

HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION 22 SEPTEMBER 2016



Chris
Thomas

***Isle of Man 2020:
a Programme for Government
with policies for our community***



415820



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www.iom2020.im

POLICY MATTERS

Thank you for electing me as a Douglas West MHK in 2013.

It has been my honour to serve you since; busting myths, encouraging evidence-based policy making, and using my judgement and experience as your representative when difficult political decisions which affect people's lives are made. I sketched a 7-year political programme in my "Orange and Purple" by-election manifesto; and - as a principled politician - that plan has framed all my activity in Tynwald.

If elected as your next Keys representative I would continue to contribute to making government more effective for people.

I am a glass-half-full politician. We have relatively diversified growth, low unemployment and debt, and a huge NI Fund;



But we have challenges too:

- Some with insufficient money to afford a decent standard of living;
- Public servants who feel 'battered' by some politicians and members of the public;
- Fragile government finances which need handling with care to sustain services, provide adequate social security, keep pension promises and renew infrastructure;
- An evolving international position after BREXIT and emerging tax-related challenges; and
- Two thirds of people do not have confidence in Tynwald.

This manifesto describes my contribution to tackling these challenges and outlines needed change.

My aim is to work with others to draft a National Government Programme 2017 – 2021 . I agree with Lord Lisvane – who reviewed how Tynwald works recently - that this "could be completed within two weeks". Government should then propose this programme to Tynwald alongside a realistic medium-term financial strategy and indicative legislative programme at the beginning of 2017. The last government's "Agenda for Change" and "Scope of Government" recommendations were not debated in Tynwald until sixteen months after the last general election!

MY PRIORITIES

- Election of the Chief Minister in public and in line with the vote of elected MHKs;
- Approving a "Government Programme 2017-2021" in Tynwald soon after this election, alongside a realistic medium-term financial strategy and indicative legislative programme;
- Making economic growth more useful by raising people's incomes and making money go further including by light-touch regulation of standing charges and profits of near-monopolies;
- Rebalancing the balancing of the budget to stabilise public finances including reducing effective tax rates for those on lower and middle incomes;
- Legislation and training to enable everyone, not just to protect vulnerable people;
- Ensuring pensions and benefits rise at least in line with prices;
- Continuing to negotiate adaptations to employer pensions given changed realities;
- Securing public services by providing public servants policy direction so that efficiencies and synergies can be realised;
- Encouraging Island and re-locating businesses, including by localising government spending;
- Means testing after needs testing only when necessary;
- Joining up housing strategy, streamlining planning and revisiting conservation policy so that people can live in Douglas;
- Prioritising renewal for houses, public buildings, structures, and highways;
- Rebuilding public confidence in Tynwald through step-by-step enhancement; and
- Allowing Douglas Council to deliver all local services, including parking, town access and open spaces.

"a public representative is not qualified to run a department, he has only been given the opportunity to ensure that the department carry out the policies in the best interest of the public as a whole" Dominic Delaney, 8/2011

Thank you for considering my capability and policies when deciding your vote in 2016

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REBUILD CONFIDENCE IN TYNWALD

How Tynwald functions concerns people – that’s what you told the independent 2016 Social Attitudes Survey. Public confidence in our parliamentary system was lower than confidence in health, the media, government and all the services it provides.

Now we can address these concerns, nudged by both an informed outsider, Lord Lisvane, and by an MHK who is trying to make good decade-old promises of positive reform, me.

Lord Lisvane concluded that Tynwald “is generally in good shape” but he made significant recommendations, with which I agree mostly, and which should be decided next April. Do we need LegCo? Can a directly-elected LegCo work, and if not, should MLCs vote on tax and expenditure?

But steps to rebuild public confidence in Tynwald should be taken now.

For the first time the election of our Chief Minister will be in public and should be in line with the will of the elected MHKs and thus the public, described as an ‘ingenious’ approach when I persuaded Tynwald of it in May.

And I am trying to ensure that:

- MHKs engage with people as a Government Programme 2017-21 is drawn up so that the next government is formed around policy and with a clear mandate;
- This programme is presented to Tynwald for approval soon after the election;
- There is one Minister and MHK member per department to remove the “reputational liability” arising from “the perception or reality that members are receiving significant salary enhancements for a role that at worst may be unnecessary”, as Lord Lisvane put it; and
- Tynwald introduces a member code of conduct with penalties to deal with behaviour and incidents like the indefinite exclusion of Mr Houghton in May, agrees independent determination of MHK and MLC remuneration, appoints an Auditor General and a Commissioner for Administration, and modernises electoral registration and voting.

If Tynwald does not change itself, a referendum will be needed to change it, as I have proposed.



Perhaps the rain on a wet Tynwald Day 2015 was telling us something?

EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

Perception of silo mentality is not new – it was there in the 2006 'structure and scope' review and joined up government exists. For instance our emergency services have worked together for many years in a joint control room using shared communication with integrated protocols and working practices and are now co-locating some appliances.



But government is not yet effective or efficient. What we need are Ministers and a department which can deliver fully joined up policy and legislation and co-ordinated external relations, optimising the application of financial, human, ICT and physical resources to deliver the public services we need. This involves:

- A Government Programme with fewer but more widely-agreed priorities and a policy of open government including quarterly performance reporting;
- Modernising legislation so that government is a single well-integrated organisation with clear frameworks for aligning its activity with that of business, local authorities and third sector;
- A new draft bill procedure, with earlier external input, not box-ticking consultation;
- A population and migration policy and strategy, as I proposed in 2015;
- Means testing after needs testing only when necessary;
- Re-evaluating our comparative advantage and testing whether current policy on autonomy and external relationships is to our benefit, with TV licence fee as initial negotiating objective;
- Implementing Equality legislation by 2020;
- Smarter government focused on 'customers' with a central policy function; and
- Social value procurement, and using guarantees and bonds to encourage investment.

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STABILISE PUBLIC FINANCES

"NEWS FROM THE MANNIN BRANCH CELTIC LEAGUE: How dare Chris Thomas treat the electorate as if they are adult. He should be joining in with all the other doom merchants and offering portends of penury but no he's got this analysis of the NI situation on his web pages and it seems pretty positive I TEND TO BELIEVE HIS ANALYSIS because from watching his work and exchanging emails with him he seems to be one of those unique MHKs who does his homework.....perhaps a job in the Treasury will beckon. After all it would be refreshing to have someone in there putting out unvarnished truths!"
8/2016

Given claims that our Island could go 'bust', you might be surprised to learn that our reserves are as large now as they were in 2011.

Admittedly the Public Service Employees Pension and Reserve Funds have been drawn down by £100 million, and the Media Development Fund has halved in value, but this has been offset by an increase in the National Insurance Fund and Manx Currency Account.

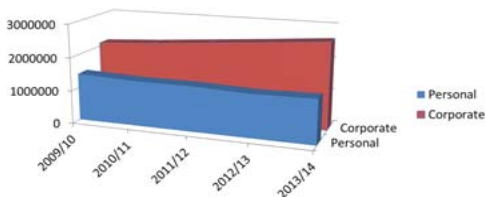
What has reduced since 2011 is the government's 'net assets', down as much as the public service pensions actuarial liability is up.

Very importantly our £0.75 billion NI Fund provides bedrock for our state pension and social security for decades to come, with care and some adaption to changing circumstances. Per person this fund is huge compared to across.

Moreover claims of a diminishing NI fund are disingenuous. In fact the value of the NI fund rose again last year, by £40 million. This NI Fund myth is just one I have busted since my question at the end of 2013 'discovered' the controversial £0.75 million Ci65 report.

People were worried unnecessarily that our system was 'out of date and broken' with the money running out, and were worried unnecessarily about working to 74.

In fact our NI and Social Security systems are being recycled for future generations rather than thrown away. How our economic growth benefits us is an issue though.

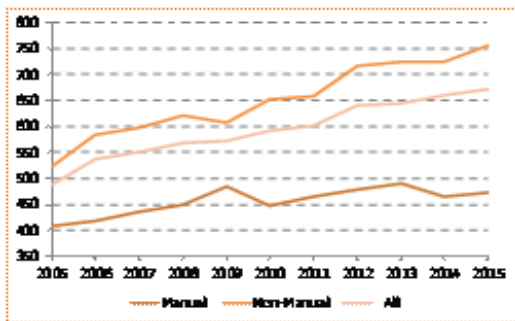


Growth isn't trickling down to people sufficiently
(£1,000s)

AND GROW MORE USEFULLY

In January 2015 government confirmed in answer to my Keys questions that the household income and expenditure survey revealed that on average, one in four households, the island's poorest, don't have enough income to cover their cost of living. This awful finding was confirmed in this year's Social Attitudes Survey.

But this is hardly surprising as even those in work are struggling, never mind those on fixed incomes, with average manual earnings lower than they were in 2009.



Average Weekly Earnings (£)

More generally national income statistics which I have made more visible show that our economic growth has gone to companies rather than to local people, particularly so in three of the four largest sectors (e-gaming, insurance and ICT)

Of course any corporate income is valuable, especially that in export sectors like e-commerce and insurance. It allows investment and creates wealth for those who take the business and financial risks. But we need to encourage companies to harness their success to all of our livelihoods as much as possible.

To tackle this government needs to think differently. The last administration aimed to grow the economy but that is only part of what is needed. The next government needs to do what it can to grow most people's incomes and make living in our community affordable for everyone.

"I continue to beat the drum for our community and our Island. But why should I always spin and gloss over some realities and justify the continuation of some policies that I believe need changing? I am not boosting the knockers, only knocking the excessive boosting of some Government policies and achievements" Chris Thomas, 2/2016, budget speech

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INCREASE PEOPLE'S INCOMES

*"Back to my positive vote against this year's Budget (Laughter)..... any government that reveals itself to be unpleasant, complacent, even deluded, should expect to be punished. If any government comes to be perceived as merely serving one or a few vested interests then it will lose respect and the ability to govern with consent. Our Island's 2011-16 Government has come to be seen in some quarters as serving mostly the interests of the very richand of those higher up in the civil service. It is thus at risk of being seen as an unpleasant Government."*Chris Thomas, 2/2016, budget speech

- Encourage lower end wages by reducing other costs for businesses operating in retail, hospitality, cleaning, leisure and care;
- Use credits and allowances to reduce effective tax rates for those on lower and middle incomes, including a personal savings tax allowance, and investigate the impact of further integration of tax, national insurance and social security;
- Ensure state pensions rise at least in line with prices and sustain funded employer pension schemes;
- Support businesses to increase the quality of jobs and earnings focusing on sectors generating significant personal income;

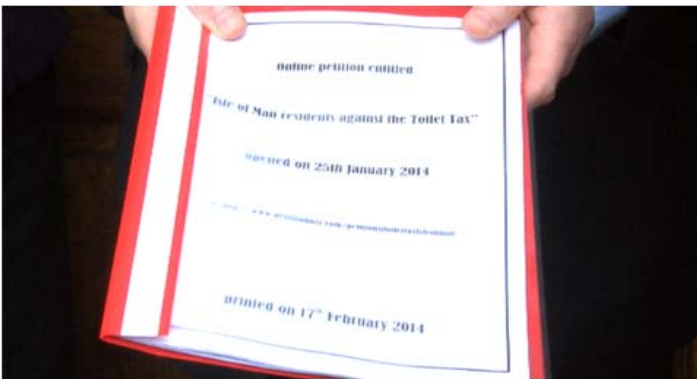
GDP personal income by sector - £million in 2013/14:
medical and health £177, public administration £130, finance and other business services £107, banking £87, education £84, manufacturing/engineering/quarrying £83, miscellaneous services £83, construction £79, retail £69, corporate services £63, transport/communication £62, legal/accounting £60, insurance £52, ICT £41, tourism/catering £30, e-gaming £21

- Evaluate the impact of ICT work permit exemptions, particularly the £25,000pa threshold;
- Fund public servant remuneration sufficiently;
- Localising government spending – when purchasing, on capital construction schemes, and home-trained employment only using off-Island agency staff when necessary; and
- Continuing to provide free TV licences to the over 75s.

AND MAKE MONEY GO FURTHER

- Upgrade Office of Fair Trading to deal with unfair pricing;
- Tackle freight costs - and thus Manx inflation more generally - by de-coupling annual sea services price increases from retail inflation and insisting on a seven-year break clause in a revised sea services user agreement, and launching a Fair Trading Act investigation into freight prices if necessary;
- Re-negotiate the existing gas regulatory agreement at its expiry in 2018, and establish a regime to monitor and limit the profits and standing charges of our utility, energy, telephone, post and transport monopolies to bring prices down;
- Rebalance the way government raises its revenue, moving away from "sleetchy" or stealth taxation through the introduction or increase of charges and fees;
- Hold electricity charges, water and sewerage rates down by replacing the Manx Utilities Authority twenty year financial plan with a forty year asset management plan including refinancing some of the £0.5 billion debt at historically low long-term interest rates, paying legacy capital costs from general revenue, and allocating income from Territorial Seas energy projects to the MUA.

"Flaws in the voluntary agreement made me decide to resign as OFT vice chair once the gas agreement was effectively signed by CoMin and the OFT board I could no longer influence energy-pricing public policy in the direction I know it needs to move from the inside But a new Government could plan a new regulatory regime. I want this to happen, and cross-utility regulation is the way forward."Chris Thomas quoted in Isle of Man Examiner 10/2015



Receiving the 6,500 signature 'toilet tax' petition outside Tynwald. This campaign was successful in changing policy, eventually.

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REBALANCING THE BALANCING

Stabilising public finances will need to be done fairly and carefully, especially given that both public service morale and business confidence are tender.

Rather than merely balancing the budget, government will need to rebalance public finances in a fairer way, rebalancing the balancing so to speak.

This is possible as the pension liability is likely to reduce in coming years - given interest rates and profound public service pension reform - and public service efficiency gains are being made.

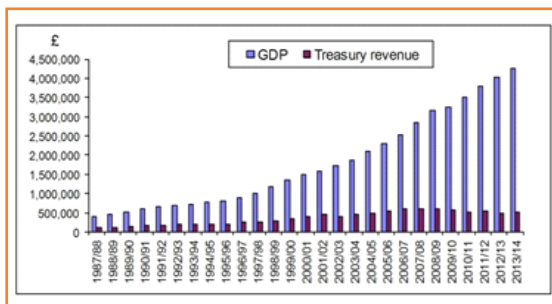
But our tax policy 2017-21 can and should evolve to a public revenue policy based around low and fair taxation of a broader range of income, collected as efficiently as possible. This new policy has to be devised and then set to address today's agenda - disclosure, Base-Erosion-Profit-Shifting, aggressive tax avoidance - not yesterday's.

Credits and allowances should be used to reduce effective tax rates for those on lower and middle incomes. The 'drip, drip, drip' tap which doubled fees and charges in five years has to be turned off.

Unacceptable tax planning around the 0-10% and tax cap regime should be eliminated; but the impact of any proposed new or varied measures should be considered with the utilities, companies, and richer people who might pay a little more.

Commercial rates should be in the mix as the current regime probably harms local businesses in competition with off-Island and e-business.

"It's a sad fact that the poorest in the Isle of Man are being hit the hardest as cuts and charges take effect. Chris Thomas MHK deserves congratulations for highlighting the issue in the Keys this week. He also deserves praise for his statistics that really question how much benefit the tax cap really gives the Island. CoMin's vague promise that 'policies will emerge as time progresses' does not fill us with confidence that the effective measures are going to be introduced to ease the burden on the island's poorest." Manx Independent editorial, 1/2015



Treasury revenue has fallen despite economic growth mushrooming.

'NOT OLD BUT GOLD' - PENSIONS

Pension provision is a challenge and opportunity. Schemes need to be adapted to changed realities so that pensioners can afford active, healthy and secure living as they get older.

The state pension for someone retiring after 2019 with 35 qualifying years of Manx NI contributions or credits will be at least £170 per week, plus a pension supplement for many. Contributions elsewhere qualify for pensions elsewhere. Decisions still to be made include:

- How Manx pensions will increase if earnings here do not increase;
- How much single-tier pension will be payable to those who were contracted-out;
- What practical assistance will be provided to Manx recipients of UK state pensions; and
- What the state pension age will be after 2028 and whether the claim date is flexible?

Our main challenge is public service pensions, particularly how to deal with the 'legacy' arising from past service without a 'fund'. This is still under review. But future sustainability is in hand. Tynwald has approved the 'cost envelope approach' which constrains pension benefits as a percentage of pay, and negotiations have started about a 6% future service benefit reduction and how 2.5% more increased contributions will be made, alongside an additional 1.6% after 2019 when contracting-out is ended. Public service pension benefit changes which are under consideration include linking the normal public sector scheme retirement age to state pension age, changing the rate at which benefits accrue and the lump sum commutation factor, the definition of final pay, and capping pensionable pay, pay rises close to retirement for pension calculation, and future pension increases. Agreement is expected by February 2017 with further review in 2020.

"There are several new and newish Members in this House The public sector pensions approach taken cannot be inside an Emperor's New Clothes Medium-Term Financial Strategy which those innocent new or newish Members might perceive as wearing nothing at all. Rather, the next House needs 'foundations for a sustainable future' and 'robust finances for future generations'; as the Treasury Minister put it" Chris Thomas, Keys, 5/2016



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HEALING HEALTH AND CARE

The low point was surely 2013 when Tynwald heard that “patients were continuing to come to serious harm despite concerns being raised within the hospital at all levels” and external reviewers told social care that the service had important weaknesses. Heads rolled; frameworks, systems and facilities were enhanced and built.

*“I would like to thank the Hon. Member for Douglas West, Mr Thomas, for his amendments to National Health Care Bill. I was content to take the slightly unusual step of seconding the amendments.”
Health Minister,
4/2016*

Getting things right is vital, but costs £250 million annually. We need to choose what to do, as well as doing it efficiently. Issues include GP and hospital waiting times, what is available and how it is provided, discharge and transport policies.

Challenges include:

- Recruiting and retaining staff as the service depends on its people. Re-localising employment is crucial as annual agency staff spending increased from £10 to £16 million, £12.5 million over budget last year;
- Implementing the new strategies and recommendations of the external reviews to provide care at the right standard;
- Developing schemes under the new Act passed this spring;
- Meshing pathways across primary, secondary and mental health, care, and tertiary referral, including using telemedicine/care;
- Rebalancing health and care provision as care budget has been slashed to pay for hospital overspends, and care-in-the-community is not a cheap option, requiring joined up services and schemes;
- Moving non-core services out of the department and reviewing commissioning and procurement; and
- Deciding whether more regulation is needed, or if the existing system of professional bodies and periodic external review is sufficient, perhaps when combined with a new health and care governing body incorporating external expertise and lay members.



INSPIRING LEARNING

In central Douglas we have a new Primary School, new wings at our college and transformation of both our High Schools.

But staffing education is a challenge. The relationship between our Teachers Pension Scheme and those elsewhere need attention. Government needs to find ways to allow Manx

graduates to return home and others to move here for teaching and other careers.



Increased student-teacher ratios have affected class sizes. In primary schools this can be addressed with a maximum class size and relaxation of catchment area policy to rebalance ratios between central Douglas and edge-of-town schools. Adequate resources should follow additional needs however they arise.

Isle of Man College is flourishing – as demonstrated by its selection by the private sector for Nunnery ICT provision – but supporting off-Island education remains necessary. Encouraging modern apprenticeships is important. Our secondary schools need to regain responsibility for catering and caretaking, and authority should be delegated locally as much as possible.

We have excellent sports, arts and youth venues. Our challenge is to maintain them by encouraging use. Sports and arts strategies and funding are paramount in this, along with joined up delivery between government, Council, clubs and associations.

Our Island is a safe and friendly place, but forthcoming legislation provides an opportunity to modernise policies and arrangements to tackle any issues that emerge.

"Ballakermeen is a small school with a huge number of students..... This Scheme needs to go ahead I seek a reassurancethat this extension will not be at the expense of the planned new community primary school at the old hospital site The necessary small extensions at St Mary's and the Scoilyn Jubilee." Chris Thomas, Maiden Speech supporting Ballakermeen Dining/6th Form Extension, 6/2013

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REBALANCING PLANNING

Villiers 'Town Square', a former police station standing alone since 2001 amidst surface car parks around two new roundabouts, vacant sites on South Quay, empty sites on Lake Road and around the Brown Bobby, what a waste!

But this next government can make what I called the Chief Minister's "hissy fit" about a particular planning decision in May 2015 the turning point for planning and development. If so, I think my two year campaign for rebalancing planning will be validated.



New planning principles have been agreed this July. Decisions should be transparent, fair and depoliticised, with government determining policy, and officers and the Planning Committee applying it. More development can take place without planning approval and more types of use are permitted inside an approval. The Strategic Plan 2016 is adopted and confusing policy guidance is to be replaced with a single easy-to-interpret document. Just one example of change is affordable housing policy under which alternative types of affordable housing is approvable.

Most importantly in Douglas the Eastern Area plan process has begun. The focus should be on "securing development on brownfield sites, previously developed land and sites within existing settlements before releasing greenfield sites", just as the new Strategic Plan states. Exciting opportunities exist on the car parks around Lord Street, at the old Nurses' Home, and elsewhere.

Building registration and conservation area policy is in the mix too. I persuaded Tynwald this June to support both the Building Conservation Forum and 'Isle of Architecture' initiatives. Outcomes could include completion of registration, reappointment of a conservation officer, incentives to encourage conservation and traditional building crafts, and relaxation of petty controls in conservation areas which so many find so frustrating.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Highways maintenance has been deficient, but now a costed and prioritised schedule for roads and pavements is largely developed and published. Douglas schemes include:

Promenade 2016 - 2019; Circular Road - resurfacing 2017; Market Hill & Duke Street, Douglas - regen/reconstruction including Victoria and Lord St crossings 2018; Lord Street, Douglas - resurfacing aim to reconstruct in 10 years 2018; Quarterbridge Road - resurfacing Bottom of Bray Hill to QB 2018; Belmont Hill Reconstruction From Peel Road to Westbourne Drive 2018; Market Street, Douglas - reconstruction 2020; Castle Street, Douglas - regen/reconstruction 2020; Victoria Street, Ridgeway Street, Lower Douglas - regen/reconstruction 2021; Glencrutchery Road, Douglas - reconstruction 2021; Ballaquayle Road, Douglas - resurfacing Top of Broadway to St Ninians 2022; Bucks Road - reconstruction Including footways 2023; Quarterbridge - big roundabout 2027



*Peel Road,
December 2015*

Various flooding, sewerage and structure schemes are also planned in Douglas in coming years. Funding needs to be found.

Traffic calming measures might well be required given accidents like this one. New approaches - including how parking is organised and lines are used - are considered in the proposed "Manual for Manx Roads: a design and construction guide" which will be issued for public consultation. Would some streets warrant a 20mph speed limit and one-way traffic? If so, the law will need to change so that our pavements are not cluttered with more signs. What should be done around nurseries and schools?



Somerset Road, Summer 2015

A "residential refurbishment" scheme is envisaged to improve pavements and less-used roads.

Parking issues should be considered street-by-street with community proposal of local action. New legislation is in hand to make more offences fixed penalty so that traffic wardens and parking controllers can be involved to improve enforcement. Home-parking of government vehicles has an impact and needs to be addressed. Aspects of parking permit use can be controlled more.

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HOUSING MATTERS

Housing policy should develop to:

- Lock-in historic low interest rates to finance a housing association to provide rented and shared-equity affordable housing;
- Upgrade existing public sector housing and encourage the upgrade of private housing to meet new building regulations, housing standards and fire regulations. Revised House Improvement and Energy Conservation and Building Conservation schemes are needed. These might involve grants, loans, equity release, and tax, VAT or rates incentives;
- Improve the inter-reaction between the social security system and housing policy;
- Modernise and consolidate tenancy and housing legislation. Office of Fair Trading handles two hundred housing cases each year and its newly amended law might protect tenants in certain circumstances (e.g. deposit and tenancy agreement issues);
- The housing adaptation scheme needs modification to provide some financial assistance for independent living, and the shared equity house purchase assistance scheme should assist buyers in other situations and with other tenure;
- Revised eligibility and prioritisation criteria for sheltered housing mean that housing need is prioritised, but financial circumstances are taken into account, and richer people who need sheltered housing can pay the actual cost. Parallel criteria could be applied to general public sector housing from the expiry of the first fixed term tenancies in 2019; and
- Public sector rent should rise no more than inflation until means tested rent rebating. Housing deficiency payments have decreased slightly recently rather than mushrooming as forecast.

"I will be bringing forward a proposal to Tynwald to issue a bond targeted at the local savings market. The first area for which it is proposed that bond finance will be used is the local housing market. The three areas under consideration are: a house purchase scheme to assist buyers who are outside of the existing First Time Buyers Scheme; funding for mid rent property purchase to ensure there are enough properties for a growing workforce; and an equity release scheme for those who are asset rich but cash poor to fund, for example, conservation or energy efficient work to property". Treasury Minister, 2/2016 budget speech

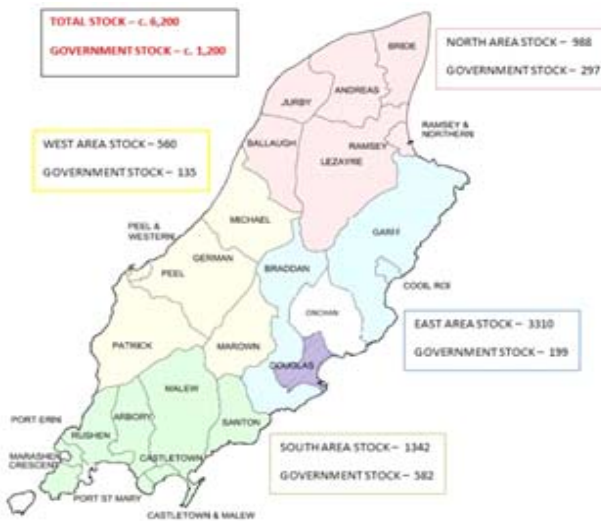
LOOKING LOCAL

Proposals for local authority reorganisation have failed repeatedly since the second world war: but in the last couple of years, a new Garff has been established and regional working groups - which I have chaired – are combining public sector housing waiting lists and identifying other opportunities e.g. options for the handover of day-to-day management and operation of government's houses.

Domestic rates reform and revaluation is underway and should include discounts for single-occupancy and means-tested rebating. It should make the payment of rates fairer in Douglas. Business rates need to be reviewed too.

In fact a new phase of 'local authority transition' is needed, co-ordinated from the centre of government. How can synergies be consolidated to provide more value for ratepayers, taxpayers and tenants?

The Scope of Government principle – that "services provided by local authorities should be wholly funded by local authorities" - needs to be revisited. Local authorities should deliver local services with local funding, and receive national funding when delivering national priorities or when using nationally provided infrastructure.



Housing waiting lists are being combined regionally

But the significant number of local elections this April in which there was an insufficient number of candidates, and low voter turnout when there was an election, demonstrates that the whole governance of local authorities needs review. New legislation and arrangements are scheduled.

DOUGLAS 2020

Douglas Borough Council collects rates from a third of Island households, employs more than two hundred and has gross expenditure of around £30 million, half the total of all local authorities and more than some government departments. 'Government within a Government', the Council's motto, and government have to work together closely and Douglas MHKs and Councillors should meet regularly.

Council should deliver all local services and partner with government to develop policy and law around that provision.

The Council could expand its role to:

- Work with government to re-use the town's derelict, empty buildings and sites thus enabling people to live in the centre of town, encouraging economic development and conserving our countryside, public open space and built heritage;
- Take full management responsibility for all public spaces, including the Promenade;
- Build on the transfer in June 2015 of the operation of Chester and Drumgold Street car parks and take a lead to develop better on- and offsite parking and town access arrangements, for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists;
- Leverage the value of the Council's housing stock for public sector housing, and new rent-to-buy and other non-deficiency-funded housing schemes;
- Consolidate synergies in the delivery of environmental health, building control and local planning services, and other local services; and
- Enhance park and open space provision in town by joining together delivery with government and others, perhaps eventually extending this to community, library, arts and sports facility co-ordination in town.



ABOUT ME

Brought up in the Lake District, I graduated from Balliol College, Oxford and had an internship in the UK EU Commissioner's office in Brussels. I play double bass and chair our Island's United Nations Association. Married to Tania, and our children study in Ballakermeen and Castle Rushen high schools.



Qualified as a financial analyst in UBS London, I moved here in 2001 to run the franchised Financial Regulation MSc in the start-up International Business School. I was a self-employed technical specialist for international financial, regulation and IT projects for twenty years before I was elected. For instance, I led a team which made recommendations to local Eastern Caribbean banks and governments in 2012. Previously I was Chief Technical Advisor for Luxembourg's financial sector project in Vietnam (2009 - 11) and Project Director for the EU-China Financial Services Co-operation Project in Beijing (2004 - 7).

Since standing down from the Financial Services Tribunal, Health Services and Legal Aid Committees when elected, I have:

- Engaged with people in person and online, co-organising the "Isle of Man 2020" meetings to open up government's Big Debate, and picking up petitions about pre-school, 'toilet tax', rates, health service complaints and planning;
- Persuaded government to agree significant policy or legislative changes;
- Got an independent review of the Functioning of Tynwald established and democratised this Chief Minister's election;
- Chaired three Tynwald committees (Rating, Landlord and Tenant, Planning) and regional housing groups; and
- Was a founding member of Conservation, Sea Services and Douglas Car Park/Access working groups.

I resigned as Vice Chair of the Office of Fair Trading as I disagreed with its signature of the gas regulatory agreement.

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SPEND YOUR VOTE WISELY

Please let me know if I can assist with your application for an advance or proxy vote or for your attendance at the polling station.

Polling stations, which will be open from 8am to 8pm, are:

CDGC1 (Quay, St George's & Tynwald) - The Scout Hall, Demesne Road

CDGC2 (Ballabrooie) - All Saints Church Hall, Alexander Drive

CDGC3 (Albany) – Homefield, 88 Woodbourne Road

CDGC4 (Garden City, Somerset) - St Andrew's Church Hall, St Ninian's Corner

CDGC5 (Eastfield) - All Saints Church Hall, Alexander Drive

**If you cannot attend the polling station, you can apply for:
an advance vote** to the Returning Officer

*Mr Barry Curtis Smith, Equiom (Isle of Man) Limited, Jubilee Buildings,
Victoria Street. Tel: 699000. Email: barrysmith@equiomgroup.com*

or a proxy vote

to the Electoral Registration Officer
in Government Office.

*The application deadline is 16 September unless an advance vote
is to be marked outside the Isle of Man in the British Isles
when it is 12 September.*

**I am trying to visit everyone but if you would like me
to call at a particular time please just ask.**

Please don't hesitate to request a large print
or audio version of this manifesto.

Tel: 415820

chris.thomas@parliament.org.im or click@manx.net

www.facebook.com/christhomasiom or www.iom2020.im

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**Vote Chris Thomas
for
Douglas Central**