

Top 10 Things in Manifesto:

Reduce Cost of Living

Tackle family bills such as the cost of childcare, water charges, car insurance, high rents, energy costs, primary education costs, prescription charges, public transport fares, etc., so that the cost of living is reduced.

Build Irish NHS

Over 10 years and over three phases, end the two tier health service by building an Irish NHS that is publicly financed with a strong emphasis on primary care. In the first five years, this will mean recruiting more GPs, practice nurses, public health nurses, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists etc and building up this side of the health service.

Set up Anti-Corruption Agency

Establish a new body, the Independent Anti-Corruption Agency and update anti-corruption legislation to deal with corruption and white collar crime in Irish life.

Create a Community Banking Sector

Give people another choice in how and where they bank by allowing the Credit Unions and Post offices to compete more freely against the main banks. This means people will be able to get debit cards and online banking from Credit Unions, and Credit Unions will be less restricted in the loans that they can give to small businesses and individuals. More competition should mean the cost of banking should reduce.

End Child Poverty

Currently 130,000 children live in consistent child poverty, meaning they go without basics such as food, heat, clothes etc. We want to eliminate this by 2021 by investing in better education, childcare, school meals, parental support etc.

Back local businesses to grow and create jobs

Target 100,000 jobs by giving as much attention to indigenous businesses as we do to multi-nationals. We would give SMEs a better deal on rates and reduce administrative burden. Improve apprenticeships, broadband etc.

Make Housing Affordable

Immediately increase Rent Supplement/HAP, free up vacant accommodation and sites through carrot and stick measures, and reintroduce a scheme for older people so that they can trade down more easily if that is their wish. In the medium term, we will create a new Ministry for Housing and set up a new body to act between public and private sector providers, deal with planning and financing bottle-necks, and ensure the delivery of housing.

Drive Quality & Access in Education

Reduce primary school class sizes progressively aiming for 20:1 ratio. Make primary education free. Change laws so that children can't be refused entry to a local school on the grounds of religion. Re-establish role of guidance counsellors. Reduce third level charges by €1,000 and increase third level funding.

Empower People with Disabilities

Ratify the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Introduce a cost of disability payment. Restore personal assistant care.

Manage Ireland's Public finances Responsibly

Maintain tax base at current level. Commit to a structurally balanced budget. We won't give up on chasing the unfair Anglo debt of €25bn