

Welcome

Dear Constituent

I've put together this leaflet to outline what I believe are some of the important issues that are facing us during this election.

I'm enjoying meeting people and listening to your concerns, if I haven't reached you yet please feel free to get in touch and let me know what matters to you.

What has surprised me as I make my way around town is the number of people not on the electoral register. This election is your chance to make your voice heard so please make sure your friends and family are all registered to vote. Check with the Town Hall if you aren't sure.

I don't believe that we can make radical changes overnight, but I'm committed to the long haul, to make small changes that can really make a difference.



Lawrie Hooper

Thanks for taking the time to read this leaflet. If you would like to show your support the back of this leaflet is a poster that you can display



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Sustaining Economic Growth

The role of Government is to create the right environment to allow businesses to grow, and to promote private enterprise – not just regulate it.

Government needs to continue to work with the private sector to maintain confidence and investment, despite the restraint on our finances.

- Support and continue with the successful financial assistance schemes that are currently in place
- Reintroduce the full national insurance holiday scheme
- Promote high quality local produce to raise awareness both locally and further afield
- More investment in public sector housing – and no more rent increases until a fair system of means testing is brought in
- Make sure the Island is properly represented in all Brexit negotiations to protect our interests
- Improve access to banking facilities for local enterprise – an accessible banking sector underpins a strong economy
- An early open tender for a new sea services agreement to ensure the new agreement provides fair transport costs and a regular, reliable service
- Improve regulation of our key utility companies, like Manx Gas, to ensure prices are fair for customers
- Review the first time buyers scheme to encourage home ownership whilst encouraging sustainable development

Health and Social Care

Our NHS must stay free of charge at the point of delivery and has to be capable of meeting the needs of all residents.

- Appoint an independent health regulator to ensure compliance with best practice
- Publish a list of consultants, their qualifications and waiting times
- Define and eliminate fuel poverty
- Talk to employees to find out how we can improve recruitment and retention of key staff

Education

Investing in the next generation has to be the best investment that we can make. Everyone should have the opportunity to meet their full potential.

- Reintroduce tax relief on educational covenants
- Expand financial assistance for further education and apprenticeships
- Introduce incentives to encourage graduates to return to the Island to work after completing their courses

Government Reform

It's clear that we have too much government and this has to change. At the same time, we need to make sure our Government is accountable and operates transparently.

- Local services should be provided locally – devolve more responsibility to local authorities and empower them to deliver the services that people want
- Implement the recommendations of the Lisvane report including:
 - Members of the Legislative Council should not be Ministers or Members of Departments
 - Sitting MHK's can't be elected to the Legislative Council
 - Legislative Council to only act as a scrutiny body and play no role in forming policy
 - A maximum of one Departmental Member per Department
 - Independent scrutiny committees to hold Government to account
 - A programme for Government to be published at the start of the term, to be reviewed, debated and voted on annually.

Tax and Welfare

We live in a global market and we need a sustainable and competitive taxation strategy to attract individuals and companies to the Island whilst providing the funding we need for our essential services.

- Set up a Tax and Welfare Commission to review our current taxes and rates and to make recommendations
- Our tax and welfare systems should be integrated – reduce unnecessary form filling and make it easier for people to get the assistance they need.
- A fair system of means testing – not designed to “cut costs” but instead to ensure resources are targeted where they are most needed
- Increase the personal allowance to at least £14,000 – as promised before the 2016 Budget
- Look again at reform of the Rates system – how local services are funded is key to ensuring they are managed effectively.
- National infrastructure should be paid from central taxes – no more “toilet tax” type charges to fund key infrastructure.
- Close the public sector pension scheme – protect existing benefits which have been earned but at the same time transition all workers into a new defined contribution scheme

22nd September 2016



VOTE 

LAWRIE HOOPER