

ralph

PEAKE

Independent Candidate for Douglas North



- **Manx, lived in Isle of Man all my 52 years and lived in constituency the past 17 years**
- **Married, three boys who all attended the Manx language school, two now at St Ninians High School**
- **Volunteer coach at Douglas Amateur Swimming Club**
- **Dunlop Rover Metro GTi Race and Rally champion 1991, Best Manx finisher in Manx International Rally 1989 and many other International Rally finishes**
- **Parish Walk finisher**
- **23 years running own business, Luminaires, award winning projects in IOM & UK**
- **Member Chartered Management Institute, Member of Chamber of Commerce**

Go for Growth – *there is only so much room for cut backs.*

Tax Fairly – *make sure all companies and able individuals pay their fair share.*

Sharpen Spending – *use our experience and knowledge to find better ways to use the budgets we have.*

Commit to Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness – *and be prepared to tackle the issues that will have the most impact.*

Use our Resources Wisely – *and share the cost of running our capital and all island services.*

Dear Elector,

My early canvassing has been important and allowed me to listen and understand feelings and opinions of the people of Douglas North. I will continue to meet as many people and visit as many homes as possible before the May By-Election. It has shown me that we should work together for the benefit of Douglas and the Isle of Man. If elected, I will work with the other Douglas MHK's to provide a stronger voice for the people of Douglas North. I believe teamwork is how to achieve great goals. MHK's have an elected responsibility, firstly to their constituents, and then to the people of the Isle of Man. A group of independent Politicians have the greatest opportunity to work together and deliver what is best for the Island and the people of the Isle of Man. This does require effort to agree and reach a clear goal, and then the willingness and determination to put the effort and hard work into the process to achieve the desired results. I know I have experience and determination to achieve my goals, I know the effort required to win.

My Promise

I will make my promise that once elected;

- I will not quit or give up
- I am ready to step up and deliver for the constituency of Douglas North
- Use all my knowledge and determination for the benefit of Douglas and the Isle of Man
- Always take responsibility and encourage others to do the same
- I will work effectively within a team and be accountable to find solutions and deliver results
- To work in an open and honest manner
- Respect the constituents and other MHKs
- Encourage a positive and effective working culture within our Parliament and Government

Once elected, I will be judged on my actions over the next 15 months.

Best wishes

Ralph Peake

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Economic Growth

My priority if elected to the House of Keys by the residents of North Douglas would be to drive policies that facilitate economic growth, whilst spending cuts and efficiencies are helpful in the short term a sustainable solution to our present economic difficulties will only come from economic growth, economic growth that attracts new residents and business to the Island, economically active residents and not just high net worth individuals.

I believe it is time for new ideas, we need to challenge some of the accepted logic... a fresh mind.

Older people are not responsible for the financial crisis.

Older people in the main are the very people who have saved all their lives, contributed to society by paying taxes and worked hard to make the Island a success.

The difficulties we have faced over the last six or seven years are not their doing or making. We can learn a lot from their prudence and values, rather than just giving them the bill.....

I believe the cost of travel on Public Transport for those over 65, should be free. I believe TV licences for should be free for those over 75. I would seek to protect the Pension Supplement.

We need to tax but we need to raise tax fairly

Policies under the umbrella of austerity generally most affect the vulnerable in our society, I want to ensure that despite our economic difficulties we protect our core values such as those that maintain and develop a caring society.

Nobody should pay income tax until they earn more than the minimum wage, pensioners included, and thus I strongly support the raising of the personal tax allowance to over £14,000 per year.

Whilst I am committed to a competitive tax regime it is impossible to maintain the present position where some companies and people pay little or no income tax, we all need to contribute to our shared services, the better off shouldering their fair share of the burden.

I believe we should leave our zero ten strategy alone as it is the backbone of our economic strategy. We should though consider a new business rating system that is more inclusive and fair.

I would like to see the cost of the health service separated from general taxation, it should be clear what we pay towards our healthcare and what we get in return for our money.

Changes to the child benefit system have just come into force, what people may be unaware of is that the calculations for this year's benefit will be made from your income year two tax years prior. This is unfair, inconsistent and may not reflect the current circumstance of the family which is not in the interest of our children. It seems to be a further example of creeping taxation. The people of the Isle of Man deserve the respect of our Government with open and honest communication about our financial situation and a clear plan for a better future.

Government Spending has got out of hand.....

By any view government spending at both a national level and local level has grown year on year and seems cannot be stopped, gross spending as a total hasn't reduced even during this period of supposed austerity, it has just stopped growing as fast as it has in the past!

Our government spends around £850M on our behalf and growing, most of it on health and education, I want to see total government expenditure reduced by careful scrutiny and policy change.

I want to see the private sector involved more in service delivery, I believe in government control and private sector delivery. Our government is involved in too many areas of our lives, the recent report into the shape and scope of government would be my starting point.

I want to see a wholesale review of our finances and spending priorities, I want to see fewer knee jerk reactions with the immediate, unplanned and ill thought through increases in taxation we have seen in recent months. I would advocate a more collective and collaborative approach to budgets.

Use our Resources Wisely

For generations Douglas ratepayers have borne the cost of running our island's capital. Many of these services are used by all Island residents. Whether it is the horse trams or car parking in the centre of Douglas, I would like to see a fairer system and share the cost of running our capital and all Island services.

If elected I want to see an all Island rating system that spreads the costs of all Island services.

Whilst I would look for efficiencies from both local and central government we need a better working relationship between the two in Douglas. I believe that there is confusion and inefficiency in running Douglas, Douglas Corporation should be responsible for all Douglas matters and held accountable.

I would not want to see charges for resident car parking permits in my constituency. Running Douglas should be the job of locally elected Douglas representatives.

The unprecedented spate of burglaries and criminal damage needs to be addressed as a priority

The recent spate of criminal activity needs to be stopped in its tracks before it devalues the quality of our Island life, if elected I would prioritise the security of our community by better use of existing resources.

I believe that for too long we have looked for solutions to our problems from external reports when good communication, utilising local experience and knowledge could help us find Manx solutions for Isle of Man challenges.

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