



**Douglas North**

**HOUSE OF KEYS BY-ELECTION**

# 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.

***I would not want to see charges for resident car parking permits in my constituency.***

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 Borough Council should be responsible for all Douglas matters and held accountable.

***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 becomes an accepted part of Island life, if elected I would prioritise the security of our community by better use of existing resources. It is a Governments responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment that no person may obtain anything of value from others without the owners' consent, and protect people from criminals.

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

## PEAKE PERFORMANCE

***I want to stand up and be counted, a catalyst for a change for the better, determination and effort, to deliver. I want to be judged on my performance over the next 15 months.***

# Some ideas to improve our economic economy

## LONGER TERM NOW TO 20 YEARS

### Create wealth from sustainable local businesses

#### Private sector

We have to encourage business and tax fairly, tax too much and you could end up with less. Agree on the services required and encourage enough businesses to grow and provide the tax needed.

#### Work life balance

*Recognise benefits of family and rest time.*

Work life balance; enjoy your non-working time, family, volunteer, charity, learning and development.

#### Effective

*Do the work we want to do.*

Be effective at your work. We all know we are more effective doing what we want to do. Having a choice of work, including high risk / reward and low risk / security will help grow a sustainable economy.

#### Circular Economy

*New Service based business model moves away from linear economy.* Many large companies see the Circular Economy as the business future. Our present Linear Economy digs up resources to manufacture products, sells products, then the used products are thrown away. Circular economy is about engaging in a contract to provide a service. This requires new products which are designed to last and be maintained, using renewable energy throughout the process, with its useful service extended use the use of trained engineers.

## MEDIUM TERM NOW TO 10 YEARS

### Multiplier effect

*Local Economic Return.*

Shop local or Buy local, schemes which have been tried before but without the understanding and published benefits, for example;

#### Each purchase at:

**Local independent businesses 48% was re-circulated locally**

**Chain stores 14% of purchases were re-circulated locally**

*American Independent Business Alliance*

**Local purchase benefits to the local community**

**Spend £100 at a local business £68 stays in your community**

**Spend £100 at a non-local business £43 stays in your community £57 leaves local economy**

#### Kaizen

Japanese model of continual improvement through efficiencies. The process is Plan – Do – Check – Act. This is used by many large manufacturers Toyota and Ford for example, and now is being taken up by forward looking Governments around the world. It sounds simple, and the rewards are there for those who commit to it.

## SHORT TERM NOW TO FIVE YEARS

We have to encourage growth in the private sector, one way would be to attract new start up Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) and entrepreneurs, to make the Isle of Man their first choice. Government can encourage this by making the start up process simple and supportive by reducing bureaucracy. Encourage those, who have been through our education system, to return to the Island and use their new found skills. Creating a larger number of independent businesses will offer the choice in the workplace for our young people.

#### Economic

*We all buy into a clear vision and pull in the same direction*

#### Efficient

*We need to work together as a TEAM*

#### Effective

*By taking Pride in our work we can achieve our goals*

*This will reduce waste, as the burden of bureaucracy is crushing the Island*

## 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

Be accountable to work as a team 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.

## Personal details

Manx, lived in Isle of Man all my 52 years, and lived in constituency the past 17 years

Married, three boys, all attended Manx Language school, two 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.

# Our Important Priority is the return to a proud nation

In times of stress and austerity, important priorities can be put off time and time again, but it's the important priorities which are needed to return the Isle of Man to a sustainable future. Strong leadership requires a positive outlook, to enable opportunities to be seen and acted on, confident in their beliefs and willingness to listen to the people.

## Lead by example

Beginning by a commitment to lead by example, share a clear vision of who is the country going to be run for and how that future will look, the respect of the people will be followed by a belief and a desire to attain that future and once again be proud of our nation.

I believe we are best to 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 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.



## 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. We need to attract new residents and businesses to the Island who are 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 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. 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 tax year two years prior. This is no encouragement for one parent to consider bringing the child up at home, as the child benefit is based on two working adults. It appears we are on a tax to the max strategy! I believe this to be unfair and not in the interests of our children. The people of the Isle of Man deserve the respect of an open and honest reflection of our financial situation and the communication of a clear plan for a better future.

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.

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

**Our Urgent Priority is to balance the books.**

**Our Important Priority is the return to a proud nation.**

## **Who is the Island going to be run for?**

There are a number of services which interested groups apply pressure in an attempt to make theirs a greater priority. These are all good and worthwhile causes and as a society which cares for its members, we have to recognise that these services have to be funded by resources, labour and products, i.e. bus drivers and busses, nurses and drugs, workmen and aggregate.

These are the four main areas, which over the years, most people show concern and want MHK's to address and sort out;

- political system
- education
- health care
- transport policy (Sea and Air)

Although most people I have talked with on the doorstep in the run up to this By-Election campaign have two issues they are making loud and clear, they feel they are not being respected or treated fairly. They call for transparency in the workings of Government and communication of the Island's financial position. I believe that respect is deserved.

They also feel the big financial issues are not being discussed, let alone addressed, and that the ordinary working people and pensioners are now paying for it. I can see that also.

I believe we should not be following the UK into debt, our present laws do not permit this but if we continue to consume our reserves at the present rate, figures show we will have exhausted our reserves in two or three years! Then what? Borrow from our National Insurance fund? This has been done in the past by an Act of Tynwald. Alternatively go into debt like the UK Government, or even sell out to the UK Government.

I know this may be unacceptable to many, myself included, but we need to understand the real financial position and respect the public with that transparency. This is the very least they deserve and they will be the ones who will be asked to work our way back into profit. The best way of achieving that is to have a clear goal, lead by example and work hard together, back into profit.

## **Our Urgent Priority is to balance the books**

**For someone who has run a business for 23 years, it is clear to me that we have to GROW OUR ECONOMY. Many people have asked how this can be done; the answer is to work SMARTER.**

**Anyone who is self employed, in sales or has run their own business, knows that each month you start with zero sales and the first goal is to meet your overheads and tax before any profit can be invested to bring efficiencies or attracting new customers through marketing.**

**It is clear that the Isle of Man's urgent priority is to return to profit, by reducing its overheads and growing the economy. We have to commit to the true meaning of Value for Money - Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness – and be prepared to tackle the issues that will have the most impact, in an open and honest way which is the best for the Island in the short, medium and long term.**

# ***Vote for Peake***

ralph

# **PEAKE**

## **Douglas North**

### **HOUSE OF KEYS BY-ELECTION**

### **THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY**

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