

What I would expect a Chief Minister to offer

The way ahead is not going to be easy and I feel that we will need firm, although not autocratic, positive leadership. There must be a consensus approach involving as many people as possible. On that basis I would propose that the new administration sets time aside to discuss with other members of Tynwald the way forward and to agree a common agenda. This should be shared with the public by a series of meetings around the Island. I would also expect the Chief Minister to lead by example establishing good working relations with the other Crown Dependencies, the United Kingdom and Devolved Assemblies plus the wider international community. The task will not be easy but we must all work together to present the best possible image of the Island whilst ensuring that our economy continues to prosper.

What I can offer going forward

If I am successful at the forthcoming election I undertake to continue to provide the same level of service to the constituency and also to work hard to protect the enviable standard of living that the Island currently enjoys. This will require considerable expertise and my experience to date will, I am sure, undoubtedly help. With my connections within our community I feel that I am in touch with your views and I will make every effort to stay in touch. My annual newsletter and public meetings will continue whilst I remain in the House.

General

I have been pleased and privileged to be your representative in the House of Keys since November 2004. During that time I believe that I have worked hard for the people of Ayre, but also the Isle of Man in general. My previous experience as a senior bank manager has proved invaluable and has enabled me to deal with a significant number of queries which fall outside those normally facing an elected representative. As a lifelong resident of Ayre, I am close to the community and endeavour to be very approachable, responding quickly to constituents' queries regardless of when they arise. I have also kept in touch by issuing a newsletter every year and holding a public meeting in each Parish during the summer recess. This has enabled me to keep in touch with you to ensure that I understand your concerns and learn from the feedback. I also voluntarily agreed to take a 10% pay cut last year and I am, as far as I am aware, the only MHK to have done so. I do feel that we should be prepared to lead by example.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT ON 29th SEPTEMBER 2011

VOTE FOR EDDIE TEARE

If you would like transport to your polling station on election day,
or would wish to help please call me on 880787.

Polling Station - Please refer to your Polling Card - Stations open 8am to 8pm

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HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION

Constituency of Ayre

THURSDAY
29th SEPTEMBER, 2011

EDDIE TEARE

Dear Constituent

I commenced calling on you during the second week in June and I would like to thank you for the time which you have given to me and the open manner in which you have discussed the issues which are of concern to you. The feedback which I have received is invaluable and will help me to determine the agenda and priorities for the next administration, if I am re-elected. The main areas of concern, in your order of priority, are listed inside.

Eddie Teare



Issues which have been raised and need to be addressed

My last two manifestoes identified the need for better control of our finances. With the major reduction in our share of the income generated by VAT this is even more important. I feel that I have demonstrated that I can control costs ensuring that a bigger proportion of expenditure supports the frontline, but we will need to be much more vigorous in managing our budgets from now on. I am not convinced that the size of our public sector is sustainable. We need to concentrate on those areas which are essential, for example health, education and supporting those in genuine need. I feel that the new government should give specific details of how they would balance the budget over a period of up to 3 years, rather than non specific statements. This will give certainty to our public sector employees who are currently in a very difficult position, not knowing how secure their jobs are, and also the population as a whole who expect us to manage the situation.

The topic of special planning conditions for high net worth individuals has attracted considerable controversy. This was made clear to me at my public meetings last summer and I have taken this firmly on board. I feel that these views should be included within an overall review of the planning system which must be strengthened to provide a proactive service with quicker decisions to support the economic development of our Island and the needs of our residents.

As I write this manifesto, I have visited two thirds of the homes in Ayre. I do appreciate the frank manner in which you have discussed your concerns with me and this will enable me to focus on the way ahead. The major issue is the economy and the scope and size of Government in the light of our reduced income. We will have to review all activities to check that they are still appropriate and if so whether they can be delivered more efficiently. Rising energy costs are a concern, but we are subject to world markets. The recent announcement that electricity tariffs will be fixed for two years will help. Water rates are rising and causing difficulties for some households, especially senior citizens. To conserve a valuable resource, and ensure a fairer distribution of the costs, meters should be installed starting with new properties. There has been much comment on the damage to our uplands by motor vehicles and as the Minister mentioned in Tynwald in July, the time is rapidly approaching when access by off Island motorcyclists must be stopped. Agriculture is experiencing many difficulties with the reorganisation of the Meat Plant, live exports and reducing milk production. These issues have led to a review of the Countryside Care Scheme which is currently underway. I would encourage everyone who is involved in agriculture to make their views known.

Why you should vote

This election will be critical for the future direction of the Isle of Man and the welfare of its residents. Please do not assume that your vote will not count - it will, and I would urge you to make a positive decision to vote and vote for Eddie Teare someone who has proved that he can do!

What I have done to date

During my time in the House of Keys, I feel that I have demonstrated that I am prepared to take on controversial issues and high-pressure roles. When the problem at the MEA emerged I was asked to join the board as chairman. I was fortunate to be part of an impressive team and during my tenure we reduced costs and increased income. The MEA performed £16M better than was originally forecast when the support package was put in place. Additionally we reduced the headcount by 17%. On the revenue side we increased export sales from £170,000 per annum to a profit of £3M per annum in my final year. A major concern to me was the agreement to transport natural gas to the Island by the Irish Sea pipeline. I ascertained that the MEA had the right to ship gas through the pipeline to 2023, but it retained the liability to pay the capital costs beyond then, to 2030. The contract was renegotiated resulting in very substantial savings which will bring major benefits in the future. During my Chairmanship I took no salary saving £20,000 for the public purse.

During my final year in charge of the MEA I was also the Minister of the largest Department in Government, the Department of Health and Social Security. It quickly became apparent that we were not focusing on the patient or the service user. Too much of the Department's expenditure was being absorbed by administration to the detriment of those who we serve. Working with my colleagues we raised productivity and also brought forward a major waiting list initiative for cataract operations. This was based at the Ramsey and District Cottage Hospital (RDCH) demonstrating that it has a vital part to play in the delivery of healthcare for the whole Island. The waiting list was eliminated and I received many favourable comments from satisfied patients. Since then, working with a charitable trust, I have identified funding to refurbish a major part of RDCH which will protect its long-term future. This will also give the Department of Health the opportunity to establish a new renal unit at the hospital. I was also able to obtain charitable funding for a new scanner at Nobles Hospital together with a new angiogram unit. This should improve the service that our clinicians are able to deliver to their patients. The Elderly Mentally Infirm Unit at the Ramsey Cottage Hospital was not suitable for modern standards of care and working with Minister Bell,

who was the Treasury Minister at the time, we identified funding to build a new purpose built unit in Gardeners Lane, Ramsey. I feel that these measures will bring major benefits to the North of the Island and help us to deal with a rapidly ageing population.

Whilst at the DHSS I introduced the Nursing Care Contribution to recognise the health costs of those who are resident in nursing homes. This was set at £60 per week and currently there are some 300 claimants. I brought forward proposals to Tynwald to modernise the benefit structure, reduce disincentives to join the workplace and also amended eligibility criteria to ensure that the Island was not attractive to benefit tourists. Recently I successfully moved Social Services Legislation in the House of Keys which will also introduce a residency criteria for those seeking support. I feel that we should conserve our scarce resources for those who have made a contribution to our society.

In April last year I was appointed Minister of the Department of Education and Children. This gave me an opportunity to make a positive difference and support the aspirations of our young people and equip them for the future. With the reduction in the Department's budget our finances

are under pressure but by good housekeeping we have been able to devote a higher percentage of our budget to the schools, College of Further Education and the International Business School. Substantial savings were generated by relocating the Head Office to smaller premises, reducing the senior management team, capping the rate of pay for supply teachers and also dealing with the catering losses at the College of Further Education. I have also undertaken a consultation exercise to ascertain the views of the public on the type of education which we should be providing. This will enable my successor to make high-quality decisions when they take up office.

In addition to my Department roles I have been involved with various committees including most of those with a financial dimension.

