



House of Keys General Election
Thursday 29 September 2011

Manifesto



*Bringing politics
back to the people*

Linda
Bowers-Kasch
for **RAMSEY**

Dear fellow Ramsey voter
Welcome to my manifesto.

In my introductory letter I shared my vision for Ramsey and the Isle of Man. From meeting people and feedback from media interviews I know many of you share that vision.

Locally, Ramsey is a good place to be, it is my residence of choice. But we can be better. So I'd like to see:

- An overall plan for Ramsey, a vision of what we want it to be. Thereafter, to be better able to work towards that vision as opposed to the current fragmented approach; incorporating within the plan such areas as regeneration, including the marina and the Queen's Pier, plus initiatives to attract more income;
- Greater inclusivity for young people. I'd like to establish a forum where they have direct communication with me if I were to be elected. They are our future, have the right to vote at 16 and therefore the right to be heard;
- Explore opportunities to attract new businesses and jobs, potential for a business park/centre and creatively smart ways of supporting new business start-ups, e.g. offering VAT holidays;
- Consideration of a 'Royal Ramsey Day Ticket', purchase of which would entitle admission to attractions and discounts at participating businesses, encouraging people to stay and spend in Ramsey.

Nationally, past administrations have not embraced opportunities to deliver operational efficiencies and drive through a value-for-money culture in government and the public sector. At election time we must question why they have failed to do this and been too much on the back foot, being 'surprised' instead of 'prepared' e.g. health & VAT agreements. Importantly, we must learn from the past and move forward.

Therefore, a culture of value for money and embracing smarter working practices must be driven from the top right through government and the public sector. It is not acceptable to put front-line services at risk, e.g. health, education, transport, when operational efficiencies could be made. Quite simply we need to do more with less. The private sector has had to do it so it is reasonable to expect government and the public sector to do the same. The people of the Isle of Man deserve nothing less.

Recommendations and observations in the Tynwald Standing Committee report on Public Accounts 2010/11 and other reports should be revisited and inadequacies in financial management and budgeting in government addressed and not left on the 'too difficult' pile.

We must raise standards of governance and transparency in government and the public sector, establishing a robust process of internal control to monitor progress of report recommendations. It must be clear how proposals were adopted and if not why not. In short I believe we must have a constructive challenge process for effective government; anything weaker compromises democracy and loses the public's trust in government.

It has not been possible to meet everyone in the constituency but I have been encouraged that those whom I have met wanted to talk at length and share their concerns. I believe quality time listening to the public is key. Please do contact me if you would like to speak with me directly.

To conclude, let's protect what we value most. I ask you please to vote for me. I truly believe I have the experience this town and this nation needs for the next term – a very different term demanding the very different skills I possess.

Linda Bowers-Kasch



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LIBERAL VANNIN PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT

There is a widespread feeling of disappointment in our politicians: we need change. If the same politicians are elected it won't change - more of the same gets more of the same, and that isn't good enough for the Isle of Man.

A Liberal Vannin Government will get a grip on spending and international affairs, and involve the public with the difficult choices ahead to build on our success and secure our future.



REFORM AT HOME and CONFIDENCE ABROAD

Enhance openness and increase scrutiny

- Introduce a Freedom of Information Act
- Appoint an independent Auditor General and an Ombudsman
- Reduce the number of departmental political members to nine

Reduce the cost of politicians

- Require all members of Tynwald to contribute to their pensions
- Eliminate the fixed annual sum for expenses
- Abolish the supplement to Tynwald members salaries for membership of departments and statutory boards

Reform the process of selecting the Chief Minister

- Have an open Tynwald Ballot for Chief Minister
- Require all candidate Chief Ministers to publish a national policy programme before a general election

Improve democratic representation

- Redraw constituencies for the House of Keys to provide equal representation for all voters
- Arrange national elections for Legislative Council

Act more self-confidently abroad

- Exercise greater control of Government revenue by investigating repeal of VAT revenue sharing
- Negotiate better reciprocal arrangements and extend the Island's international relationships

90% think prospective Chief Ministers should take part in public debate

Manx People
Power 2011

54% of residents considered VAT, cost of living and government deficit as the most important issues facing the new government

LV Research 2011

Bringing politics back to the people

SUSTAINING ECONOMIC GROWTH

A Liberal Vannin Government will work with the private sector to sustain growth and maintain confidence and investment: despite the constrained government finances.

Finance sector, diversification and innovation



- Continue to develop regulation and tax policy to enable the finance sector to flourish
- Open discussions to join the European Free Trade Association that our Island left when the UK joined the EU
- Address issues arising from the possible abrogation from the UK revenue sharing agreement
- Create business parks in north, west and south
- Promote the Island's business abroad by involving both the Lieutenant Governor and the business community
- Refund VAT on start-up expenses and promote the Island as a location to hold intellectual property

Island's strategic lifelines

- Explore the development of a privately funded deep sea linkspan to encourage competition in sea freight, transport and attract cruise liners
- Secure London City and other UK landing slots
- Provide ownership and financing opportunities to Manx residents for all strategic lifelines

Leisure, food, energy and environment policy

- Cooperate with the private sector and community to provide facilities for residents and tourists of all ages
- End the Countryside Care Scheme and provide production incentives to farmers
- Encourage our farmers to be part of the first Island Nation to be an organic and compassionate food producer
- Manage the forests for biomass fuel and leisure
- Increase the energy efficiency of all buildings
- Require MEA to pay a reasonable rate for micro generated electricity
- Increase recycling by joining up waste management initiatives

.....the Airport Director and Minister stated recently that if the airport were run on commercial lines annual cost savings of £2 million could be made

IOM Newspaper
July 2010

23% of people surveyed believed that the IOM should increase recycling and reduce waste

LV Survey 2011

Bringing politics back to the people

REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT WASTE

LVP does not believe in privatisation but will encourage Manx residents to be minority participants in the financing of our infrastructure and our strategic lifelines.

Create culture change

- Appoint a political member to the Chief Minister's Office who is responsible for government culture change to improve quality and reduce costs
- Create a Tynwald committee to advise on priorities for delivery of services by reference to 2006 Scope and Structure of Government recommendations
- Avoid redundancies in the public sector by redeploying personnel
- Contract out some services and corporatise some operations

Maintain competitive tax rates

- Set up a Tax and Welfare Commission to review the present regimes to ensure the Island can fund welfare provision without making our tax rates and national insurance rates uncompetitive
- Close existing public sector pension schemes to new entrants
- Ensure government expenditure is less than government income by the 2014/15 financial year

Performance improvement

- Act on 2011 recommendations of Public Accounts and MEA Select Committees addressing inadequate financial management and budgeting in Government
- Reduce expenditure on external consultants by empowering Government managerial and technical staff to make decisions
- Empower all members of the public sector to identify and implement service improvements
- Only approve capital projects following review of published cost benefit analysis
- Create a level playing field when comparing private sector bids against public sector costs

"An annual review of basic expenditure and activity (BEAR) is in place which is no longer fit for purpose....."

Report by the
Standing Committee
of Tynwald on
Public Accounts
2011

*Why does the
MEA sell
electrical goods
when it makes a
loss doing it?*



OUR CARING SOCIETY

Health care

- Protect the front line staff and services
- Introduce benchmarking by speciality involving lay members who report to the Minister
- Develop a website listing consultants, their qualifications and waiting times
- Establish independent auditing and encourage the formation of a Patients' Association
- Promote the Island as a destination of choice for specialist health care by attracting world class specialists to base their business on the Island
- Implement adequate safeguards for the Liverpool Care Pathway and the "do not resuscitate" policy
- Set up a working party to develop an effective first class dental health care policy and system

Social care

- Assist our elderly to remain in their own homes and retain their independence
- Review residential and nursing homes legislation
- Broaden and make public the results of independent inspection procedures
- Investigate the provision of financial assistance to family members who care for elderly relatives
- Introduce a system of direct payments allowing the elderly and disabled to retain more control of their lives
- Introduce measures to address the financial problems of an aging population
- Implement an independent audit of social care
- Introduce a committee of lay members to improve the effectiveness of the service
- Bring into force the Disability Discrimination Act

Military covenant

- The Minister for Social Care will have responsibility for Manx Service Personnel and Veterans and seek to put into Manx Law a Military Covenant defining our duty of care to all past and present Manx Service Personnel

"..... on average Manx children have more than two decayed, filled or missing teeth by the time they are five"

Dept of Health
August 2011



....I am delighted to add my personal endorsement to the LVP's determined strategy towards the welfare and wellbeing of our Manx Service men and women

Charles Wilson
Honorary Colonel

Bringing politics back to the people

OUR CARING SOCIETY

Education and Training

- Protect front line teaching
- Empower parents to select pre-school education by introducing a voucher system
- Emphasise aspiration and achievement and teach all our young people about civic duty and responsibility
- Encourage more apprenticeships by positive discrimination for those who provide them in the tendering process for public contracts
- Provide work experience for those out of employment and training for more than 6 months
- Help the long-term unemployed get back to work by introducing incentives for employers
- Protect the grants system for qualified students and reintroduce tax relief for educational covenants

57% of Full Time Equivalent staff employed in relation to schools are not teachers

Hansard data
February 2011

Housing

- Introduce a protected housing scheme to enable Manx residents to buy new houses for homes rather than investment purposes
- Encourage those in social housing to participate in our property owning democracy by the introduction of joint equity schemes
- Introduce a landlord accreditation scheme to improve the quality of the rental sector



Immigration

- Improve the work permit regime
- Consider bringing into force the 2001 Residency Act
- Review the application of the June 2011 points based Immigration Rules

Housing availability and affordability for first time buyers were the most frequently raised concern by those under 25

LVP research 2011

Pensions and Benefits

- Investigate and prosecute cheats
- Monitor the changing UK National Insurance and basic state pension regimes and then review the Manx system recognising the importance of residence in the Island and contribution to the system



Want to know more
about our policies. Visit
www.liberalvannin.org
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You and Liberal Vannin

Spend your vote wisely and vote for the
only team committed to:

Reform the political system

Reduce government cost and waste

Support the private sector to sustain
economic growth

Provide efficient world-class health and
education for all

Protect housing for locals

Provide better government, better
scrutiny and a Freedom of Information Act

Meet the Liberal Vannin Party Team



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Bringing politics back to the people