

**PRINCIPLE
STRENGTH
INTEGRITY**

**NO
SEA
BORDER**



MANIFESTO 2022

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PREFACE



This election is your chance to pass your verdict on the partitioning of our country by the Northern Ireland Protocol. Shamefully, many Unionists played along with this betrayal, something most graphically illustrated by the disastrous Poots Posts.

In TUV you have a party which saw the folly of this from day one. We have been the authentic voice of opposition to the Protocol, as we have to the shambles and squander of Stormont for many years.

It is only the votes for TUV that will register the demand for change. You have seen in Jim Allister what one determined TUV voice can achieve in the Assembly. Just think of the potential of multiple TUV MLAs.

In this manifesto we not only set out our critique of the present failed arrangements, but we also give our positive vision for a better and more democratic future.

Unionism needs a shakeup. Play your part in delivering it by voting TUV 1 on 5th May.

William Ross

William Ross
TUV President

ANSWER THE UNION'S CALL - VOTE TUV

TUV is unapologetically a Unionist party. Our commitment to the Union is unequivocal. Thus, we value the Union above all else, including devolution.

We defend the Union because we cherish our place in the United Kingdom, not just economically but in terms of essential identity and way of life. We are British by birth, choice and conviction. We are also conscious of the sacrifice of previous generations in preserving our right to be and remain part of the United Kingdom.

Faced with the relentless assault on the Union by republicanism, be it terrorist or political, TUV will not shy away from both defending our position and opposing the risible arguments for Irish unity.

In answering the Union's call, TUV is alert to the Trojan use of Stormont by those determined to destroy our Britishness. Hence, our realisation that a system of devolution, which necessitates at the top and heart of government a party dedicated to the destruction of Northern Ireland, is antithetical to the Union.



THE PROTOCOL MUST GO

“We, the undersigned Unionist Political Leaders, affirm our opposition to the Northern Ireland Protocol, its mechanisms and structures and reaffirm our unalterable position that the Protocol must be rejected and replaced by arrangements which fully respect Northern Ireland’s position as a constituent and integral part of the United Kingdom.”

- the United Unionist declaration of 28th September 2021.

TUV still holds to this position and will strive to ensure others do likewise.

Through the Protocol, the European Union exercises sovereignty over economic and trading matters in Northern Ireland, subjecting us to their laws – which we cannot change – and the rule of the European Court of Justice.

Such colonisation is intolerable and cannot be borne by any self-respecting democrat. We wish nothing more than good and practical relations with the European Union and the Irish Republic which is our nearest neighbour and with whom we share a frontier between the United Kingdom and the European Union. However, this cannot be achieved with Great Britain designated as a ‘third country,’ with a regulatory border partitioning the United Kingdom, and subjecting Northern Ireland to European Union laws and jurisdiction.

However, it is abundantly clear that the EU has no intention of relinquishing its ill-gotten sovereignty over Northern Ireland and that the British Government is being strung along while all the time the Protocol beds in further. This is Brussels strategy which Her Majesty’s Government needs to stop playing along with.

TUV’s stance on the Protocol is not election-led. Principle, not expediency, is our guide. TUV has led the way in legal and political challenge. Action, not dither.

From the start we saw the Protocol for what it is:

- an instrument to break up the United Kingdom;
- a device to leave NI aligned with the Republic, under the foreign sovereignty of the EU;
- and designed to force an economic all-Ireland as a steppingstone to Irish unity.

Complicity in implementing this Union-dismantling Protocol was total folly. Hence our opposition to the Poots Posts and the checks that bedded in the Irish Sea border. Sleepwalking never ends well.

TUV has always been clear that if the price of Stormont is implementing the Protocol, then it is a price no unionist can pay, or ever should have paid.

Likewise, foolish talk about seeking 'the best of both worlds' ignores the unpalatable reality that the price of free access to the EU single market is to accept subjugation to their foreign laws and jurisdiction. That is not acceptable or compatible with being an integral part of the United Kingdom.

Tinkering is of no interest to anyone unalterably opposed to the iniquitous Protocol because that does not address the fundamental problem, namely, that we have been colonised into the EU, subject to their foreign laws and court, with GB treated in terms of our economy and trade as a 'third country.'

This can never be made acceptable to anyone with the least unionist convictions. Whereas action under Article 16 has long been justified, no one should be conned into thinking it provides a long-term solution. It merely pauses selected aspects which are then subjected to up to another two years of 'negotiations.'

This battle is not yet over and will not be until the EU gives up its ill-gotten sovereignty over us. We must cease to be part of a foreign single market, under a foreign customs code and VAT regime, all governed by foreign laws we do not make and cannot change and overseen by a foreign court. This is not compatible with being part of the United Kingdom. This Protocol is irredeemable. It must go.

Going forward, rely on those who called it right from the beginning. TUV is the real deal.



THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

These are tough times. The rising cost of living and inflation are imposing hardship on us all, working families and pensioners alike.

TUV will not pretend that the Stormont Assembly can do much in face of a global rise in energy prices or international inflation trends, but we will press for all available help, especially for the most vulnerable.

If ever there was a time to cut out Stormont squander, this is it. Yet, there are some who wish to lavish money on such absurdities as translation services in Stormont and a supercharged Irish language commissioner. TUV says spend the money where it matters and is needed and forget the politicised pet projects.

Ending the iniquitous Protocol, which is driving up consumer prices, would help because companies naturally pass on these additional costs. Under EU law even the cost of the checks should be passed on to business and thereby to consumers! Yet, there are demands from the EU acolyte parties for even more 'rigorous implementation' of this costly Protocol. TUV stands resolutely opposed to this.



Another advantage of scrapping the Protocol is that it would free us from the EU VAT regime which insists on at least 5% VAT on energy bills. A 5% reduction in electricity and gas prices would help everyone, **but the Protocol prevents it.** VAT on commercial bills is a whopping 20%.

The crippling and astronomical rise in fuel prices demands urgent government action.

The burden on families and our economy is becoming unbearable.

Whereas the excise duty on fuel is fixed, irrespective of the pump price, the higher the price goes the more VAT the government collects, because it is 20% on the end price.

Her Majesty's Government could and should cut the VAT rate on fuel for the duration of the present crisis. In this way there would be an immediate and positive impact on runaway fuel prices.

On all these bread and butter issues, TUV is on the side of the hard pressed consumer and eager to oppose unnecessary burdens and squander.

CAN STORMONT BE MADE TO WORK FOR YOU?

Does anyone dispute that Stormont does not work for the ordinary people of Northern Ireland? Politics here has lurched from one crisis to the next.

Over the last few years, the very existence of Stormont has been in question over policing and justice, welfare reform, the Cash for Ash scandal, legacy and legislative promotion of the Irish language.

There is always another crisis. Why? Because under the absurd system of government with which we have been lumbered, none of the parties have to agree about anything before going into government together. Moreover, the main nationalist party, in particular, has a vested interest in instability- you can't make Northern Ireland work and then say you need an All-Ireland!

Nowhere else in the UK has the same problems as Northern Ireland when it comes to government because nowhere else in the UK are parties forced to sit in government together without an agreed programme for government and a shared vision for the country.

The double whammy of an unworkable system and the reality that Sinn Fein is not in government to make Northern Ireland work guarantees perpetual failure.

Experts agree that there is an alternative to the current system. Consider some of the evidence presented to Stormont's Executive and Review Committee:

"A shift to weighted majority voting rules and away from community designations would have several benefits: it decouples legislative votes from community identities, thereby removing a possible source of entrenched divisions; it allows for the possibility of evolving and issue-based coalitions to form on key issues on a vote-by-vote basis in the Assembly; and it allows for the equal counting of votes from all members of the Assembly." Allison McCulloch, Associate Professor, Political Science, Brandon University, Canada.

It is time to move on. But to what?

In this election, TUV is the only party which is offering you the chance to vote to fundamentally change that system which has so clearly failed.

We are asking you to give us a mandate to make Stormont work for the people. While others talk about reforming Stormont, TUV alone has:

- (i) made clear that we will not play along with a system which has so clearly failed. We will not say Stormont is not working during the election and then go back and try to work the same failed system after the election and
- (ii) a clear plan about how to reform devolution so that it can work

Some say that there is no alternative to the current system which has produced nothing but deadlock and failure. TUV rejects such negative thinking and asks you to embrace our vision for government which works for all. We are presenting you with not one but two alternatives to the current failure allowing functional devolution to be provided to Northern Ireland.

Plan A - voluntary coalition

TUV has a clear vision of what will work and provide good and durable government. It is voluntary coalition with a meaningful and resourced Opposition. This does not deny cross-community government. Indeed, the strategic use of weighted majority voting would guarantee this.

With no party big enough to govern on its own, coalition is inevitable. As elsewhere, for

it to work, it must be a coalition of the willing. Those, after an election, who can agree a programme for government on the key economic and social issues and who together can command the requisite majority in the Assembly, form the government - whoever they are. Those who cannot agree form the Opposition, challenging and presenting an alternative at the next election.

To ensure cross-community involvement, TUV would accept a weighted majority vote in an Assembly to approve the new government and its programme and budget. As politics further normalise, it should be possible to reduce the threshold to 50% over successive elections.

Until enough MLAs are ready to embrace essential change and permit government which can work, then, an approach which concentrates their thinking and maximises local control within Northern Ireland could be beneficial.

The collapse of mandatory coalition need not mean the end of devolution. Far from it. Indeed, it can be the catalyst to project Northern Ireland forward into governmental arrangements that work and end the cycle of failure.

Plan B - legislative devolution

The key to preventing the collapse of the present failed Stormont meaning the end of devolution is to salvage that which has worked and jettison that which has failed. By its nature, devolution embraces two distinct aspects: legislative devolution (exercised by the Assembly) and executive devolution (exercised by ministers).

Analysis of the failure of the present Stormont throws up the obvious conclusion that it is the dimension of executive devolution which has failed. Legislative devolution has been reasonably successful, both in processing such Bills as have been presented, including Private Member's Bills, and in performing the scrutiny function through its committees. In moving forward, there may be merit in building on what has been successful, by preserving legislative devolution, while giving time for executive devolution to evolve into something workable. The practical outworking of such an approach would be that the elected Assembly would be preserved as the legislature for transferred Northern Ireland matters, along with its important scrutiny function, but without a local executive. Executive functions would be exercised by British ministers, but with the vital distinction that they would be accountable to the Assembly and their legislative programme would pass, not through Westminster, but through the Stormont Assembly.

Such a form of power sharing is not untried. Though the EU has little to recommend it, for decades the European Parliament has exercised a shared legislative function with the Council of Ministers (formal co-decision on many matters).

In practice this would mean that the British ministers would introduce their legislation to the Assembly, it would pass through the normal processes of second stage, committee stage, consideration stage and final stage, before being signed off by the Secretary of State and given Royal Assent by Her Majesty. To cope with policy conflicts between the Assembly and Westminster and incompatible expenditure demands, there would have to be a procedure of conciliation between the Assembly and the British ministers. A similar model has existed for years in the EU between the Parliament and the Council of Ministers. In Northern Ireland, the Chair of the relevant committee could act as rapporteur for the Assembly in any negotiations with the minister, with both sides statutorily bound to make determined efforts to reach consensus.

Individual MLAs would continue to have unfettered opportunity to introduce Private Member's Bills. As for the British ministers' exercise of executive functions, these would be subject to all the scrutiny powers of the Assembly and its statutory committees, with their powers to command witnesses and papers. With this approach those elements which have been working could be retained and in time, as alliances evolve, the return to the exercise of executive power could occur through coalition of the willing and a counter-balancing Opposition. Moreover, if any coalition collapsed, the default position of Stormont retaining the legislative role would sustain devolution. Refusing to accept the failure of mandatory coalition is not serving Northern Ireland well.

The perpetual cycle of crisis and sticking plaster talks, before lurching to crisis again is destroying the body politic and public confidence in it. It is time for fresh thinking.

TUV's default position - British rule

TUV is equally clear that if others refuse to embrace the change which is necessary to make Stormont work, then we would be better without it. If MLAs cannot deliver for you, why should they add to the pressure on public expenditure? If we cannot have democratic devolution which empowers the voter to vote a party out of office and have an Opposition to hold the government to account, we would be better off without it and should be governed by British Ministers and Parliament as an integral part of the United Kingdom.

MAKING STORMONT BETTER – TUV'S RECORD OF DELIVERY

Although we had only a single MLA in the last Assembly TUV showed that we can deliver when it comes to making Stormont better.

TUV is committed to bringing better government to Northern Ireland. We do not just complain but use our position to propose sensible long-term solutions.

Jim Allister successfully piloted two Bills through Stormont to solve the issue of the highly paid, unaccountable SpAds - whose power and behaviour came under criticism during RHI.

Thanks to Mr Allister's Bills:

- * Convicted terrorists can no longer hold positions as Special Advisers;
- * Special Advisers are subject to the processes and procedures of the disciplinary code operative in the Civil Service;
- * An appointing minister is now legally accountable and responsible for his Special Adviser;
- * Special Adviser pay, and their number has been reduced – saving you money;
- * There is a statutory duty on a departmental minister and Permanent Secretary to ensure no person exercises the functions or enjoys the privileges of a Special Adviser other than the duly appointed person;
- * The Commissioner for Standards can investigate complaints against ministers;
- * The activities and meetings of ministers and Special Advisers must be adequately recorded within the Civil Service;
- * A register of interests in respect of ministers and Special Advisers must be retained;
- * Any minister, civil servant or Special Adviser can no longer use personal accounts regarding electronic communication relating to government business;
- * It is now a criminal offence for a minister or Special Adviser to communicate confidential government information to a third party for the improper benefit of any person; and
- * The First Minister and deputy First Minister are required to report biannually on the functioning of government and act to improve same.

TUV also secured in Stormont the restoration and retention of pensions for RUC widows on remarriage.

Throughout his time in public office – whether at Brussels or Stormont – Jim Allister has fought for openness and transparency from those who govern us and value for money for you, the taxpayer. Every TUV MLA will do likewise.

Your TUV MLA will:

- ✓ Fight for democratic government for Northern Ireland.
- ✓ Campaign for genuine power sharing, not a carve up with guaranteed seats in government for ever for major parties.
- ✓ Not go into government with Sinn Fein/IRA.
- ✓ Only work a system which can deliver for you.
- ✓ In the event of an absence of democratic devolution, provide a principled voice of opposition and hold the Executive to account.
- ✓ Face up to the reality that an unreformed and unworkable Stormont is not worth keeping.

TUV – YOUR INSURANCE POLICY AGAINST A SINN FEIN FIRST MINISTER

In this election it is imperative that all unionist parties are candid and honest with the electorate.

No one who cares anything for Northern Ireland, would want a Sinn Fein First Minister, but is there the resolve to do whatever it takes to block this happening?

Remember, even if Sinn Fein was the biggest party, because it is a joint office, they can only ever be First Minister if they can find a stooge Unionist party to act as deputy.

TUV is clear: we will never empower Sinn Fein. Will others likewise commit not to be Sinn Féin's bridesmaid, or will they meekly nominate a deputy First Minister?

There is no honesty in scaremongering about a Sinn Fein First Minister to attract votes and then rolling over to empower them.

So, let us have an honest answer to the question. Merely saying we are fighting to be First Minister is to dodge the issue. Each party knows what they would do in those circumstances, so let them man up and tell us.

Who opened the door to a Sinn Fein First Minister?

Under the Belfast Agreement the First Minister had to come from the biggest tradition, meaning he/she would always be a Unionist so long as Unionists were the biggest bloc in the Assembly. The legislation flowing from St Andrews changed this and provided that instead the First Minister would come from the biggest party, thus opening the door to a Sinn Fein First Minister being foisted on a Unionist majority in the Assembly.

The Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) Bill was only introduced by the government after its contents were settled at secret proximity talks between the DUP and Sinn Fein in London in November 2006. The DUP's fingerprints are all over this legislative change because they thought it would be a clever device to use the threat of a Sinn Fein First Minister as a means of coercing unionists into voting DUP.

In this election TUV is asking all Unionists to correct the mistakes of the past and unite around a pledge that no Unionist will serve as deputy to a Sinn Fein First Minister.

Your TUV MLA will:

- ✓ Refuse to nominate a deputy to a Sinn Fein First Minister. If all Unionist MLAs make this commitment, there can never be a Sinn Fein First Minister.

MORE POWERS FOR STORMONT? NO, THANKS!

The dysfunctionality of this Stormont is well illustrated by the very important matter of budget handling, as highlighted by the Fiscal Council.

A draft Budget was produced this year which

- * was not even agreed by the Executive parties;
- * amazingly, the Executive Office did not provide to the Department of Finance its priorities and needs;
- * does not link to a Programme for Government - because none has been agreed;
- * was proposed before there was a Capital Investment Strategy.

The lack of coordination on something as basic as the budget is a telling example of the unworkability of mandatory coalition.

TUV resolutely opposes the largely Sinn Fein agenda demanding more powers for this unworkable Stormont, particularly regarding taxation.

Unable to manage the powers it has, it would be madness to bestow on the Executive and Assembly even more powers. Spendthrift Sinn Fein, ever eager to spend other people's money, as part of its political campaign to cut the guy ropes with Westminster, is loud in its demand for tax raising powers to be devolved.

TUV stands opposed, believing it would be disastrous to let squandering Stormont anywhere near the taxpayers' pocket.

MAXIMISING THE UNIONIST VOTE

In PR elections you have the luxury of choice. You can vote for the Unionist of your choice without fear of splitting the vote so long as you transfer down the ticket to other pro-Union candidates.

TUV is clear that we want your number 1 vote. We are equally clear that you should use later preferences to vote down the ballot for other pro-Union, anti-Protocol candidates.

This is even more important if the issue of the Protocol comes before the Assembly in the next term.

RESISTING THE DISCRIMINATION WHICH COMES WITH IRISH LANGUAGE LEGISLATION

In order to get Stormont back in early 2020, the DUP shamefully conceded Irish language legislation. Then, to get Paul Givan into the First Minister's office, they agreed that it could be passed at Westminster thus preventing debate in the Assembly and an opportunity for your MLAs to block or amend it.

Just what did the DUP agree in January 2020 when it came to Irish?

- The draft Bill gives "**official recognition of the status of the Irish language.**" So, no one can be in any doubt as to what is intended. The purpose is clear: official recognition and status.

- Establishes the office of an **Irish Language Commissioner** with statutory and enforceable powers, whose “main function” is to “protect and enhance the development of the use of the Irish language by public authorities” in respect of their provision of services.
- This is to be done by the Commissioner setting “**best practice standards**” for every public authority and **monitoring** their performance.
- Every public authority **must** prepare and publish (and implement) a plan – in consultation with the Commissioner – as to how it will meet the standards set by the Commissioner in enhancing the use of Irish in the delivery of their services.
- The lesson from Scotland and Wales on Language Acts is that the toe in the door guarantees it will be pushed open wider over time. In the DUP agreed legislation the mechanism for this is built in. It provides for the Commissioner at any time to review the standards set and he **must** do that every 5 years.
- Contrary to much of the DUP’s spin, there is no one to be called an Ulster Scots or Ulster British Identity Commissioner. Instead, in the legislation there is to be a person simply under the title “Commissioner” (whereas for Irish the title is “Irish Language Commissioner”). And their powers and remit are minimal compared to those of the Irish Language Commissioner. The functions are merely to “enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots and Ulster British tradition”. Note, no reference to Orange culture, or any type of culture.

Obviously, such legislation, as is reflected in the case in Wales, is going to open up employment opportunities exclusively to people who speak Irish, meaning that non-Irish speakers will be disadvantaged when it comes to applying for jobs in the public sector. The political purpose of Irish language legislation is clear. The IRA/SF newspaper An Phoblacht set it out very clearly in its edition of 8 December 2005 under the heading “Irish is central to republican struggle” –

“We believe that in the new dispensation, a rejuvenated and determined Republican Movement can utilise the language to such an extent that it can characterise our struggle in the new millennium.”

The pattern of language legislation in Wales and Scotland is of a progressive tightening of the noose. It will be no different here because the standards required to be met by public bodies will be reviewed every 5 years, providing fresh opportunities for escalating Sinn Fein demands.

TUV is clear that the fig leaf of so-called Ulster Scots legislation should deceive no one

With over £200m spent fettering the Irish language in recent years, there is no conceivable basis on which to warrant further endless squander on Irish for the sake of paying the Sinn Fein ransom to get a failed Stormont back.

The £11 million per year cost of the proposed Irish language legislation and related provision could employ at least 275 additional band-five nurses.

The Stormont now on offer is a trilingual farce where every word spoken in English would be printed and translated into Irish and Ulster Scots and vice versa, even though every MLA speaks English. What an expensive farce!

Your TUV MLA will:

- ✓ Resist the imposition of Irish language legislation
- ✓ Fight to ensure that money is spent where it is needed and not squandered on language legislation
- ✓ Oppose discrimination against non-Irish language speakers
- ✓ Expose the Republican agenda when it comes to the weaponisation of the Irish language
- ✓ Not sell the pass on this issue after the election just to keep themselves in a job.

AN ECONOMY WHOLLY LIBERATED FROM THE EU

Indisputably, and properly, Northern Ireland's economy is inextricably linked to that of the rest of the United Kingdom.

Yet, because of the iniquitous Protocol, we have seen Northern Ireland cut off from its main market in GB, imports subject to crippling checks, many suppliers opting out and coercive building of the all-Ireland economy. Every consumer in Northern Ireland is paying the price for this constitutional and economic mayhem.

Meanwhile, the 'rigorous implementers' of Sinn Fein, SDLP and Alliance demand more dislocation and damage. Already, with substantial grace periods in place, credible economists put the price of the Protocol to NI business at £1 billion per annum. If grace periods ended, the cost is incalculable.

TUV is clear that Northern Ireland's economic prosperity can only be assured by reversal of the Protocol's annexation into the EU of Northern Ireland and our full restoration exclusively into the UK's single market and customs union. Like the rest of the UK, our liberation from the EU must be complete and total: there is no way whereby our subjection to foreign laws, court and jurisdiction can be tolerated or made acceptable.

Only such fulsome restoration of our rightful place within the United Kingdom will provide the basis for stability and growth, which flows from being part of the fifth biggest economy in the world.

Our advance in securing high tech jobs is impressive, with the skills of our workforce a key advantage. However, our manufacturing industry, along with our agri-food sector are also critical and must be protected and promoted. Funding and provision for adequate apprenticeships is pivotal to future growth.

ECONOMIC LESSONS OF COVID

The impact of the pandemic has affected every corner of our society and its scars will be felt for decades to come. However, during the pandemic as a nation we stood united. Northern Ireland sent Covid tests and PPE to the other home nations and gratefully received its share of the UK's skilfully ordered vaccine supplies. We are better off culturally, politically and economically when we as one United Kingdom stand together. Some would suggest that we would be better off in an all-Ireland. What folly!

The might of the British economy and direction of funds from London allowed Northern Ireland to weather much of the Covid storm. In 2020-21, £19.6 billion flowed into the province via the block grant and an additional £3.3 billion was provided to protect public health and the economy during the pandemic. The UK-wide coronavirus support schemes supported around 330,000 people in Northern Ireland and more than £1.3 billion was issued to 35,000 firms since the start of the pandemic. The last few years have shown how tangible the benefits of the Union are.

Irish-based academics in a paper published just prior to the pandemic were clear that should Northern Ireland's subvention from Westminster end due to 'Irish unification' the economy would collapse with "calamitous unemployment and emigration".

“Unification, with a rapid ending of transfers, would produce a dramatic fall in the standard of living in Northern Ireland. Unification, where Ireland took over responsibility for the transfers to Northern Ireland, would necessitate a major cut in the standard of living in Ireland in order to allow Northern Ireland to maintain a standard of living between 10% and 20% above the Irish standard.”

- John Fitzgerald Adjunct Professor in Economics at Trinity College, Dublin and Edgar Morgenroth, Professor of Economics in DCU Business School.

The figures for an all-Ireland just do not add up. For a higher standard of living and support in times of crisis, our place is in the Union. We will unashamedly defend Northern Ireland’s place in the UK because it is good for all people who call this province home.

FRESH THINKING TO PROMOTE TRADE INSIDE OUR NATION - INTERTRADE UK

TUV is clear that the Sea Border must go. For political reasons there has been a focus on North/South trade while links with our biggest market, the rest of the UK, have been neglected.

InterTrade Ireland is one of six all Ireland bodies established because of the Belfast Agreement. Its function is “The promotion of trade and business on an all-island and cross-border basis and the enhancement of the global competitiveness of the all-island economy.”

TUV proposes the creation of a new body, InterTrade U.K., to capitalise on the opportunities that arise from our position within the U.K. and to maximise our inter-U.K. trade.

Intertrade UK would have the following mission statement:

“The promotion of free trade and business within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, overcoming all hindrances to internal UK trade and the enhancement of the global competitiveness of the whole UK economy in light of opportunities.”

InterTrade UK would be put on a statutory footing and would operate under the direction of the Secretary of State for Business at Westminster and the Minister of the Economy in Northern Ireland. It would have a Board made up of appointees from the Secretary of State for Business, the Minister for the Economy in Northern Ireland, the Welsh Economy Minister, and the Scottish Secretary for the Economy. The body would be based in offices in Northern Ireland and be staffed by a workforce tasked with easing the flow of trade within the UK. InterTrade UK would be funded by Westminster.

On 16th December 2020 Jim Allister formally wrote to the DUP Minister proposing the setting up of this body. Her response was lukewarm, and no progress has been made on establishing the body.

You can use your vote to demand Unionists take the protection of the UK internal market seriously by voting TUV 1 on election day.

Your TUV MLA will:

- ✓ Insist on the full restoration of Northern Ireland to its rightful place in the U.K. internal market.
- ✓ Support growth in manufacturing and the nurturing of the high-tech sector.
- ✓ Campaign for the creation of an Intertrade UK body to promote trade free and unhindered trade within our nation.

BREATHING LIFE INTO OUR TOWN CENTRES

The decline in town centres across Northern Ireland and the arterial routes into Belfast continues and deeply concerns TUV. Covid restrictions have added to the pressures. Once bustling high streets and their remaining businesses are now struggling to survive. Crippling rates have been a major contributor to decline. Aesthetically pleasing artwork on empty shop fronts may bring cosmetic change but are no substitute for kick-starting economic revival in our town centres.



As things stand, businesses are being penalised if they choose town centre premises because of higher rates. TUV believes that they should be rewarded for doing so. This will help fill the empty units and entice more consumers back into our town centres. Another drain on our town centres are excessive car park charges. Many people question why they should pay to shop in town centres while at out-of-town developments they can park for free. A more sensible approach to parking charges – and more free parking – would help regenerate our town centres and encourage vital trade back.

MAKING TOURISM ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND AGAIN

Northern Ireland has many unique selling points when it comes to tourism, e.g., the Giant's Causeway, superb golf courses which have helped foster the talent of world class golfers, unique cultural attractions such as the Twelfth and Scarva as well as our great industrial heritage which is at long last being celebrated at the Titanic Centre.

However, Northern Ireland is being held back and prevented from making the most of these selling points.



On the international market Ireland is being marketed as a single destination by the cross-border but Dublin orientated body, Tourism Ireland. This has hampered the development of tourism in Northern Ireland.

TUV believes that we need to break free from the shackles of Tourism Ireland and promote Northern Ireland as destination in its own right. A large number of Northern Ireland visitors come from mainland UK. TUV is committed to improving our port and airport links to ensure that this increases. Thus, we support a rail link to our international airport and vigorous efforts to attract new airlines.

TUV believes there is an urgent need for reform of legislation governing caravan parks. Caravan owners should have security of tenure, protection from the sudden introduction of arbitrary limits on the age of caravans on a site and a legal requirement to recognise owners' associations.

Your TUV MLA will:

- ✓ Seek the promotion of Northern Ireland as a destination on the international and national travel market in its own right.
- ✓ Campaign for fairness for caravan owners.

HEALTH FIRST

Our U.K. NHS is of prime importance. It creaked under COVID but came through, though years of underinvestment in our health service took its toll.

Waiting lists are appalling. This is due to Stormont's failure to prioritise health. Under DUP/SF rule hundreds of beds and associated staff have been removed from Northern Ireland hospitals - we now have fewer ICU beds per capita than Romania! All because Stormont, shamefully, had greater priorities. Today we are paying the price.

Sustaining long term investment in health is a TUV priority. While others would squander millions on the Irish language, north/south structures and so called 'rights agendas,' we say put the money into more nurses, doctors and beds in our hospitals. Our top spending pledge is Put Health First.

TUV recognises the importance of facing up to the mental health problem. TUV supports increased funding for Community Mental Health services to support people experiencing mental ill-health in their recovery and to further support early intervention strategies which will help prevent the need for hospital admissions. We also believe that there is a need for adequate acute psychiatric beds so that anyone who requires an acute hospital bed should be able to access it within their Trust area. No patient



should be forced to travel outside their Trust area where they are less likely to benefit from the support of family and friends – something which is vital when it comes to mental wellbeing.

Our Health Service must return to being exactly that, not just a Covid Service. Strenuous efforts are now required to make up the lost ground in meeting general needs, particularly in respect of cancer.

A readily accessible GP service must also be restored, which of itself eases the burden on Emergency Departments.

The haemorrhaging of skilled nurses and realignment to agencies is robbing our health service of vital staff. The level of reliance on agency staff is astounding and debilitating. The drift to agencies must be disincentivised and loyalty to the NHS rewarded.

The Covid experience demonstrated how swiftly our hospitals can be overwhelmed, not least because of lack of nursing staff. TUV, therefore, proposes that a Nursing Reserve Service should be created - somewhat akin to the Army Reserve - whereby retired and former nurses could be enlisted, required to keep up with relevant training, modestly remunerated as reserves and available to be called upon in emergency.

TUV supports the call by Macmillan Cancer Support to recruit one hundred more cancer nurse specialists by 2030 and for a new Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy to be introduced for Northern Ireland.

A March 2021 report by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists found that during the first lockdown 81% of children who had previously been in receipt of speech and language therapy received less therapy and 62% did not receive any therapy at all during lockdown. TUV believes that the Department must ensure that all face-to-face sessions are returned, and additional monies must be provided to deal with the backlog and impact of the pandemic.

Hospital services across Northern Ireland must not be denuded, but there is merit in centres of excellence for various disciplines, for example in respiratory medicine and strokes. However, any reorganisation must not, as in the past, simply result in even more administrators! It is not more directors we need, but more clinicians. TUV supports a radical rebalancing within the health service to prioritise the frontline over highly paid bureaucrats.

Reports gathering dust have served us ill. Where are the outcomes on the Reshaping Stroke Care consultation, the workforce analysis - so key to workforce planning - still unpublished for a year after its completion?

Prevention is key to good health care. So, TUV supports minimum pricing of alcohol and a new Tobacco Control Strategy, with smoking bans near schools and in play parks.

The primary focus of our NHS is the saving of lives, yet some want it to become an agency for death through the full commissioning of abortion services. TUV, being unashamedly pro-life, opposes such demands by Sinn Fein, the Greens, and most Alliance MLAs.

Halting the pandemic of destruction of the unborn, which abortion on demand represents, is a TUV goal. Thus, we will strongly support legislative and other moves in the Assembly to counter the appalling imposition of 2020 which left us with the most extreme abortion laws in Europe.

It was a shocking indictment of the last Assembly that all Sinn Fein, 4 SDLP, 7 Alliance, Greens, PBP MLAs and Claire Sugden united to defeat the modest legislative attempt to remove Downs' Syndrome babies from the reach of abortion. TUV in the next Assembly will again fight for the voiceless, the unborn - the right to life!

QUALITY AND EQUALITY IN EDUCATION

TUV sees tackling educational underachievement as its number one educational priority, in particular for the Protestant working class.

To do this, we propose the following:

- An evidence-informed curriculum overhaul;
- Investment in teacher recruitment and fair teacher pay;
- Creation of a system in which children can find different paths to successful outcomes;
- A commitment to academic selection, but also to creating a more equal system of exceptional Grammar and non-selective schools.
- A creation of a culture of "celebration" for hard work and achievement across all aspects of school life.
- Helping children to see value in education, by ensuring it connects them to a job market which harnesses their skills and talents;
- Supporting schools to connect with their communities, parents, and external agencies.
- Developing a culture of trust in and respect for the teaching profession, which has been eroded.



TUV demands equality not elitism in education. Thus, we opposed the Alliance Party's Bill to elevate the integrated sector above all others.

The controlled sector is open to all and evinces true integration at many levels, yet it is the poor relation in much of educational provision. Meanwhile Irish medium and integrated sectors are feted with enhanced protections and promotion.

TUV will continue to expose and oppose this disparity.

The pandemic greatly impacted provision and services relied upon by children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Many families have felt that they have been 'forgotten'

by agencies and that the pandemic was used as “an excuse” by some bodies to limit or withdraw services. The marks of the pandemic are still being felt by children with additional needs and TUV will be diligent in demanding necessary monies be provided by the Department to alleviate the damage caused by the pandemic. Likewise, TUV recognises that the current ‘Statementing Process’ is highly bureaucratic and calls for its streamlining as a means to ensure that no child slips through the net.

In higher education the brain drain is being fuelled by the ‘cold house’ atmosphere towards many unionist students within our local universities. Both QUB and UU have not done enough to address this.

Within the post-secondary sector, we need to see much greater promotion of apprenticeships and transparency and fairness for businesses in the apprenticeship levy scheme.

AFFORDABLE ENERGY AND SENSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

TUV believes it is important that we act as responsible custodians of our environment so we can ensure future generations enjoy the rich diversity of our planet. However, we reject punitive green taxes and rushing headlong into supporting economically damaging policies for the sake of ‘political correctness.’ Hence, TUV’s opposition to the Green Party’s Climate Change Bill which would have devastated our agri-food industry.

For electric cars to become more viable there must be provision of sufficient charging points. Viable green energy opportunities certainly deserve promotion. TUV has long supported the development of hydrogen buses by Wrightbus. Equally, though, we have insisted on respect for safety issues regarding Battery Electricity Storage Systems and proper application of planning laws.

The whole RHI mess shows the folly of rushing to embrace any policy which gives the impression of being “green.”

Likewise, we are not impressed by the large-scale wind farm craze. Wind energy is an expensive form of energy. Further, there has been wholly inadequate preparation of the electricity grid to even accommodate all the wind turbines that have been encouraged.



Stormont's preoccupation with the all-Ireland single electricity market has served us ill. Aligning Northern Ireland to the ROI monopolistic and more expensive southern market, instead of the bigger opportunities of the UK market and networks, has been a mistake, producing prices higher than they need be.

Individual responsibility is something to be encouraged, whether in maximising recycling or controlling the curse of illegal dumping and littering.

After all the warm words spoken about recycling, the reality is that the Executive has not done enough.

The shipping of thousands of tonnes of recycled material across the world from Northern Ireland and the fact that the end product of some recycling still ends up in landfill, illustrate the failings.

Grant assistance to encourage wash plants would enable sand recovered from waste to be mixed with sand extracted from natural sources, while the heavier aggregates could be used as fill in the construction industry - again reducing reliance on freshly quarried aggregates.

Financial incentives and obligations for the construction industry to use recycled aggregates would increase demand for such and thereby encourage more recycling of waste rubble.

Likewise, investment grants for recycling plants to encourage facilities to invest in newer plant and machinery would pay dividends in moving our recycling sector forward.

TRANSPORT - STRATEGY, NOT STRATAGEM

Recent proposals from the Infrastructure minister for an all-Ireland rail review come from a department fixated on a political agenda rather than the actual strategic needs of Northern Ireland. Squander on the Narrow Water bridge is in the same category.

Meanwhile vital projects like the York Street interchange get the cold shoulder from the minister. Likewise, she has shown hostility to the Union connectivity plans, which should see strong support for the long-awaited upgrade to the A75 so as to assist trade and passenger links to GB.

TUV supports major infrastructural projects like the Enniskillen bypass and upgrades on the A1, but we wish to see strategic steps to promote economic and tourism growth. We urge a rail link to our International Airport and further extension of the duelling of the A26.

Within the Department of Infrastructure, the 'active travel unit' has lost the run of itself with absurd pursuit of projects at the expense of essential provision for non-cycling traffic. Zealotry is no substitute for rational balance.

Rationalising the operating hours of bus lanes to ensure they do not operate outside peak periods would assist traffic flow.

TUV understands and shares the frustration of many over the failure to provide adequate expenditure on road maintenance particularly in respect of the rural road network. Neglect to fix the potholes is a basic failure that must be addressed.

Yet there are some who would squander money on road signage in Irish. TUV will resist such folly.



FARMING IS NOT THE ENEMY

Food production and farming is an integrated £5 billion industry in Northern Ireland.

The centrality of our farming and food sector to Northern Ireland's economy means its future must not be jeopardised by pursuit of an anti-farming ideology associated with climate change activists. The support by Sinn Fein, SDLP, Alliance and the UUP of the Green Party's Private Member's Bill was ill-judged and wholly prejudicial to the future of farming. TUV was clear and determined in opposing this disastrous Bill and will continue to protect farming interests.

The devastating situation in Ukraine will bring massive detriment both to world food production and the cost of essential feedstuffs and materials like fertiliser. Hence the utter folly of pursuit of net zero Climate Change demands which will reduce our food production capacity in Northern Ireland.



Going forward, as sectors feel the pressure of the new world situation and its ramifications, focussed assistance will inevitably be required. TUV will campaign for such as and when necessary.

Though we have left the EU, the iniquitous Protocol still casts a dark shadow over the farming industry with absurd restrictions and tariffs on vital supplies and restraint of free trade, particularly with our biggest market, GB. Liberation from the Protocol will boost the industry; TUV will be relentless in pursuit of such liberation.

It is clear, though, that support for farming is a long-term necessity. In future the support model must be orientated strongly in support of family farms and the food industry, rather than subservient to unrealistic greening demands. TUV opposed the suggestion of increasing the qualifying threshold for area based payments to ten hectares believing such would be disastrous for many small holdings.

TUV repudiates the contention that farmers are the enemy of good environmental practice. On the contrary, as custodians of the land, farmers have special interest in maximising sustainability. Thus, TUV will continue to vigorously oppose extremist demands by misguided climate change activists to wipe out much of our farming industry.

Handing on our planet in as good condition as possible should be a common goal, but devastating food production and related industry is utter folly. Virtue signalling is no substitute for reasoned and pragmatic solutions.

Following the mismanagement of the RHI scheme, genuine RHI farmers have been treated most shabbily both in terms of breach of promise by the Department and regarding the derisory tariffs which are now paid. TUV will continue to campaign for equity with Great Britain.

Fishing must experience and enjoy the benefits of being freed from the EU's Common Fisheries Policy. With our fleets depleted under the tyranny of EU restraints, now is the time to build back, with targeted help to restore our capability.

VALUING OUR ELDERLY

TUV recognises the invaluable contribution which our senior citizens continue to make to Northern Ireland.

Our elderly are among the most seriously impacted by the pandemic. TUV believes that when a public inquiry into the response to Covid-19 in Northern Ireland a key element should be how care homes were protected.

TUV recognises the invaluable role which carers provide, often to elderly family members, and the appreciation which many people have of this, meaning that they can remain in their own homes. We support adequate domiciliary care.

The pandemic has resulted in a huge growth in the number of older people who use the internet, but we want to see increased awareness of the basic courses on learning about the online world offered in libraries and other settings in the community. It is important that these continue to be offered in a Covid-19 secure setting. This could play a key role in combating the problem of isolation and loneliness which has grown as a result of the pandemic.

TUV supports the examination of age discrimination legislation to better protect the interests of our elderly when it comes to access to financial services such as bank loans and re-mortgaging and believes that they should have protection from discrimination when it comes to the provision of health care treatment.



We recognise that the rise in energy prices hits the elderly particularly hard. While the winter fuel payment scheme is welcome it provides limited relief and it is, therefore, necessary to focus on the fundamental changes to energy policy highlighted earlier in this manifesto in order to address the heart of the issue.

TUV believes that the voice of the elderly is important when it comes to the formation of government policy. While generally sceptical of quangos, TUV recognises that the Older People's Commissioner has done an excellent job in standing up for the group he represents. TUV wants to see his office being properly funded in future.

Your TUV MLA will:

- ✓ Campaign to ensure efforts to protect care homes in the pandemic is a focus of a public inquiry into Covid-19
- ✓ Support the introduction of age discrimination legislation
- ✓ Seek to reverse the trend in increased energy costs recognising that this particularly impacts the elderly
- ✓ Fight for adequate funding for the Older People's Commissioner's office

PROPER HOUSING FOR ALL

TUV believes that everyone is entitled to decent housing. The most common request of Housing Executive and Housing Association tenants is for repairs to be carried out in a timely manner. Given the expenditure proposed by others on items which deliver no tangible day to day benefit - such as an Irish Language Act - we believe that adequate funding can be found for basics like proactive maintenance and addressing issues like mould.

The dereliction of housing in working class areas cannot continue. TUV proposes a policy of one house down and at least one house up in urban areas.

TUV believes that social engineering should play no part in housing policy.

The change wrought by an open border policy with the EU has left a legacy of issues.

Where assimilation has not occurred, it is often the indigenous community that feels uncomfortable. TUV will not run away from such issues but will ensure local communities are supported and their rights and interests respected.

TUV will support a reinvigorated direct labour organisation (DLO), thus providing excellent trades from within the public sector, and establishing much needed apprenticeships. This will provide the Housing Executive with successive planning of future tradespersons and direct management of cyclical maintenance.

TUV believes that there is an urgent need for reform of the housing points system. For example, the current arrangement whereby homeless points are only awarded 28 days prior to termination of a tenancy agreement does not give people adequate time to secure alternative accommodation.

Your TUV MLA will:

- ✓ Fight for decent housing for all.
- ✓ Seek to ensure adequate funding for proactive maintenance is put ahead of the pet projects of politicians.
- ✓ Support a reinvigorated direct labour organisation.
- ✓ Campaign for a one house down at least one house up in urban areas.
- ✓ Call for reform of the housing points system.
- ✓ Not be afraid to stand up for local identity of an area.

JUSTICE AND POLICING

Policing

There is a huge crisis of confidence in the PSNI within the Unionist community. The reasons are transparent.

Blatant two-tier policing must end. The police's handling of a number of issues has shattered confidence in the PSNI.

There have been a number of stark reasons for this including:

(i) The Storey funeral

Thousands of Republicans were permitted to defy Covid regulations for the funeral of a convicted terrorist while ordinary people the length and breadth of Northern Ireland were denied funerals for their loved ones. Shamefully, not only did the PSNI sit back and permit this to happen on the day but engaged in pre-funeral planning with the funeral organisers.

(ii) The South Armagh review

In September last year, the PSNI Chief Constable welcomed the findings of the South Armagh review of policing. The report recommended that memorials to murdered police officers should be hidden from public view, a disgraceful slur on the past service of those gallant officers of the RUC who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism.

(iii) Almost dropping the name Northern Ireland

In June 2020 PSNI proposals to cease to use the official crest anywhere it can be seen in public emerged. The police top brass pretended that the official crest would not be changed but if it were hidden from public view because it includes the words 'Northern Ireland' then it has the same effect as being officially banned. The public outcry forced the PSNI to find reverse gear but it was clear what the intent of the Chief Constable and senior officers was.

(iv) Failure to deploy the PSNI helicopter at an INLA show of strength

The PSNI excuses about their facilitation of the terrorist show of strength in Londonderry and particularly their failure to deploy a helicopter because of the weather disappeared into thin air when challenged. The PSNI has never explained exactly why the helicopter was not deployed, an action that contributed to their surrender of the streets to gunmen.

TUV has no confidence in the current Chief Constable.

There must be no return to the anti-Protestant discrimination of 50/50. Recruitment on merit is an imperative from which there must be no departure. TUV will continue to be vigilant on this issue.

The equivocation of DOJ and the PSNI over who - if anyone - investigates non-terrorist criminality of the IRA, fuels our belief that under the so called 'peace process' there is an understanding that there will be a blind eye approach to the extra-curriculum activities of the Provisionals. Such is intolerable will continue to be pursued by TUV.



Remove terrorists from the Policing Board

In the last Assembly, Jim Allister drafted a Private Members Bill to ban convicted criminals like Gerry Kelly from holding positions on the Policing Board.

Sadly, this Bill was defeated due to an unholy alliance of Sinn Fein, the SDLP and Alliance.

In this election TUV are standing on a platform to reintroduce the Bill in the next Assembly.

TUV opposes any return to the discrimination of 50:50 recruitment.

If you are fed up with politicians complaining about Republicans thumbing their nose at the police only for the news agenda to move on a few days later then TUV is the party for you.

Your TUV MLA will:

- ✓ Call out and expose the double standards of the PSNI
- ✓ Defend the proud record of the RUC in holding the line against terrorism and expose and oppose any attempt to airbrush them from history
- ✓ Support a Bill to remove convicted terrorists from the Policing Board
- ✓ Oppose any return to the discrimination of a 50:50 recruitment policy for the PSNI

LEGACY

TUV rejects the Government's shameful plan for an amnesty. Amnesty for terrorists in the tailwind of action to protect veterans is not acceptable, either by reason of the equivalence it embraces or the disproportionate advantage to terrorists.

The proposal speaks to a system which excuses premeditated murder and deems innocent victims as worthless.

TUV has long supported the creation of a pension for innocent victims. The dragging of feet by Stormont because of Republican attempts to expand its remit to turn it into some sort of perverse "war pension" for victim makers is testament to the perverse nature of the current arrangements.

TUV rejects the discredited proposals which emerged from Stormont House.

TUV is opposed to the rewriting of history and believes that an historically accurate timeline of atrocities during the terrorist campaign needs to be produced and used in schools.

Going forward, we need to radically change the whole approach to the issue of legacy and victims. To this end TUV believes that:

- ✓ The definition of victim needs to change so as to exclude victim makers. Until this root problem is addressed there can be no real progress on victims' issues. The innocent must reclaim the word "victim."
- ✓ There can be no amnesty. Many victims continue to demand justice and should not be denied this.
- ✓ Terrorists have already proved they have no interest in the truth so any form of "truth commission" should be rejected.

- ✓ The PSNI should get serious about criminal investigations of historic crimes where evidence exists and political considerations should play no part.
- ✓ The Republic of Ireland should face up to its role in facilitating terrorism in Northern Ireland by providing a safe haven for terrorists.
- ✓ Legislation on the glorification of terrorism needs to be revisited and applied equally across the UK regardless of the terror group being celebrated.
- ✓ TUV MLAs will continue to ensure that European Day for Innocent Victims of Terrorism is marked in the Northern Ireland Assembly. Jim Allister has ensured this has taken place for the past 10 years and it has grown to be an event which is one of the largest recognitions of innocent victims in Northern Ireland.

CULTURE AND IDENTITY

Fundamental change is needed when it comes to parading legislation, including the abolition of the Parades Commission.

TUV believes that the starting point of any legislation ought to be a statutory affirmation and protection that the right to freedom of peaceful assembly is paramount; thereby giving primacy to this fundamental human right in any balancing exercise necessary in determining between competing rights, with the resulting onus on those wishing to displace the fundamental right. Legislation ought to specifically declare that where a parading route is historically traditional, such will be a strong material consideration in reaching any determination. Likewise, in pursuit of the concept of shared space, the legislation should specify that arterial routes, which are substantially non-residential, should carry a statutory presumption in favour of parading.

The policy that the Union Flag fly from government buildings in Great Britain year-round should be extended to Northern Ireland.

TUV believes that councils should be required to follow a policy of designated days plus. This means that councils should be required to fly the national flag on designated days at a minimum with discretion to fly it more often.

TUV supports the regeneration of Craigavon House as committed to in New Decade New Approach. The lack of progress on what should have been a landmark project for our centenary year is shameful.

Jim Allister has consistently campaigned for the historic artefacts owned by Stormont but hidden away in storage to be put on permanent display. There has been welcome progress in this regard in recent weeks although there have been questionable additions to the collection while valuable items remain hidden.

The failure to mark the centenary with so much as a stone (at no public expense) or a rose bush shows that Stormont is not interested in Unionist concerns. It is time to shake things up by returning a strong TUV team to Stormont.

The TUV supports equitable interpretation of Northern Ireland's culture and history in museums and other similar institutions under Stormont control.

Your TUV MLA will:

- ✓ Campaign for fair parading legislation which specifically declares that where a parading route is historically traditional such will be a strong material consideration in reaching any determination and that arterial routes, which are substantially non-residential, should carry a statutory presumption in favour of parading.
- ✓ Push for a UK wide policy on the flying of the Union Flag
- ✓ Push for the regeneration of Craigavon House as a lasting legacy of the centenary
- ✓ Seek a permanent display at Stormont of the historic items owned by the Assembly
- ✓ Support the protection of historic landmarks such as the Boyne Bridge in Belfast

SPORT

The success of both our women's football team and local golfers has demonstrated that sportsmen and women from Northern Ireland can compete with the best on the international stage. Sadly, however, all is not positive when it comes to sport in Northern Ireland. As any football fan knows, the Belfast Agreement has led to a situation where the Republic of Ireland has been able to poach many of our most promising footballers. However, when it comes to other sports young men and women do not have the right to choose which national flag they compete under. TUV will fight for the right of athletes from Northern Ireland in all sports to compete on the international stage for the United Kingdom. We will also contend in favour of the playing of the National Anthem at major sporting events.

TUV believes that Sport NI needs to recognise bodies which want to facilitate athletes to compete for the UK on the international stage, with many at present compelled to affiliate to Irish, rather than British, oversight bodies.

TUV will continue to highlight inequality in funding for sporting organisations. We oppose preferential treatment to the GAA whilst they glorify terrorism in naming grounds, trophies, and clubs after terrorists. TUV believes there should be no state funding to sporting clubs or competitions which commemorate terrorists. The clear imbalance in the level of financial assistance to the sectarian GAA must be renounced and addressed forthwith. The table below, detailing funding from the Department of Communities, graphically illustrates the favourable treatment of the GAA when compared to other sports.

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	
	£	£	£	£	£
Irish Football Association	105,610	45,760	65,900	58,454	6,701,756
Gaelic Athletic Association	2,351,145	1,280,487	465,224	450,646	7,745,673
Ulster Rugby/IRFU	100,454	66,463	39,697	58,454	2,320,847
Other Sport Governing Bodies	3,959,650	587,734	529,098	2,230,674	2,152,037

TUV resolutely opposes the public purse being required to make up the substantial shortfall now emerging on the Casement Park project. Meanwhile the scheme to upgrade football stadia has languished since first approved in 2011, with perpetual delay under the Sinn Fein Communities Minister. TUV will continue to vigorously demand the release of that much needed money.

Your TUV MLA will:

- ✓ Fight for the right for sportsmen and women from Northern Ireland to represent the UK on the international stage
- ✓ Campaign for fairness when it comes to public funding going to different sporting bodies

‘NOTHING THAT IS MORALLY WRONG CAN BE POLITICALLY RIGHT.’

TUV’s moral compass means we are resolute in opposing terrorists in government, amnesty, destruction of the unborn and the dilution of marriage and gender identity as determined at birth.

Just as we support the rights of the unborn, so at the end-of-life stage we oppose euthanasia. We believe in the sanctity of life.



FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS MATTER

The right to life is paramount but is it not the only fundamental right under attack in Northern Ireland.

Denial of religion, conscience and belief can come in many forms, even those dressed up in liberal garb. The Asher’s Bakery case was a classic illustration of an illiberal attempt to suppress freedom of expression and conscience. Thankfully, it failed, and the Supreme Court upheld the right of a business to refuse to be a vehicle to promote those which conflicts with its owners’ beliefs.

The appalling role of the Equality Commission in that case causes TUV to believe it requires fundamental overhaul.

We do not have to agree with what is said to defend the right to say it, provided it is otherwise lawful. Attacks on street preachers and attempts to ban protests in proximity to abortion clinic illustrate the need to be vigilant in ensuring freedom of expression is protected. TUV will exercise such vigilance.

TUV believes that religious belief, teaching, and practice is a fundamental human right and will oppose any moves to dilute this.

YOUR TUV CANDIDATES 2022





FOR STRENGTH

NOT WEAKNESS

 **tuv**