

## Political Questions – Alfred Cannan (2011)

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

I come from a Manx family with a long tradition of public service with my Great Grandfather, Grandfather and Father all having served the legislature in some capacity. Notwithstanding that, as a Manxman I believe the Isle of Man is facing its greatest challenges in over 25 years and that I have the acumen, knowledge and experience to add real value to the future.

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

The present Government has had to face up to a unique set of challenges brought about in part by the global economic crisis. Unfortunately, on all the major issues (not least VAT and Healthcare) the Government has failed to provide the firm leadership required. We require a clear and decisive strategy for the next five years which must sit alongside a willingness to act quickly to address the current budget shortfall.

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

It is my view that a successful society is built around a unified and committed local community. I will:

- Support and encourage local retail businesses to provide a range of

quality local produce and other key essentials • Encourage new and existing businesses in the community • Work with the local commissioners to enhance the environment and quality of life • Seek a fit for purpose surgery in Kirk Michael • Seek a renewal from Tynwald for the development of a viable and sustainable village at Jurby • Support and local schools • Support and encourage community events • Listen to local community concerns and act appropriately according to the majority view.

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

There has to be a restoration of the House of Keys to a credible, trusted, open and accountable government.

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

Foremost is the need for a balanced budget, a clear strategic direction and strong leadership. The Isle of Man is not immune from Global Economics and the debt crisis continues to maintain its grip across Europe and now the US. As a result, we must be prepared for An Increasing number of social issues.

**How would the candidate deal with**

1. Carry out a full scale top to bottom

**the challenges/issues over the next five years - as stated in the Main Social Issues question?**

spending review to include local authority borrowing currently standing at £214m with recommendations for privatisation or franchising loss making departments.

2. To follow the spending review with a full report into the scope and scale of Government and Local Authorities to include recommendations for the public election of a Chief Minister so that the people of this Island can chose who they want to lead them.
3. Conduct a judicial review of our constitutional relationship with UK and Europe with recommendations for beneficial improvements.
4. Department Chief Executives and Ministers to recognise the scale of their responsibilities and to be held accountable for every pound and penny spent.
5. Recognise that "the recovery" will be driven by the private sector and as such that every effort will be made to support private enterprise.
6. To encourage and support entrepreneurs in their bid to develop and build new business.
7. To provide a clear and comprehensive business development strategy in conjunction with business leaders.
8. For the private sector to recognise

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

their responsibilities to the Island and to support Government through increased employment of school leavers and public sector workers as well as giving back to the community through support of local charitable and sporting initiatives. 9. Tourism to be reinstated as a full department with an effective strategy to increase our visitor numbers. 10. For a full report with recommendations into Public Sector Pensions to be undertaken by a respected and independent member of the community. 11. For a Minister for International Relations to be appointed with the remit to build cohesive relationships with the UK and Brussels in which the Island can better present its case within the international community. 12. For our schools and parents to recognise that we need a new breed of school leavers; to encompass excellence in the basics, awareness of the world around them and with the confidence, desire and determination to succeed in life.

Isle of Man residents have continued to enjoy a stable economy despite the downturn and VAT loss.

**giving examples?**

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

For the worse, please give examples?

The Isle of Man is not immune to external economic developments. The cost of living has risen, wages have stagnated and transport costs have increased. We must accept that we all have a responsibility to improve our Island life. This can be helped by using local facilities, buying local produce and taking an interest in local community events and initiatives.

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

It is my policy to seek a diversified and sustainable economy that will provide a prosperous and caring society for all. The financial services industry has been fundamental to the success and strength of the Isle of Man over the last twenty five years and currently employs some nine thousand workers or twenty three percent of the economically active population (as at the 2006 census) and thus I will work with business leaders to maintain and develop this key area of Manx Life.

**If The candidate feels there is too**

I repeat my policy to seek a

**much Financial Services reliance, how does the candidate feel that they would further diversify the Manx economy?**

diversified and sustainable economy and thus I will offer my support to new and developing industries on the Isle of Man, including e-commerce, space and manufacturing. I would encourage and support the use of Jurby for development in these cases. In addition, I recognise the challenges faced by the agricultural industry and will seek to provide support to Farmers as they look to develop and improve agricultural practice.

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

I would encourage a balanced and open dialogue with the UK and EU. I will be taking a keen interest in the stated aims of Alex Salmond and the SNP in Scotland. I am of the opinion that we have been too willing to accede to UK demands and we must adopt a firmer and more astute stance at the negotiating table.

**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-**

Yes. The people of the Island must be able to choose who they want to

**a popularly elected Chief Minister?**

lead them.

**Is the candidate in favour of nationalisation of air and or sea services to and from the Isle of Man?**

As an Island nation, our transport routes are of key strategic importance and thus the ownership situation of the Isle of Man Steam Packet is of concern. It is in the national interests that we have more control of our shipping service and I will investigate and support moves to alter the current scenario.

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

I am pro renewable energy but against onshore wind farms on the Isle of Man. The offshore proposals are much more in line with our landscape and geographical location and could provide both jobs and cheaper energy.

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

Yes