

Political Questions – David Anderson (2011)

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

Having been an MHK for 10 years and Minister of 3 government departments, I believe the experience I have acquired stands me in good stead to make a significant contribution to the Isle of Man in the next 5 years. There will be difficult decisions to make in that time and my experience will be a valuable asset in that process.

How well does the candidate think that the present?

I think the government has performed well in difficult circumstances. The rebalancing of the budget after the original reduction in our VAT take was achieved with minimal impact to services. As we are forced to make further changes to future budgets to take into account the further annual reduction to our VAT income the decisions will be more keenly felt in our community. The retention of the Reciprocal Health Agreement was a relief not just to our community but to our neighbours.

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

I would like to see the first time buyer scheme extended to give further opportunities for our young people to have the chance to live in the

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

community in which they were brought up. Following on from the first time buyer schemes in Foxdale and Glen Maye government has now acquired land in St. Johns which could also lend itself to further 'Magher Vay' type housing. Glenfaba is a very safe rural environment. This is highly valued - we must support community partnerships that underpin these values.

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

The further diversification and development of the economy is essential to continue growth that will maintain full employment, enabling government to sustain frontline services to protect the vulnerable in our society, continue to give health services priority, continue to give our young people every opportunity in reaching their potential wherever they are in their education.

To rebalance the budget so that those frontline services mentioned in 3b can be protected. The change in the demographics - where the ratio of those in retirement compared with those in work will continue to be a challenge.

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

Continue to develop income streams and reduce our dependency on VAT as a dominant contributor to the economy. As we live longer greater provision and planning will have to go into future care and pension provision (pension age will have to rise). We will need to identify areas that government has historically been the point of delivery and see if it might be more efficiently provided through the private sector. We need to embrace the third sector which can support in many areas - this will also strengthen our communities.

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

Continued updating of our infrastructure and new facilities, from new health facilities to harbour facilities, including investment in existing and provision of new local authority housing stock, more first time buyer schemes - more than any other five year term.

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

Areas that are driven by factors outside our control - inflation, particularly in energy costs that makes it difficult competing in off-Island markets and for residents,

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

particularly those on fixed incomes. The reliance on financial services has continued to reduce but more importantly those services have diversified, bringing in new income streams and spreading the sector risk. New industries do not appear overnight and factors outside the Island's control can derail the best laid plans. We must continue to be agile and take advantage of opportunities that do develop at the same time protecting the reputation that has been hard won.

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

Clearly we continue to base reliance on the financial sector but we need to see how we can provide a fertile climate for new sectors - we have greater ability to change or amend legislation than some jurisdictions. We are not only geographically well placed but our trading position of being in the VAT area but outside the EU is a unique tool.

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

Any move that gives us more control of our own affairs is to be welcomed, however, each step along that path must be closely analysed to see if it is beneficial when weighed up over

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

any extra cost that might be incurred on a perpetual basis. There have been changes over the last few years. I suspect any further change in the near future will be minimal.

Yes. I have been a consistent supporter of this but believe these election should be at a separate time from Keys elections. Getting consensus on this issue has always been difficult as I believe the bill in Mr. Callister MLC's name will be.

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

No. One needs to know the candidate and how he or she works in government and as a team leader. Few members of the public are aware of those attributes.

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

No. Government should let the private sector continue to run these. The longstanding user agreement has price rises pinned below inflation with ongoing responsibility for increasing capacity. I continue to support the open skies policy that has enabled new carriers to give greater destination choice. Government

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

should support these operations but should not be service deliverers where the private sector has the expertise.

I believe that there are a few places where a sustainable case can be made for on- Island wind farms. Where an economic case can be made I would support these. I believe offshore wind farms offer more potential and that government could gain by engaging with the private sector that is showing interest in this area.

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

I think it is unlikely that we can continue to provide universal benefits at the present levels and that means testing might be needed as a tool in future. There is already means testing for some areas of social housing.