



# WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

**CLLR. CÁIT KEANE**

**A Jobs and Economic Development  
Strategy for Ireland  
2011 – 2016**

**FINE GAEL** 



# FINE GAEL – LET'S GET IRELAND WORKING

Bad decisions, poor judgement and a Government out of touch with the people have led Ireland to an historic low point. The time has come to remove from office the people who created these problems. The time has come for a new start.

**Fine Gael has a clear plan and a detailed programme in our 5 Point Recovery Plan**

## JOBS.

To get Ireland working we need jobs. Over the next four years Fine Gael will invest an extra €7bn in new energy, water, broadband and telecoms infrastructure to generate on average 20,000 jobs each year. We will cut employers' PRSI, abolish the airport departure tax and change the welfare system to encourage job creation.

## BUDGET.

Fine Gael will prioritise cutting waste over raising taxes. This will protect jobs as public spending is cut. By cutting waste, income tax will not be increased. Fine Gael will take on vested interests – the bankers, the bondholders, the developers and the unions. We will aggressively cut the waste in our public service to keep all taxes as low as possible.

## PUBLIC SECTOR.

Fine Gael will make the public sector better, smaller and cheaper. We will reduce the cost of the Public Sector by 10%, saving €5bn by eliminating waste and abolishing 145 Quangos. We estimate 30,000 administrative and bureaucratic positions can be eliminated by natural wastage, voluntary redundancy and relocation. We will replace the outdated and inefficient annual budget system with an open and transparent system to manage the nation's finances.

## HEALTH.

Our Health system doesn't work for the people who need it most. Fine Gael's Health Strategy will eliminate long waiting lists, end the unfair public-private two-tier system and replace it with a universal health insurance system based on the renowned Dutch model. A greater emphasis on diagnosis and treatment in the community will ensure shorter hospital stays. Hospital funding will be radically overhauled so that the money follows the patient.

## NEW POLITICS.

Politicians should lead the way by taking cuts right at the top. Fine Gael will reduce the number of politicians by 35% - fewer TDs and abolition of the Seanad. Salaries for Ministers and Office holders will be capped and a car pool system will replace State cars. Major reform will allow the Dáil challenge Government decisions, better local government and a Citizens' Assembly to address major issues like Electoral Reform and Constitutional change.

# Foreword by Enda Kenny



Fine Gael has a clear credible jobs plan which will create 20,000 jobs every year over the next five years.

Since the recession took hold three years ago, 300,000 jobs in Ireland - 14% of the total - have been wiped out. This is the biggest fall in employment of any advanced country since the crisis began. Unlike this Government, I recognise that we cannot fix either the fiscal or banking crises unless the Irish economy starts to grow and create jobs again.

As a result of the jobs crisis, the ESRI forecasts that there will be an additional 100,000 emigrants in the next two years - a higher rate of emigration than occurred even during the depths of the recession in the 1980s. This is a national catastrophe.

The 'party-time' philosophy of successive Governments in the decade to 2007 distorted the rewards to different enterprises, so that those engaging in speculation enjoyed far greater profitability than those who were genuinely creating innovative, sustainable products or services. The Government's current response to the crisis has made matters worse. Fiscal austerity to pay for massive bank bail-outs has not restored confidence and employment in the Irish economy.

2011 could be the year Ireland begins anew. We can climb our way out of recession and look to the future with hope once more. With the right vision for a better country, a plan to guide us, and a skilled team to make it happen, the Irish economy can be rebuilt stronger than ever. Fine Gael has such a vision for Ireland. 'Working for Our Future' sets out how we will rebuild this economy.

## OUR GOAL

The ESRI believes that Ireland has the capacity to generate a net increase of 100,000 jobs over the next five years. This is a realistic ambition for a new government to set itself.

## REBUILDING THE ECONOMY

### Protecting Investment and Competitive Tax Rates

- We aim to restore confidence in the Irish economy by bringing the public finances under control and delivering a surplus of revenues over day-to-day spending by 2016.
- We will protect jobs as we cut the deficit by limiting tax increases to at most one-third of the total deficit-reducing measures.
- We will not increase direct rates of tax on income, employment and enterprise investment, and we will re-structure the VAT system to help promote domestic shift spending from imported goods into labour-intensive services.
- We will invest an additional €7 billion in modern infrastructure such as broadband, energy and water.

## SUPPORTING IRISH BUSINESS

### Innovate, Market, Sell

- A new 'Home to Export' programme will be established to share the expertise of exporting companies with domestically focused firms. A 'Source Ireland' portal will be developed to market Irish goods and services abroad.
- We will support new business start-ups by simplifying tax registration, exempting some regulatory requirements designed for bigger

companies, amending the R&D tax credit regime to make it more attractive and accessible, and look at ways to provide continued social welfare cover.

- We will offer tax credits to multinational companies that provide the funding and mentoring needed by emerging Irish owned companies to enter international markets.
- Service companies that export more than 90% of their output will be allowed become VAT exempt, improving their cash-flows and cutting down on red tape.
- We will publish a new Asia Strategy with the aim of trebling trade between Ireland and Asia during this period 2011-2025.
- We will change the way the public sector buys goods and services to support innovative Irish firms.
- We will put in place specific strategies to support high-potential industries such as international education, digital gaming, financial services and tourism.

## MATCHING PEOPLE TO OPPORTUNITIES

- A single Payments & Entitlements Service (PES) will be established to act as a single point of contact for the unemployed for all their welfare, training assessment and job seeking needs.
- Youth unemployment will be specifically targeted through 45,000 new work placement, training and education places.
- Antiquated bankruptcy laws will be overhauled to provide "honest bankrupts" with clear and accessible

routes back into normal economic life.

New voluntary debt plans will allow SMEs to restructure without recourse to expensive courts.

## A COMPETITIVE LOCATION

### Reducing Costs, Red Tape and Bad Regulations

- Government imposed red-tape on business will be reduced by €500 million, in part by streamlining all regulatory enforcement activities under a Business Inspection and Licensing Authority and a single Food Inspectorate.
- A Unique Business Identifier will be developed for use by all government departments and agencies that will make it easier for Government bodies to share information while saving valuable businesses time.
- We will tackle high costs in protected sectors of the economy such as transport, medical, waste and legal services.
- Employment Regulation Orders will be reviewed and all existing employment law will be consolidated into a Single Employment Act.

## MAKING IT HAPPEN

- This plan will happen. By converting the Department of An Taoiseach into a body that oversees the delivery of Government plans will ensure that the overall job creation priorities are delivered across the public service.
- We will merge the existing Enterprise Department and Forfás to create a new Department of Jobs and Economic Planning to enhance jobs priority across Government.

# WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

# FINE GAEL



## Let's Get Ireland Working

Ireland is in the middle of the biggest crisis in the history of the State. Irish families are facing massive financial pressure, many are facing redundancy, record numbers are awaiting care on hospital trolleys and too many young people are moving away because they see no opportunities here.

Enda Kenny and Fine Gael have a

**5 POINT RECOVERY PLAN**  
to Get Ireland Working.

For more information see [www.FineGael.ie](http://www.FineGael.ie)

**VOTE 1** Cáit Keane

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR  
FINE GAEL TEAM IN  
DUBLIN SOUTH WEST

**CÁIT KEANE  
& BRIAN HAYES**

**VOTE 1, 2**  
in order of your choice

