



A VISION FOR DUBLIN

**Our plan to revitalise
our capital city.**

Labour      



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Our Mission is to deliver on the many plans to revitalise Dublin, to create a directly elected Mayor to lead our city and position it as a leading capital of the world.

Cities compete globally for investment, talent, visitors, and attractions. Dublin is being left behind because of a political vacuum at the heart of decision making in our capital city. The neglect has manifested in many policy areas, and a year on from the riots of November 2023 little has changed, despite another new plan for Dublin. Labour will change this while protecting the individual character and strengths of the existing four local authorities.

There is much that is great about Dublin, and we want to harness the spirit and energy of our city as a national and global melting pot. Too much political debate in Ireland is focused around using Dublin as a punching bag for other areas looking for investment. The reality is our city has never been properly invested in or received the attention from government it deserves. When Dublin thrives, Ireland wins because it is the engine of our economy and generates the growth and revenues that provides opportunities for people across our island.

A DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR

For decades plans have been mooted for a directly elected Mayor for Dublin. A Citizen's Assembly has reported comprehensive proposals, and it is now time to act.

Labour will hold a plebiscite to formulate the powers of the office by the end of 2026. The Mayor will be responsible for oversight of 15 policy areas including homelessness, housing, community healthcare, transport, the environment, and emergency services. The new Dublin Mayor will have the authority to raise revenues and to borrow, and the power to introduce new regulations and to convene meetings with local and national agencies.

We will develop a cultural hub in the GPO and also locate the office of the new Dublin Mayor within that complex on O'Connell Street as part of our plan to regeneration and revitalise our main thoroughfare and provide a new centre of local power separate to the Merrion/Kildare street government quarter.

NEW IDEAS TO REVITALISE DUBLIN

Since Labour drove the redevelopment of the Docklands, the completion of Luas Cross City and the rollout of the Dublin Bikes network very few new flagship projects have emerged in Dublin. Labour is proposing the following ideas and initiatives to revitalise and regenerate our city:

A Dublin food market network

Within 18 months we will drive the opening of a new food market in the historic Fruit and Vegetable market in Smithfield. We will expand the network further using the former tourist office in St Andrews Church, and the reopening of the Iveagh Markets in Dublin 8.

A New Artists Quarter

Between Abbey Street, Bachelors Walk and Eden Quay there are laneways with low rise lock-ups that have become no-go areas with a lot of vacancy. Labour will seek to CPO parts of this area using our proposed Cultural Infrastructure Company to redevelop it as a new artists quarter and offer space for artist studios and co-operatives and creative startups, along with new affordable city centre accommodation for people working there.

Heated Lido at George's Dock

George's Dock has been abandoned effectively as a swamp after proposals for a whitewater rafting facility, and now a rescue training centre. Labour will support the campaign for a year-round heated Lido.

Bridge the Liffey

We will progress plans for a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Liffey to connect the War Memorial Gardens to the Phoenix Park, and similar plans for an active travel Point bridge at the East Link. These will integrate the city to the east and west.

District Heating

For years plans for district heating have been proposed, so Labour will ensure it is rolled out starting in the Glass Bottle site and docklands, and then expand provision in the outer suburbs using excess heat from existing data centres.

Expand City Bikes Scheme

There has been no significant expansion of the City Bikes scheme since 2014, but Labour will advance plans to ensure it is provided across the four local authorities and develop a city wide network of cycleways.

Sports Facilities in every community

Communities across the city do not have enough sports pitches or facilities. Labour will ensure every community has access to multi-sport facilities using models like the proposed sports campus at the Marrowbone Lane depot site which we will deliver on.



A Pet Friendly City

Dublin has suburban dog parks but none in the city centre area. Labour will increase the number of people living in the city, give renter's the right to have a pet in their home, and develop at least four inner city dog parks on underutilised or vacant land.

Restaurant night

We have Culture night and Open House, which bring thousands of people into the city. Our restaurants and cafés which are an intrinsic part of the city would benefit from a similar initiative in the off season. Working with stakeholders we will develop a dedicated 'Restaurant Night' in both January and February to boost the city centre.

A National Exhibition Centre

Dublin lacks a large enough exhibit hall and convention space to attract international trade shows, expos and events like Lisbon or Berlin can. To compete internationally plans will be developed for a national exhibition centre either close to the airport or using port lands near the city centre.

Homes in the North Georgian Core

We can regenerate the north Georgian core from Parnell Square to Mountjoy Square by adopting a new flagship living city project to convert offices and add new infill public affordable housing while conserving the historic buildings, streetscapes, and public realm of the North Georgian core, building on plans for the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter. A similar project will be developed for the south Georgian core.

Many more ideas exist and can be implemented for Dublin: more public playgrounds, a public plaza in College Green, bringing Aldborough House into public ownership for redevelopment, public toilets, a reduction in street clutter and investment in better design for the public realm.

What is missing for Dublin is political leadership with power and resources to deliver for our city. Labour will advance plans for a directly elected Mayor and to fund these ideas we will give Dublin councils the power to raise revenue through a hotel bed tax, with matching capital funding from central government.

Labour will also prioritise the protection and restoration of nature in Dublin with more pocket parks and urban forests. We will establish a Dublin Bay Authority and develop a vision for enhancing public access, protection for biodiversity and improvement of the public amenity along the Poolbeg peninsula

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ACTIVE TRAVEL

Labour has comprehensive proposals for Dublin in our transport plan. Our city urgently needs Bus Connects and new Luas lines. Work must advance quickly on Metrolink, and a feasibility study carried out to continue growing the network to the southwest of the city. Labour will ensure these projects are funded and delivered.

Our most immediate priority is ensuring buses arrive on time, when they are scheduled, with sufficient capacity, and that services continue later into the night. We will introduce car free days in the city centre and continue to invest in active travel.

BETTER PUBLIC SERVICES AND HOUSING

A directly elected Mayor for Dublin will have the power and influence to develop and implement better public services for our capital city and coordinate efforts across the county. Three key priorities for Labour in Dublin are:

Housing

The Mayor working with Labour's proposed State Construction Company will drive the regeneration of Dublin and assemble plots for denser and more compact development of housing. Labour will ensure the Mayor has the power to drive the long term transformation of the rental market in Dublin towards a more affordable cost rental model like Vienna. The refurbishment and regeneration of social housing complexes will also be a priority. We will provide stronger regulation of short term lets and ensure the core city centre area has affordable housing so that workers in our public services and hospitality and experience sectors can live near to where they work. Labour will also drive a street by street retrofitting programme to upgrade homes across Dublin.

Safer Communities

Dublin needs more visible policing and the political power of the Mayor's office will ensure the commitment to 1,000 new Gardai on our streets is met. Providing extra training capacity in the Garda HQ in the Phoenix Park is one way to do that. We need a Mayor to change the perception of our city centre to attract back more evening visitors and this will take time and effort. New and targeted investment in communities and in particular youth work is needed to address anti-social behaviour and reduce disadvantage by building trust and social inclusion. Labour will establish a transport police as a unit of An Garda Síochána and introduce new community wardens.

Waste Management

Illegal dumping and littering are a scourge for many communities in our city and we have a dysfunctional waste collection system. Labour will begin the process to remunicipalise the waste collection system. We will change the law to allow for the tendering of collection services in an area for a single provider, while building up a public system. In the urban core we will introduce underground collection bins as shared collection points



for residential and commercial waste to reduce street clutter. Dublin can also be a leader in the circular economy by driving greater recycling and reuse initiatives with more bring centres and the development of repair cafes.

ARTS, CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

Our manifesto has extensive plans to support a thriving arts and culture sector. For Dublin a long-needed overhaul of licensing laws is essential to regenerate the nighttime economy. This will bring back vibrancy to the city centre and allow for experimentation with new experiences and venues. Labour will ensure this is progressed, and support longer opening hours for cultural institutions.



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