



Manx Labour Party

Inform. Protect. Support

Established since 1918

# OUR RECORD AND OUR VISION 2016 POLICY DOCUMENT

Representation of the People Act 1995  
Registration of Political Parties ~ Number 1 Manx Labour Party





# INTRODUCTION

*From Chairman of the MLP David Cretney MLC.*

**The MLP is the only political party continuously represented in Tynwald since it was established in September 1918.**

We are proud to be the first political party on the Isle of Man registered under new legislation and available for inspection at the central registry. MLP no. 1.

It is not affiliated with the UK Labour Party but shares the same principles of justice, fairness and equality. Since the development of the Ministerial system and under the board system, MLP Tynwald members have taken on responsibilities and positions within Government to for the best interests of the Isle of Man.

We hold monthly meetings open to all members of the public, and attended by our Tynwald representatives and an annual conference / AGM. We seek to promote a healthy interest in democracy, public debate and progressive policies. Central to the thinking of the MLP is a fair and inclusive society, and we will resist those who would seek

to introduce divisions in our population based on income or other mechanisms and will actively seek to promote alternative policies that will reduce such inequality.



We believe our success will be judged through all members of society being involved in, and benefiting from the sustainable development of the economy. Any objectives the MLP set as a party aim to follow the "SMART" principle, such that they are specific, measurable, achievable, results focused and time-bound.

In a very competitive global environment with the significant reduction of income and increasing competition from our near neighbours and the wider world, MLP is a lead player working to continue to diversify our economy and to pursue innovative new areas capable of growth and safeguarding standards in health, education, employment and housing; striving for the highest possible quality of life for the residents of our Island whilst ensuring an emphasis on supporting vulnerable members of our society.

**Please join with us in our vision for the Isle of Man by joining the MLP as a member or by**



At all times the MLP aims for a positive outlook and input, providing constructive points and facts to each and every debate; negativity is for others. We strongly believe that to be effective, our place is on the field in the thick of things, influencing events as they happen. The MLP aims for continual improvement in its approach to Government, always looking to the future of our Island and its population, with the lives of our children foremost in our minds. We look to form the future not hold onto the past, never forgetting the significant contribution those in retirement have given to the Island and we aim to ensure maximum support is provided to this growing element of our population. Our record provides the evidence that promises made are promises delivered, improving people's lives, even in harder times.

The Isle of Man is experiencing a transition with a clear realisation that we must live within our means if we are to bring prosperity and opportunity to those in work now, and to provide to those who have finished their working lives. The Government continues to wrestle, sometimes in a clumsy unfocused way, with pressures that more limited public funding brings and the input from MLP members who are part of our community can improve the focus. At this challenging time the firm and experienced hand of the MLP is essential to good decision-making to guide and support newer members at the centre of Government. We have and can make a positive difference, but only with your support.

Ensuring we grow a diversified economy within a caring, inclusive society is central to our thinking and yet we are realistic. We recognise that to stand out from the crowd

in the global economy, when seeking new opportunities, ensuring more than ever that all sections of society can benefit from this growth, the Isle of Man must play to its strengths and promote clearly and effectively what the Island has to offer. We should build on the success of 30 years of unbroken economic growth and like those who in hard times sought to innovate and diversify, renew this strategy with vigour. The majority of businesses based on the Island are in the small to medium size enterprise category and we need to co-operate with them and support their needs. We need to actively promote the training of a highly skilled workforce among all sectors and welcome entrepreneurs and businesses to join with us in the time ahead to ensure success.

Yours Sincerely,

David Cretney MLC.  
Chairman Manx Labour Party.

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# MANX LABOUR PARTY

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

### *The MLP will:*

- ✚ Ensure Tynwald supports the continued upgrading of Manx workforce skills to meet the needs of a diversified economy, with support for apprenticeships, higher education and graduate programmes.
- ✚ Ensure all sections of society benefit from future growth.
- ✚ Ensure Tynwald adopts a proactive "can do" mentality.
- ✚ Ensure legislation is fit for purpose and fully debated.
- ✚ Ensure policies are based upon statistical evidence with clear financial backing.
- ✚ Ensure the minimum wage continues to increase towards a living wage.
- ✚ Ensure personal income tax allowances continue to increase.
- ✚ Ensure digital inclusion becomes reality.
- ✚ Ensure Government services are delivered in an efficient, business like manner.
- ✚ Ensure poverty and fuel poverty are properly measured and policies put in place to ensure support for vulnerable people.
- ✚ Ensure we work to our strengths as a nation, promoting our key selling points; in particular our business and customer friendly approach to business.
- ✚ Ensure ongoing Government, private sector and third sector co-operation.
- ✚ Ensure diversity is promoted within individual business sectors.
- ✚ Ensure Government achieves "value for money" in its business dealings.
- ✚ Promoting free child provision for 4 year olds before and after school.
- ✚ Promoting consideration of full service schools as in Scotland.

# THE ECONOMY

## DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

*Currently there are 21 distinct business activities.  
Here is an overview of the MLP approach and brief thinking of aspects of each:*

### THE FINANCE, BANKING AND INSURANCE SECTORS

We need to continue to recognise changing global standards in the needs of the customer and appropriate regulation and transparency. Innovation is key. **The adoption of a more innovative, progressive approach by banking institutions should be encouraged.** The Manufacturing Sector covers a wide range of different businesses and further opportunities should be embraced. Opportunities in clean tech as well as our proven highly skilled, higher added value applications in the energy, aircraft and technical optics sector should be pursued.

### AIRCRAFT AND SHIPPING REGISTERS

Other opportunities in service provision with a customer friendly approach should be explored to build upon the success of our world leading provision.

### AGRICULTURE AND FISHING

High value and top quality exports must continue alongside a consistent standard to meet the local market requirements. Many exciting new artisan food businesses are capable of growth with the correct support. Our countryside is a precious asset.

### TOURISM

Tourism has changed and we need to focus on niche areas. As global security and travel becomes more fragile, there is a clear opportunity to attract more individuals keen to holiday without the need for International travel.

- 🦋 Our heritage and sporting events can be exploited and progressed further.
- 🦋 We would promote further world class mountain biking and equestrian events.
- 🦋 We would promote our incredible coastal footpath and others for walking and hiking.
- 🦋 Individual and bespoke adventure experiences are becoming more popular across the globe, and there are real opportunities to build upon our success in this area with new experiences.
- 🦋 Our beautiful countryside must be promoted to the maximum, albeit always mindful of its protection.
- 🦋 With our Motorsport heritage there are real opportunities to encourage classic motorcycle and car events to build on the success of the "Festival of Motorcycling" and the individual marque enthusiast and club events.
- 🦋 Customer expectations must be met and further all-weather leisure facilities are vital.
- 🦋 Our marketing must be different from the competition and increasingly innovative to maximise value for money.



## THE ECONOMY DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH *cont.*

### E BUSINESS

Has been a real success story and in an ever changing environment we need to have the businesses and skills to remain at the leading edge. Like the aircraft and manufacturing sectors a cluster of world leading businesses is a very important feature and opportunities must be pursued with vigour.

### CONSTRUCTION

We need to work with the industry to ensure the skill base is available and that there is a steady supply of a realistic Government capital programme combined with private sector investment schemes to ensure continuity.

### RETAIL

Has encountered more challenging times but we welcome investment in regeneration of town centres combined with the support of businesses to upgrade. A flexible car parking policy tailored to the need of each of the centres combined with user friendly public transport is vital. Support to have an "on line" presence and the encouragement of customer requirements together with vibrant town centre ambience is key.

### ICT

An area capable of much growth with appropriate skills vital to success. We support the proposals to put much more effort into training local people to get involved in this just as we did with the investment by Government in skills training in manufacturing and construction latterly.

### THE ECONOMY - SUMMARY

In an ever changing world MLP supports ongoing diversification and innovation with appropriate skills and training to take advantage of new opportunities.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES *THERE WHEN YOU NEED THEM*

The MLP remain committed to a full and free National Health Service and will resist the ongoing trend towards private health care provision. We strongly support a policy of prevention and early intervention and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

- 🦋 We will ensure carers are properly valued. We will co-operate with the third sector in this regard.
- 🦋 We will continue to actively promote Cross Government co-operation on healthy lifestyles.
- 🦋 Promote health Screening to enable early intervention in certain illnesses. Early intervention is not only best for the individual but also makes financial sense to ensure individuals can get well, return to work, provide for their families and continue to contribute to the economy.
- 🦋 Ensure greater efficiency with the management of repeat prescriptions and temporary equipment supplied.
- 🦋 MLP support an ongoing programme of education and advice including free family planning services.
- 🦋 Work with the third sector is important to help prevent drug and alcohol abuse.
- 🦋 Funding to reduce unacceptable waiting times for consultants is a priority.
- 🦋 MLP calls for the long overdue introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act.
- 🦋 Whilst recognising that this is a matter of conscience, MLP supports the debate, including all interested parties, in relation to assisted dying and patients rights.

# LEGISLATION AND ETHICS IN PUBLIC LIFE

*As the party who promoted freedom of information MLP welcome its introduction.*

**MLP supports and will actively promote direct election of all Tynwald members.**

MLP supports Local Authority amalgamation and reform which would provide significant savings, provide real powers for a revitalised structure and allow Tynwald members to concentrate on the big National issues.

MLP has led calls for an all Island domestic rating review and regrets the lack of progress.

The MLP supports the seven principles of public life, included in our constitution.

We recognise the advantages of the current Protocol 3 Arrangements with the EU particularly for the export of manufacturing and agricultural goods. Whilst generally Isle of Man voters do not participate in the UK referendum to stay or leave, as we are not part of the UK our relationship with the EU is via the UK and the situation must be very closely monitored to ensure IOM interests are promoted, and stability, so essential for business should be paramount.



A management of population mechanism to provide "Gateways" of categories of skills (for example) essential to the Island that would assist economic development should be revisited. The MLP do not believe wealth should be the only benchmark. Other categories could also enhance Island life. Such policies exist in other Commonwealth countries to obtain the skills required by them.

MLP believes a review and elimination of outdated legislation to provide a modern code fit for purpose is overdue. User friendly and less rather than more is key.

We support a fair settlement of the current public sector pension reform debate.

Central to our philosophy is the ongoing development of a society where social justice is paramount, based on equality and human rights. We recognise the dignity of every human being and strive to provide equality of opportunities.

# CONSUMER RIGHTS *MLP your champion*

As a consequence of inevitable monopoly suppliers there is a clear need for independent consumer protection.

The OFT legislation should be updated to ensure sufficient regulatory powers exist.

Of particular concern to the MLP is a growing gap in personal incomes which has led to third sector organisations providing food banks and homeless support for example.

Higher energy, housing and everyday costs cause much concern and we are committed to ensuring fairness to the consumer in these and other services.

The MLP understands the impact transport costs can have on our economy and seeks a fair settlement in current negotiations and if such agreement comes to Tynwald for endorsement in the time ahead this will be our priority.

The "open skies" policy appears generally beneficial but care should be maintained to ensure business routes where and when required remain available.

MLP welcomes the work to bring about a credit union on the Isle of Man and this must continue at pace.

"Zero hours" contracts are open to abuse. Whilst acknowledging zero hours contracts can indeed be of mutual benefit to both the employer and employee, we also believe whatever size of institution the employee is working for, that these contracts have firm and fair boundaries, to protect the workers and their basic rights.

The MLP is totally committed to the proposed Equality Act.

## LAW & ORDER

The international reputation of the Isle of Man is paramount to all we do and the quality of life on the Island is immeasurably enhanced by lower crime levels than adjacent jurisdictions.

The MLP will:

Continue to give its ongoing support to the IOM Police Force and to the criminal justice system.

Support the principle of restorative justice as a key element.

The MLP has been a long time proponent of penal reform and welcomes current investigation and action to prevent the "revolving door" scenario where convicted offenders merely return to the street and continue their wrongdoing.

Criminal proceedings against young people should always be the very last resort.

More use of mediation rather than conflict based resolution would be welcomed.

The MLP welcomes training and education as well as other opportunities to rehabilitate and better equip offenders for a life in society.



## EDUCATION AND CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MLP policy is that education is an ongoing life-long process. Education is vital for the individual and our Island's future, and this depends on the best possible educational and training facilities being available to all.

The MLP also believes that:

Education and training for all ages in the digital world is a key priority.

Early years education can play a pivotal role altering the long term trajectories of children's lives therefore a statutory duty should exist to provide free nursery education. Affordable child care or tax support to facilitate this is very important to families.

Further educational opportunities must be available for all young people regardless of socio-economic background to be able to attend University or other further educational establishments.

Every effort should be made in terms of minimising excessive class sizes.

In leisure, sport and the arts the importance of adequate opportunities for young people is vital. Government support towards this is money well invested.

There must be a joined up approach between Government economic development sectors and those within the education sector to ensure young people are guided in terms of their further education matching career choice, ultimately aiming ideally to match aspiration with the greater needs of the Isle of Man. The Government should consider focusing incentives for Manx graduates to return home after their further education in order to ensure vital areas of public services (e.g NHS and education) are maintained.

In-service training and retraining including vocational and apprenticeship opportunities are a vital part of a modern workplace.

There should continue to be promotion of Manx Gaelic in Manx schools, together with the study of Manx history and culture in all forms, as an important aspect of maintaining a strong national identity.

# HOUSING POLICIES

**For elected MLP representatives and for many residents housing remains a key issue. It requires a diverse range of policies to ensure fairness and to meet the needs of our community.**

**The MLP believes that:**

**A policy to specifically assist Local Authority tenants who wish to move on and purchase a property should be devised to take account of their changed circumstances and potentially shorter mortgage timescale is important.**

The inclusion of 25% of properties (or value thereof) in affordable housing in new housing developments is a positive policy. As a general principle a mix of housing types is good for social cohesion in any society.

Private rental costs should not be the mechanism that dictates the rents applied in the public sector.

That there should be an increased emphasis on energy efficiency in new housing developments and the introduction of a proper scheme of support to assist homeowners in terms of making their properties more energy efficient.

The ongoing development islandwide of sheltered accommodation is welcomed and the rules for its allocation should be uniform.

The MLP does not support the sale of publicly owned housing. It remains vitally important that it should be retained for those in need on housing waiting lists.

During periods of a lull in the private sector construction industry schemes of government house building should be accelerated to meet the ongoing demands.

Bankers should recognise the local circumstances in housing by offering more competitive support. Failing this Government should reconsider entering the mortgage provision market, particularly for first time buyers.

The provision of appropriate community facilities in all larger developments, including those developed on a phased basis, including play areas, educational and medical amenities, child care and neighbourhood shopping is essential for community cohesion.

Developers should be encouraged to undertake brown field (town centre) redevelopment. Government should consider intervention to assist in the redevelopment of brown field redevelopment rather than having properties no longer available for the purpose for which they were built remaining empty and deteriorating and becoming a stain on our beautiful landscape and townscape.

***There should be modernisation of the legislation to provide unequivocal clarification of the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants.***

# OUR ENVIRONMENT~A PRECIOUS ASSET

The Isle of Man is a beautiful place and it is for those who hold public office to work alongside others to care for it. Sustainable economic development and a quality environment can (and must) work together hand in hand.

## **The MLP believes that:**

Waste management is a major environmental issue and the Island's waste management plans must continue to take full account of the principles to reduce, reuse and recycle. There should be a public education programme in relation to recycling and the harmful effects of food packaging, including the use of plastic bags and containers and the waste it can produce, and the overall effect that waste products have on the environment and its sustainability in the long term.

Waste disposal would be much more efficiently managed to the benefit of rate and taxpayers by the establishment of combined authorities or an "all Island" structure.

The executive of the MLP need to liaise and consult with environmental groups.

We welcome the designation of the Island as a UN Biosphere and recognise that this can bring benefits.

Climate change capital scheme proposals must be built into budgets.

"Whole life" costs should be included in housing developments undertaken by Government and others in order for them to be fairly considered against alternatives.

The Isle of Man should be compliant in terms of our international obligations towards the environment.

There is clear evidence that renewable energy technology being utilised in our waters is not only the right way forward but would have real economic benefits.

Properly formulated area plans need to be progressed to plan for the future.

The completion of the Islands sewerage infrastructure is a priority.

The re-employment of a Conservation officer in Government is a necessity.

Support should continue in relation to the ongoing work in respect of discharges at Sellafield.

Protected status should be given to sites of archaeological, botanical, zoological, historic, scientific and cultural interest and merit and these sites should be formally recognised at the earliest opportunity as it is long overdue.

The retention of village schools, rural shops and post offices and the establishment of "one stop shop" facilities where residents can access Government services, would be of great benefit in protecting services at a local level.

The coastal footpath should be completed.

The registration and protection of historic buildings and those with architectural merit is a priority.

There is a vital need for an on and off island integrated transport strategy and we will co-ordinate with others to properly monitor transport issues as approved by Tynwald a significant time ago.

Our national footpath infrastructure and National glens are real assets and we call for an increased budget to be spent on their maintenance together with the extension of cycle paths and best utilisation of our forest and amenity land for the benefit of all.



# POLICIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The MLP welcomes the generally longer life expectancy through healthy lifestyle choices and medical advancements and calls for a "joined up" approach by all agencies to ensure that those persons enjoy a good quality of life and the provision of the best possible health care and appropriate accommodation to suit their needs and requirements funded fairly.

In order for older people to remain in their own homes longer the services to facilitate this must be properly resourced with third sector co-operation an important element in achieving this.

We support the ongoing provision of free public transport and the extension of this to the heritage railways should be reintroduced.

With pension ages rising we will continue to highlight the practical difficulties caused to some

people in manual work where their health deteriorates as a direct result of their employment. We have already raised this as an issue in Tynwald and would continue to promote fairer alternatives.

Skills obtained through life experience by older people should be utilised in the workplace.

With increasing likelihood of age related illnesses (e.g dementia) there is a need to effectively support families having to care for family members affected.

We will continue our campaign to retain free TV licences for those aged over 75.

Further solutions should be explored to ensure the older generation are not left behind with advancing technology, and that provision can be made to assist in ensuring the internet and associated technology can support them in older age.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE MANX LABOUR PARTY

Stand for public election?  
Support us at election time?

Support us in any other way?  
Come to our monthly meetings?

## CAN WE HELP OR SUPPORT YOU IN ANY WAY?

Please contact Chairman David Cretney MLC • 12 Manor Drive, Douglas, IM2 2PA  
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