

Political Questions – Chris Robertshaw (2011)

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

Because I was one of a generation that enjoyed a career that played out during a period of almost continuous growth and it is time to do everything possible to ensure that the legacy passed on to those who follow us is the best it can be. I think I can contribute.

How well does the candidate think that the present?

The warnings were there for all to see in 2004 but when this administration came into office these were ignored. There is much to answer for this failing as it has in practice put us back 5 years.

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

My manifesto will state a set of policies showing that there is a total symbiosis between national and constituency priorities but to be specific two important ones are housing and parking.

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

Too much to cover in a quick answer but in shorthand they would be growing the economy, cutting costs, rebalancing the parliament and the government, open and accountable government, improving access to the judicial system and more.

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

Political – re-establishing a greater trust in the political process. Social – ensuring the importance of personal responsibility plays a greater role and impacts on the shape of all our policies.

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

This is not a 'cop out' but I can't deal with these in one answer so please read my manifesto which will appear on my website chrisrobertshaw.com

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

The fear of crime has reduced and the investment programme in our schools has continued, some public housing has been renewed (although of course not enough). Capital investment has continued in the infrastructure (but at too high a cost).

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

Rather too much but of course the big one has been inflation running ahead of household income and the impact that this is starting to have on our standard of living.

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

This sector is and remains extremely important to us but it is no good me simply saying 'but we need to diversify our economy'. How we do

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

this in the present economic climate is without doubt the biggest challenge before us and I will be trying to deal with this in my manifesto head on.

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

If the question really means should we abrogate the common purse agreement then the answer is no (if it was I would say yes but it is simply not the case. If the question means should we make sure our legislation is better suited to our own needs rather than simply drawing down more and more UK legislation then the answer is yes.

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

I am for a directly elected legislative council and did, and would always vote that way.

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

I am for a directly elected Chief Minister that has a mandate from the people and from Tynwald (it is possible) and did and I will always

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

vote that way.

Sea Services – Please read my manifesto for the answer to that. Air Services – No.

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

No

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

Means testing for social housing – yes. Means testing for benefits – yes. This subject is covered in more detail in my manifesto.