

3 Protect the essential public services and incomes we all rely on

Experience has shown that cuts to vital public, community and voluntary services hits those on low incomes/welfare the hardest. It is vital to maintain public expenditure on essential services and continue public sector reform. Over time the aim should be to raise public expenditure to the EU average; 45% of GDP and so ensure high quality and accessible public services (health, education, transport, social care, social housing, child care, and community and youth projects). This will save more in the long run by preventing social problems & reducing inequalities.

Supporting low income earners boosts domestic demand. We need to maintain welfare payments at current levels and implement labour protection to ensure workers' incomes are protected. Government budgetary decisions should be guided by an overall goal of reducing inequality. More equal countries are more economically and environmentally sustainable, have fewer health and social problems, higher levels of well being and are safer places to live (*The Spirit Level, Wilkinson and Pickett*).

Plan B offers a sustainable future

It prioritises social and environmental values

Recovery and growth should be based on economic policy that values social progress and environmental sustainability and it should be assessed, not just by GDP, but also indicators that measure social and environmental factors.

It requires an urgent renegotiation of unsustainable and unjust debt

Significant additional resources could be achieved by the Government negotiating a reduction in debt repayments which, by 2014, will cost €10 billion p.a. Bondholders and the European financial system should share the burden.

It is possible within the IMF/ECB/EU agreement

Plan B is developed in the full reality of Ireland's present dependence on the Troika bail out programme and recognises the need for Ireland to move towards a more sustainable balance of government income and expenditure.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE BUDGET 2013 'PLAN B'

Claiming our Future is a movement of individuals and organisations trying to bring about a more equal and sustainable Ireland. It is organising this campaign to highlight that there ARE alternatives; and to get public support for the Government to implement Plan B as an alternative in December's Budget. Raising your voice on this issue can and will make a difference. Remember the government's promise in the Programme for Government 2011:

"Our parties are committed to protecting the vulnerable and to burden sharing on an equitable basis"

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Sign the petition to make 'Plan B' Budget 2013 at www.claimingourfuture.ie
- Get more people to sign the petition –forward it around.
- Attend (&/or help organise) local meetings to discuss Plan B
- Ask your local TD/Councillor to publicly state their position on Plan B and to only vote for the budget if it includes these measures
- Contact radio shows (especially local radio stations) and ask for a discussion on Plan B
- Send us information and ideas about what you think can be done.



CLAIMING OUR FUTURE
a progressive movement for an equal,
sustainable and thriving Ireland

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There is an alternative to austerity



PLAN B

An alternative recovery plan for Ireland

Check it out at:
www.claimingourfuture.ie



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PLAN B

A Real Renewal Plan

- job creation
- rebalancing revenue and spending
- reducing inequality
- sustainable development



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It is time for an alternative

Now that the fiscal treaty referendum is completed it is time to focus on our economic and social recovery. The Government said that the treaty was only one part of what is needed; what is clearly still missing is an EU and a national plan to achieve investment and job growth. Such a plan will require structural changes in EU policies and programmes. Recent political events and elections in France, Greece, Germany and the Netherlands show that the European public is rejecting austerity and demanding alternative approaches based on growth, investment and social solidarity.

Irish people also want an alternative approach. We want the bank debt renegotiated, we want jobs and we want front line public services and the most vulnerable protected. We do not want Ireland to be a more unequal and less caring society. While we clearly need to influence EU processes, the Irish government can also do much on the domestic front to affect an alternative investment approach. Claiming Our Future believe this alternative 'Plan B' can lead to social and economic renewal. Read the details below and see how YOU can play your part in making Plan B a reality.

Plan B: For Social and Economic Renewal

Investing in jobs- rebalancing revenue and spending
➤ State investment programme to create growth, jobs & economic activity
➤ Raising revenue from taxes on wealth and higher incomes
➤ Protecting essential public services, the vulnerable and their communities
➤ Protecting low income households and boosting domestic demand
➤ Raising additional resources through debt write-down

Plan B is based on a state investment stimulus that would create public and private sector economic activity, growth and employment. This would reduce the deficit by providing additional tax revenue and reducing welfare spending. Further revenue would be raised by taxing wealth. These measures would together enable government maintain essential public spending. This will support domestic demand, particularly by protecting low income earners and communities. Social investment will save social costs and create a more sustainable future.

Plan B: A vision of hope for Irish society, a credible plan for a sustainable economy

1 Significant employment creation through a €15 billion combined public, private and European stimulus investment over 5 years in the following areas:

- Re-training and up-skilling schemes targeted at the long term unemployed and youth
- Education, research and development (schools, universities, ITs, VECs)
- Environmental technology (wind, wave and water renewable energy, recycling), upgrading water and waste water treatment infrastructure
- Bring primary care and hospitals up to world class standards, school building programme, regeneration of social housing estates, broadband network, rural transport scheme
- Support indigenous private enterprise and co-ops to be world leaders in IT, digital communications, green horticultural and food.

Funding sources:

Various funding sources can be used to generate such investment' including: Government cash reserves; National Pension Reserve Fund; private pensions funds; a National Strategic Investment Bank; investment by state owned A.I.B (bailed out with €20bn of our money); borrowings by state owned public enterprises; effective use of the European Investment Bank, EU Structural Funds and EU Social Funds. Corporate investment also has a contribution to make.

2 Progressive Taxation to fund quality public services

We have the fourth lowest tax take as a percentage of GDP in the EU. Our aim should be to raise this to the EU average. Taxes on wealth are minimal and Irish households hold €45bn in shares and foreign property. Taxes & charges should be progressive and - unlike flat taxes - fall harder on highest income earners.

Additional revenue could be raised from taxation on high income groups, capital and property, unproductive activity and extending the tax base. For example, standardising tax breaks and reliefs could yield €1bn per annum (p.a.), a 48% tax on incomes of more than €100,000 - €410 million p.a. and a 0.01% financial transaction tax - €500m p.a.