

Dear Constituent



I thought that now would be a good time to write to you. As we didn't have a local election in Ramsey this time around there wasn't any canvassing, which meant you didn't have the chance to meet and question your new Commissioners face to face.

Despite there being no local election, my plan was to go door to door to meet as many people as I could, but unfortunately due to health issues at the time it just wasn't possible. This leaflet is my attempt to try and bridge that gap. It's important for you to know where your representatives stand and so even though there wasn't a local election I felt that it was important to produce a manifesto, which is available on my website at:

[www.lhooperiom.com/2016-local-manifesto](http://www.lhooperiom.com/2016-local-manifesto)

The next few years are going to bring some big changes to local and national government and I believe it's important that we all go into this with our eyes open.

With Government under increasing financial pressures, there will be much more incentive for services, costs and charges to be passed on to local authorities. It will be important that any changes are made with the aim of continuing to provide a high quality service, not just cutting costs.

**We have to be prepared to meet this challenge head on  
We cannot shy away from the difficult conversations**

Thankfully, Ramsey Town Commissioners have a good history of taking the lead. With a new and enthusiastic Board we are well placed to challenge Government to make sure that we're getting the best deal for Ramsey.

We've already seen how successful this can be with the Civil Registry now being provided by Ramsey Town Commissioners, and I'm eager for Ramsey to provide more services from the Town Hall. If people and businesses can access more services here in Ramsey then there will be greater opportunities for them to live and work in the Town, providing much needed economic activity.



@lawriehooper



lawrie@lhooperiom.com



www.lhooperiom.com



473478



hooperl

## National Issues

Whilst it has been my privilege to serve as a Commissioner for the past four years and an honour to have been elected as Chairman of the Commission this year, I strongly believe that I can contribute much more to the town.

It is for this reason I am going to stand for election to the House of Keys in September this year. It's been a difficult decision because there is still so much work for the Commissioners to do and I know I could help guide the new Board through this period of change. I wanted to write to you all before making a public declaration, as my first responsibility will always be to this town and its people.

### **Some thoughts from my full manifesto which I will be sending to you in the coming months**

- Local authorities should be willing to take on more responsibility from central government. Local services should be provided by local authorities.
- Every year I have fought against rent rises in Commissioners housing until a fair system of means testing is introduced to protect the most vulnerable. I know that rents in Commissioners housing need to increase to a sustainable level, but there should have been a mechanism put in place to protect those on the lowest incomes who may need extra assistance.
- Housing on the Island needs continued investment, to increase the number of public sector properties, to protect those renting in the private sector and to give people a chance to get on the housing ladder.
- There needs to be comprehensive reform of the rating system, to develop a fairer way of raising funds to pay for local services, and to make sure rates only pay for local services. National services should be funded through our taxes.
- We need more promotion of Ramsey as a place to live and work, and for Government to seriously look at providing more services locally in the town.
- Nationally, possibly the most serious issue facing the Island is the public sector pension deficit. This needs resolving in a way that is fair to both the taxpayer and the Government employees who have worked hard and paid into their pensions over the years.
- With the UK just having voted to leave the EU it is imperative that the Isle of Man makes itself heard to ensure that as the Brexit unfolds our interests are protected.

Thanks for taking the time to read this short leaflet. As always if you would like to get in touch my contact details are overleaf. You can also keep an eye on my website as I will be publishing more detailed policies and ideas in the run up to the election.



**Lawrie Hooper**

