

Education & Science:

1. Conference:

- Having regard to the role of parents as the primary educators of their children as set out in Article 42.1 of the Constitution of the Republic:
- Noting that the Constitution guarantees to each child of the Republic the right to full primary education under Article 42.4:
- Recognising that the composition of religious belief and practice amongst the citizens of this State has changed dramatically in recent decades:
- Noting the comments of Dr. Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, which referred to the Patronage by the Catholic Church of 92% of primary schools as a *‘historical hangover that doesn’t reflect the realities of the times’*:
- Acknowledging that the Irish taxpayer funds the purchase of sites, the construction of primary schools, the capitation grant to pupils and the salaries of teachers and support staff as administered by the Minister for Education and Science:
- Asserts that many parents cannot get the primary education for their children in the ethos of their choice which is in conflict with both Article 43.3 and Article 44.4:
- Declares that the present system of primary school patronage no longer reflects the diversity of religious belief and practice in this State:

Therefore:

Calls for the establishment of a National Forum on Primary Education which would explore how pluralism of choice of ethos, religious belief and non-religious belief can be provided within the existing infrastructure of 3,200 primary school in a realistic and practicable manner so that our primary education system can cherish all of the children of the nation equally.

Dublin South East Constituency Council

2. Religious Discrimination in National Schools

- 1 Having regard to Articles 42.1, 42.3 and 42.4 of the Constitution of the Republic, which
 - 2 (i) acknowledge the parents as primary educators of their children.
 - 3 (ii) assert the obligation of the State to provide free primary education for all children of the State.
 - 4 (iii) allow parents to set up private schools for their children, and to provide for the religious education of their children.
 - 5 (iv) allow the State but do not oblige the State to provide support for schools providing religious education.
- 6 Recognising the unique role that National Schools (as against other primary schools) have in Ireland in providing for the education of all children in the State regardless of their religion.
- 7 Recognising that, from their inception in 1831 with the Stanley Letter, through the nineteenth century, through Independence and constitutional and legislative changes since, the original goal of National Schools, of providing education for children of all religions in the same school, remains valid in 2010.
- 8 Acknowledging the dominant role of the state in funding National Schools.
- 9 Acknowledging the role of individuals and religious institutions in accepting the legal structure of National Education in Ireland which provides for “all religions together in the one school”.
- 10 Understanding the need into the future to provide for the education of children of religiously more varied backgrounds than has been the case up to recent times.
- 11 Understanding the dominant role that National Schools have played in the primary education of our children, and will continue to provide for at least another 100 years.
- 12 Recognising that the Equal Status Act of 2000 sections 3-2 (e) and 7-2 (a) make discrimination on admission to schools on religious grounds illegal – and that the exception under Section 7-3 (c) does not apply to National Schools (because they were established to provide for all religions together).
- 13 Understanding the difference between “de facto” and “de jure” when it comes to religious involvement in National Schools. “De facto” denominational - “de jure” multi denominational – “de jure” takes legal precedence.
- 14 Understanding the different roles given to Patrons and Boards of Management in the 1998 Education Act, and the role of the Board of Management (and not the Patron) in formulating and adopting an Admissions policy for all schools.
- 15 Accepting that religious discrimination is repugnant to the Labour Party.

Conference:

1. Calls on all Boards of Management, the Department of Education and Science, and all Patron bodies to remove religious discrimination from the Admissions policies for all National Schools.
2. Calls on The Equality Authority to rigorously enforce the provisions of the Equal Status Act in relation to religious discrimination on admission to National Schools.
3. Calls on the Equality Authority to ensure that all schools, both primary and secondary, who avail of the provisions of Section 7-3(c) and wish to discriminate on religious grounds, provide the proof required under Section 7-3(c) in all cases.

Clontarf Branch/Dublin North Central

3. *Management and control of education:*

Conference notes the persistence of the traditional denominational model as a central organising principle of the Irish educational system, in particular the ownership and management of schools by denominational stakeholders and the predominant position still maintained by the Catholic Church within primary education.

Conference believes that

- the preservation of a denominational system dominated by a single institutional stakeholder is inappropriate and unsustainable, particularly as such a model fails to reflect the extraordinary social and cultural transformation in Irish society over the past generation;
- no private stakeholder of any denomination should hold a predominant position within the educational life of our society;
- the educational system must meet the increasing demands for multi-denominational and non-traditional forms of education;
- the Labour Party should take the lead in developing a new system of school management and ownership appropriate to a modern pluralist republic.

Conference resolves that the Labour Party should develop a policy reflecting the necessity for a transition from church control of schools to democratic and community control and providing for the implementation of educational reform on a national basis based on adequate planning of educational needs.

Conference mandates the Labour Party in government to:

- Establish a national convention on educational management and patronage, representing the relevant stakeholders, to facilitate such a process of educational reform.
- Initiate the transformation of the educational sector from a denominational model controlled by the churches to a pluralist system based on democratic and community control.

Clonsilla Branch/Dublin West

4. Conference agrees that the Labour Party believes that education is the great liberator, and the principles of a pluralist republican philosophy must fundamentally mould our education policy.

Conference also argues that the Ministry of Education is vital for the Labour Party's participation in Government. Conference contends that Labour must enshrine in any Programme for Government the determination for the total eradication of illiteracy. Furthermore in Government, Labour will ensure children with special needs will have equal and unrestricted access to all schools in the system.

Conference also agrees that Labour in Government will increase investment in education to 7% of GDP.

Dublin North Central Constituency Council

5. That Conference notes with concern the lack of facilities for young people in Ireland; Demands a marked increase in the amount and type of social activities provided by the Government, particularly, the provision of more After School Projects for teenagers to combat anti-social behaviour.

Navan Road Branch/Dublin Central

6. Conference deplores the 33% cut to educational projects by the Department of Education and the threatened total removal of such funding in 2011.

Tallaght Central Branch/Dublin South West

7. Conference calls on Labour in Government to embark on a schools building programme that will meet the needs of local communities and pupils and will end the bureaucratic waiting lists that seem designed to keep schools waiting for essential works.

Cavan Branch/Cavan Monaghan

8. Conference calls for a nationwide audit of all schools to ensure that there is a democratically elected/appointed Board of Management in place as is required by legislation.

Pat Clusker- Navan Branch/Meath West

9. Conference notes:

The increasing prevalence of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), which affects literacy and learning difficulties, that are not being addressed by the Department of Education, at pre-school, primary or post-primary level;

Conference further notes:

That Government legislation or any statutory body does not address SLCN, with speech and language therapy as an adequate provision in the education system at pre-school, primary or post-primary level. The Government does not recognise the dual importance of speech and language therapy under the Department of Education or in statutory agencies, under social inclusion or special education legislation.

Conference further notes:

The lack of a systematic, consistent and collaborative cross-department effort between the Department of Education and the Department of Health in addressing SLCN.

Conference proposes:

That speech and language therapy is dually recognised under the Department of Health and the Department of Education.

Conference further proposes:

That the Department of Education and the Department of Health in a collaborative effort provide speech and language therapy to those in pre-school, primary and post-primary level of education with SLCN.

Conference further proposes:

For a systematic review of speech and language therapy provision within the Department of Education.

Shankill Branch/Dun Laoghaire

10. Conference affirms that 'Labour in Government' will work to establish local Arts in Education Centres so as to practically assist primary schools duly deliver the arts element of the curriculum to all the nation's children. Given the potential of the arts as a medium of creativity, self-discovery, self-development and general enrichment in the lives of young people, and bearing in mind the present poverty of provision by Government for schools and teachers striving to deliver the four key arts segments of the primary school curriculum, i.e. dance, drama, music and the visual arts.

Ballyfermot Branch/Dublin South Central

Health & Children:

11. Conference commits itself to an affordable and reasonable pricing mechanism, within the context of a universal health insurance scheme for access to all frontline medical services, including GPs, dentists etc.

Newbridge Branch/Kildare South

12. Conference calls for the immediate provision of a dedicated coordinated 24-hour service for children and teenagers with Mental Health concerns and to which direct referrals can be made by parents, teachers and other professions working with such children, so as appropriate and immediate support can be accessed.

Clonakilty Branch/Cork S.W.

13. Conference calls on the Government to guarantee the continuation of 24 hour A&E services at Wexford General Hospital, and to show its commitment to the continued provision of Acute Mental Health Services within County Wexford by allocating the necessary Capital Funding for establishment of the 32 bed Acute Admission Unit facility at Wexford General Hospital in line with the Joint Union/Management 5 Year Plan 2007-12.

Wexford Constituency Council

14. Conference noting the rundown of the acute services at General Hospital level nationally and the withdrawal of cancer care services in the North West, condemns this Fianna Fail/Green Party minority Government for failing to provide a comprehensive public health service for all citizens.

North Ward Branch/Sligo-North Leitrim

15. Conference calls on the Labour Party to commit when next in Government to restoring cancer services to Sligo General Hospital, building further “centres of excellence” for the northern half of the country, and reopening those casualty departments closed by this most heartless of governments. Discrimination by geography is wrong, and all citizens irrespective of where in the country they live, should have access to the same standards of healthcare without being forced to travel large distances. In the meantime, the Labour Party should campaign ceaselessly for the removal of Minister Harney as Health Minister, who has decimated the Irish Health Service and has only succeeded in creating an inept bureaucratic monstrosity called the H.S.E. which continues to swallow the Irish health budget for no benefit to the Irish public.

Glenties&Ardara Branch/Donegal South West

16. Conference condemns the present government policy of outsourcing of key diagnostic services (for example in Cytology) to for profit providers under the guise of cost reductions in the Irish hospital sector. This outsourcing has resulted in the significant loss of intellectual capital and has left students of Pathology unable to complete their training in Ireland. Conference further condemns this present government’s strategy, which constitutes a poor stewardship of public resources and is both a damaging and an ill-conceived practice. This strategy needs to be stopped as a matter of priority.

Ballyphehane Branch/Cork South Central

17. Conference calls upon the Labour Parliamentary Party to urgently pursue the reasonable aims and aspirations of the victims of the thalidomide drug as expounded by their representative body The Irish Thalidomide Association.

Conference condemns the inactivity and indifference of the Government in addressing the reasonable issues raised by the Irish Thalidomide Association is thwarting the hopes of the remaining victims, and calls on the Government to:-

1. acknowledge that a wrong has been done by allowing the use of an unproven drug and by delaying the withdrawal of the drug after it was taken out of circulation in other jurisdictions.
2. issue an unreserved apology for its part in the scandal to the surviving victims and their families for the trauma suffered by them.
3. allow full and open access, for the victims, to all documents relating to their disability without any delay and upon demand.

4. to commence negotiations with the Irish Thalidomide Association for such form of redress as is deemed necessary to secure the fulfilment of the future needs of the victims and their families.

Kells Branch/Meath East

18. Conference criticises the reduction in excise duty on alcohol at the last budget. It furthermore calls for a comprehensive and preferably all-island approach to policy to reduce the harm that alcohol is having on the health of the nation. It specifically calls for the implementation of recommendations of the Strategic Taskforce on Alcohol and the 2004 Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children with regards to alcohol policy which have been largely ignored by the current Minister. Amongst these we call for:
 - Increase in excise duty on alcohol;
 - Restrict and repeal the physical availability of alcohol (number of outlets, sale times);
 - A national hotline to report selling of alcohol to underage;
 - Discourage the sale of alcohol at events organised principally for children;
 - Encourage national sporting bodies, with youth participation, to search proactively for sponsorship from non-alcohol related companies;
 - Ensure international agreements and EU Directives/Regulations on alcohol taxation;
 - Promote local initiatives within communities to reduce underage drinking.

Inchicore Branch/Dublin South Central

19. Conference calls on the Party, on entering government to introduce a special ring-fenced levy on every unit of alcohol purchased in the State sufficient to finance adequate alcohol treatment centres across the country and to finance education programmes for young people both in schools and in community settings on the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse and misuse. Associated mental health services could also benefit from this funding.

In addition, such a levy could part-finance the introduction of on-demand and free emergency contraception in all pharmacists, all Out-of-Hours GP clinics and also HSE clinics in major urban areas across the State which would open at designated times at weekends and on public holidays.

As part of the initiative, contraception would be dispensed without the need for a prescription or an appointment. The dispensing of such contraception would be compulsory for all pharmacists/medical professionals who wish to continue participation in the GMS scheme or to maintain their employment with the HSE.

Such a levy could also be used to finance STI clinics on a regional basis and adequate to serve the entire population.

Conference accepts that the introduction of such a levy is economically and commercially viable given the reductions in duty in alcohol and also the recent weakening of the Euro against Sterling and that such a move would not impact negatively on the competitive position of the Irish drinks industry.

In any event, and regardless of the impact on the competitive position of the industry, the health aspects of the proposal should be the primary concern of the State.

Westgate Branch-Drogheda/Louth

20. Conference calls on the Government to incentivise doctors to prescribe more cost efficiently rather than imposing prescription charges on the elderly and more vulnerable people in our society.

Naas Branch/Kildare North

21. Conference calls on the Labour Party to demand of the government to instruct the Health Services Executive that it not downgrade existing public nursing home facilities, obstruct the provision of new ones and further calls on government to approve such funding as will enable these facilities to develop and continue to provide their services within an inclusive model of community health.

Caitlin Maude-GMIT/Galway West

22. Conference notes that demographic changes between now and 2050 will result in the proportion of those in work to those in retirement changing from the current ratio of about 4:1 to a future ratio of about 1.5:1

Conference believes that planning should begin immediately to meet the needs of the elderly, particularly in the area of nursing home care.

Conference calls for up to 20% of the places in already existing private nursing home care establishments to be given over for use by the public sector, and calls on the Labour Party to ensure that the vast majority of nursing home care establishments are publicly owned and controlled..

Ashbourne Branch/Meath East

Arts, Tourism & Sport:

23. Conference endorses the Labour Party's plans to tax on-line and telephone betting and raise the betting levy to 1.5%; recognises the importance of the Horse and Greyhound Industries; and criticises the Governments failure to resolve this issue resulting in €30 million of direct exchequer funding going toward supporting these industries in 2009 at a time when the funding for Sports and Arts has been severely diminished.

Dublin South Central Constituency

24. Conference resolves that Labour TD's, Senators and Councillors, will work to ensure that the income tax exemption for Artists be retained where the artist earns a maximum income of €50,000 per annum.

Monkstown Michael Davitt/Dun Laoghaire

The Economy:

25. Conference determines that Labour's Programme for Government will make residential property affordable for ordinary people by cutting mortgage interest relief for property investors; such relief to be not greater than the relief available for residential purchasers, and by implementing the findings of the Kenny Report 1974 to eliminate windfall profits for land speculators.

Ballinteer/J.Larkin Branch/Dublin South

26. Conference calls upon the Parliamentary Labour Party to implement, as part of any programme for the next Government, a fundamental reform of bankers pay. Such reform should have due regard to the fact that enormous amounts of public monies have already been used to prop up most of the main banks; in particular, the State has already nationalised Anglo Irish Bank, possesses a significant shareholding in the two major banks and will shortly, in all likelihood, become the majority shareholder in most Irish banks and building societies. It is therefore very likely that many bankers and bank employees will essentially become themselves public sector employees. In recognition of this probable outcome and in furtherance of our core principles of equality and fairness, we will as part of said reforms, prioritise a form of benchmarking process in respect of bankers pay in order to ensure that senior bankers and bank employees remuneration be benchmarked against corresponding management and clerical grades in the civil/public service and/or semi-state sector as the case may be.

Rathcoole Branch/Dublin Mid-West

27. Conference condemns the NAMA bailout of bankers and developers.
Conference notes the continued lack of availability of credit to small and medium businesses.
Conference calls for:
- 1) The introduction of a salary cap of €250,000 for all bank employees covered by the blanket guarantee;
 - 2) Immediate action to be taken to ensure that credit is released to the economy to prevent more businesses going under and jobs being lost.

Kilbeggan Branch/Longford-Westmeath

28. Conference criticises the wholly inadequate pace of the Government to address the effects of the financial crisis both in terms of the new regulatory order that has yet to be introduced and in the absence of any concrete provision for the ever growing number of defaulting mortgage holders.

Conference notes the commitment by Government to introduce legislative proposals for the Central Bank Commission before the end of 2010 and the Programme for Government commitment for the introduction of mechanisms to protect and assist those in mortgage arrears.

Conference calls for a debate to take place within the Party as to how Irish retail banks should be regulated for the future.

Furthermore, Conference applauds the work already carried out by the Party on the NAMA legislation, and on the mortgage arrears crisis, that affects so many hardworking citizens; and finally, calls on the Party to set out a comprehensive set of proposals for a suitable type of mortgage rescue scheme.

Cabra & District Branch/Dublin Central

29. Conference resolves to consider the economic cost and social impact of providing housing and social welfare support when formulating policy regarding NAMA and the state supported banks. We propose that Labour Party policy be to give as much consideration to ordinary people as Fianna Fail has to the Bankers and Developers. With 300,000 empty dwellings, and over 70,000 households under threat of repossession, due largely to the negligence of successive Fianna Fail led governments, we resolve to ensure that developers and or landlords do not receive preferential treatment over ordinary families from state supported institutions.

Jack Clarke Branch/Dublin North

30. Conference supports the introduction of legislation to allow for a public Oireachtas Committee inquiring into the genesis of the banking crisis

Mount Merrion Kilmacud Branch/Dublin South

31. Conference:

Deplores the decision by the Fianna Fail/Green Party Government to hold the Bank Inquiry in private.

Believes that a functioning properly regulated banking system is central to economic recovery, and that the inquiry should be seen to happen in public.

Acknowledges that the hardship caused for taxpayers, mortgage holders, pensioners and small shareholders by the reckless behaviour of our banks is so serious that the Irish people will not be satisfied with an investigation behind closed doors.

Further believes that it is the proper responsibility of Dáil Éireann to direct such an inquiry by Parliamentary Committee as envisaged in the two stage process provided for in the Labour Party Bill *'The Committees of the Houses of the Oireachtas (Powers of Inquiry) Bill 2010*.

Firhouse Branch/Dublin South West

32. Conference recognises that Ireland's homegrown property bust and consequent banking crisis have sent the economy into a tailspin, putting into jeopardy the economic security of both the nation itself and countless Irish families.

Conference notes the ongoing, future and significant cost to Irish taxpayers of actions and decisions stemming from the banking collapse and the blanket bank guarantee granted by Fianna Fáil to protect Anglo Irish Bank.

Conference believes the mistakes of the past must be fully explored and understood to ensure that they are destined never to be repeated.

Conference sees as essential to restoring our economy to sustainable growth the plotting of a cost-minimizing exit strategy from the blanket guarantee of Irish bank liabilities.

Conference calls for the establishment of a full public and transparent enquiry into the causes of and responses to, including the bank guarantee, the banking crisis, investigating commercial, legislative, regulatory and political systemic failures.

Conference further calls for the development of a comprehensive and robust regulatory regime at, where appropriate,

national, European and global levels to govern banks, financial institutions, financial products and derivatives, credit rating agencies, private equity and hedge funds.

Castleknock Branch/Dublin West

33. Conference mandates the Labour Party Leadership, when in Government, to bring the banks into public ownership. The banks have to be democratically controlled, given that they have destroyed the banking system. There is no other option.

Tom Mulligan/Kilmacanogue Branch/Wicklow

34. Conference calls for an open, public, fully transparent and cost effective inquiry into the banking crisis which would include powers of compellability of key witnesses across the financial services sector. Such an inquiry must encompass a detailed examination of the role of the Central Bank, the Office of the Financial Regulator, the Department of Finance and relevant Government Ministers.

Dublin North West Constituency

35. That Conference applauds the efforts of the Labour Parliamentary Party to have a full comprehensive review of the banking crisis. Further to that, Conference commits the Party to pursuing in government, a thorough review of the reasons and causes of the financial crisis and in particular calls on the Party to ensure:
- That a thorough exposé of the causes of the financial crisis is conducted and that the key persons responsible are identified;
 - That said exposé does not compromise any potential legal prosecutions that could arise against responsible individuals;
 - That the full force of the law is brought to bear on those identified as being responsible for illegal activity;
 - That any legal loopholes identified in the regulation of the financial sector or construction industry are addressed in legislation to prevent any reoccurrence of the reckless practices witnessed.

Santry-Kilmore Branch/Dublin North Central

36. Conference determines that the Labour Party will:
- (1) Actively campaign for the reversal of the unfair public service pay cuts arising from the December 09 Budget;
 - (2) Support the ICTU in their fight to negotiate an alternative to the Towards 2016 Transitional Agreement which the Government reneged upon;
 - (3) Insist on no further cuts in pay or pensions of workers in the public sector; and,
 - (4) Demands the restoration of the full single rate for participants on Community Employment Programmes.

John O'Leary (Enniscorthy) Branch/Wexford

37. Conference calls on the Labour Party to campaign to have the levies imposed on public sector workers, with particular reference to low income employees, withdrawn as soon as possible.

Lettermacaward/Dochary Branch/Donegal South West

38. Conference deplores the Government's response to the economic crisis which is placing the entire burden of adjustment on working people and those who depend most on public services whilst pandering to the interests which were responsible for the collapse. This approach which reflects the outlook which brought about the unsustainable credit led property boom, in the first instance, militates against the restoration of consumer confidence jeopardising the prospects for recovery.

Conference reiterates Labour's commitment to a fair approach prioritising employment, forestalling home repossessions, protecting pensions and stabilising living standards, to be achieved through social dialogue and agreement.

SIPTU Union

39. Conference deplores and condemns the savage attacks on incomes and pensions of middle income and low paid workers, in particular in the public and private sectors, by this FF/ Green Party Government fuelled by support for failed neo-liberal economic models.

Branch

40. Conference opposes any attempt by the Fianna Fail/Green government to abolish the National Minimum Wage.

Tallaght East Branch/Dublin South West

41. Conference condemns the sleight of hand and the three-card trick, of Higher Civil Servants and the Mandarins in Kildare Street on salaries of 160,000 Euro who managed to minimise the cuts made to the rest of the public service by consolidating their fat bonuses.

Conference further condemns the failure of this Government to bring to account to date the bank chiefs, the Financial Regulator and property developers for their greed, negligence and total contempt for the handling of the finances of this state.

Conference condemns the golden handshakes and multi-million euro pensions of those who took the shilling and ran.

Conference condemns the failure of this Government to address the plight of the thousands of workers who have lost their jobs due to this Government's policies of protecting property developers and the construction industry chiefs and of the highway robbery tax scams of millions of Euro to feed such vultures in our society.

Conference condemns the blatant failure to respond to the ICTU and UNITE's demand to invest in indigenous industry and to protect the jobs and conditions of Irish workers; for example, the loss of the highly skilled workforce in Waterford Crystal and SR Technics, while at the same time pouring billions of euros into a failed bank compares to the absence of legislation in the area of employment rights and pension protection.

Conference demands that the Labour Party continues to campaign and fight to reverse the wage cuts and pension levy and commits itself to, in the event of coming into office, to seek to reverse the cuts and also to legislate for employment rights and pension protection.

Conference demands that progressive social and economic policies are developed by this Party that creates employment that invests in people; that invests in the new emerging technologies that will generate sustainable employment; that invests in our educational sectors and facilities in our universities to educate our children at all levels in our Society.

Conference supports the creation of a society and not just an economy.

UNITE Union

42. Conference calls on the Labour Party in Government to make the necessary legislative changes to make all quangos who are funded by the State accountable to Dáil Éireann.

Straffan Branch/Kildare North

43. Conference recognising the nightmare faced by those who are trapped by substantial negative equity in their home, a trap laid by poor government over the past decade, calls on the Labour Party to implement measures to alleviate the hardship of this newly disadvantaged class and to address implications for the economy.

Lucan Branch/Dublin Mid-West

44. Conference calls on Labour in Government to amend the Capital Acquisitions Tax Consolidation Act 2003 so that farming, business, inheritors and donees pay the relevant tax at the standard rate like other taxpayers in the interest of tax equity.

Sandymount Branch/Dublin South East

45. That in order to begin to construct an international financial market system that prioritises societal good, the Labour Party supports and will lobby for the European and global imposition of a Tobin type tax.

Kildare South Constituency Council

46. Conference notes the recent call by Gordon Brown for the introduction of a "Tobin Tax", a levy on cross border currency trades or more general bank transactions internationally.

Conference welcomes this call and proposes that it should be included in our next general election manifesto and any future programme for government. As a Party we should also pursue this with our European partners in the Party of European Socialists. Proceeds of this tax should go towards:

- Creating a backup fund for future bank collapses;
- Funding third world development projects, research in neglected diseases and vaccination projects.
- Combating global climate change.
- A fund for disaster relief.

47. Conference notes the collapse in economic activity since January 2009 and the effect it has had on our people. Conference calls for the introduction of a 5.5% VAT rate in the hospitality and leisure sector and for the environmental upgrading and retrofitting of homes in order to act as a stimulus to commercial trade and boost employment within the country. This lower rate would apply for a period of twelve months, with the option of a review after six months to consider the option of extending it for a further six months.

Dundalk Branch/Louth

PARTY AFFAIRS:

48. Conference resolved that Labour will present itself as a real alternative in the next election to the two conservative parties, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, and promote policies based on valuing public service, promoting workers rights and delivering equality.

Dublin Mid-West Constituency Council

49. Conference notes:
The importance of internal party democracy in the Labour Party.

Conference commends:
The good work done to implement motions passed democratically at conference each year

Conference believes:
That high standards of accountability and transparency should continue to be maintained:

Conference therefore mandates:
The General Secretary to report to the Executive Board or Central Council as appropriate on a twice-yearly basis on the progress made to implement motions passed at Party Conference.

Fairview & District Branch/Dublin N.C.

50. *Presidential Election:*

Conference notes:
That the term of office for Uachtaráin Mary McAleese will end in 2011.

Conference further notes:
That no election took place in 2004 due to the Labour Party's decision not to contest the election.

Conference believes:
That the Labour Party should contest elections at all levels in order to promote our values and politics.

Conference mandates:
The Labour Party to contest the 2011 Presidential election.

Conference requests:
That the Parliamentary Party and Executive Board, charged under Article 15.7 of the Labour Party Constitution with this responsibility, select a candidate by the end of 2010.

Willie Cremins Branch/Dublin S.W.

51. Conference calls on all Labour Party public representatives (i.e. Oireachtas members, MEPs, City, County and Town Councillors) to publish on an annual basis, on the Labour Party website (www.labour.ie), the expenses they have claimed in the course of their public duties.

Bandon Branch/Cork S.W.

52. Conference commits the Labour Party to formulating, in consultation with rural constituencies and representatives, a campaign strategy and policy platform to attract votes in rural Ireland; to engaging more actively on rural issues, and to presenting pro-active solutions to the many problems facing rural Ireland.

Cork South West Constituency Council

53. Conference recognizes the historic achievement of the election of two councillors to Donegal County Council. It is essential for the Party to continue building our organisation in rural areas if we are to nominate a Labour Taoiseach.

Conference therefore, calls on the organisation committee and the Parliamentary Party, to commit our elected T.Ds, spokespersons and Senators to visiting rural constituencies.

Donegal South West Constituency Council

54. Conference calls on the Labour Party to:

- urgently create a Standing Committee for the development of member-led Western/North Western orientated policy to focus on community development, tourism and rural policy.
- to immediately prioritise policy development and community demise that exists in the West of Ireland. While we support and recognise the recommendations made by the 21st Commission, we believe the time lag between the creation of the report and the current socio-economic deterioration in the West/North West regions calls for direct and prompt action. We request that Head Office facilitate this through an open meeting to be held within the next 3 months in the West/North West of Ireland to form the proposed Standing Committee.

Ennistymon-North Clare Branch/Clare

55. Conference resolves that the membership fee be increased to €50 per annum for all members and that €20 per member be returned to the appropriate Constituency Council and €5 per member returned to each appropriate Branch. This arrangement would replace all existing membership fees, affiliation fees, national collection levies etc.

Ballybrack No. 2 Branch/Dun Laoghaire

56. *Motion to amend the Party Constitution:*

Amend Article 8 of the Party Constitution which refers to the composition of party sections.

Delete Article 8 (1) (c) “*Labour Youth* comprises Party members under the age of 26 years who opt to participate in the section”

And Replace with “*Labour Youth* comprises Party members under the age of 27 years who opt to participate in the section”

Furthermore, amend all other references in the constitution, referring to Labour Youth’s age limit, to reflect the above change.

Labour Youth

57. Conference notes:

- the commitment of the Labour Party to achieving gender equality in all aspects of social, economic and political life;
- the goal of maintaining a gender balance of not less than 30% of either gender on all committees and Councils expressed in Article 17 of the Labour Party Constitution;
- that the current membership of the Central Council of the Labour Party consists of 17.4% women and 82.6% men.

Conference calls upon the Executive Board to devise and implement a system of nomination of members to the Central Council that allows for a gender balance of not less than 30% women or 30% men.

Labour Women

International & European Affairs:

58. Conference notes:

The proposed bill in the Ugandan parliament that would broaden the criminalisation of homosexuality in that country.

Conference condemns:

The proposed introduction of the death penalty for people who have previous convictions or who are HIV-positive.

Conference further condemns:

The introduction of extradition for those engaging in same-sex sexual relations outside Uganda, and penalising individuals, companies, media organisations, or NGOs who support LGBT rights.

Conference Calls:

For the Irish government to ensure that all Irish development aid destined for Uganda is channelled and dispersed to NGO’s and Aid Agencies working in Uganda rather than through the Ugandan state.

59. Conference calls for the Irish government to give a lead in seeking to secure widespread support for the establishment of a Rapid Response mechanism at the level of the United Nations which would create the capacity for such rapid, effective response to humanitarian disasters as will enable state and non-state structures to cooperate effectively under the civilian leadership of the United Nations or its agency, the Organisation for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance.

Oranmore-Claregalway/Galway West

60. Conference calls on the Labour Party in government will establish an emergency coordinating body on the lines of the Disasters Emergency Committee in the UK. Such a body would coordinate any appeals to the Irish people for relief in the event of future natural disasters, and would distribute the income from such appeals to the relevant aid agencies.

Mick Mulligan/Coolock Branch/Dublin North Central

61. *Human Rights in Zimbabwe:*

Conference commends the many human rights defenders working as individuals, in NGOs and in trade unions in Zimbabwe.

Conference notes President Mugabe's shameful denial and cover up of the extent of the cholera outbreak in 2008/2009 that, according to the WHO, resulted in the deaths of 4,276 and affected approximately 90,000 more by the end of May 2009.

Conference condemns the forced evictions in Operation Murambatsvina as well as the abuses in the Marange diamond field, which are a source of revenue for the perpetrators of human rights violations.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to work with its partners in the Socialist International, particularly those in SADC countries, and the NGOs in Ireland who are campaigning on the issue both to highlight the situation in Zimbabwe and to affect change.

Rathfarnham-Knocklyon Branch/Dublin South

62. Conference applauds the success of the Party in securing three seats in the European Parliament at the elections in June 2009. This success reflects the commitment to campaigning made by activists around the country in all four campaigns, the exceptional calibre of the four candidates that stood for the Labour Party and the skill with which Labour's case was put to the Irish people. Conference is, however, disappointed that Labour's success in Ireland was not reflected across Europe, where the Socialist Group in the European Parliament lost vote share and parliamentary seats across much of the continent.

Conference further notes the subsequent Congress of the Party of European Socialists (PES) that was held in Prague in December 2009. This congress concluded that future success for European socialists and social democrats, at both national and European level, will depend on a stronger PES and national parties working ever more closely together on policy formulation and campaigning.

Conference, therefore, recognises the increasing interdependence of the Labour Party, our sister parties and the PES as the competences and effectiveness of the European Union grow after the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Conference mandates the Central Council and International Affairs Committee to formally explore ways in which the relationship between the Labour Party and the PES may be deepened and strengthened, especially in the areas of policy formulation activist engagement and joint campaigning.

Esker Branch/Dublin Mid-West

63. Conferences notes:

- that the government has recently acted with ineptitude and incompetence regarding EU Funding that is available to Ireland in the event of extreme weather condition, crisis in the agricultural sector and the redundancies that were attributed to increasing globalisation in Dell, Waterford Crystal and SR Technics;
- in the wake of these crisis occurring that the current Government has failed to be adequately and judiciously informed as to essential emergency funds such as; the European Union Solidarity Fund and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund that are available to the people of Ireland;
- that the Government has acted in an unnecessary lethargic and protracted manner when these crisis have recently arisen;

Conference calls on the Government and particularly the Minister for European Affairs to be more responsive, to funds available from the European Union and to ensure Irish citizens avail of all their entitlements as members of the EU when these crises occur.

Silvermines Branch/North Tipperary

64. Conference warmly congratulates the Party Leader, the Party Spokesperson on European Affairs, Labour's MEPs on their outstanding campaigns, including Susan O'Keefe in the West, and Party activists at all levels for their outstanding support of the Lisbon Treaty in the 2009 Referendum.

Stillorgan Branch/Dun Laoghaire

Northern Ireland Affairs:

65. Conference notes with concern, the fact that despite the Northern Ireland Assembly having the opportunity to use the 10 year Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2008-2018 (ISNI), with planned expenditure of £20bn for infrastructure projects, to tackle the damage done by the economic recession, it has ceded its democratic role, to the unelected Strategic Investment Board. This body, established as a company limited by guarantee and sponsored by the Office of the First and Deputy First Ministers, represents the narrow interests of the private sector and remains wedded to the discredited dogma of Privatisation and the Public Finance Initiative/Public Private Partnership (PFI/PPP) approach to delivery of public services. Conference calls on the NI Assembly parties to reexamine the priorities in the Programme for Government in line with the particular demands of the current economic crisis and to implement the Investment Strategy in a manner that best benefits the local economy and which factors in the added value of elements such as ensuring sustainability by improving the skills base through apprenticeships and appropriate training.

N.I. Constituency

Transport:

66. The Labour Party resolves to continue to strongly campaign for the protection and enhancement of critical public transport services including those provided by Dublin Bus, Bus Eireann, Irish Rail and the Rural Transport Network. Conference is bitterly opposed to the recent programme of Fianna Fail/Green cutbacks introduced at Bus Eireann which may affect up to 100 important routes and services and is committed to legislating to protect the integrity of the national, urban and local bus networks.

Conference also believes that a key part of transport capital spending must prioritise the maintenance of Irish Rail's inter-urban and commuter networks and critical Transport 21 infrastructure projects including Metro North, the Dublin Rail Interconnector, the Western Rail Corridor, the Navan Rail Line and the Broadstone and Lucan Luas. Conference fully supports the continued rollout of cycle networks and enhanced cycle and pedestrian infrastructure and facilities. Labour calls on the Fianna Fail/Green government to advance the commitment to road safety by rolling out key stalled measures of the 2007-2012 Road Safety Strategy including mandatory testing at collision sites, the national speed camera programme and the passage of the Road Traffic Bill 2009. Conference also reaffirms Labour's commitment to implementing low and simple fares to encourage the move to public transport.

Conference fully supports a competitive, at least two major airline strategy, is committed to our three national airports at Shannon, Cork and Dublin and to enhancing regional air connectivity. Finally, this conference demands a massive overhaul of the taxi regulation system to end the disastrous current Fianna Fail/Green "light touch" system and to ensure that taxi workers can earn a basic, decent income in a sustainable taxi industry.

67. Conference calls on the Labour Party to work to highlight as many sustainable and cost effective public transport projects as possible especially in the area of rural transport. Conference demands that people are given access to existing links and cut our carbon footprint and therefore smarter travel which prioritises public transport and sustainable travel should seriously influence Transport 21 project selection. Also if any major transport projects fail to receive planning and do not proceed, the funding should be ring fenced for a series of smaller cost effective projects that will give hard pressed commuters real options.

Kinnegad Branch/Longford Westmeath

68. Conference resolves that the Party is committed to the provision of regular scheduled passenger flights into Shannon Airport as this is the key to industrial and tourism jobs in the Mid-West and Western regions.

Clare Constituency Council

Communications, Energy & Natural Resources:

69. Conference notes:
- that Ireland ranks 25th in the OECD in terms of its readiness to support 'Next Generation Broadband' services;
 - the glaring regional disparities that currently exist as a result of the lack of adequate broadband provision in rural Ireland;
 -
 - that inadequate broadband availability has a profoundly negative effect, both socially and economically on those living in rural areas, that are not covered by broadband;
 -
 - that high speed broadband access is a universal right and is fundamental to the educational development of children in rural areas;
 - that insufficient broadband provision has a profound negative effect, both socially and economically for those living in rural areas, which are not covered by broadband;
 - that business investment in rural Ireland is suffering as a result of this inadequate provision and is stagnating the growth of strong and productive local rural economies.

Conference calls on the Labour Party upon entering Government, to administer a full scale rollout of a 'Next Generation Broadband provision' – a fast, modern and high-speed Internet broadband service for rural Ireland. Furthermore, that universal 'Next Generation Broadband' provision would be enshrined in legislation as a universal service entitlement.

Nenagh Branch/North Tipperary

70. Conference, noting the concentration of ownership of the media in Ireland, and the bias against working people and organised labour so much in evidence in all types of medial in recent times, calls on the Labour Party:
- To introduce legislation in government which will ensure that ownership and control of the media is diversified;
 - To establish alternative means of getting the Party message across to members and the public in general by electronic or other means, such as internet publishing, podcasts, internet radio etc.

Drumcondra North Branch/Dublin North West

Climate Change:

71. Conference express disappointment at the failure to achieve a fair, ambitious and binding international climate change treaty at the UNFCCC talks in Copenhagen and calls on the Irish Government and the EU to engage constructively, within the UN process, to ensure such an agreement is reached in 2010. Conference further calls on the Irish Government to show leadership and help re-build trust between developed and developing nations by setting strong, legally-binding national targets for emission cuts and guaranteeing that climate finance, particularly adaptation support for the poorest countries, will be separate and additional to ODA commitments.

Noel Browne Branch-NUIG/Galway West

72. Conference:
Noting Decision No. 406/2009/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse emission reduction commitments up to 2020;
Noting the obligation on Ireland to limit its greenhouse gas emissions from those sectors not covered by the EU's emissions trading scheme to –20% of 2005 levels that is contained within this Decision;
Recognising the particular role of agriculture in Ireland's economy and its associated emissions and the consequential additional requirement on non-agricultural sectors to reduce emissions by significantly more than –20%;
Noting the Report "Energy Forecasts for Ireland to 2020" published by SEI in December 2009 and its estimate that energy-related emissions in those sectors for which government is responsible will increase by 1% compared to 2005 notwithstanding the impacts of the economic recession and the totality of current government policy measures;
Condemns the approach of the current government in addressing our greenhouse gas emissions for failing to make any progress towards meeting our legal obligations.
Affirms that Labour in government will harness the strategic, organisational and technical experience of the public and private sectors to deliver Ireland's legal obligation by providing a truly sustainable energy system on which our future economy and jobs will be built.

Donnycarney-Killester Branch/Dublin North Central

73. Conference notes with increasing concern the growing problem of fuel poverty in Ireland and calls on the Government to support those affected. We note that recent figures from the ESRI show an increase in fuel poverty from 16% in 2005 to 19% in 2008.
- Conference calls on the Government to provide high quality energy efficiency measures and a comprehensive fuel allowance scheme for those on low incomes.

Bray South Branch/Wicklow

74. Conference calls for the adoption of an economic policy of re-opening beet sugar production in Thurles and/or Mallow and/or Carlow factories, with a view to producing bio fuels, to enable Ireland develop additional expertise in green technologies. This would help reduce our carbon footprint and reduce the cost of carbon credits to the Exchequer. It would also stimulate the local economies in those areas.

Thurles Branch/North Tipperary

75. Conference resolves that Labour Party environmental policy should include stronger emphasis on improved insulation, with solar panels and heat pumps as the most proven and cost-effective method for reducing carbon, and saving at least 1,000 ESB units per house annually.

Galway City Central Branch/Galway West

Environment & Local Government:

76. That the Labour Party hereby re-affirms its opposition to water charges for domestic users and that the cost of providing an E.U. standard of water to every home in the State be borne from a reformed income tax and wealth tax system.

Kildare North Constituency Council

77. That Labour re-affirms its policy on the introduction of a National Waiver Scheme on charges for domestic waste for those on welfare payments and those on low incomes, in line with recommendations from The Combat Poverty Agency and the Ombudsman, and that the Party mounts a national campaign demanding the introduction of a National Waiver Scheme.

Maynooth Branch/Kildare North

78. Conference calls on the Labour Party when next in government to adopt a national plan for the collection and distribution of water.
- Dublin North Constituency Council**
79. **Conference notes with concern:**
The government's stated commitment to introduce domestic water charges.

Conference affirms:

The Labour Party's unequivocal and absolute opposition to the re-introduction of water charges on households.

Conference further affirms

Its commitment to campaign with and for communities against water charges.

Conference mandates :

That in the event of the Fianna Fail-Green coalition introducing water charges the Labour Party when next in government will bring forward legislation to abolish water charges as an absolute priority.

Conference further mandates:

That this commitment to abolish water charges when in government will be a key objective for the Labour Party in the run up to the next General Election

Mulhuddart Branch/Dublin West

80. Conference calls for a National Home Mortgage Service to be established within a legislative framework which will operate as an advocate for home owners who face difficulties paying their mortgages.

Cork South Central Constituency Council

81. Conference, concerned about the deteriorating social housing crisis in Ireland, condemns the government's landlord-centric approach to housing provision and calls for the following:
- The diversion of funding from the Rental Accommodation Scheme towards a housing building programme.
 - The elimination of the long term leasing programme in favour of a housing purchase scheme, and
 - The provision of long term financing to local authorities to transfer unsold affordable housing stock to social housing stock.

Galway City East Branch/Galway West

82. Conference believes:
that planning and development should be community rather than developer led;

Conference notes:

the widespread negative social, economic and environmental impacts caused by developer led planning and land speculation over the last number of years:

Conference accepts:

that there is a need to insert a procedure into the NAMA process, or any other mechanism whereby land and property that comes into the possession of the State or State controlled institutions, that the state bodies concerned should be obliged to take formal cognisance of the needs of local communities and that it should be subject to the same planning procedure as private developments;

Conference calls for:

the implementation by Labour in government of the principles of the 1974 Committee on the Price of Building Land (Kenny Report).

Howth Branch/Dublin N.E.

83. Conference calls on the Labour Party at all levels to campaign so as to ensure that the properties transferred to NAMA which are appropriate for public use, such as schools, housing, health and community facilities in general, be offered in the first instance for such purposes, that local authorities be funded so as to achieve this and that the transfer of houses arising from NAMA will be by way of transfer of ownership to local authorities and that the Labour Party will campaign at national and local level against any leasehold scheme which while facilitating developers does not confer either ownership or public benefit.

Letterfrack Branch/Galway West

84. Conference calls upon the Labour Party, when in Government, to develop a new and more radical approach to the development of a housing policy that will bring back the provision of housing as a social good and help create a sustainable approach to this critical public good.

Tom Byrne Branch/Wicklow

85. Conference demands that following the notice received from the Junior Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas, that no further funding will be committed by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for the further regeneration of the Cranmore Area of Sligo until agreement has been reached on related outstanding developments. Conference further demands that all outstanding issues be dealt with in a positive progressive manner without delay, and that all efforts are made through proper consultation with all stakeholders, residents, Department and Council officials and Council members, to ensure proper and sustainable development of the area and Sligo.

Sligo Town East Branch/Sligo-North Leitrim

86. Conference deplores the abject failure of the Fianna Fail/Green Government to progress the regeneration of local authority flat complexes;

Condemns the Government for abandoning residents of flat complexes to live in deteriorating housing conditions;

Further condemns the excessive reliance of Government on PPP and the sale of public land to fund regeneration;

Resolves that a Labour Government will provide the necessary central funding to regenerate local authority flat complexes such as Dolphin House and St. Teresa's Gardens.

Marrowbone Lane Branch/Dublin South Central

87. Conference notes with concern the failure of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to resolve the issue of the Limerick City boundary. In the face of clear evidence of the importance of vibrant cities in economic development and the need to put Limerick on an economically, financially and socially sustainable basis he has made only marginal changes in the extent of the city area and has continually delayed in the appointment of a boundary commission. Conference endorses the opposition of the Labour Party in Limerick City to the creation of a unitary authority for Limerick City and County.

Castleconnell Branch/Limerick

88. Conference calls on the Labour Party to work to ensure that commitments made to areas which have been designated for urban regeneration are followed through and that such communities are given the necessary social, economic and infrastructural supports.

Abbey Branch/Limerick

89. Conference calls for an independent inquiry into the serious flooding in Cork City in November is held as a matter of priority.

Cork North Central Constituency Council

90. Conference demands that Labour, when in Government, appoint one single Authority to manage and control the River Shannon and its tributaries so that in future, the capacity of the waterway system is able to cope with any extreme weather conditions.

Strokestown Branch/Roscommon South Leitrim

91. Conference calls on the Government to recognise that much of the secondary road infrastructure in Ireland is in horrendous condition and demands that a proper level of funding be provided urgently to Local Authorities so that these vital roadways be returned to an acceptable standard prior to the commencement of the tourist season.

Taghmon Branch/Wexford

92. Conference regrets the failure of this Government to seriously reform and enhance local government and commits Labour in Government to introduce measures that will:

- enhance local accountability;
- improve the appropriate delivery of local services;
- increase the powers of elected members to deliver public services and create a framework for appropriate regional structures that can deliver relevant local services.

Donnybrook Branch/Dublin South East

93. Conference demands that a viable solution to the containment of the site at Haulbowline be found, and to ensure that the proposed Working Group would consist of local political representation, and take into account the health concerns of citizens in the harbour area as part of its remit.

Cork East Constituency Council

Justice, Equality & Law Reform:

94. Conference calls on the Labour Party that as part of its programme for Government to promise to hold a referendum proposing to delete the word ‘blasphemous’ from Article 4.1.6 of the Constitution and to repeal any legislation that made reference to blasphemy as a form of defamation.

Drumcondra/Glasnevin Branch/Dublin Central

95. Conference calls on the Labour Party on entering government to repeal section 36 of the Defamation Act 2009 dealing with the publication of blasphemous matter and at the earliest possible date to hold a referendum to amend the Constitution by removing the last paragraphs of Article 40, section 6.1(i):
“The publication or utterance of blasphemous, seditious, or indecent matter is an offence which shall be punishable in accordance with law”.

Dublin South Constituency Council

96. Conference notes that a new definition of blasphemy was introduced in the Defamation Act 2009 providing that the offence of blasphemy is committed when a person publishes or utters matter that is grossly abusive or insulting in relation to matters held sacred by any religion, thereby causing outrage among a substantial number of the adherents of that religion.

Conference notes that this crime is punishable by a maximum penalty of a €25,000 fine.

Conference notes further that there has been widespread criticism from civil liberties groups of the introduction of this new and very broad definition; that there is great concern among many that the offence will inhibit freedom of speech and will lead to restrictions on cultural and artistic freedom; and notes that there have been numerous calls for repeal of the law.

Conference notes further that Pakistan is using the definition to seek an international 'defamation of religion' law through the UN.

Conference condemns the introduction of this new definition of blasphemy, and calls upon the Executive to campaign for its repeal.

Fitzgerald Kearney Branch/Dublin South East

97. Conference noting the recent exposure of extensive corruption and white collar crime, commits the Labour Party to introducing legislation at the earliest opportunity which will give full protection to whistleblowers in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Donabate/Portrane Branchy/ Dublin North

98. Conference calls on the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to enforce the maximum penalties on those individuals found guilty of robbery and terrorisation of our elderly.

Balbriggan Branch/Dublin North

99. Conference expresses its great concern at the proliferation of so called Head Shops throughout the country.

That these Head Shops sell products containing mind altering, synthetic and psychoactive ingredients.

That Conference demands that the following urgent action be taken by the Government to control the sale of such dangerous products:

- 1) That mephedrone be declared a banned substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act immediately.
- 2) That consumer legislation be enforced to prohibit the mislabelling and false advertising of products.
- 3) That no products be sold to minors and other vulnerable consumers.
- 4) That strict licensing laws be applied to Head Shops that would require qualified sales personnel and product certification.
- 5) That planning laws be amended to require Head Shops to need specific planning permission.

Sean O’Casey Branch/Dublin Central

100. Conference recognises the serious health and social problems caused by so called “head shops”;

Conference calls on the Ministers for Health and Justice and the Junior Minister with responsibility for drugs to urgently tackle this issue;

Conference calls on the Minister for Health to set up a group which will research, identify, name and ban all substances that are harmful (including those which have been banned in other jurisdictions);

Conference calls for a system of product labelling that informs people what the products contain and the dangers of taking them;

Conference further calls on the Minister for Justice to regulate the opening hours of such shops similar to Off Licences and to put in place legislation to make product liability insurance compulsory.

Bray West Branch/Wicklow

101. Conference dismisses in its entirety the recommendation by the Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure Programmes (Bord Snip) that the number of Garda Stations be reduced by half, and calls on the Government to properly resource rural Garda stations and rural community policing.

Skibbereen Branch/Cork S.W.

102. Conference believes that the Joint Policing process has the potential to make a significant contribution to enhancing safety and security at community level. However, due to the lack of resources - for which the department of Justice and the department of the Environment are mainly culpable - this potential can't be realised. This conference affirms a "Labour in Government" commitment to provide for proper resourcing of Joint Policing especially for the funding of an effective "Community Warden" service under the controls of the local councils.

Terenure Branch/Dublin S.C.

Constitutional Reform:

103. Conference notes the importance of a bicameral system of parliament in order to formally represent diverse constituencies and to provide greater scrutiny of proposed legislation.

Conference further notes the inadequacy of the Seanad in its current form.

Conference mandates the Party to formulate a comprehensive strategy on Seanad reform so as to enable the Seanad to operate as an effective Upper House.

Jim Kemmy/UCC Branch/Cork South Central

104. Conference recognises the constitutional importance of Seanad Eireann, its oversight function and the protection it offers the people from unwise legislation. However conference notes with deep concern the displeasure the lack of dynamism in the selection of senatorial candidates. Conference affirms the important vibrant representation in the Upper House, and that senators should be the cream of academia, sport, equality and law. The lack of any real reform in the Seanad since its establishment had led to Seanad Eireann to the position of a waiting room for potential general election candidates which neuters their ability to truly represent the people.

In a truly democratic country the Upper House must represent all of the people in society. The vocational electoral boards do not represent all of the people and the bias towards Dublin University and the NUI completely disenfranchise all other graduates.

As the Party of reform and the peoples Party, this Conference offers a mandate to the parliamentary party to introduce reform to Seanad Eireann, urging greater efficiency, full representation of the people and the expansion of people eligible to vote. Furthermore we ask for the guidance of the people of Ireland through a Referendum within 11 months from the start of the 31st Dáil.

Clondalkin Branch/Dublin Mid-West

105. Conference instructs the leadership of the Labour Party to request the Government to immediately set in motion the requisite means necessary to hold a Constitutional Referendum to abolish the Senate. The Senate is an expensive, unnecessary and undemocratically elected body and should be abolished. Other countries have abolished bicameral legislatures in favour of unicameral, among them, Denmark, Sweden and Croatia. No economic, democratic or any other loss has been experienced as a result.

Duleek Gate Branch/Louth

106. Conference calls for the extension of the franchise for voting in General Elections should be extended to include all citizens of EU countries who have reached the age of eighteen years and who are normally resident in the State.

Rathmines Branch/Dublin South East

Asylum:

107. Conference resolves that the current policy of dispersal and direct provision for asylum seekers be abolished on the grounds that it is inhumane, inflexible, costly and is incompatible with the State's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Oughterard-Moycullen Branch/Galway West

Disability:

108. Conference notes the failure of government to honour commitments to people with disabilities and their families under the National Disability Strategy. This group has been targeted disproportionately by cuts in the 2010 budget and have already suffered from €171 million in disability services funding diverted to other health areas since 2007. Conference calls on government to ring fence funding for these vital services and ensure that this group do not suffer further cuts in services and living standards particularly during this recession.

East Wall/North Dock Branch

109. Conference supports the right of all persons with a disability to have an assessment of need. Given that, children under five years of age are entitled to an assessment of need. Further, since 2007 under the Disability Act 2005, children aged between 5 and 18 years are due to this entitlement since June 2009.

Fermoy Branch/Cork East

Equality:

110. Conference notes the lack of basic human rights for transgendered people in Ireland.

Conference further notes the commitment in the Programme for Government to legislate for the acquired gender identity of transsexuals to be recognised.

Conference condemns the government's decision to appeal the Foy case to the Supreme Court despite this commitment.

Conference calls on the government to urgently follow through on the commitment outlined in the Programme for Government to legislate for a Gender Recognition Act and to drop its appeal in the Foy case as a matter of urgency.

Conference believes that a Gender Recognition Act should legally recognise acquired gender and include any necessary amendments to the Equality Acts and Data Protection Acts.

Conference reaffirms the Labour Party's commitment to legislate for a such a Gender Recognition Act outlined above.

Conference commits the Labour Party to include this in the party manifesto for the next general election and to include it as a priority in any future negotiations for a programme for government.

Labour Equality

Enterprise, Trade & Employment:

111. Conference:
Notes unemployment has risen by 90% year on year in the Tallaght area;
Notes that this dramatic rate of increase in unemployment is repeated in many parts of the country;
Deplores the low priority given to job retention and job creation by the government;
Believes that the fiscal crisis can only be properly addressed in the context of tackling unemployment and stimulating economic activity;
Further believes that Ireland must make the transition from a property dependant economy to an export led economy;
Further believes that in terms of provision of education and training places the government response is grossly inadequate;
Endorses Labour policy for the establishment of a €1 billion jobs fund that would be focussed on supporting:
Additional resources to support enterprise;

Sectional development strategies;
A major skills and work experience drive;
Fast track high priority capital projects.

Dublin South West Constituency Council

112. Conference recognises the profoundly negative impact on the public finances and on economic growth of reduced tax revenues, increased welfare payments, ‘brain drain’ and loss of social cohesion resulting from a prolonged and elevated unemployment rate.

Conference notes with alarm that Ireland has the 2nd highest rate of youth unemployment in the EU, that 1 in 5 people on the dole are under the age of 25, that 1 in 3 men under 25 are unemployed and that over 100,000 people under the age of 25 have lost their jobs in the last two years.

Conference further notes the threat posed by mass youth unemployment to Ireland’s competitiveness as skills are lost by idle young workers and as our best and brightest seek economic refuge on foreign shores.

Conference is aware that prolonged periods of unemployment, particularly at a young age, can cause great personal anguish, social harm and permanent economic disadvantage.

Conference is appalled at the inadequate response of our do-nothing Government to the mounting jobs crisis, and the return of mass youth unemployment and emigration.

Conference calls for a ‘Young Persons’ Guarantee’ which would assure any person between the age of 18 and 24 who has been out of work for 12 months or more one of:

- A job offer, whether with an existing employer or with the support of a dedicated Jobs Fund
- An opportunity to achieve a recognised professional or third-level qualification
- A place on an Graduate & Apprenticeship Work Placement programme
- Work focused training.

Dublin West Constituency Council

113. Conference condemns the failure of the Government to implement any of the twenty key recommendations published in the interim report by the Mid West Jobs Task Force in an effort to stimulate the local and regional economy so as to create employment.

Limerick Constituency Council

114. Conference calls on the Party when in Government to devise and implement a system of voluntary national service for young people between the ages of 16-27. This service should cover a period of 12 months covering community, social, voluntary, governmental and conservation options. This proposal as an extension of that announced earlier last year and the creation of internships for graduates on leaving full-time education would give future employees and citizens the opportunity to develop as people before entering the workplace and society.

Ennis Branch/Clare

115. Conference notes that the current economic crisis has its roots in an over-reliance on certain traditional industries but that nothing has been done to correct this issue or to encourage diversification into other technology-based industries.

Conference calls on the Executive Board to develop a comprehensive strategy for the development of domestic science-based industry covering the following topics:

- A review of the current science and technology syllabuses at Junior and Leaving Cert level to encourage a larger uptake in these subjects;
- The addition of business management modules to science and technology undergraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates, to assist graduates in setting up industries within Ireland;
- An expansion of the current university scholarship program to include scholarships for students from disadvantaged areas;
- A revamp of Enterprise Ireland to provide a more pro-active service to existing industries and to those seeking to set up their own businesses, and to improve its links with the universities and other technology institutions.

Bray East Ward Branch/Wicklow

116. Conference resolves that in view of the exponential increase in youth unemployment, and the potential for further mass emigration and long-term unemployment among young people, a Training, Education or Work Experience Guarantee be introduced for all unemployed under 25.

Finglas Branch/Dublin North West

117. Conference is appalled at the manner in which the Government is handling the economic crisis:
- Its obsession with bailing out the Banks at all costs;
 - Its failure to provide a credit flow to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);
 - Its failure to put in place protective measures for householders whose mortgages are in arrears;
 - Its failure to tackle the increasing levels of unemployment, particularly, among the young.

Conference applauds the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr. Emer Costello for her initiative in establishing a Lord Mayors Commission on Employment;

Calls on the Government to introduce a major stimulus package to create employment and to prevent young jobseekers falling into long term unemployment.

Oxmantown Branch/Dublin Central

118. Conference commits to the reversal of any degradation made by this present Government to the rights of lower paid workers when it gets into Government, covering the protection of minimum wage, reinstatement of JLCs and other Registered Employment Agreements.

Conference further commits that it would be part of Labour Party policy to ensure all vulnerable workers are protected and that their rights should not only be protected but actually increased.

Galway West Constituency Council

119. Conference calls on the Government to immediately implement a job creation scheme to target unemployment black spots.

Mayo Constituency Council

120. Conference calls on Labour, when in Government, to instigate an Employment Strategy which will stimulate development in Rural Ireland in a manner that will lead to sustainable jobs, boosted by an infrastructure that supports realistic and sustainable growth. Conference further points to the need to provide financial assistance to entrepreneurs and sole traders in rural areas, on the understanding that any reasonable profits are ploughed back into their businesses in manner that will boost jobs in their local communities.

Roscommon-South Leitrim Constituency Council

121. Conference condemns those multi-national companies that were happy to enjoy the proceeds generated during the Irish economic boom of the past two decades but were quick to withdraw from Ireland at the first sign of financial difficulties. Some of those companies have left the Irish taxpayer to pay the costs of not only on-going unemployment but redundancy costs also.

Conference notes and applauds the brave stance taken by workers at Waterford Crystal and Thomas Cook in occupying workplace premises as a means of defending jobs when all else has failed and decries the use of the apparatus of State on the part of the employer against workers driven to such desperate measures.

Conference calls on the Irish Labour Party to pursue measures through whatever channels are available that ensure that when multi-national companies are allowed to operate in Ireland sufficient safeguards are in place that protects the interests of Irish people and Irish workers in the event of a withdrawal for whatever reason.

TSSA

Social & Family Affairs:

122. Conference resolved that when proposing cuts to pay and social welfare rates, the ESRI should assess the social consequences with the same rigour as the economic and budget consequences.

123. Conference calls on the Labour Party to continue to campaign in opposition, on behalf of the most vulnerable elements of society and to seek the reversal of the 4.1% cut in basic social welfare rates and the cuts in child benefit and job seekers allowance.

Wexford Town Branch/Wexford

124. Conference deplores the government's approach to youth unemployment, in particular the cuts in social welfare recipients under 25 years of age, despite the government having no jobs strategy, and the 12 month unemployment requirement for those wishing to apply for the Back to Education Allowance.

Tallaght West Branch/Dublin South West

125. Conference notes that PRSI insured workers and their dependant spouses have availed of a scheme that has delivered free or subsidised dental, optical and aural treatment for over 55 years;

Conference also notes that last year over 400,000 individuals availed of routine checkups through this scheme and almost 2 million people were entitled to avail of the scheme;

Conference further notes that PRSI is an insurance and not a tax;

Conference condemns the Budget 2010 cutbacks in the dental treatment benefit;

Conference calls on the HSE not to ration dental treatments for medical card holders, and urges the Labour Party to ensure the full restoration of the Dental Treatment Benefit when in Government.

Sutton Branch/Dublin North East

126. Conference calls for the re-instatement of the scheme of community support for older people who provide valuable support for older people including socially monitored alarm systems, sensor lighting, window and door locks and condemns the government's suspension of the scheme.

Templeogue Branch/Dublin South West

127. Conference agrees:

That the manner in which customers are dealt with in local Social Welfare Offices is impersonal, degrading and soul destroying. Further agrees that the Party calls on the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to examine this and bring back some privacy to the customers and also agrees that the Labour Party when in Government commit to this, and also to restoring the Christmas Bonus to pensioners.

Nenagh-James Connolly Branch/Tipperary North

128. Conference welcomes the designation of 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Condemns the Government for abolishing the Combat Poverty Agency in 2009;

Further condemns the Irish Government for its reduction of the Equality Authority's budget by 43% and the Irish Human Rights Commission's budget by 24%;

Further, condemns the Government for introducing a savage budget in 2010 which reduces the financial entitlements of the unemployed, disabled, carers and children; and

Determines that Labour in Government will re-establish the Combat Poverty Agency; will ensure that statutory human rights bodies are resourced to enable them to function effectively and will ensure that it is not the poor and less well off who pay for the financial crisis.

Dublin Central Constituency Council

129. Conference calls for the Combat Poverty Agency to be re-established as an independent body enabling it continue to carry out research, and to identify and give advice on ways of eliminating poverty. Conference further calls that this proposal will form part of any Labour Programme for Government.

Sligo-North Leitrim Constituency Council

130. Conference calls for an integrated policy in relation to the elimination of global poverty, the establishment of respect for basic human rights, the acceptance of such a plurality of models of development as takes into account the history, culture, environment and generally-shared aspirations, of those who are seeking to emerge from poverty, and who are pursuing forms of development based on sufficiency and sustainability

South Ward Branch/Galway West

131. Conference calls on the Labour Parliamentary Party to seek to reverse the cuts in relation to child benefit introduced by the Fianna Fail/Green government.

The Labour Party in government should as a priority seek to have put in place a progressive child benefit scheme that focuses on the needs of all children.

A single universal payment, with additional supports to ensure that all our children are afforded the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

Ashford Branch/Wicklow

132. Conference welcomes the introduction of the Pensions Insolvency Payment Scheme (PIPS) to help members of under funded pension plans when an employer becomes insolvent.

Conference notes that the large majority of privately funded Defined Benefit pension plans are under funded.

Conference calls for the extension of the PIPS concept to cover all under funded plans as it would provide protection of significantly more individuals on a no cost basis to the State.

Dalkey-Killiney Branch/Dun Laoghaire

133. This Conference calls upon the Labour Parliamentary Party to introduce legislation in Ireland for the protection of pension funds of employees. Any legislation introduced should be followed by an overall review of pension provision in this state. This review should have clear objects as part of its terms of reference as follows:-

- 1) Pension cover for all citizens;
- 2) Use the revenue from pension funds to act as a means in helping to stimulate economic recovery in Ireland.

Wicklow Constituency Council

134. Conference calls on Labour in Government, to amend the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005 in a manner that will ensure that any savings gained in personal injury cases be returned to the Exchequer rather than used to swell the profits of Insurance Companies.

P Gralton (Leitrim) Branch/Roscommon South Leitrim

Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs:

135. Conference calls on the Government, arising from the yet to be finalised 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030, that annual programmes with clearly stated objectives be prepared and implemented.

Glaonn an Comhthionól seó ar an Rialtas, bunaithe ar an Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030 nach bhfuil críochnaithe go fóill, go n-ullmhófar agus go gcuirfear í gcríoch cláracha bliantúla le cuspóirí soiléire.

Tramore Branch/Waterford

136. Go nglacann Comhdháil Páirtí an Lucht Oibre leis na hoibligáidí atá ann caipéis pholasaí a fhoillsiú a fheastaloidh ar riachtainisí an Gaeilge agus na nGaeltachtaí agus a tógfaidh san áireamh bhár chúlú úsáid na Gaeilge mar gnáth teanga sna Gaeltachtaí agus an tábhacht atá ann chun an Gaeilge a threisiú i gcoitinn.

Conamara Theas/Galway West

Defence:

137. Conference calls on the Minister for Defence to set up 3 Pilot Projects to explore the potential role of the Defence Forces in promoting physical activity fitness and supporting the delivery of physical education in Irish schools.

James Connolly Branch Wateford City/Waterford

Agriculture, Fisheries & Food:

138. Conference calls for a legislative or statutory base to ensure that greater price transparency is achieved for primary producers throughout the rural economy and further, that any renegotiation of the Single Farm Payment must result in the retention of viable smaller units post-2013.

Mallow No. 2 Branch/Cork East

139. Conference calls on the Government to restore the recently removed grants and aids to the agricultural sector, specifically:
- to ensure that Irish agricultural products remain a vital part of this country's exports.
 - to ensure that the agricultural sector maintains their well deserved reputation for producing products of the highest quality throughout the world.

Westport Branch/Mayo

140. Conference support measures to reform the E.U. Common Fisheries Policy to recognise the problems faced by in-shore fishermen in island and costal communities.

Rosses Branch/Donegal South West