

Political Questions – Nigel Dobson (2011)

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

The next few years are going to be challenging, so I want to be part of a group that helps to ensure good governance of our precious Island. We need to develop an efficient administration able to allow and encourage our motto of 'Freedom to Flourish' in a way that is affordable and sustainable. We currently have low unemployment, it is going to be a challenge to maintain that over the next decade, but it is a challenge we must meet.

How well does the candidate think that the present?

I like to be positive in life and look for the good, but their handling of the reciprocal health agreement, the VAT crisis, public sector pension liability, etc hasn't been good. Even in implementing part of the Scope and Structure of Government report, what happened to the 'Scope' part?

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

To give my constituents a strong voice on the floor of the House of Keys and to represent their concerns

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

To manage our budget in a sustainable way whilst minimising the effect on our front line services as

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

much as possible. Doing all that we can to maintain our Island quality and way of life. Look for opportunities to continue to diversify our economic base whilst also supporting our traditional industries such as tourism and agriculture. We need to look at some of the monopolies we have on the Island to see if there are ways to make them more efficient and better value to the consumer.

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

There will be many, the economy and employment I have already commented on, but add to that affordable housing, national debt, our ever rising cost of living and the effect that has on people at the bottom end of our earning league and folk on fixed incomes, energy prices, the list goes on.

First and foremost, let us address the 'Scope' of Government. We have become far too top heavy in our public sector and often don't follow sensible economic rules. This is often due to weak government. Recently, all agreed that in the private sector the airport would be run much more efficiently at around £2,000,000 or so

a year less. So let's do it. Negotiate with those concerned and make efficiencies or look at privatising. Let's reduce outdated working practises and get value for our tax pound. Liberal Vannin have a policy for shared equity housing to assist people onto the housing ladder, it won't solve the problem over night, but let's start.

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

I think the electorate have woken up to the fact that we can't continue as we are and are ready for change. International recognition of our solid regulatory systems is positive. A willingness through groups such as the APG to ask questions continues to promote more transparent in Government.

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

Cost of living, particularly energy prices and food prices, these are basics, the economic base of our finances and more is to come due to the heads in the sand attitudes of our current MHK's.

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

I think we have, but the finance industry has been of great benefit to our Island. The danger is creating two

groups within our society. Those in some sectors continue to enjoy considerable growth, but many in the service industries such as retail, catering etc. are shrinking. We need to be helping and promoting all sectors.

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

That's a big question. We need to have a modern tourist policy that recognises the change in the way the tourist pound is spent. We should develop our e business base, encourage entrepreneurial and can do attitudes and tap into the considerable talent that has come to live on the Island yet is often overlooked.

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

It's not a yes or no question. It would depend on the reasons for making such an historic break and should only go ahead after a referendum of the Manx people.

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

Yes

Is the candidate in favour of -and if a

Yes

**standing member, did they vote for-
a popularly elected Chief Minister?**

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

No

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

As a private, non subsidised,
investment by other, then yes.

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

Generally, no.