

VOTE FOR CATHERINE TURNER

FAIRNESS
EQUALITY
RESPONSIBILITY

VOTE FOR A FAIRER FUTURE



Bringing Politics back to the People

ABOUT CATHERINE 'CAT' TURNER



I'm very fortunate to live in the Isle of Man, and especially Douglas, at its heart. But whilst there's lots to celebrate about our way of life, there are also real challenges. Whilst figures trumpeting our economic growth may be encouraging, they're worthless if they mask rising inequality, struggling families and businesses, and diminished services to those who need them most.

And it's clear that many people don't believe the current administration serves them well in dealing with these issues; I've lost count of the people who've expressed a lack of trust in the existing Government, and who hanker after a fairer, more transparent approach - a Government which shows real accountability, and the humility to recognise that it's there to be of service to people, rather than the other way around. There's a general feeling that many MHKs are out of touch with those who put them there in the first place. This needs to change.

In Douglas East, I'm keen to support the work of Douglas Council in improving an environment in which so many people live and work; not just because it brings visitors and supports the local economy (although this is important) - but also because it shows respect for the people living there, people who deserve pleasant and safe surroundings. It's time to smarten-up some of the more unlovely and unloved parts of the town, for everyone's sake.

I'm a mother of twin girls, and committed to ensuring that they grow up in a thriving environment, with stable, sustainable and meaningful job opportunities. That means we need to get the Island's finances on a sound footing, and to diversify our economy so that we're less dependent on jobs which could disappear to another jurisdiction overnight. The world is changing rapidly - new economic models, technologies and ways of approaching issues. We need to catch up and catch on, and position ourselves at the forefront of developments. We've a perfect opportunity to be an exemplar of how to do things in a way that's sustainable, grows the economy, and builds community. In addition, we need to review the Island's taxation strategy - most especially with an eye to fairness - and to plug the sizeable black hole that is the Public Sector Pension Scheme.

I've benefited from 30 years' experience in the finance sector, including at board level, and more recently have worked on community and environmental projects aimed at improving the wellbeing of local people. I've experienced both the best and the worst of life here, and learnt a great deal from both. It makes me very proud to be part of Douglas, and just as proud to be a Liberal Vannin member. As a member of the Party, with two experienced MHKs supporting me and a wealth of experience behind me, I believe I have much to contribute to Douglas East and to the people of the Island as a whole.

A word from our Leader Kate Bercroft



I have known Cat for some time and am convinced that she will make an excellent MHK.

Cat has a wide range of skills ranging from finance to green issues which will be valuable to the Island as a whole as well as to the residents of Douglas East.

She has contributed to our working parties on various policies and always makes well thought out, intelligent suggestions.

I hope that you agree the policies in the manifesto and will give Cat your vote on 12th November.

EXTRACTS FROM SOME OF OUR POLICIES

HEALTH

- Free of charge at the point of delivery
- Protect frontline staff and services
- Appoint an independent regulator
- Ensure compliance with best practice
- Publish a list of all consultants, their qualifications and waiting times
- Promote through education and encouragement better lifestyle choices
- Create a working party to develop an effective first class dental health care policy and system
- Define and eliminate fuel poverty

EDUCATION

Investing in our young people has to be the best investment that we can make and all should be provided with the opportunity and encouraged to meet their full potential.

- A University grant system based on achievement
- Protect frontline teaching
- Ensure all class sizes are appropriate
- Give more decision making powers to head teachers
- Make better use of technology
- Reintroduce tax relief on educational covenants

REFORM

- A publicly elected Legislative Council
- An open Tynwald ballot for Chief Minister
- Candidates for Chief Minister to publish a programme for Government prior to the ballot
- Restrict collective responsibility to Ministers and then only to the policies in the programme for government
- Abolish the supplement paid to Tynwald members for memberships of departments and statutory boards
- Appoint an independent Auditor General
- Remove commercial confidentiality clauses from government contracts unless there is a proven need

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Some of the LibVan Team

LibVan has many people working together for the betterment of our beautiful Island. These are all people united by the desire for fairness, equality and responsibility, and with that determination and support LibVan is the only means of change.

Catherine will not be a politician who will only be seen every five years as we hold monthly meetings and all of our MHKs attend to give their reports and answer any questions.



MY PRIORITIES

Nationally

The core tenets of accountability, transparency and fairness which lie at the heart of Liberal Vannin's policies are what attracted me to it, and its these that will help us re-establish trust in government.

We need urgently to grow and diversify our local economy - taking advantage of our connections with the wider world, but prioritising businesses which truly add value to the Island. This means embracing new ways of doing things, and it means supporting local businesses so they can compete and thrive. It's also essential to develop jobs which are 'sticky' - which won't disappear overnight, leaving our workers high and dry.

I'm also determined to support the Manx Credit Union Working Party, of which I'm a founder member. This matters because many people are financially "excluded". But everyone's entitled to savings and lending products which meet their needs. A credit union can offer this through products with very low entry levels, and importantly, because of its local nature, also boosts the local economy - money saved with a Manx credit union would be lent locally, not 'laid off' at a head-office in another jurisdiction. Everyone - young and old, wealthy or not - should have access to accounts so that they can receive wages, learn essential life skills such as budgeting, and begin to build themselves a credit rating, without which so many other things are unavailable.

One of the things Liberal Vannin has consistently pressed for is a more transparent procurement process - the way in which Government awards contracts paid for out of

taxpayers' money. It's not acceptable to hide details behind 'commercial confidentiality', when the costs and consequences can burden the taxpayer for years to come.

Liberal Vannin believes in accountability, something of a rarity in an administration which leaves a trail of broken promises. We're committed to driving through change that will bring this accountability about, and that's one of the key reasons I'm so proud to have been chosen to stand for Douglas East. The party's track record of challenging Government on a range of issues, and sticking to its guns until it gets answers, is one way we can help bring this transparency and accountability to the taxpayer.

Locally

Douglas East has some terrific features, but as the gateway, in many ways, to the Island, it's lacking and many areas are neglected. It's absolutely essential that we improve these areas so as to ensure the wellbeing of local residents and businesses, as well as creating a great first impression of the island for out visitors. In particular, people have been talking to me about their disappointment at the number of vacant business properties on the Promenade, and the poor impression this creates.

The environment and the community - For the past few years I have worked on a number of community and environmental projects, aimed at improving the general quality of life for local residents. Government needs to listen to what the people of the Island value, and ensure that all the factors that make for wellbeing are prioritised, not just headline growth rates. That means issues such as a clean, safe environment, secure and meaningful work, access to affordable and appealing amenities, and strong social connections to combat isolation among the vulnerable and elderly.

My Pledge

My promise to the people of Douglas East, and of the Isle of Man, is this; that I will work in your service to bring about a fairer, more transparent and vibrant Island.



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