

EOIN
HAYES TD

Social
Democrats

Summer
2026

YOUR
DUBLIN
BAY SOUTH

SOCIAL
DEMOCRAT



Dear resident,

It has been such a pleasure to meet with many of you and witness the genuine, hardworking and kind nature of the people of our constituency. I am continually encouraged by seeing the incredible goodness in all of us: we all want good things for the next generation, to act in good faith with each other, and to work together for a more just society.

As an opposition TD for this constituency, my first year in the Oireachtas was an eventful one, but for the Cabinet it was historically unproductive: 2025 was the worst year on record for government legislation introduced to the Dáil. Government is not easy, in any country, but we must do so much better.

I know recent geopolitical events and the associated pressures have given all of us some anxiety for the future. I want to assure you that I am working day and night on your behalf to make sure the State plays its role in protecting our most vulnerable, future proofing our economic model, tackling the worst effects of climate change, and upholding human rights for all people at every turn.

Your local TD



PARLIAMENTARY WORK

ENERGY POVERTY & CLIMATE ACTION

A cost-of-living crisis, accelerated by an energy crisis from the American-Israeli war against Iran, has hit every household in the country. We in the Social Democrats have supported the government in some of their responses, especially the **expanded fuel allowance**, but it is clear more must be done.

This energy security crisis comes amid a climate crisis, where the government recently announced they will only hit half of the 51% emissions reduction targets by 2030.

Our approach to climate and energy issues have differed from other opposition parties – we believe **measures must be targeted at those who need them most, be financially responsible, and underpin a just climate transition protecting the most vulnerable.**

It is in this context, we supported a cut to the 'NORA' levy, on a temporary basis, as the levy funds climate action projects like school solar panels and social housing retrofitting. However, the Bill also empowered the Minister to extend the reduction of the levy for up to two years without any Dáil mandate.

With my party colleagues, I tabled an amendment to require the minister to return to the Dáil for approval of further reductions beyond the initial two-month period, which was opposed and defeated by the government.

I will continue to hold the government accountable on climate action.



SOCIAL DEMOCRATS SPOKESPERSON FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

My first act as the Social Democrats Spokesperson for Social Protection was to put forward our proposals as a party for Budget 2026. Unfortunately, **the government's budget cut the real incomes of disabled people and marginalised groups, and increased poverty.*** It also focused on tax cut measures boosting developer profits over addressing the root causes of the housing crisis.

In January, my first Dáil motion called on the government to introduce an Emergency Payment for Disabled People who faced seriously reduced incomes this winter, in lieu of a permanent Cost of Disability payment for 2027.

I've also been focused on the issues faced by **older people** - meeting with older peoples' organisations and calling on the government to address the unique challenges older people face in the cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis, loss of community spaces, and post office closures.

The most recent data issued by the CSO highlighted the great pressures faced by our older population, showing that **one in ten older people who live alone are living in consistent poverty.**



CHILDCARE

Budget 2026 was notable due to the absence of measures to bring down the cost and increase availability of childcare. The Social Democrats Alternative Budget set out a clear plan to reduce fees to a maximum of €200 per month by 2028, and initiate a **comprehensive public model called Páistecare.**

The announcement in January of a small scheme for the opening of state-led childcare services is welcome, but the failure to put in place a coherent plan has deepened a challenging operating environment for childcare workers and existing small providers. **Nearly 1,000 early years childcare services have closed their doors over the last six years, while less than 600 have opened.**

**references to data and reports available at eoinhayes.ie, or scan the QR code on the back of this leaflet.*

DUBLIN CITY UPDATES

HOUSING FOR DUBLIN CITY

While homes are being built, in 2025, the government failed to meet its own targets once again.

There were 36,284 housing completions nationally in 2025 - a welcome increase on the dismal 2024 numbers but less than the levels promised by the government before the general election and nowhere near enough what we need to see to start making a dent in the housing deficit, estimated as approximately 250,000 by the Housing Commission in its 2024 report.

96% of new dwellings completed in Dublin in 2025 were apartments, with only 196 houses built in the whole city.

The recent Residential Tenancies Bill also set the scene for increased rents and evictions and will put even more pressure on renters in an already punishing rental market.

| HOUSING TYPE | TARGET | COMPLETED/ DELIVERED | GOVT'S PERFORMANCE TO GOAL |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Affordable Housing & Cost Rental | 1239 | 149 | 12% |
| Social Housing | 2222 | 1375 | 62% |
| Private & Build to rent | 3229 | 2997 | 93% |
| Total | 6690 | 4521 | 68% |

| LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA | TOTAL NEW DWELLING COMPLETIONS |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Kimmage-Rathmines (incl. Rathgar, Terenure, Harold's Cross) | 375 |
| Pembroke (inc. Ranelagh, Ballsbridge, Sandymount) | 152 |
| South East Inner City (incl. Dublin 2, Ringsend, Portobello) | 805 |
| Total | 1332 |



DISABILITIES & SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR DUBLIN

Of the 464 new special classes nationally, 305 are being established in primary schools and 159 in post-primary schools.

58 of these classes have been confirmed to be in Dublin and will be open for the 2026/2027 school year.

The Minister for Education is now looking for large increases in funding allocation with a view to greatly increasing the number of special places in line with the pent up demand.

I will continue to fight for local allocations and for Dublin Bay South to get these badly needed special school places.

TRANSPORT FOR DUBLIN

Transforming quality of life for Dubliners requires significant investment in public transport and setting out ambitious goals for our city.

Unfortunately, the government's latest National Development Plan Review for Transport did not mention most of the projects in Dublin Bay South which have been put on hold.

| PROJECT | PROMISED PROGRAMME FOR GOVT / TII 2030 PLAN | PROGRESS INCLUDED IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO 2030 |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Luas Poolbeg | ✓ | ✗ |
| Luas Kimmage | ✗ | ✗ |
| Luas to UCD/Sandyford | ✗ | ✗ |
| Metro Southwest Feasibility Study | ✓ | ✗ |
| MetroLink | ✓ | ✓ |

LOCAL UPDATES



COLLEGE GREEN PEDESTRIANISATION

- ★ The design plans for Grow College Green, the pedestrianisation project which will reimagine the historic heart of our city, have recently been unveiled.
- ★ It's a really exciting project and I will continue to push for accelerated delivery so we can have a vibrant public space bringing life to the centre of Dublin.
- ★ To take a look at the full plans, visit: dublincity.ie/grow-college-green

FLOOD PROTECTIONS

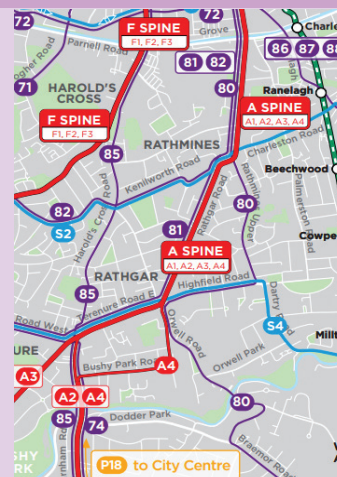
The Sandymount Flood Defence Scheme will have its planning application progressed next year.

I've engaged with the Department of Finance on flood insurance provision - there have been recent indications **the government may consider the reinsurance schemes to extend coverage for homes and businesses** - read more about my work on this by scanning the QR code below.

BUS CONNECTS (A4/15B) UPDATE

I have engaged continuously with the NTA about bus services, and I was delighted to see **service retained on the 15b route** with an adjusted A4 through Bushy Park Road.

Well done to local residents who campaigned for this!



GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONSTITUENCY

- ★ The Museum of Childhood Ireland and Marsh's Library have launched their **Bloomsday Writers Competition** for secondary school students - find out more at bloomsdayfestival.ie.
- ★ The **Glass Bottle development in Poolbeg** has launched **social housing units** via Dublin City Council's Choice Based Lettings scheme.
- ★ Congratulations to the successful local campaign **for a new Garden and Bandstand restoration in Herbert Park!**
- ★ The Fair Play Café in Ringsend is becoming a **creative AI Digital Hub**, with new additions to the existing digital skills courses.
- ★ Congratulations to St. Mary's College on their long-awaited success in the Leinster School Senior Cup!
- ★ Construction is underway at **Portobello Plaza**.



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