

## *#lepledge14 - a campaign for homeless services*

Dear candidate,

On January 14th last, Dublin City councillors did something amazing.

They voted to reject proposed cuts of nearly €6m to this year's homeless services budget. Then they went a little further. They voted to increase the budget this year.

If you were one of those councillors, I'd like to take this opportunity to say thanks.

The decision by Dublin City councillors came as such a surprise. It felt like they were sticking up for the city's most marginalised and vulnerable citizens. They did the right thing and there's a sense of relief and gratitude among my IMPACT colleagues who provide services to the city's homeless population.

The harsh reality, however, is that this year's budget will be spent to provide services that will come under a lot more pressure in 2014. Homelessness is on the increase, and it's becoming a longer term phenomenon because another crisis is growing in the city; accommodation. There is a chronic shortage of social housing and affordable accommodation in the private rented sector. Dublin simply doesn't have enough places for people to live.

That's why I'm asking you to build on what the councillors achieved in January. Homeless services will need their budgets protected beyond 2014. If you get elected, these services are really going to need your support for the next few years.

I'm asking you to pledge to do what the councillors did this year. A pledge to protect the homeless services budget for the duration of the next five years of local government.

I don't think it's a big ask. You've put yourself forward for elected office out of a desire to do some good. This is something good. Something that will make a big difference if you're prepared to support it.

Think about it.

And thank you.

**From an IMPACT member  
in your area**

*#lepledge14*

