

Political Questions – John Shimmin (2011)

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

It gives me the opportunity to have influence over the way the Island progresses and to help secure a safe future for our children.

How well does the candidate think that the present?

Considering the global impact on the economy we have coped pretty well. Our critics will always find areas to highlight negatively, but in fairness we have maintained an impressive level of growth, employment and investment. Regrettably (as is predictable) all attention goes on the failures which distorts the public viewpoint.

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

To address the 'dripping tap' problems- disc parking where required, road safety issues (esp around schools), try to introduce 'all-Island rating system', conditions of roads/pavements, etc

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

Economy and employment, international relationships, restore trust and confidence locally and overseas.

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

Economy; employment; how to reduce Government expenditure whilst maintaining core services-this

years?

equation does not work and will impact all of us! Real social issues will develop if we do not ensure that we really are 'all in it together'-I can already see a growth in people pointing the finger at groups who they feel should be contributing more or taking more pain.

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

DED to be supported with adequate resources to encourage new investment to create new jobs. Scope and structure of Govt to be assessed to reduce costs, but this is not as easy as people seem to believe. Ensure we unify people behind the common cause of protecting the Islands interests and avoid the constant negative undermining of confidence for political purposes.

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

Too open ended a question. Some people have benefitted from the enhanced health services, education services and investments in infrastructure. Most people have seen things improve (despite the global situation)-as evidence see the satisfaction survey done recently.

What does the candidate feel has

Confidence in job security, cost of

changed for the worse for Isle of Man residents, in the past 5 years - give examples?

living (inflation).

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

Not too reliant-much of our success has been built around this sector. Change happens and we need to continue diversification, but why does this become negative about a sector that provides so much employment and wealth to our Island.

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

Personal preference is in areas of 'tech' companies; education opportunities at Business School to allow inward movement of students; encourage entrepreneurial initiatives and be business friendly. We have the skills and people on Island-we need to work together to achieve more confidence.

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

No

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?

Probably not at this stage

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

Support 'golden share' idea, but not nationalisation

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

Yes

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

Generally yes