

## Political Questions – John Karran (2011)

**Why this candidate wishes to be a member of the House of Keys?**

Because I believe that I am better than the incumbents. I'm open and believe that honesty is the best policy. I would challenge the Executive if they prevaricate.

**How well does the candidate think that the present?**

Poorly, they failed to anticipate the economic morass we are now in or they knew it was coming but could not tell the truth of their mal-administration.

**If the candidate were elected, what would their priorities be at a constituency level?**

Within the economic reality, to raise the standard of living for the lowest paid, the rented accomodation and the interests of long term residents. Local Health and Schools. Tackle vandalism through social responsibility.

**If the candidate were elected, what would their priorities be at a national level?**

The economy, creating jobs, exploring revenue raising opportunities. Learning from past mistakes. Reform of the Keys and Legco. Strenuously seek to expand the manufacturing sector to raise low pay levels.

**What does the candidate view as the main political and social issues**

Economic recovery. FoI Laws. Reform of Tynwald. Close the disparity of

**facing the Isle of Man in the next 5 years?**

earnings, it isn't good for society to have a large number of low earners, it's not inclusive and leads to a group of people who feel that they have lost out in our boom years.

**How would the candidate deal with the challenges/issues over the next five years - as stated in the Main Social Issues question?**

Recovery needs a defined strategy, a plan to find efficiency savings, re-negotiate wages that are unaffordable, a Govt spending plan that will bring in revenue to the Govt. Jobs and more jobs, particularly job alternatives just above the lower end. strive to expand the manufacturing sector. This must be a priority for the Treasury and DED.

**What does the candidate feel has changed for the better, for Isle of Man residents, in the past five years - giving examples?**

Until the Bank crisis we were a booming economy and that has been a good thing. Unfortunately, we didn't have a strategy to deal with the downturn and VAT debacle.

**What does the candidate feel has changed for the worse for Isle of Man residents, in the past 5 years - give examples?**

Obviously, the correction to our VAT takings, we were living on a false expectation that we thought would not end, we didn't plan for this and the Govt have spent money on grand schemes and a huge infrastructure that we cannot now afford. Worst scenario? Tax rises and

**Does the candidate feel that the Isle of Man has been too reliant upon the financial services industry?**

service cuts.

While it was working for us it was easy to become complacent, it is still important and has to be supported but perhaps it could stand to pay its way a little more.

**If The candidate feels there is too much Financial Services reliance, how does the candidate feel that they would further diversify the Manx economy?**

Not everyone can work in Finance and I think that past Governments have forgotten that. Small to medium manufacturing jobs would be my way forward, if Ireland can make half the cat food in our shops then the Irish Sea is not the barrier we make it out to be! We need to be aggressive in marketing ourselves and overcome these barriers. The Dept of Economic Development was created to find these jobs. Now they really have to justify their existence by seeking jobs for the people of the Island not niche markets that require imported expertise.

**Is the candidate in favour of independence from the United Kingdom?**

If that were the way forward for our economy and our self esteem, then Yes.

**Is the candidate in favour of -and if a standing member, did they vote for-**

A 32 seat Keys with a Scrutiny

**a popularly elected Legislative Council?**

Committee(s) selected by MHKs.

**Is the candidate in favour of -and if a standing member, did they vote for- a popularly elected Chief Minister?**

Yes, with the right checks and balances to ensure that the person is the best for the job.

**Is the candidate in favour of nationalisation of air and or sea services to and from the Isle of Man?**


No, the Govt needs to reduce its scope and cut its outgoings. The right companies providing these services and tighter Govt controls would be a way to improve our transport systems. In fact, privatising the Bus service, again with the necessary controls could have to be seriously looked at to reduce the losses.

**Is the candidate in favour of onshore wind farms in the Isle of Man?**

Tricky and emotive situation, if they were financially viable, they could be a short term solution while we wait for more efficient alternatives. With our usual prevarication, those alternatives, sea power perhaps, could be available before we do anything about wind power?

**Is the candidate in favour of Means testing for "universal" benefits and social housing?**

Another emotive subject that polarises our society. Yes if the system were properly balanced to take account of all the circumstances that 'could' arise, there could be the



need to lower rents again when a persons situation changes, that would have to proponents of means testing up in arms again.