

MY PLAN FOR RAMSEY

An MHK for Ramsey has to work with many local organisations for the good of the town and I believe I have proven experience of working cooperatively and constructively whilst serving as a commissioner. I will seek to carry on working with a wide range of community and business groups to ensure the Island's economy thrives in order to protect and invest in our welfare state. Ramsey is my home. It's a great place to live but could be even better. I pledge to work closely with the Commissioners, the Chamber of Commerce and other groups and individuals who can invest their time and efforts to improve our town so it has a bright and hopeful future.

Regeneration & Investment

- More local jobs! Support existing business to expand, attract new companies and get central government to relocate offices from Douglas to ensure Ramsey and its' businesses remain vibrant and well supported, and the town becomes even more attractive to yet more retailers and service providers. This will invigorate the main streets and ensure that there are fewer empty premises in town.
- Time has come to look again at a Marina for the harbour. All the plans have already been drawn up, but being realistic we need to get private investment for any scheme. This would help regenerate the quayside, which looks derelict in places, and local people would benefit from the extra tourism and money coming into the town.
- I opposed the move of the Post Office out of the Old Courthouse and actively campaigned against this happening. The courthouse building is at the heart of the town and should be converted into a community centre run as a co-operative for the benefit of local people. We need a venue for events, functions and workshops and this fine building would be ideal. I will work with community groups and private enterprise to try and ensure this landmark becomes a useful and functional building and an asset to the town once again.
- I support the renovation of the Queen's Pier and would like to see the Government encourage private investment and donations to re-open it.

Environment

- Now that the Commissioners are responsible for road sweeping we need a clear program of weed spraying. Everyone should know when their street is to be cleaned and drains cleared. We need to improve the pavements; especially on routes commonly used by the elderly or disabled. The hotline to get potholes fixed needs to be better advertised and routine maintenance needs to be stepped up.
- Change the current law so that nesting gulls that become dangerous can be moved or culled.

People

- With a growing population we need to invest in health and education facilities in the town, making sure that they are accessible to all.
- A growing elderly population should be treasured with better facilities including a complete renovation of Cummal Mooar and better transport links to shops and the hospital for pensioners.
- The First Time buyer's scheme is not helping enough people and needs to be reformed. We need affordable private rents and grants for people in public sector housing who want to move on and buy their own home.
- Now that we have a town centre manager we need to coordinate events to bring more people to the North. We need to better advertise all our charities and clubs to encourage more people to take part in local activities.
- We need an urgent parliamentary enquiry to find ways of increasing the number of women in local and national government. At present only 1 out of 24 MHKs is female. This is unacceptable and unrepresentative.

Immigration

- The Island has always welcomed travellers who have then made it their home. Our cultural diversity is one of our main assets. Locally the Filipino community has done so much to support the health service and become part of Ramsey. As we need to attract more skilled workers from around the world I would like to make it a priority that they are allowed to fully integrate into society through the provision of English language classes where necessary and more multi-cultural events in order to welcome these valued workers.
- I would support a review to reform policing of our borders to combat organised crime whilst minimising disruption to tourism and commerce. At present anyone can arrive, register with a GP, get an NHS number and then leave the Island without any checks or records of where they came from.

Farming

- A vital part of our economy- provides jobs, food security and manages the countryside. We should make more use of the UNESCO status as a World Biosphere region; we are the first entire country to gain this prestigious award and should use it to increase tourism opportunities and research collaboration with Universities across.
- We must make sure that Manx farmers are on a level playing field with their competitors. Supermarkets can dump cheap food on the Island with no account taken of transport costs. Why are local supermarkets selling steaks from Argentina, lamb from New Zealand, pork from Poland and bread from England at prices below the cost of production?

Environment

- The work of Beach Buddies shows what can be done when you harness community support. I am all in favour of a plastic bag charge of 10p to reduce litter and raise money to support environmental projects on the Island such as the regeneration of the Port Erin Marine laboratory which could double up as both a research centre and a tourist attraction.
- I would support the greater promotion of our unique environment and landscape to attract increased visitor numbers and help continue to grow our economy and provide the essential services we all require at different times.

Your vote!

Ramsey has 2 MHKs to represent the town. We need to make sure they work together for you and Ramsey. Voting is from 8am to 8pm on Thursday 22nd September. Voting cards should be sent out to you shortly. You will be directed to one of the two polling stations: The Ramsey Methodist Hall or St Paul's Church Hall. Please make sure you use your vote and remember that you can vote for up to 2 candidates.

FURTHER ASSISTANCE: If you need help getting to the polling station or with an advance vote please contact me on 07624 427426 or at allinson@isleofman.com

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Please Vote for

Dr Alex Allinson

VOTE FOR HOPE, VOTE FOR CHANGE





Please Vote for Dr Alex Allinson

Political campaigns tend to be built on either Hope or Fear. You only have to look at the news to see the rise in fear across Europe and the World and the hatred that this can cause. It makes me very sad to see some of these attitudes creep into our own General Election Campaign. I ask you, the electorate of Ramsey to vote for hope and for change.

After deciding to move from London 15 years ago to be one of your local GPs, and having been lucky enough to be voted in by you for eight years as a Commissioner I have decided to take the next step and ask you to vote for me to be your next MHK.

The Island and Ramsey in particular have been very kind and welcoming to my family. Now is my chance to pay that back. I love Ramsey and feel really positive about the future of the Island. We are still a rich nation with a vibrant culture and a wonderful sense of community. I am convinced that we can preserve our unique Island heritage, improve the present with affordable housing, investment in health and education, and at the same time and with your help and support we can make sure that the Island has a bright future as a dynamic and open society for our children and future generations.

Lots of my patients have asked me about what will happen if I get elected. If I am lucky enough to earn your trust and votes I will be a full time MHK; accessible and visible in the town. I do also intend to continue working part time hours as a local GP. I believe that by balancing these two roles I can represent you at a national level whilst remaining grounded as to what is happening in the town. Think Local but look Global!



The Economy

- We are constantly told that the Island has had 30 years of continuous economic growth and yet growth alone doesn't lead to a more equal society. People are struggling and the benefits of increased prosperity need to be shared by more people.
- We need to quickly move from a minimum wage to a more substantial living wage which will directly reduce the need for income support paid by the tax payer to subsidise employers who only offer low paid jobs. We need to limit the use of zero hour's contracts.
- We need to continue diversifying the economy, using changes in our own legislation to attract Biotech and other forward thinking companies who can do things on the Island impossible elsewhere. Government should continue to facilitate the growth of the private sector through enterprise grants and investment in infrastructure. With the challenges of BREXIT we need to look out for all opportunities and seize them; the IOM has always been good at innovation and responded positively to challenges.
- I am against austerity measures which will harm the IOM economy and disrupt the social fabric of our society. In a period of record low interest rates the government should consider borrowing to finance capital projects such as new schools and hospital improvements to decrease reliance on constantly drawing on reserves. Issuing a Bond paying 3% interest would help local savers and reduce Government bank charges.
- I will oppose politicians who use fear about decreases in reserves to justify otherwise unpopular cuts in public spending. We have £1.3 Billion in reserves and need to rebalance the economy so that everyone benefits.

Pensions

- Strong pensions depend on a strong economy. The BBC should pay for TV licences for the over 75 and the current extra costs should have been gradually brought in; not dumped on pensioners already struggling with higher bills and larger tax demands. Older people shouldn't have to worry about how to pay their bills or heat their home in winter.
- I have met with unions and discussed the current public sector pension problems. They have already negotiated with the government to cut costs, increase contributions and reduce retirement benefits. This will make pensions both fair and sustainable in the long term. It is essential that the Island continues to be able to retain and recruit the best nurses, physiotherapists, midwives, doctors, teachers, engineers and other front line staff. I believe that through dialogue and negotiation we will be able to create a fairer system where all contribute and the cost to the tax payer is minimised.

Education

- The strength of a Nation lies in its youth. We need to increase universal access to high quality nursery care. Many younger families are struggling to continue working and pay all the bills. We have some very experienced nursery practitioners and should use their talents to ensure every child has a good start in education.
- The young people of the Island deserve the skills and opportunities to help them succeed. We need to expand apprentice and other vocational schemes. There is terrific work being done at the IOM College to expand courses and training and liaison with local schools like Ramsey Grammar. We need to extend this joined up thinking to the rest of the Island whilst ensuring that the special needs education for young adults extends past the age of 18.
- We need to protect class sizes and support the recruitment and retention of exceptional teachers.
- We need to continually ensure that Manx students are not disadvantaged if they apply for university places in the UK.
- I will work with the various government departments to increase access to school buildings for community use. I fully support development plans to build a new arts and performance complex at the Grammar school which will be a major benefit for the whole community.

Health

- It is vital to increase investment in primary care. We need to recruit more GPs and District nurses so more people can be seen locally and kept out of hospital. GP list sizes on the IOM are substantially larger than the UK and in Ramsey each GP is expected to look after 1800 patients. I support plans being drawn up to build a replacement health centre for Ramsey close to the hospital with more accessible parking and its own fully stocked pharmacy.
- The IOM spends over £20 Million a year on medicines. The planned rises in prescription charges are just a tax on the sick. I would like to see changes in legislation so that all medicines easily available over the counter are taken off prescriptions.
- We should expand nursing training on the Island but ensure that once graduated they have local jobs to go into through mentoring schemes and reducing the reliance on locum staff. We should respect healthcare staff and involve them more in decisions about their services. We need to promote what goes on at the Cottage Hospital and secure its future by more use of its operating theatre to reduce waiting lists.
- We need to ensure safe staffing levels at Nobles. There should be a Patient's Charter where those on unacceptable waiting lists for routine operations are given the option of surgery in the UK instead.
- We need to ensure that all local nursing homes are regularly inspected and maintain the highest standards. Many older people worry about becoming frail and having to sell their family home to afford proper care. We should have a cap on the amount people will have to pay for their own care to remove this fear.
- **I strongly disagree with the 1995 Abortion act and would like to see it reformed. Although abortion is legal on the Island most women are forced to travel and pay privately for terminations in the UK. The current act is almost medieval in the way it treats victims of rape and has no place in a modern society. As a husband, father and brother I fully support the campaign to modernise the legislation. We should provide safe, early medical terminations where possible and support for women who make the difficult decision that they cannot continue with a pregnancy.**

Legal Reform

- The structure of the Attorney General's office needs to be urgently looked at and adequately resourced so that people are brought to trial quickly and efficiently without continual delays and additional costs.
- Eligibility criteria for legal aid should be tightened to reduce costs and fund more legal representation for those who need it.
- Licencing laws need to be reviewed so that small cafes can have casual licenses to serve alcohol and charities should be able to serve wine and beer at functions without having to apply for a full licence.
- Through sentencing reform we should aim to reduce the prison population and give prison officers the chance to actually help rehabilitate offenders. We need to increase the educational and training opportunities for prisoners so that on release they can find employment and ensure that there is increased mental health service provision for inmates.
- We need increased funding for public protection unit detectives who work with victims of sexual violence and more education in schools to try and address the increased sexualisation of young people and help prevent abuse.
- Prohibition has never worked and the current legislation on drugs does nothing to protect people from harm. Too many young lives are ruined by momentary lapses or judgement.
- **I support the campaign to decriminalise cannabis for personal use. There is a large body of scientific evidence behind the medicinal use of cannabis for pain control and muscle and joint problems. The Island could lead the way in this form of research and I would welcome a debate on legalising cannabis in line with certain American states where both significant harm reduction and economic benefits have been demonstrated.**