

Political Questions – Adrian Earnshaw (2011)

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

My continuing aim is to make a positive contribution to Onchan and the Isle of Man.

How well does the candidate think that the present?

Whilst I believe this is a judgement call for residents rather than members of the administration, many testing issues have arisen and been dealt with over the last five years. In spite of this, during this time, the Manx Economy has continued to grow, unemployment has been held at a level far below that of neighbouring countries and the recession seen elsewhere has been avoided.

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

Onchan is a good place to live with independent facilities, a fine Public Park and easy access to the Island's capital, Douglas. My priority therefore is to continue my good working relationship with Onchan Commissioners and of course, as and when required, continue supporting and assisting constituents with problems or difficulties they may encounter.

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

On a national level, I shall continue to support the leading aims of

level?

Government to achieve a “Prosperous and Caring Society” and “to Protect and Promote the well-being of the family and provide for the economic and social inclusion of all the Island’s community”. These are underpinned by the on-going strategy of stimulating economic growth, which has served our Island well in recent decades.

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

Re-balancing the budget to maintain the good quality of life enjoyed on the Island.

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

Playing my part in contributing to and supporting colleagues with a positive mindset who share my aims. Greater unity within Tynwald will be a pre-requisite to achieving this.

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

Significant community benefits have arisen from the completion of the extensive re-build of the Island’s infrastructure over the last 15/20 years. These continue to be delivered with the recent opening of superb new sports facilities at “Ballafletcher” and the re-furbished “Bowl” Stadium which will be the legacy of the Island

being chosen to host the prestigious 2011 Commonwealth Youth Games. An eagerly awaited, first class new secondary school is nearing completion in my constituency. The soundly based "Neighbourhood Policing" system has been introduced which has greatly assisted making our community a safe place to live and enhanced our quality of life. The creation of a regeneration fund to improve the appearance of our towns and villages. The policy of thrift exercised by the Treasury in building our Reserves to protect us for "rainy days" is proving its value.

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

Reduced security of employment in both the Public and Private sectors. The continuing deterioration of public highways-----particularly Douglas Promenade and Peel Road----both sadly in need of extensive repair or replacement. The poor appearance of some of our town centres, an issue which is being addressed.

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

Since the collapse of mass tourism in the late 1970`s, the Financial Services Industry has been the Island`s saviour and our dependence on this industry

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

is recognised. For the last ten years however, on-going Government Policy has been to diversify the finance industry itself and stimulate growth elsewhere in the economy. This is bearing fruit, particularly in the fields of manufacturing, e-gaming, shipping, aircraft and space where considerable growth is being achieved.

By supporting the political Members and Officers of the Department of Economic Development who have been specifically assigned the task of achieving this objective. By continuing the work of building and developing strong links with the Private Sector via the Chamber of Commerce.

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

The Island is already Independent from the UK. To distance ourselves further via re-negotiation of our many complex arrangements is a matter which would need the most careful consideration and is not something to be decided by an "X Factor" type of vote!

Is the candidate in favour of -and if a

In principle I support a popularly

**standing member, did they vote for-
a popularly elected Legislative
Council?**

elected Legislative Council provided a convincing argument can be made that it would be practical, workable and serve the Island better than the system we currently have.

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

No-----Members of the House of Keys are elected under the "Representation of the People Act 1995". As this suggests, the public should rightly expect their representatives to accept and exercise the responsibility given to them to act in the best interests of the Island. By having the benefit of working in close association with potential candidates for the role of Chief Minister and knowing their true qualities, I believe Tynwald Members are best placed to make the appropriate decision.

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

No-----not at present.

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

No-----Whilst I am supportive of a policy of sustainable energy systems, I am uneasy in supporting the adoption of on-shore wind farms. In my view, more work needs to be

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

undertaken to explore the benefits of alternatives and in the longer term, I would be far more comfortable with "tidal-power" being harnessed for our energy needs.

As in my answer to 9(a)-----this is not the sort of question to be answered by an "X Factor" type vote. Whilst some abuses of benefit systems are inevitable (and I certainly do not condone those abuses), the benefit system has been carefully developed over many years to help assist those with genuine need and it continues to fulfil that purpose.