

The Methodist Church in Ireland – Council on Social Responsibility (Southern Executive)

Local Council Elections – Friday 24th May 2019

While not an exhaustive list, the following is a note of some of our main concerns as a church that we think would be useful to highlight to candidates seeking election as local councillors. Please consider the issues highlighted and maybe have this note ready if approached by someone seeking your vote.

Our concerns....

Action on Climate Change

That councillors have an energetic commitment to strong local Council policy to alleviate Climate change.

That local political representatives regard it as a matter of urgency to press their wider parties and the government to reduce carbon emissions and a just transition away from fossil fuels.

Immigration & Refugees

That the McMahon report to bring an end to Direct Provision be implemented.

That local Councils fulfil their obligation in the resettlement programme of Syrian refugees.

Housing

The prioritising of the building of houses by local authorities. And for it to be based on the needs of all, rather than merely in the interests of those close to local councillors.

We are concerned that adequate housing should be available for the secure home life of all, with particular regard to children, as well as travellers and other minority groups.

New housing should be carbon neutral and have public transport & cycle lanes available to basic services.

Abortion

That local concern is expressed over further relaxing of the Termination of Pregnancy Act.

That there is need for major investment in services for those in challenging pregnancies.

Transport

Commitment to good public transport; to help access of rural communities and reduce urban car use.

Brexit

That councils are supporting the needs of those who may be worst affected by Brexit and good community cohesion along the border.

Domestic Violence

That Councils support victims of domestic violence by the funding of refuges and provision of housing needs of those in crisis.

Democratic engagement

Ensuring that all are on the electoral register and enabled to vote.

Ensuring that minorities (ethnic, ability etc.) can stand as councillors and be involved in public life.

That structures are in place within parties to prevent corruption in public life.

Being a people who listen well to our neighbour

To hear from local political representatives about their identification of needs in the community that may potentially reflect areas in which local Christians can pray and take action within our mission.

In potentially taking office as local Councillors, asking if there are concerns for which we personally and the local Methodist Church could pray for.