

RICHARD HALSALL

Manx Labour Party Candidate

**Polling Stations : Open
8.00am to 8.00pm**

**Polling District 1: CDGE1 -
Promenade Methodist Church
Hall, Loch Promenade, Douglas**

**Polling District 2: CDGE2 -
iMuseum, Kingswood Grove,
Douglas**

**Polling District 3: CDGE3 -
Freemasons Hall,
Woodbourne Square,
Douglas**

**Polling District 4: CDGE4 -
Spiritualist Church, Lower
Dukes Road, Douglas**

**Polling District 5: CDGE5 -
Promenade Methodist Church
Hall, Loch Promenade, Douglas**



DOUGLAS EAST

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RICHARD HALSALL

House of Keys
General Election
Thursday 22nd
September 2016



Manifesto

On 22nd September the voters of Douglas East will face a choice; do they re-elect MHKs who have made the Island less equal and less fair, or do they replace them with new ones, ones who want to go in another direction. A direction that will not only see Gross Domestic Product rise but family incomes as well, one that will see consumers protected and not just company profits and one that will ease the burden on those with the least by increasing it a little more for those with the most.

These are values at the core of the Manx Labour Party. If they are values you share then please use your vote for me and

Make Change Happen

Going door to door and speaking to local residents I have heard a wide range of concerns about what is happening on our Island, but several came up again and again; these are the issues I have focused on in the following pages. However, I have not ignored the other issues and many of them are covered in the MLP policy document and posts available on my Facebook page Richard Halsall for Douglas East, alternatively I can be contacted to talk about them using the details overleaf.

Taxation: Maintaining essential services has become increasingly difficult and soon we will be faced with a choice, do we cut services or increase taxes, I would only support a tax rise. I believe we should abolish the unfair tax cap and introduce a more progressive tax system, if you earn considerably more you should pay a little more.

Economy: Government have placed business concerns over those of the Manx people, for example, when they relaxed the work permits they asked for nothing in return. This should have been short-term with a requirement that businesses that benefited had to train local people to eventually take over these roles. As well as Gross Domestic Product we should also measure wellbeing. Focusing solely on GDP maintains the myth that continued economic expansion is essential for a healthy economy but unconstrained expansion is unsustainable.

Education: The world of work is changing and many children in education today will work in jobs that haven't been invented yet, so how can we know what to teach? As well as preparing students to pass exams we must also give them other skills - team working, creative thinking, problem solving, resilience etc. that will be invaluable in a fast changing world.

Health and Social care: The NHS must remain free at point of delivery. Ensuring this will only be possible if we increase investment. Some money can be found through improvements to management, but these savings will only take us so far. Any reduction in services will have the greatest impact on those unable to afford to pay privately and this is particularly true for those moving into residential care. Both Health and Social care are equally important and so should be equally funded; this could be done by the introduction of a ring-fenced health and social care tax.

Air and Sea Routes: We would all like cheap air and sea travel, but the reality of living on an Island makes reliability and frequency just as important. Achieving stability in the long-term is likely to be difficult without securing the services of a designated carrier, but a monopoly is a valuable commodity and in return our Government should set what it believes are acceptable levels of corporate debt and profits.

Pensions: The uncertainty surrounding Public Sector Pensions has led to difficulties in the recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals and other vital public sector workers. To remain attractive to doctors, nurses, teachers etc. our PSP needs to at least offer parity with the UK, to achieve this we have to commit to funding the legacy shortfall.

In the future the old age pension will be capped at £170 per week, but unlike the UK there appears to be no plans to introduce an automatic enrolment workplace pension, without this we are ensuring ever-increasing number of future pensioners will be living in poverty,"therefore we must develop and promote an Isle of Man equivalent.

Older people: Older people have been unfairly targeted: they have had cuts to tax allowances, stealth taxes, restrictions and removal of entitlements. Older people should be valued for the contributions they have made and those they continue to make, therefore I support the call for our Government to follow those of Wales and Northern Ireland to appoint an Older Persons Commissioner who would be an independent voice and champion for older people throughout the Island, someone who would stand up and speak out on their behalf.

Douglas Promenade Redevelopment: The promenade is a main route through the capital and the condition of its road surface is a disgrace. I support the proposal for a single horse-tram track running the full length of the road along the sea-side and the road surface levelled and re-laid.

Housing: Affordable, secure and comfortable housing is a basic human right; unfortunately some in our constituency are spending much of their income renting substandard accommodation. Therefore I would propose that the housing standards regulations as applied to local authority housing should be expanded to include private landlords and tenants along with the introduction of a deposit protection scheme.

Tourism: Travel and leisure spending provides the greatest economic and job multiplier effects so it is an area worthy of Government investment using a mechanism similar to the Enterprise Development Fund. In an age when financial worth is considered of primary importance support for our tourism industry will help to protect and preserve our natural and built heritage. For example, the value of the horse trams to our heritage tourism is likely to far outstrip its cost and without this direct benefit to our economy the voices calling for its removal are likely to be even more strident