

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

Report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2016

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

Contents

	Page
Responsibilities of the Management Committee	1
Auditors' report	2 - 3
Income and expenditure account	4
Balance sheet	5
Cash flow statement	6
Notes to the financial statements	7 - 11

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

Year ended 31 December 2016

Responsibilities of the Management Committee

The Management Committee of the SDLP is required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the SDLP and of its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the party will continue in business.

Section 41 of the Act requires that the Management Committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the SDLP and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Act. The Management Committee are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the party and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

Report of the Auditors to the Management Committee of the Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

We have audited the financial statements of the Social Democratic and Labour Party for the year ended 31 December 2016 on pages 4 to 11 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 7.

Respective responsibilities of Management Committee and auditors

The responsibilities of the Management Committee for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities on page 1.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 7. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Management Committee's Financial Review is not consistent with the financial statements, if the party has not kept proper accounting records or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have read the Report of the Party Officers and have considered whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. We have considered the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies within the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Our report has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and for no other purpose. No person is entitled to rely upon this report by virtue of and for the purpose of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 or has been expressly authorised to do so by our prior written consent. Save as above, we do not accept responsibility for this report to any other person or for any other purpose and we hereby expressly disclaim any and all such liability.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Management Committee in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the party's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the party's affairs as at 31 December 2016 and of its deficit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 7 and the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

[REDACTED]

Daly Park & Company Ltd
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors

[REDACTED]

3 July 2017

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

**Income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31 December 2016**

		2016	2015
	Notes	£	£
Income			
Donations & fund-raising	2	102,913	314,714
Membership subscriptions, affiliation fees & services	3	64,047	42,709
Electoral Commission policy grant		135,183	135,749
Conference income		17,025	50,532
Other sundry income		-	-
Total Income		<u>319,168</u>	<u>543,704</u>
Expenditure			
Costs of fundraising		-	71,862
Campaign expenses	4	48,154	64,520
Running costs	5	283,853	412,146
Conferences		25,919	32,091
Interest payable		5,350	5,958
Bank charges		7,038	3,940
Depreciation		2,037	5,099
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	-
Other expenses		6,457	5,235
Total Expenditure		<u>378,808</u>	<u>600,851</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year before taxation	6	<u>(59,640)</u>	<u>(57,147)</u>
Tax on loss on ordinary activities		-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year after taxation		<u><u>(59,640)</u></u>	<u><u>(57,147)</u></u>

The notes on pages 7 to 11 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

**Balance sheet
as at 31 December 2016**

		2016		2015	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		280,285		282,321
Current assets					
Debtors	8	8,088		7,627	
Cash at bank and in hand		24,308		79,033	
		<u>32,396</u>		<u>86,660</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(249,262)</u>		<u>(239,195)</u>	
Net current liabilities			<u>(216,866)</u>		<u>(152,535)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			63,419		129,786
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		<u>(54,898)</u>		<u>(61,626)</u>
Net assets			<u><u>8,521</u></u>		<u><u>68,160</u></u>
Financed by					
SDLP Capital Account					
Revaluation reserve	11		157,435		157,435
Retained earnings	11		<u>(148,914)</u>		<u>(89,274)</u>
			<u><u>8,521</u></u>		<u><u>68,160</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 4 to 11 were approved by the Management Committee of the Social Democratic and Labour Party on and were signed on it's behalf by Ronan McCay, the Authorised Treasurer.


Ronan McCay
Authorised Treasurer

The notes on pages 7 to 11 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

**Cash flow statement
for the year ended 31 December 2016**

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
Cash generated from operations				
Operating loss	(59,640)		(57,147)	
Depreciation & loss on disposal of assets	2,037		5,099	
Increase/(Decrease) in debtors	(461)		1,935	
(Decrease) in trade creditors	(10,778)		55,710	
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	<u>12,368</u>		<u>(19,982)</u>	
		(56,474)		(14,385)
Application of cash				
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<u>-</u>		<u>(4,001)</u>	
		-		(4,001)
Net decrease in cash in the year		(56,474)		(18,386)
Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at beginning of year		<u>(159,605)</u>		<u>(63,011)</u>
Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at end of year		<u><u>(216,079)</u></u>		<u><u>(81,397)</u></u>
Consisting of:				
Cash at bank and in hand		24,308		79,033
Overdrafts		(175,286)		(166,809)
Loans		<u>(65,101)</u>		<u>(71,829)</u>
		<u><u>(216,079)</u></u>		<u><u>(159,605)</u></u>

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparation

The SDLP is not incorporated in law and is not bound by the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. The SDLP is required to prepare financial statements in accordance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ('PPERA'). Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Accounts Guidance Notes issued by the Electoral Commission.

The SDLP relies on donation income to meet a large proportion of its expenditure, including most of its non-recurring expenditure. Donation income is inherently unpredictable, but the Management Committee is hopeful that sufficient donations will be received to meet the needs of the SDLP.

Against this background, the Management Committee has reviewed the projected budgets for the SDLP for 2017 and is hopeful that sufficient donation income and other funding will be generated for it to meet its financial obligations and remain within its overdraft facility. On this basis, the Management Committee considers that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

1.2. Income recognition

Donations and constituency income are recognised when received in the form of cash. Membership levies and affiliation fees are included when received. The SDLP does not have any trading activity. However, certain services are provided to elected representatives and these are charged at cost. Invoiced services are recognised within fund-raising income when the service is provided. Amounts receivable at the year end are recorded as trade debtors. Work carried out by the SDLP by volunteers who provide their own time free of charge is not treated as a donation-in-kind.

1.3. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred and amounts payable at the year end is recorded as trade creditors.

1.4. Tangible fixed assets

Properties are stated at cost or at valuation, where appropriate. Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of these assets concerned, generally over 4 years for computers and 5 years for other office furniture and equipment. Depreciation is normally charged on a straight-line basis.

1.5. Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account when incurred. Assets are not acquired under finance leases.

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016

..... continued

2. Subscriptions & donations

	2016	2015
	£	£
Donations from individuals & cos. in Ireland & UK	97,288	185,685
Annual Draw	-	12,048
CS Fund	5,625	6,125
Fundraising Income	-	110,856
	<u>102,913</u>	<u>314,714</u>

3. Membership subscriptions, affiliation fees & services

	2016	2015
	£	£
Membership fees	23,110	24,082
Elected members' services	40,937	18,627
	<u>64,047</u>	<u>42,709</u>

4. Campaign expenses

	2016	2015
	£	£
Election campaigns	48,154	64,520
	<u>48,154</u>	<u>64,520</u>

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016

..... continued

5. Running costs

	2016	2015
	£	£
Organisational & Development Costs	14,745	27,079
Salaries & wages	154,026	151,633
Stationery & office expenses	15,554	16,443
Telecommunications & postage	5,538	4,195
Affiliation fees & subscriptions	4,325	9,820
Meetings & hospitality	10,991	9,745
Staff expenses, training & development	3,409	5,397
Insurance	8,965	8,881
Advertising & Media	961	326
Rent, rates & maintenance	5,968	7,785
Light, heat & power	3,658	5,435
Cleaning	300	786
Computer & office equipment maintenance	4,897	5,247
Audit & Accountancy	2,100	2,000
Legal and professional fees	-	15,000
Consultancy fees	49,635	139,986
Bad debts	-	300
Profit/loss on exchange	1,219	2,088
	<u>283,853</u>	<u>412,146</u>

Staff costs consist of:-

	2016	2015
	£	£
Salaries & wages	134,700	141,386
Employers' national insurance	11,632	12,559
Staff pension costs	5,301	5,744
	<u>154,026</u>	<u>159,689</u>

6. Surplus/(deficit) for the year before taxation

	2016	2015
	£	£
The surplus/(deficit) for the year is stated after charging:		
- auditors' remuneration	2,100	2,000
- depreciation	2,037	5,099
and after crediting:		
Profit on foreign currencies	<u>1,219</u>	<u>(2,088)</u>

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2016**

..... continued

7. Tangible fixed assets	Adaptations to building £	Leasehold building £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost/revaluation				
At 1 January 2016	22,534	275,000	119,864	417,398
At 31 December 2016	22,534	275,000	119,864	417,398
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2016	22,534	-	112,542	135,076
Charge for the year	-	-	2,037	2,037
At 31 December 2016	22,534	-	114,579	137,113
Net book values				
At 31 December 2016	-	275,000	5,285	280,285
At 31 December 2015	-	275,000	7,322	282,322

8. Debtors	2016 £	2015 £
Sundry debtors	8,088	7,627

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2016 £	2015 £
Bank overdrafts	175,286	166,809
Bank loan	10,203	10,203
Trade creditors	44,932	55,710
Other taxes and social security costs	3,569	4,473
Expense accruals	15,272	2,000
	249,262	239,195

Social Democratic & Labour Party ('SDLP')

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016

..... continued

10. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2016	2015
	£	£
Bank loan	<u>54,898</u>	<u>61,626</u>

11. Reserves	Revaluation reserve £	Profit and loss account £	Total £	Total £
At 1 January 2016	157,435	(89,274)	68,161	68,161
Retained surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u> </u>	<u>(59,640)</u>	<u>(59,640)</u>	<u>(59,640)</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>157,435</u>	<u>(148,914)</u>	<u>8,521</u>	<u>8,521</u>

Reserves include a gain on the revaluation of the Party's headquarters at 121 Ormeau Road Belfast. The valuation was an external and professional valuation carried out by [REDACTED] on 14th December 2010 whereby the property was uplifted in value to £275,000.

12. Accounting units and similar affiliated organisations

The SDLP is constituted under section 26 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 as a central organisation with accounting units. There are 20 accounting units in total. Details of these units are available from party headquarters.

SDLP

REPORT TO ELECTORAL COMMISSION

YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2016



Contents

Page No

Administrative Information

1 - 3

Party Report

4 - 8

Financial Review Activity

9

Administrative Information

Party Officers:

Leader:	Colum Eastwood MLA
Chief Whip/Whip:	Alex Attwood MLA
Chairperson:	Ronan McCay
Vice Chairpersons:	Roisin Lynch Gerald McDonald
International Secretary:	Naomh Gallagher
Hon. Treasurer	Joe Byrne
Registered Treasurer	Ronan McCay
Nominating Officer	Catherine Matthews

Party Headquarters: 121 Ormeau Road Belfast, BT7 1SH

Committees:

Executive Committee:	Ronan McCay (chair)
General Purposes and Finance Committee:	Ronan McCay (chair)
Elections and Organisation Committee:	Roisin Lynch (chair)
Policy Committee:	Gerald McDonald (chair)
Parliamentary/Assembly Group:	Alex Attwood MLA (chair)
Association of SDLP Councillors:	John Gallen (chair)
Youth Group:	Conal Browne (chair)
Women's Group:	Caoimhe McNeill (chair)
LGBT+ Group:	Matthew Corr

Elected Representatives

Members of the Legislative Assembly

North Belfast:	Nichola Mallon
South Belfast:	Claire Hanna
West Belfast:	Alex Attwood
East Derry:	Gerry Mullan
South Down:	Sinead Bradley Colin McGrath
Fermanagh South Tyrone	Richie McPhillips
Foyle:	Mark H Durkan Colum Eastwood
Mid-Ulster:	Patsy McGlone
Newry and Armagh:	Justin McNulty
West Tyrone:	Daniel McCrossan

Westminster MPs

South Down:	Margaret Ritchie
Foyle:	Mark Durkan
South Belfast:	Alasdair McDonnell

Local Government Councillors

Antrim and Newtownabbey: Thomas Burns, Roisin Lynch, Brian Duffin and Noreen McClelland.

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon: Mealla Campbell, Thomas O'Hanlon, Seamus Doyle, Declan McAlinden, Sharon Haughey-Grimley and Joe Nelson.

Belfast: Donal Lyons, Tim Attwood, Declan Boyle, Patrick Convery, Brian Heading, Kate Mullan and Paul McCusker.

Causeway Coast and Glens: Roisin Loftus, Orla Beattie, Maura Hickey, Stephanie Quigley, John Deighan and Margaret Anne McKillop.

Derry and Strabane: Brian Tierney, Angela Dobbins, James McKeever, Hugh Hastings, Shauna Cusack, John Boyle, Tina Gardiner and Martin Reilly.

Fermanagh and Omagh: Patricia Rogers, Garbhan McPhillips, John Coyle, Brendan Gallagher, Rosemarie Shields and Mary McGarrity.

Lisburn and Castlereagh: Brian Hanvey, John Gallen, Pat Catney and Johnny McCarthy.

Mid and East Antrim: Declan O'Loan.

Mid Ulster: Martin Kearney, Sharon McAleer, Tony Quinn, Denise Mullen, Christine McFlynn and Malachy Quinn.

Newry Mourne and Down: Michael Carr, Gillian Fitzpatrick, Declan McAteer, Gareth Sharvin, Dermot Curran, John Trainor, Geraldine Donnelly, Kate Loughran, Gary Stokes, Terry Andrews, Mark Murnin, Brian Quinn and Laura Devlin.

North Down and Ards: Joe Boyle.

Headquarters staff

Ann McDonagh, Finance Officer
Gerry Cosgrove, Administrator
Donal Lyons, Senior Policy Officer
Nuala Meehan, Policy Research Officer
Eoin Bradley, Policy Advisor

Assembly staff

Catherine Matthews, Parliamentary Assembly Group Manager
Jayne McGlaughlin, Administrator
Janine Irvine, Administrator
Martin McAuley, Press Officer
Niall McGourty, Press Officer

Westminster Staff

Claire Tighe, Parliamentary Manager
Michael Boyle, Parliamentary Assistant
Paula Kelly, Parliamentary Assistant

Accounting Units

The Party has 20 accounting units registered with the Electoral Commission. There were no additions or deletions during the reporting period.

Auditors: **Daly, Park & Co**
 Chartered Accountants



Introduction

To say 2016 was an eventful year is an understatement.

We had the “Fresh Start” rolled out at the beginning of the year. At the outset the SDLP said it was profoundly flawed as it did not include comprehensive proposals on the Past, firm proposals to tackle criminality and paramilitarism and limited proposals on economic regeneration. It also returned power to the Conservatives to legislate for Northern Ireland on welfare including benefit freezes which gave rise to serious concerns.

We forecast that we would be back round the negotiating table. This is exactly the position in which we find ourselves.

The SDLP recognises that there are many challenges ahead but we are committed to making our vision of a *reconciled people living in a united, just and prosperous New Ireland* a reality.

Elections

The Northern Ireland elections were scheduled for May 2016. We ran 25 candidates across the 18 constituencies. We would like to place on record our thanks to all our candidates.

In the run up to the elections three of our sitting MLAs, John Dallat, Alban Maginness and Dominic Bradley indicated that they would not be seeking a nomination. John, Alban and Dominic were long serving members of the Assembly and we would like to thank them for the tremendous contribution they made to the SDLP and to Northern Ireland.

Unfortunately we lost Fearghal McKinney in South Belfast, Gerard Diver in Foyle, Dolores Kelly in Upper Bann and Sean Rogers in South Down. However, Richie McPhillips won a seat for the Party in Fermanagh South Tyrone and we came back with a total of 12 MLAs.

The election of Gerry Mullan in East Derry, Richie McPhillips in Fermanagh South Tyrone, Nichola Mallon in North Belfast and Colin McGrath in South Down created a number of council vacancies and these were filled by John Deighan, Garbhan McPhillips, Paul McCusker and John Trainor.

Northern Ireland Assembly Manifesto

The Policy Unit with spokespersons, steered by the Election Directorate and members of the Policy Committee, drafted a manifesto which highlighted the core policy objectives of SDLP in the Northern Ireland Assembly. In the course of this work members of the Policy Unit engaged with a wide range of key stakeholders to provide the essential views and a sound basis for policies which were then integrated into the manifesto. Short briefings on policy topics were also provided for canvassers.

Opposition

Following the May election, talks began on the formation of the Northern Ireland Executive. The SDLP went in with firm proposals to the Talks. However it was evident that papers provided by the DUP and Sinn Fein lacked detail and were regarded by the SDLP as warm words with generalities. It was also clear that the DUP and Sinn Fein were not willing to commit to an inclusive powersharing Executive-it was to be government on their terms not agreed terms.

A special meeting of the SDLP Assembly Parliamentary Group and the Party's Executive was held and it was unanimously agreed that the SDLP could not go into the Executive but would go into opposition. It transpired that the life of the Assembly was short lived but the concept and practice of opposition began to create an impact, calling government to account for its actions and more often its inactions.

Brexit

The 23rd June was set as the date for a referendum on Brexit and the SDLP registered with the Electoral Commission to campaign to remain in Europe.

In the run up to the referendum the party held a series of meetings across the Northern Ireland as well as in Ireland and in the UK. Alasdair McDonnell MP took a lead role outlining the advantages of remaining within the EU. The Party Leader and other members of the Party also met with leaders of political parties in the European Union.

The vote to leave the EU came as a great shock to many. There are more questions than answers about the effect Brexit will have on Northern Ireland not least the potential of a hard border between North and South and what that will mean to us politically, economically and socially. The SDLP is working for special status for Northern Ireland within Europe and will work with other Pro-European Parties in Ireland and the UK to secure that status.

Parliamentary Assembly

The Party's Assembly Parliamentary Group includes Assembly MLAs and Westminster MPs and is chaired by Alex Attwood, MLA.

SDLP membership of Statutory Committees and Standing Committees in the Northern Ireland Assembly

Statutory Committee	Member/Spokesperson
Executive Office	Richie McPhillips
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	Patsy McGlone
Communities	Colum Eastwood (Chair) Nichola Mallon
Economy	Sinead Bradley

Education	Colin McGrath
Finance	Claire Hanna (Deputy Chair) Gerry Mullan
Health	Mark H Durkan
Infrastructure	Daniel McCrossan Justin McNulty
Justice	Alex Attwood
Standing Committees	
Assembly and Executive Review	Alex Attwood
Audit	Claire Hanna
Procedures	Colin McGrath
Public Accounts	Daniel McCrossan (Deputy Chair)
Standards and Privileges	Richie McPhillips

Patsy McGlone is Deputy Speaker of the Assembly and Alex Attwood is a Commission member.

At Westminster, Margaret Ritchie serves on the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee and is co-chair of the Visitors' Economy Group, Mark Durkan serves on the Parliamentary Human Rights Group and the Brexit Committee and Alasdair McDonnell serves on the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.

Political issues

During 2016 issues such as NAMA, the Social Investment Fund, Abortion, Equal Marriage, the Irish Language Act and the Renewable Heating Incentive came to the fore.

The SDLP recognised that, for all the better projects coming through the Social Investment Fund, it was crucial to ask the hard questions as to how projects were being managed, how some were ever funded and what the outcomes were for the community as a whole not just individuals within the community.

The Justice Bill presented to the Assembly had two amendments added to it dealing with issues around abortion. The SDLP received expert advice that the proposals raised more questions and uncertainties and opposed the amendments.

Marriage equality was brought before the Assembly and the SDLP, as party policy, supported the introduction of marriage equality to Northern Ireland. Once again this motion was defeated with the DUP voting against. The SDLP became the co-sponsors of a Private Members Equal Marriage Bill which fell with the subsequent collapse of the Assembly.

On the Irish Language Act, the SDLP remains committed to the introduction of an Act. In addition the SDLP tabled a proposal for a Private Members Bill and was in the process of drafting legislation when political events intervened.

The Renewable Heating Incentive Scheme gave rise to serious concerns with regard to how it was being managed and the cost to the taxpayers over a prolonged period of time.

The SDLP put forward a motion to the Northern Ireland Assembly asking the First Minister to step aside to allow an inquiry to proceed on the RHI Scheme. The First Minister remained steadfast in her refusal to step aside and subject herself to full scrutiny and accountability. This was followed by the resignation of the Deputy First Minister which resulted in the collapse of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the calling of an election in March 2017.

Conferences

The SDLP has had representatives at political parties' conferences in Ireland, in Britain and in Europe, with a series of meetings being held with the PES. The YES hosted a conference in Belfast at which members of SDLP Youth participated.

In October 2016, the Party Leader, Colum Eastwood addressed the Ulster Unionist Party Conference at which he received a warm reception. He outlined how we would work in opposition on issues where we had common ground recognising there are issues on which we fundamentally disagreed.

SDLP Conferences

The Party held a number of conferences throughout 2016.

At the beginning of the year we held a seminar on welfare reform which was targeted to councillors and constituency staff.

A health conference was held on 22 January 2016 entitled 'How Can we Fix our Health Service'. Guest speakers were Janice Smyth, RCN, Adrian Norton, HCIL, Dr Tom Black, NIGPC, Kevin McAdam, Unite, Matthias Beck, QUB and John Compton, former CEO of NIHSCB. Stakeholders in the health professions were invited and the conference focused on the needs of a growing older population.

The Party brought forward to March 2016 the Party Conference which was held in Derry. This was a very different conference from what we normally hold. Instead of the usual motions to conference we held a series of policy sessions with guest speakers. Issues discussed were: Tackling Crime, Building Safer Communities, The EU- Central to our Economic Future, Delivering Better Government for All and a Health Service that Delivers for all.

Following the EU referendum the Party held a conference in Belfast on 6 July to discuss the effects of Brexit on Northern Ireland. Guest speakers included, John McGrane, Director General, British Irish Chamber of Commerce; David Phinnemore, Dean of Education at the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy, Queen's University Belfast and Stephen Gethins MP SNP Europe Spokesperson.

On 17 September 2016 the Party held a meeting of the Party's Central Council to update the membership on political developments. This was followed by a constitutional conference on 13 October when the party presented a new party structure which was duly endorsed by the party members.

Electoral Commission

The party continues to receive funding from the Electoral Commission in respect of policy development. This funding allows the party to employ policy staff and to develop party policy.

For the year April 2016 to March 2017 we were allocated £134,000. As is practice, we were paid 75% upfront and the other 25% is paid after the Electoral Commission carry out an audit and is satisfied that the funds have been used for policy development. This audit will take place until June 2017.

Ronan McCay
SDLP Registered Treasurer/
Chairperson

Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)

Report of the Party Officers for the year ended 31 December 2016

Financial Review

The accounts indicate a loss of £59,640 as a result of total expenditure incurred during the year of £378,808 being in excess of total income received during the year of £319,168.

Income fell by £224,536 as compared to the 2015 calendar year. The prime reason behind this being due to a reduction in donations and fund raising.

Expenditure incurred during the year has at the same time decreased by £222,043. This is due to the substantial decrease in running costs. Every effort must be made in the coming year to increase income and reduce expenditure.

The Policy Development Grant from the Electoral Commission remains a valuable source of income and has allowed us to enhance our performance in the development of party policy.