

## Political Questions – Martyn Quayle (2011)

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

I have a deep sense of duty, purpose and fairness. I have always had a keen interest in Manx, British and World Politics for as long as I can remember and have had a life-long association with Braddan and Marown Parishes and a burning desire to make a contribution to the Island and its people. I have had experience in the Civil Service, and 25 years of solid business experience in the private sector, including the successful management of a major Multi Million Company for 15 years making a profit in each of those years. My experience representing Middle for the past 10 years, including serving as a Minister at the highest level, has demonstrated my enthusiasm and commitment, making a positive contribution on behalf of my Constituents and the Island. Additionally, I am young, keen, enthusiastic, approachable, can relate and get on well with people in all walks of life and I have an ability to listen and to communicate. I care about people, helping my constituents with their concerns, the Island, its heritage,

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

history, culture and traditions, its quality of life and its future.

The existing Government has had to cope with an unprecedented amount of challenges relating to the Global Financial Crisis, helping to steer a steady course, maintaining economic confidence and supporting the most vulnerable in Society, dealing with the collapse of the KSF Bank, challenges from the UK, (with revisions of the Customs Sharing Agreement with the UK), the UK Foot Review, the UK Ministry of Justice Report into the Constitutional Working Relationship with the IOM, meeting challenges from the EU in relation to our retention of the Zero Ten Taxation Policy, Organisation for Economic Development, G20 Group of Nations (securing the IOM's position on the 'white list' instead of being on the 'black' or 'grey' list), and the International Monetary Fund. The Island's economy has grown 30% in the last 5 years (with the rest of Europe recording zero growth over the same period due to the recession they experienced which the IOM avoided.), 1.9% unemployment – a

quarter of the EU average and a record number of 47,000 people in employment. The Government initiated a 5 year plan to rebalance the budget, and saved £51 Million in the last 2 years towards the initial £100 Million reduction in revenue, and saved around 400 jobs from the Public Sector. The restructuring of Government led to the formation of the Department of Economic Development to concentrate on income generating areas and a cohesive marketing approach. The Government progressed plans to unify 15 Public Sector Pension Schemes into one Scheme effective from 1st April 2012, and devised a scheme which is seen to be sustainable, simple and affordable. This has been the most successful Government since the 1950's for provision of new Local Authority Housing, partnering with the Private Sector. Assistance provided to 1200 first time buyers and 1000 new or replacement Local Authority Houses provided since 2001. Significant investment in the Infrastructure – Schools, Water Treatment Works, IRIS, Prison etc. Lowest crime rates for 25

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

years.

To continue to serve my constituents, to deal with their concerns in an energetic, efficient and effective manner, whilst supporting Community events. Whilst the outcome of the Boundary Review Committee is awaited, I will always fight for fairer representation for Middle. In relation to Traffic & Speeding, these issues are covered in my recent correspondence to constituents in detail, and it would be my intention to convene meetings of the Police, Parish Commissioners and Highway Division to consider all of the identified problems and devise appropriate solutions for Braddan & Marown. The Eastern Regional Plan will cover Laxey, Lonan, Onchan, Douglas, Braddan, Marown and Santon. We need to strike a sensitive balance to ensure provision of land for sufficient housing for our young people and a growing population, definitely ensure zoning for appropriate retail shops, chemist, GP and Dental Surgery, recreational and other facilities for children and people of all ages and a new Primary

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

School to replace the existing Braddan School.

A 'Prosperous and Caring Society' is as necessary now as it was in 1986. We need to grow the economy, enhance economic development by diversification, in order to secure the Island's future, bridge the financial shortfall due to substantially less income from the Revenue Sharing Agreement with the UK, make further savings (£51 Million saved during the last 2 years), and sustain our existing high quality of life and provision of adequate services required for our people in Health, Social Care, Education and Law & Order. We need to maximise savings and efficiencies, the incoming Council of Ministers needs to consider the Scope & Structure of Government Report 2006, update it, respond to the recommendations and report to Tynwald within 3 months. Modernise terms and conditions in the Public Sector; otherwise it will potentially lead to a larger number of staff that may need to be reduced. Taxes and charges will need to be reviewed, and if increased, we will need to

maintain our competitiveness, and definitely retain our Zero Ten Taxation Policy. We need to fully evaluate the advantages/disadvantages of becoming financially independent from the UK, but must ensure that any potential arrangement is advantageous to that which now exists. We need to ensure that Members of Tynwald contribute to their own Pension Scheme, which I stated in Tynwald. We need a 'root and branch' reform of our Welfare Provision to devise policies best suited to the IOM rather than following the UK which may not be in our interests. We need to ensure that 'those who can work, should work' and we need to consider the implication of an ageing population, so that we have a sustainable scheme to pay pensions and provide long term care. It is sure to mean that those people who work will need to work longer and pay more. We need to ensure strong and effective National and International Representation and will need a strategy to maximise influence with the UK, EU and other bodies, to defend and promote our interests. We need to progress the

Housing policy Review, which will deal with the issues of an annual deficit of £8 Million, rising by £1 Million each year on Local Authority Housing, and provision of assistance to first time buyers, and new dwellings for Local Authorities. Whatever the outcome, we will always rightfully need to support those on low incomes. We will need to continue investing in our Capital Programme, to enable workers in the private sector to be kept employed and skills retained. We need to ensure a viable future for farming and the countryside – a consultation is underway with the Industry concerning an update of strategy and the Countryside Care Scheme.

**What does the candidate view as the main political and social issues facing the Isle of Man in the next 5 years?**

As detailed above in 3b and in my Manifesto.

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

As detailed above in 3b and in my Manifesto.

**What does the candidate feel has**

Great quality of life, virtually full

**changed for the better, for Isle of Man residents, in the past five years - giving examples?**

employment, 5 years of successive economic growth which has benefited residents in good provision of quality services in Health, Social Care, Education and Law and Order, generous assistance to first time buyers and replacement of dilapidated Local Authority Housing. Lowest crime rates for 25 years.

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

Income squeeze – pay freezes, inflation and increases in food and fuel are outstripping benefits/incomes and Government will need to carefully consider how it protects the most vulnerable in Society. The rebalancing of the Government's finances has had an effect by raising charges and reducing people in employment. Uncertainty concerning the Reciprocal Health Agreement until happily a new agreement has now been signed. The revisions to the Customs Sharing Agreement with the UK have caused considerable concern, but it has to be acknowledged that we had a hugely beneficial arrangement stacked in our favour. A new agreement is seen by both Governments as fair, secure and stable in the medium to long



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

term.

No. It has been diversifying the economy for many years. Examples include the Shipping, Yacht and Aircraft Registers, Space Sector, Manufacturing, E-business and E-Gaming. Many opportunities exist to expand our economy overall and my ideas and policies are set out in my Manifesto.

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

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

No, as I do not believe it is in our best interests to do so. However, we should always keep the situation under review and if it became clear that it would be in our best interests to become fully Independent, then this should be put to the Manx People in a referendum for their approval or rejection. Whilst I believe the Customs and Excise Agreement - Revenue Sharing Arrangement with the United Kingdom is in our best interests, I believe we need to explore options

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

as to how we could become more financially independent from the United Kingdom, whilst retaining our Zero Ten Taxation Policy.

Yes. During the last Parliament, I steered a Bill through its Legislative stages in the House of Keys to enable 8 popularly elected Members of Legislative Council from 8 constituencies. The Lord Bishop would have kept his vote and the President his casting vote, with HM Attorney General not having a vote.

Unfortunately, a Clause was deleted from the Bill by opponents in the Keys who were against this change or any change. Members of Legislative Council had the opportunity to amend the Bill to make it workable but in a sad day for Democracy, chose not to do so, and the Bill fell. With the emphasis on dealing with the financial problems, and no obvious solution to provide for popular election of the Legislative Council, an alternative exists to consider limiting their powers.

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

No. I believe the current system has worked reasonably well, and a

**a popularly elected Chief Minister?**

change as proposed would make the Chief Minister too powerful and 'Presidential'.

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

No. The 'Open Skies' policy has been beneficial for residents and businesses in enabling a large number of UK, Irish and Continental destinations to be served by various airlines. Whilst the existing 'User Agreement' with the IOM Steam Packet remains in place for some years yet, there is a pressing need to have discussions with the Steam Packet to explore if changes can be agreed, which would reduce passenger and freight fares, increase passenger numbers benefiting residents and tourism, reduce shipping costs on imports and exports, and be of benefit to the Steam Packet and Island residents and the Manx Economy.

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

In favour of an on-shore wind farm, provided it is funded by the private sector. The IOM can benefit from its strategic location in the Irish sea for Off-shore wind farms, by potentially capitalising on Millions of Pounds income . Discussions have taken

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

place within the British Irish Council to take matters forward. Future opportunities exist in development of wave and tidal power.

Please refer to my answer in 3b for social housing and the Housing Policy Review. With more limited resources, we will have to consider a review of welfare provision including means testing.