

Political Questions – Anne Craine (2011)

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

To serve the people of Ramsey and to protect and promote the future development of the Isle of Man.

How well does the candidate think that the present?

The last 5 years have presented more difficult challenges to the government of the Isle of Man than the previous 20 years . We have seen continued economic growth in the face of worldwide financial crisis and continued to punch above our weight in meeting ever increasing international standards. We have robustly dealt with the review of our VAT revenue sharing arrangements. This government has successfully put in place a programme to re-structure departments to make them more effective and efficient and devised a programme to re-balance our budget. In addition the collapse of KSF caused by outside influences has been boldly addressed by this government and I am pleased that the end result will be the payment of 97.5p in the £1 for the depositors. We have continued to invest in our schools and health care and to protect those most reliant on front-line services. Overall therefore, this

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

administration has tackled the unprecedented challenges ably and professionally.

Continued investment in regeneration to improve the environment of Ramsey and induce private business to establish in the town. Continued support for Ramsey and District Cottage Hospital to build on the generous bequest by Mr. Cyril Martin in refurbishing the hospital wards, through expansion of clinics and services. Support for the establishment of a renal dialysis unit at the hospital. The return of the Elderly Mentally Infirm unit to Ramsey. The establishment of the Marina, First Time Buyer and Sheltered Housing, Refurbishment of the Queen`s Pier and off street Parking.

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

Continued economic growth by encouraging diversification of industry. Promotion of the Isle of Man at International level, in the EU and with our largest trading partner the UK in order to meet international standards and be recognised as an International Business Centre. To develop a 20 year strategy to

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

address the needs of the ever growing elderly population of the Isle of Man and make the necessary provision for pensions, social care, and health care without becoming a burden on future generations. To establish policy to address the long terms needs of the Isle of Man in respect of food, energy, housing, health and education. To review the scope of government.

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

Developing our economy to provide business opportunities that are competitive and will continue to attract inward investment. To apply downward pressure to government budgets to meet the reduced amount of revenue available while still providing the essential services to secure a good quality of life for the people of the Isle of Man. To address the changing demographics of the island and plan how future provision is to be met.

Through continued investment of time, networking with governments, the business sector and individuals to promote the Isle of Man whilst ensuring we meet the ongoing

challenge of International Standards to enable us to promote ourselves as a first class International Business Centre. By continuing to implement the policies adopted following the restructuring of government of centralising services in order to create greater efficiency and economies of scale across government. In addition we now need to review the scope of government whilst at the same time bearing in mind the need to provide essential frontline services to our elderly, those who are vulnerable and our young people. We need to establish the rate at which our retired population is expanding and begin to develop a strategy for how we and future generations are going to be able to afford and plan the long term provision of care that will be necessary.

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

Continued development of healthcare provision ie breast cancer and bowel cancer screening; greater provision of social housing; greater breadth of employment opportunities.

What does the candidate feel has

The impact of the global financial

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

crisis making areas of economic growth uncertain such as in retail and the construction industry. Conditions that affect us over which we have no direct control such as the high rate of inflation, energy and fuel costs.

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

No. There has been diversification into other areas whilst sustaining the financial services industry. The development of financial services professional expertise has meant that we have been able to attract niche business opportunities to the Isle of Man. The quality of service that can be provided often gives us a competitive edge.

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

N/A

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

No. This question presumes constitutional independence which means the removal of the Queen as our Head of State and Lord of Man. I do not feel that the people of the Isle of Man are inclined to support that at the present time.

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

No. We have yet to find a solution that is better than exists at present. If the Legislative Council is elected from a larger constituency base than a member of the House of Keys it will diminish the House of Keys as the power house of Manx Politics. I believe that as a member of House of Keys I am elected to be part of an electoral college to select Members of Legislative Council.

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

No. As a recent poll has indicated such a system would produce a "beauty parade" of popular candidates. It is from within that Members can best judge who is most suited to lead our government, dependent on the strengths and weaknesses of the individual. The qualities required are best judged by those who work in close proximity with and have first hand knowledge of the candidates in whom they will have most confidence to lead the Isle of Man forward.

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

No. While this sounds attractive government does not have the expertise or the resources to run air

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

and sea services to and from the Island.

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

No. However, I do believe that we need to explore the viability of Offshore wind farms.

No. I think that there are alternative ways of addressing the perceived inequality of provision. Fairness will have to be the byword of the new administration and in light of our reduced budget we will have to be much more focussed about ensuring the appropriate support reaches the right people. A review of housing is currently underway and that will help provide a direction in respect of housing need and how that can be addressed. All universal benefits will have to be reviewed by the new government.