

## Political Questions – David Talbot (2011)

**Why this candidate wishes to be a member of the House of Keys?**

Having worked as a Parish Commissioner and had the opportunity of seeing how Government works at close quarters this has given me an appetite to work alongside other House of Keys members to represent the interests of my constituents and develop the Isle of Man politically and economically.

**How well does the candidate think that the present?**

The present administration should be credited with developing a diversified economy and further constitutional change with UK Government. However in absence of any contrary information, they demonstrated a clear lack of determination if not backbone in tackling issues relating to the Reciprocal Health Agreement and the VAT Sharing Agreement.

**If the candidate were elected, what would their priorities be at a constituency level?**

Build relationships with Commissioners and community groups. Regular surgeries for constituent consultation and meetings. Maintain credible health and education provision for each area. Particular reference to work with young people. Coastal protection. Review speed limits either side of Ballaugh Bridge. Monitor the

**If the candidate were elected, what would their priorities be at a national level?**

development of any potential wind farms. Waste collection management. Tourism and Heritage - Look at the development of marina for Ramsey Harbour as a facility that will attract people to the town with shoppers from on and off the Island.

**What does the candidate view as the main political and social issues facing the Isle of Man in the next 5 years?**

Financial, ecological and restoration of trust.

Political: Dealing with the Islands exposure to further attacks from UK, EU and OECD. Social: As people live longer lives the costs of care and pensions for the elderly increases disproportionately to the taxation being raised from the working population. The Islands pension liability is now in excess of its total reserves if revalued under appropriate international accounting standards.

**How would the candidate deal with the challenges/issues over the next five years - as stated in the Main Social Issues question?**

Political: This will entail further constitutional change, moving towards the Island becoming a sovereign state. Keep our external relationships in good repair through various national assemblies such as

**What does the candidate feel has changed for the better, for Isle of Man residents, in the past five years - giving examples?**

British & Irish Council and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Develop the newly established office in Brussels to put the IOM on the map with EU countries. Social: On going review of relationship between retirement age and life expectancy. Review of the validity of final salary pensions and move towards a pension based on contribution.

**What does the candidate feel has changed for the worse for Isle of Man residents, in the past 5 years - give examples?**

Reduction in crime rate. Ring fenced regeneration grants. Dev elopement of co-operation between government, business and third sector. Moving towards introduction of Carers legislation in Social Service bill.

**Does the candidate feel that the Isle of man has been too reliant upon the financial services industry?**

Lack of forethought in the relationship between out of town stores and the main shopping streets in our towns. Increases in taxation, government charges and fees. Increases in food and fuel costs.

The financial services industry has provided the backbone of the Islands prosperity for several decades and will continue to play a significant if

**If The candidate feels there is too much Financial Services reliance, how does the candidate feel that they would further diversify the Manx economy?**

not reducing part in the years to come. However the adoption of a policy of diversification into other industries has to be the sensible way forward but this shouldn't be at any cost if it undermines our values and enthusiasms.

We should be searching for new industries and business regardless of whether it is perceived we have an unhealthy reliance on any one sector. The financial services industry is wide ranging and growing on a world wide basis, particularly in the emerging economies. There is no reason why the Island can't use the knowledge it has and the critical mass of professional expertise to have a slice of the business that will be generated from these economies.

**Is the candidate in favour of independence from the United Kingdom?**

Yes

**Is the candidate in favour of -and if a standing member, did they vote for- a popularly elected Legislative Council?**

Yes

**Is the candidate in favour of -and if a standing member, did they vote for- a popularly elected Chief Minister?** No

**Is the candidate in favour of nationalisation of air and or sea services to and from the Isle of Man?** No

**Is the candidate in favour of onshore wind farms in the Isle of Man?**

**Is the candidate in favour of Means testing for "universal" benefits and social housing?** Yes