is reducing road space in favour of expanding cycle lanes and pedestrian pathways, thereby promoting a healthier and more sustainable mode of transportation. Alongside this, a notable em-

phasis is placed on incorporating additional green spaces, including planting more trees to enhance the natural aesthetic and improve air quality within the area.

We need this project and its vision to maintain and reflect the historic Georgian character of the area.

Dublin Arch (formerly Connolly Quarter)

Dublin City Council has approved the second phase of the Dublin Arch project beside Connolly Station, led by Ballymore Group. This development will include homes, offices, community spaces, and a public square, creating a new urban hub. While the project promises over 1,000 jobs, we are concerned about reducing social housing and removing key community commitments.



- Image: Dublin Arch (formerly Connolly Quarter)¹

Social homes have been cut from 75 to just 19, including 187 build-to-rent units that prioritise profit over affordable housing. Additionally, promises to provide new facilities for the Docklands Boxing Club and St Joseph's O'Connell Boys GAA have been scrapped, and no childcare facilities are included, despite the area's need.

In government, we will ensure the project delivers for the local community, including affordable housing, childcare, and apprenticeships, while minimising the negative impact of construction.

Dalymount Park

Dalymount Park, a historic football stadium in Phibsborough, holds a special place in Irish football, hosting many international matches, European games, as well as musical, cultural and community events. The redevelopment plans include an 8,000-capacity stadium, new facilities such as changing rooms, concession stands, a bar, and a 500-square-metre multi-purpose room and gym.

Despite being acquired by Dublin City Council



PICTURE: DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

¹ <https://rkd.ie/work/connolly-quarter/>

in 2015, the project has faced severe funding delays due to construction costs. Completion is now expected by 2026.

Sinn Féin fully supports the redevelopment and will continue to push for government funding and timely delivery while ensuring the needs of residents and local businesses are met.

Pope John Paul II Park Redevelopment (The Bogies), Cabra West



Pope John Paul II Park, known locally as 'the Bogies,' was developed in the 1950s from a former railway yard and is now a heavily used sports park. The current facilities include six changing rooms, referees' rooms, and storage for sports equipment.

However, local clubs, including a boxing club, dance school, and kickboxing club, will soon lose their premises due to upcoming development on the site.

Sinn Féin believes that the Bogies is an ideal location for a multipurpose sports facility to serve the community, offering a variety of sports for all residents. Dublin City Council supports these proposals, and in government, Sinn Féin will push to ensure these plans are incorporated into the city's sports strategy and delivered promptly to meet the needs of the local community.

Abbey Theatre

The Abbey Theatre, Ireland's National Theatre, has been a cultural landmark since 1904. However, over 50 years old, the current building no longer meets the needs of artists, audiences, or staff and is inefficient regarding energy use.



PHOTOGRAPH: ROS KAVANAGH

• The Abbey Theatre in Dublin

The continuous delays and inaction on the part of the government to deliver on the long-awaited capital projects for our national cultural institutions (NCIs), which include the Abbey Theatre, has had a knock-off effect on the ability to develop both the arts of music and theatre in Ireland.

Sinn Féin is committed to completing these projects.

TO VIEW SINN FÉIN POLICIES AND DETAILED PROPOSALS:

SINN FÉIN ALTERNATIVE BUDGET 2025:



<https://budget.sinnfein.ie/>

SINN FÉIN VISION FOR DUBLIN:



<https://www.dublinsinnfein.com>

OTHER POLICIES AND PROPOSALS:



<https://www.sinnfein.ie/policy-document-archive>

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ÁIT CHUN TEAGHLAIGH A THÓGÁIL AGUS TODHCHAÍ NÍOS FEARR A BHAINT AMACH



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