

David Fowler – Douglas Central

Political Questions (2016)

Why do you want to be a member of the House of Keys?

Because I care passionately about the Isle of Man and want to help improve the economy and the environment and services and the people's lives of the Isle of Man (all sections of the community)

If you were elected, what would your priorities be on a national level?

They would be: saving the horse trams! cutting government waste, spending our taxes more efficiently hopefully leading to more money available to vital services such as hospitals and schools etc. promoting tourism and hotels to improve the Manx economy also stopping the rates reform banding system as I believe this will lead to higher council rates and water rates.

If you were elected, what would your priorities be on a constituency level?

Ensuring the roads are maintained to a high standard and try to get a community centre perhaps a joint one to cover the residents of Anagh Coar and Pulrose. Making sure enough resources are put into the schools in the area.

How well do you think the present administration has handled the major challenges of the past five years?

Not that well, they have made a start but there's a lot more still to do

What are the main political and social issues facing the Isle of Man in the next five years?

Brexit, pensions, health care and also protecting the reserve fund is a major issue as they're still taking too much from it

How would you deal with the challenges referred to in the previous answer?

We would have to liaise with the UK to make sure we have the best deal for us and the UK, We need to look at government workers salaries and pensions as i believe some of these could be higher than the UK and we could possibly reduce their salary to be relevant to the UK, hopefully health care would improve if we can make sufficient savings and ensuring we have enough front line staff to deal with the services. There are lots of ways to reduce government costs including running the airport on commercial lines this would save around £2 million per year also using government managerial staff to make plans and decisions rather than employing expensive consultants also means testing of benefits through income tax receipts,

How would you deal with the issue of public sector pension reform and the public sector pension deficit?

We need to scrutinised government workers salaries and pensions as i believe some of these could be higher than the UK and we could possibly reduce their salary to be relevant to the UK, we need

**What has changed in the past five years for Isle of Man residents for the better?
(Please give examples)**

to scrutinise government workers pensions across the board.

1. Reciprocal health agreement being secured
2. Re-balancing the government finances as there's a long way to go.

**What has changed in the past five years for Isle of Man residents for the worse?
(Please give examples)**

The potential ending of the horse trams, the state of the government finances as the reserve fund is still going down, the public pensions crisis

Is the Isle of Man too reliant on any one sector of its economy?

No, the economy is fairly balanced but it is important to expand our hotels

If you feel it is, how would you further diversify the Manx economy?

Are you in favour of increased independence from the United Kingdom?

Possibly but this would have to be debated

If you are, in which areas?

We could have a debate about the Isle of Man becoming completely independent as a sovereign country but i'm not convinced that it's in our best interests at the moment until the Brexit

Are you in favour of parliamentary reform in the Isle of Man?

deal is sorted out as we're much stronger staying with the UK for the time being
Yes

If you are, which aspects of the parliamentary system would you change?

The LegCo should be publicly elected also possibly the chief minister could be to as this needs debating as i'm not completely convinced we need to go down this line at the moment but Leg Co should happen now and maybe the chief minister in the future

Who should have the responsibility of electing the Chief Minister?

Tynwald for the time being but possibly look at having the chief minister elected in the fufure

Are you in favour of the nationalisation of air and/or sea services to and from the Isle of Man?

No

Are you in favour of renewable energy projects in Manx territorial waters?

Yes i passionately believe in this assuming its financially viable

Are you in favour of an increase in means testing for financial support and/or services provided by Government?

Yes i am firmly in favour of this

If you are, in which areas?

means testing of Benefits and council housing as this would be fairer as some tenants could pay less rent and some could pay more