



House of Keys General Election

22 September 2016

Ayre and Michael

LOUISE WHITELEGG

Dear Voter

I am standing in this election as I believe that there's the opportunity for real change. I can't sit by and watch the Island's economy falter, standards of living fall, opportunities be missed or put up with bad policies and bad spending. I have to take a stand for the people of our Island.



On the 22nd of September your vote will be the most important you ever make. If you want REAL change, NOW is your opportunity to make it happen.

The time has come to tell it like it is. No more jargon. No more 'Tynwaldspeak'. No more nonsense. In this manifesto are the steps I'll take to ensure that the Isle of Man is a place where we all want to live and that we're all proud of. These are the main issues as I see them and those that have been raised with me by the people of Ayre & Michael. We know that many of the difficulties we're facing have their roots in how our Island is governed. With good government, we'll succeed. With poor government, we will fail. Ask many people and they'll tell you government isn't succeeding. We need change - the **right** change for the **right** reasons. I know I can help to make that change.

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The Problems

If we love our Island and want to preserve and grow our Manx identity we must have change. A “wait and see” approach just isn't an option. Our legislation needs to be strong and robust but our legislative framework is built on sand. Trust has broken down with both our civil servants and politicians. Lord Lisvane's review must be embraced. We asked him to tell us what was broken. It's up to us to fix it.

GOOD GOVERNANCE MAKES A GOOD GOVERNMENT

What we need to do

- ◆ Fully review the Manx legal framework to ensure that it's up to scratch for the 21st century.
- ◆ Restore faith in our Government by introducing legislation to ensure that all those in public office are fully and legally accountable for their acts and omissions.
- ◆ Adopt Lord Lisvane's review as an urgent priority.
- ◆ Encourage transparency by publishing full accounts of wages, expenses and benefits for all civil servants, (anonymised but with reference to role).
- ◆ Adopt full internal and external audit processes as an urgent priority.
- ◆ Develop a clear vision for the Island to underpin all that Government does, not just words but deeds. A vision that's tied to proper budgeting to make it a reality.
- ◆ Explore how we can engage with the public through Direct Democracy
- ◆ Have a longer-term aim of greater political and fiscal autonomy.

BALANCING THE BOOKS

The Problems

We're seeing our reserves steadily waste away. We're emptying the piggy bank without putting anything back in. At some point probably sooner rather than later, there'll be nothing left. Then where will we be?

You'll hear all the aspiring politicians talk about balancing the books and addressing the difficulties of the economy, but you won't hear many tell it like it is. If we don't get control of the Island's finances **We Will Go Bust**. Nobody would ever run their household budget like this. So why have we ended up as an Island with such empty pockets?

We are all aware of the pension legacy that needs to be dealt with urgently. But this is just today's problem; what about tomorrow's? Where's our forward planning? **IF** we get through this issue, we're not in any position to take another knock. If you love the Island and you want to preserve our status we must have change.

It is essential that we have Priority Budgeting to eliminate waste and spend our precious resources wisely. We must change the way that Government spends our money. Right Now. It's just not enough to trim here and there. Fundamental changes in the way we do things must be made TODAY.



What we need to do

- ◆ Close the pension scheme to new entrants and introduce a defined contributions scheme – let's not store up trouble for tomorrow.
- ◆ Ensure that we have robust plans in place to cope with reasonably foreseeable changes to our financial security.
- ◆ Review the tax system and Onboarding Services.

LOOKING AFTER OUR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Problems

No one wants to hear that we might be failing the Island's sick and vulnerable. But sadly that's the state things are in. Every week brings a new issue for our hard pressed Health Service whilst wider concerns about Social Care provision bring worry for our older generation and their families. We have to have caring, coherent and properly costed policies that put people first without breaking the bank

What we need to do

- ◆ Support full, proper provision for Mental Health, consider a step care system, provide more community support and access to therapy, all of which are key to helping sufferers to function fully in Island life.
- ◆ Support the Vulnerable Adult Health Visiting Service, recognising one set of societal rules doesn't fit everybody. Protective support must be provided for those who fall outside social norms.
- ◆ An Island wide policy for the Elderly covering housing, transport and health care, including review of TV Licences for the over 75s.
- ◆ Have clear and transparent allocation of drugs on a fully considered budget basis, weighted with humanitarian factors.
- ◆ Conduct a full review into the practices and management at Nobles Hospital, understand the reasons for low staff morale and take action.
- ◆ Ensure there isn't any Carte Blanche removal of support for the Elderly such as bus passes, as this is short sighted. We should consider a voluntary opt out system with any such savings being ring fenced and redirected to support the vulnerable elderly.
- ◆ Celebrate carers; support them with a financial, practical and emotional package and reflect the vital work they do in not only the savings in Government spending that their caring creates, but the quality of life they enable.

OUR CHILDREN

The Problems

Not only do we need to give the Island's children the best start in life to but we need to make sure they have all round care to support them on their way to adulthood.

What we need to do

- ◆ Introduce programmes to encourage graduates back to the Island
- ◆ Ensure courses are available for the core skills we require on-Island
- ◆ Provide full support for on-Island medical and nurse training, in return for a minimum contract period working for Manx NHS
- ◆ Support and grow our budding on Island higher education sector
- ◆ Give on-going support to apprentice training schemes and ensure that these are not abused by employers
- ◆ Provide free education for those who leave school with less than 5 GCSE's up to the age of 21
- ◆ Strengthen qualified teams of support services for vulnerable young adults and looked after children up to the age of 21
- ◆ Look after Summer Babies by giving parents the option of holding back starting school a year for children born in summer months, particularly premature babies. Let's give everyone the best start in life

ENVIRONMENT & AGRICULTURE

The Problems

Preserving the Island's natural beauty is key to promoting our tourist industry. We need to provide fair and safe access to our Countryside so that everyone can enjoy our wide open spaces. We must remember the Countryside is also a key part of our productive economy that needs both protection and support. And our coastline and seas are every bit as important as our fields, hills and glens. Our fishing industry, preserving our marine & seabed diversity and addressing encroaching coastal erosion are just some of the issues we face.

What we need to do

- ◆ Ensure that agricultural subsidies are maintained and fair to help support this critical industry, ensuring our Island food security, providing high value exports and protecting the countryside we love
- ◆ Support an abattoir that meets the highest standards
- ◆ Have a new waste management strategy (including hazardous waste) that meets the Island's needs and includes input from everyone concerned
- ◆ Government support for private energy initiatives and buy back schemes
- ◆ Protect animals by strengthening protection and welfare legislation

MAKING A STRONG ECONOMY



The Problems

The world is changing so not only do we need to change with it but we need to be at least three steps ahead. Our economy needs to be based on a diverse range of robust and sustainable industries so we don't put all our eggs in one basket.

What we need to do

- ◆ Ensure economic growth is a key objective of Priority Budgeting
- ◆ Have a joined up approach to economic growth. It will make no difference what we do if people, goods and services cannot get to the Island when they want to
- ◆ Protect our Critical Industries by supporting our agriculture, food and service sectors
- ◆ Support initiatives that keep Manx money Manx
- ◆ Support Private Sector growth via legislation, purchasing practices and promoting Island business better
- ◆ We need the right people to fill the jobs but there also needs to be a mechanism in place to safeguard the local workforce. Our work permit system needs to be up to the job with consideration given to an Australian points style system
- ◆ Protect the vulnerable and help enable everyone to fully participate in our society through strong disability discrimination and equality legislation
- ◆ Have a full cost benefit analysis of the options for radically changing our VAT system, including implications on existing and future business – let's be prepared!
- ◆ Have a full review of National Insurance collection with a view to bringing this in line with how income tax is collected
- ◆ Support further development of international relationships and make sure we reap all the benefits they can create

AN INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR OUR ISLAND

The Problems

Some improvements have been made over the past 20 years, but the fact is we still mostly have a 19th Century infrastructure trying to meet the demands of a 21st Century Island. No wonder it's crumbling; the population is three times the size of when much of it was built. The seas and weather batter our coast, leaving both man-made structures and the land itself at the mercy of nature. Of course we're always going to be running to keep up but we have to make sure we do the right things in the right way at the right time

What we need to do

- ◆ A clear, whole Island capital investments plan linked to a priority budget to deal with this issue over the next 10 years
- ◆ Repair Douglas Prom; it's the gateway to our Island and at the moment it's like a visitor catching you in your pyjamas! The Prom is both a key transport artery and our shop window to visitors. This doesn't mean it needs a gold plated scheme though. Basic repairs are needed urgently but further upgrades can be considered when and if we have the funds to spare
- ◆ Ensure that the Island's sea defences, promenades and water ways are maintained to prevent further breakdowns
- ◆ Make Planning Work; we must make sure that we have a planning process that reflects the business and nature of the Island, with swift, impartial, clear procedures for redress and a positive attitude to help our economy grow. We need clear area plans with clear rules of redress, with particular support for Low Energy Housing

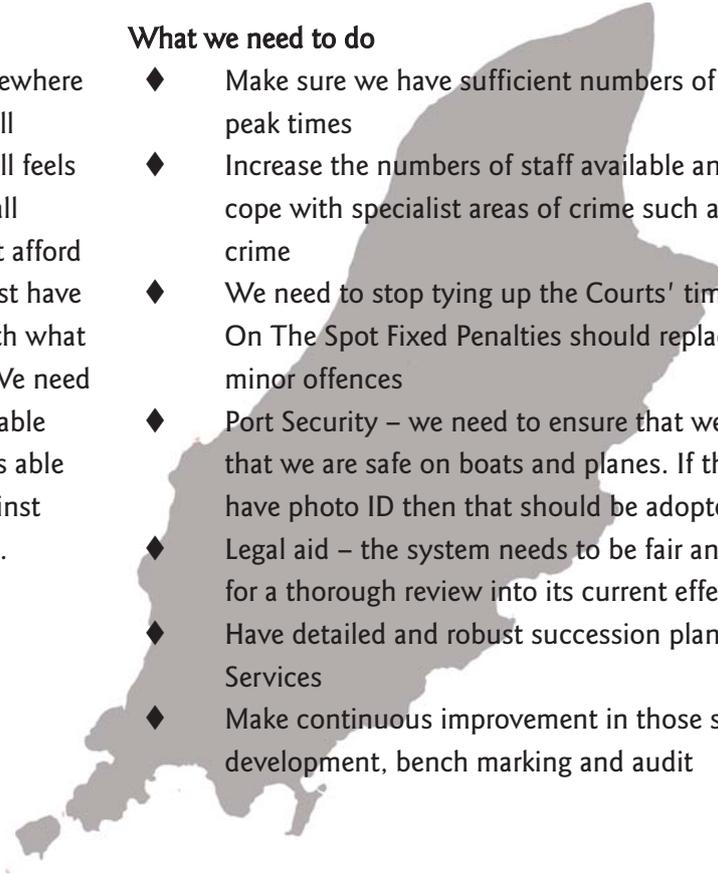
AN ISLAND SAFE AND SECURE

The Problems

We're lucky that we live somewhere in which recorded crime is still relatively low and where it still feels like the safe place to live we all remember. However, we can't afford to be complacent and we must have sufficient capacity to deal with what the future may throw at us. We need to have a flexible, knowledgeable and diverse police force that's able to help defend the Island against modern and specialist threats.

What we need to do

- ◆ Make sure we have sufficient numbers of police on active duty at peak times
- ◆ Increase the numbers of staff available and professionally trained to cope with specialist areas of crime such as child protection and cyber crime
- ◆ We need to stop tying up the Courts' time at vast taxpayers expense. On The Spot Fixed Penalties should replace the Court process for minor offences
- ◆ Port Security – we need to ensure that we keep our Island safe and that we are safe on boats and planes. If that means passengers must have photo ID then that should be adopted
- ◆ Legal aid – the system needs to be fair and robust, I would campaign for a thorough review into its current effectiveness
- ◆ Have detailed and robust succession planning for our Emergency Services
- ◆ Make continuous improvement in those services through professional development, bench marking and audit



SUPPORTING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

We live on an Island full of amazing, generous, talented people, many of whom are willing to give their time to help make our home better. Whether it's the Guide and Scout movement looking after our youth, initiatives such as Men in Sheds supporting our elderly, Beach Buddies keeping our Island tidy or GriaH supporting those society has failed.

- ◆ We need to both support and celebrate the fantastic work Charities do
- ◆ Grow the public's trust; Island charities should publish annually, the proportion of a £ donation given which goes to the main aims of the charity

THE ISLAND AND THE WIDER WORLD

The Problems

Where do we start?
With the turmoil post the Brexit vote we need to make our voice heard. We also need to be a strong independent nation and proud of who we are.

What we need to do

- ◆ Have a dedicated member of the House of Keys responsible for championing all the Island's interest in the Brexit debate and negotiations
- ◆ Guarantee our ability to travel, ensure that we obtain control of key air routes and landing slots. If Heathrow's third runway goes ahead, make sure we have key landing slots
- ◆ Secure our Island's sea lifeline and improve services, especially the Liverpool route. We must be careful that we're not forced into any deals to do so which aren't in the Island's best interests. The easiest way to strangle the Islands growth and stability is with poor air and sea links

AND WHAT ABOUT AYRE AND MICHAEL?

The Problems

The Island doesn't stop at Douglas. The North has many businesses that need their voices to be heard. I will make sure that we're not forgotten. Many of the issues raised with me have been included in the previous sections but there are some specific issues for our area. If elected to Ayre & Michael you will have a person that you can count on to listen and act on your behalf.

What we need to do

- Take urgent action to address coastal erosion and flooding. Get the drainage right. Get planning right. Get the issue taken seriously NOW.
- Keep and improve local bus services to get you where you need to be, when you need to be there.
- Make our roads safer by encouraging consistent measures to reduce speeding.
- Maintain and improve provision at Jurby health centre making the most of this expensive yet valuable resource providing greater value for money.
- Stimulate business by moving a Government department to the North. This will show the Government takes the North seriously and will help to encourage more small and start-up businesses to the area.
- Focus on helping our village centres as the beating heart of our communities.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. MAKE LOUISE WHITELEGG YOUR MHK FOR AYRE AND MICHAEL.

Small actions create
great change



Let's make our Island better together
Now is our opportunity for change
If you want to see change
Then vote for change on the 22nd of September

Louise

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