

NORTHSIDER

Labour

Dublin North East Labour Party

Budget '09

Vol. 16 No. 4

We're paying for Govt incompetence



Tommy Broughan at Teachers' Dáil protest

Budget 2009 was a shambles. The Government was merciless in the way it targeted pensioners (medical cards), children (education cuts), the low-waged (new income tax levy) and welfare recipients (several new restrictions on entitlements) – all this, while billions continue to be squandered in tax shelters for the rich.

Many weeks after the Budget, it is still unclear how the Government intends to introduce several of the measures it announced.

This newsletter sets out some of the principal changes to taxes and entitlements as a result of Budget 2009. There were so many cutbacks and increases in taxes and charges that it was impossible to list every change. If you have a query on any item or you want an update on the latest position, please just contact me.

NORTH EAST PLANNING FILE

Northside Shopping Centre

Deputy Tommy Broughan and Local Area Rep Sinead Seery have been informed by An Bord Pleanála that the Oral Hearing on the proposed massive redevelopment of Northside Shopping Centre is taking place from December 9th at An Bord Pleanála. In support of his constituents in Riverside, Bonnybrook, Clonshaugh, Priorswood and Darndale, Deputy Broughan appealed the 10 year grant of permission by Dublin City Council to N1 Property for a very high rise, high density 1,340 unit redevelopment of Northside Shopping Centre. Because Dublin City Council is itself a participant in the redevelopment, Deputy Broughan has always demanded an independent Oral Hearing by An Bord Pleanála.

112 Dublin Road, Sutton

Deputy Tommy Broughan has voiced strong opposition in a comprehensive submission to Fingal County Council on plans for a new residential development of 36 units at the lands of the former Sutton Nursing Home, Dublin Road, Sutton. The proposal constitutes the total overdevelopment of the site due to the plan's completely inappropriate mass, height (five storeys) and design and negative traffic, overlooking and other impacts.

Belmayne

Deputy Tommy Broughan and Cllr. Anne Carter have slammed the collapse of Dublin City Council's €47.9 million deal with the developers Stanley Holdings for the development of the 9.3 hectare site for the proposed new town square at Belmayne/Clare Hall. Deputy Broughan and Cllr. Carter have demanded a full report from Dublin City Manager John Tierney and action to save Belmayne Town Square. Deputy Broughan continues to raise North Fringe matters regularly in Dáil Éireann.

Illegal IDA Superdump, Clonshaugh Belcamp

Dublin North East Labour Deputy Tommy Broughan welcomed the news from the I.D.A. that they are to finally seek planning permission to carry out full removal and remediation works on the approximately 1.5 hectares of an illegal superdump on their lands in Clonshaugh/Belcamp, Dublin 17. Deputy Broughan has campaigned since 2001 for a full Garda investigation into the criminal dumping of vast quantities of hazardous substances at the I.D.A. lands in Clonshaugh Belcamp and a strictly monitored remediation process to remove all of the illegal and hazardous materials on the site.

TECHRETE/TEELING SITE, HOWTH

Deputy Tommy Broughan has sent a comprehensive submission to Fingal County Council backing Howth residents in their strong opposition to current proposals for a high rise, high density development at the Techrete and Teeling sites in Howth, Dublin 13. Deputy Broughan opposed the development on grounds of excessive height and density (over 120 units to the hectare) and disastrous traffic impacts for Howth and Sutton. Deputy Broughan and Local Area Rep Cian O'Callaghan also facilitated a packed meeting of more than 150 local residents in the Bailey Court Hotel, Howth which expressed strong opposition to the Techrete/Teeling proposal.

New Pension and Welfare Rates (from January)

Maximum Weekly Rates	Weekly Personal Rate		Qualified Adult (QA) Allowance		Each Child Full Rate	
	Old	New	Old	New		
State Pension (Contributory) / (Transition)						
— Under Age 80	223.30	230.30	QA under 66	148.80	153.50	26.00
— Aged 80 and over	233.30	240.30	QA 66 & over	200.00	206.30	26.00
Widow's/Widower's (Con) Pension/Deserted Wife's Benefit						
— Under Age 66	203.30	209.80				26.00
— Aged 66 and Under Age 80	223.30	230.30				26.00
— Aged 80 and over	233.30	240.30				26.00
Invalidity Pension						
— Under Age 65	203.30	209.80	QA under 66	145.10	149.70	26.00
— Aged 65 and Under Age 80	223.30	230.30	QA 66 & over	200.00	206.30	26.00
— Aged 80 and over	233.30	240.30				26.00
Carer's Benefit	214.70	221.20				26.00
Jobseekers/Illness/H&Safety/Injury Benefit	197.80	204.30		131.30	135.60	26.00

Social Assistance Payments (Maximum Amounts)

State (Non-Contributory) Pension						
— Aged 66 and Under Age 80 (maximum)	212.00	219.00		140.10	144.70	26.00
— Aged 80 and over (maximum)	222.00	229.00				26.00
Widow's/Widower's (Non-Contributory) Pension/Deserted Wife's/Prisoner's Wife's Allowance (max)						
	197.80	204.30				
Carer's Allowance						
— Under Age 66 (maximum)	214.00	220.50				26.00
— Aged 66 and over (maximum)	232.00	239.00				26.00
One-Parent Family Payment (maximum)	197.80	204.30				26.00
Blind Pension (maximum)	197.80	204.30		131.30	135.60	26.00
Disability/Pre-Retirement Allowance (maximum)	197.80	204.30		131.30	135.60	26.00
Supplementary Welfare Allowance (maximum)	185.80	204.30		131.30	135.60	26.00
Jobseeker's Allowance (maximum)	185.80	204.30		131.30	135.60	26.00

Other Welfare/Health Payments

Maternity/Adoptive Benefit - Minimum rate p.w.	221.80	230.30
Guardian's Payment (per week)	170.00	176.50
Foster Payment (per child per week)	under 12 yrs	319.00
	over 12 yrs	346.00
Mobility Allowance (per month)	High	202.00
	Low	101.00
Domiciliary Care Allowance (per child per month)	299.60	309.50

Please Note:

These new rates apply from **January**. In some cases, such as Widow/ers, Carers and Invalidity pensioners the actual payment will be made in mid-February, and backdated to January. Likewise, some recipients on book payments will receive their January increase in mid-February.

Other Changes...

Fuel Allowance will be paid for two extra weeks in April and the weekly rate will be raised by €2. There was no change to the qualifying criteria.

The monthly threshold under the **Drugs Payment Scheme** has been increased from €90 to €100.

A&E charges have been increased from €66 to €100.

Student Registration Fees have increased from over €900 to €1,500. No improvement for 2009 in **student maintenance grants**.

The Government has made it much harder to qualify for **unemployment** and **disability payments** by introducing several new qualifying conditions and limiting the duration of payments

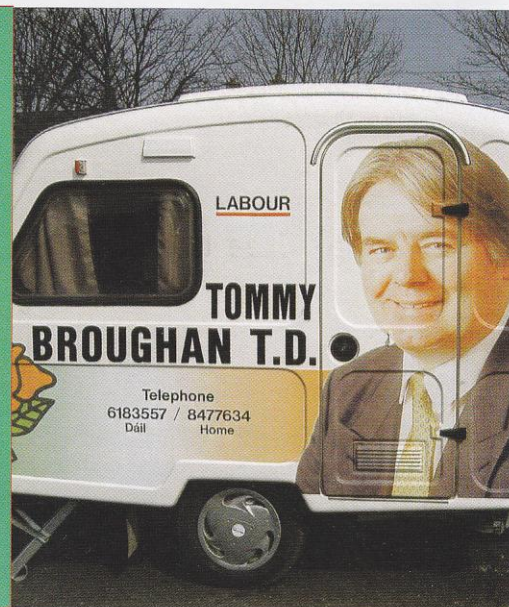
Education Cuts

The Education cuts announced in Budget 2009 were savage and will have a serious impact on the quality of education in our schools.

The Government has decided to raise the pupil teacher ratio to 28 to one for primary schools and 19 to one for post-primary schools. In practical terms, this means that many classes will have more than 30 pupils in them next September. It has also

- Abolished substitution cover in certain circumstances.
- Reduced support for disadvantaged students.
- Axed English language resource teachers.
- Cut grants for school books, library facilities, choirs and orchestras, science and transition year funding, teacher resources, several traveller programmes, the centre for talented youth in DCU, Leaving Cert Applied and many more.

So much for all the talk of protecting the vulnerable.



Child Benefit

There will be no improvement in the rates for Child Benefit in 2009. The rates remain as follows:

Child Benefit Monthly Rates (€) in 2009 (U 18 yrs)

1 Child	166	4 Children	738
2 Children	332	5 Children	941
3 Children	535	6 Children	1,144

Child Benefit will no longer be payable in respect of children aged 18 yrs. A half payment will be made in respect of 18 year olds from January 2009 only, and from January 2010 the payment will cease from the 18th birthday. For parents on social welfare and low incomes, temporary improvements (until 2011) will be made to various payments including qualified child payment, Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, and Family Income Supplement.

Family Income Supplement (FIS)

If you are working over 19 hours a week on a low income and have children, then you should look into getting FIS. For instance, from January, a family with three children and an after tax household income of €35,000 (or "taking home" €673 p.w.) could qualify for €1,040 FIS annually.

Early Childcare Supplement

Cut backs on the Early Childcare Supplement will mean that the payment is no longer payable after the child reaches 5½ yrs. The payment will now be made on a monthly basis. Further administrative changes will effectively mean that parents lose out on three quarterly payments or about €800 in total in the year after the child turns five. The new monthly rate is now €92 for each child.

Tax Rates and Bands for 2009

Single/Widowed without dependent children	First €36,400 @ 20% Balance @ 41%
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Single/Widowed qualifying for One Parent Family Tax Credit	First €40,400 @ 20% Balance @ 41%
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Married Couple, one spouse with income	First €45,400 @ 20% Balance @ 41%
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Married Couple, both spouses with income	
(a) If both incomes exceed €27,400 Add two incomes First €72,800 @ 20% Balance @ 41%	(b) If at least one income is less than €27,400... Add two incomes (First €44,400 plus the lower income amount) @ 20% Balance @ 41%

Main Tax Credits (no changes)

Single	€1,830
Married	€3,660
Additional Tax Credit for a One Parent Family	€1,830
Employee Credit (PAYE)	€1,830
Home Carer's Tax Credit	€ 900
Special Tax Credits apply to Widows but vary considerably...	
Maximum in 2009 is	€4,000



Cllr. Anne Carter

Medical Card Income Limits (January 2009)

	Medical Card € (p.w)	GP Visit € (p.w)
Single Person (Living Alone)		
Aged up to 66 years	184.00	276.00
Aged between 66-69 years	201.50	302.00
Aged 70 years and over	700.00	
Single Person (Living With Family)		
Aged up to 66 years	164.00	246.00
Aged between 66-69 years	173.50	260.00
Aged 70 years and over	700.00	
Married Couple		
Aged up to 66 years	266.50	400.00
Aged between 66-69 years	298.00	447.00
Aged 70 years and over	1,400.00	

Important notes:

1. The income guidelines for over-70s are subject to change. Savings below €36,000 (single) and €72,000 (couple) are not counted in the means test.
2. You check your eligibility by calculating your weekly income (before tax for over 70s, after tax for under 70s) and seeing if you are under the above income thresholds.
3. Further allowances may be available for regular medical expenses, children, rent/mortgage costs, travel to work costs, and childcare costs and these help raise the income threshold.
4. If your only income is from social welfare then you qualify regardless of the limits.
5. In some circumstances, if you are retired, have a social security pension from another EU state and no Irish State pension then you may qualify without a means test.

New Income Tax Levy

From January, a new income levy of 1% will apply to all incomes over €18,304 (except social welfare, social welfare pensions, and certain small business expenses) above the minimum wage and up to €100,100. A 2% levy will apply to incomes above €100,100.

However, these rates and bands may change. There are many unanswered questions relating to the levy, so please get in touch at any time for an update.

Other Tax Changes

The higher rate of VAT increases to 21.5% (from 1st December). This impacts on the price of items such as petrol, diesel, furniture, cosmetics, adult clothing/footwear, electrical equipment, CDs/DVDs and telecommunications.

From January, bicycles and associated safety equipment provided by employers to employees who use the bicycles to cycle to work will be treated as tax exempt. It will only apply once in any 5 year period in respect of any employee. There will be a limit on the value of such purchases of €1,000 for each employee.

- Car tax will rise by 4% on cars up to 2.5l and CO2 bands A to D, and 5% over that.
- Goods vehicle tax rises by 4%.
- Excise Duties on Petrol were raised by 8c per litre.
- On 15th October, there was an increase in stamp duty on cheques from 30c to 50c per cheque.
- New Travel tax of €10 on most outward journeys, with a €2 charge for short journeys (ie: less than 300kms) – from 30th March 2009.
- Earnings Ceiling for PRSI will increase from €50,700 to €52,000 (from January)

Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)

MABS is a free, confidential and independent service established to advise people who are experiencing financial difficulties, paying off debt or who need advice on money management.

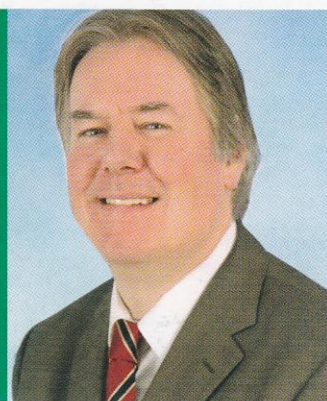
- A lo-call helpline 1890 283438 is open Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm.
- Offices are located throughout the area:
- Coolock: Northside Civic Centre Tel: 8674892
- Kilbarrack: St. Benedict's Resource Centre Tel: 8670707
- Fingal: Swords Tel: 8901102/6

Redundancy Entitlements

If you lose your job you may be entitled to a redundancy lump-sum payment. The statutory entitlement is the minimum that you must be awarded. You are entitled to a redundancy payment if you have been working for an employer for over 2 years, paying PRSI and are being made redundant. When you are being made redundant your employer should give you at least two weeks notice and a Redundancy Notification Form (RP50). The amount of lump sum to be granted as part of a redundancy payment is calculated at 2 weeks pay for each year of reckonable service. In some cases an employer may offer pay instead of a notice period. For more information on statutory redundancy you can contact the Employment Appeals Tribunal on 1890 220 222 or www.eatribunal.ie.

Deputy
Tommy
Broughan

...Always there
Always helpful



GET IN TOUCH

5 WAYS TO CONTACT TOMMY BROUGHAN

- Write** to Tommy's office at
Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Dublin 2
- Telephone** Tommy's office at 618 3557 or send him a fax at 618 4545
- Email** Thomas_p_broughan@oireachtas.ie
- Visit** www.tommybroughan.com
- Meet** Tommy at his regular information clinics all around Dublin North East (no appointment needed)

Every MONDAY

11.00 am BESC Offices, Darndale Village

2nd / 4th FRIDAY

7.00 pm Concorde, Edenmore Shopping Centre

7.45 pm Foxhound Inn, Greendale Shopping Centre

8.30 pm Marine Hotel, Sutton

9.15 pm Pier House, Howth

Every SATURDAY

10.00 am Clonsaugh Shopping Centre

11.30 am Donaghmede Shopping Centre

1.00 pm Madigans, Kilbarrack Shopping Centre

1st/ 3rd SATURDAY

2.15 pm Bayside Shopping Centre

3.00 pm Baldoyle House (Graingers) / Racecourse Inn,
Racecourse Shopping Centre

2nd/4th SATURDAY

2.30 pm Walkabout in one of the 14 parishes of Dublin North East.



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for updates on Dublin North East Labour Party see
www.tommybroughan.com

