



# CAPT. KURT BUCHHOLZ

YOUR CANDIDATE FOR  
DOUGLAS CENTRAL,  
ISLE OF MAN  
GENERAL ELECTION,  
22 SEPTEMBER 2016

## FOR A FUTURE IN *ALL OUR INTEREST*

- Bring back pensioners free TV licences and free public transport
- Repair our roads and pavements
- Upgrade the promenade within a **SHORT** period of time
- Solve the horse tram issue
- Review the rates system, link the rates to consumption
- Diversify and grow the economy with focus on tourism
- Invest sensibly to make the Island attractive for tourism
- Create a competitive platform for businesses
- Improve management efficiency in government
- Limit the use of consultants. Use local knowledge instead
- Solve issues with staff and management at Nobles Hospital
- Ensure a quality health system
- Provide good schools, education, student loans
- Start a tender process for the ferry service
- Introduce a license fee for ferry provider
- Strengthen the Police force
- Re-introduce ID border control in ports and airports
- Free parking for first hour in public car parks.
- Free parking between 6pm and 6am.
- No fees for resident parking areas



I am an ex sea-captain and now a businessman. I live and work in Douglas Central. I am married to Amanda and have a daughter Millie.

I am standing as a candidate to support our constituency and the people of the Isle of Man. Our government urgently needs competence, commercial and financial experience, leadership and management skills to lead us into a better future. I have gathered such experience and skills needed during my professional career.

I am prepared to take responsibility within the new government. In my opinion, it is the best way of serving our constituency and the Isle of Man as a nation.

**This manifesto can only give a brief overview of my ideas. If you wish to discuss specific issues, please contact me on 499256, email: [captkbuchholz@manx.net](mailto:captkbuchholz@manx.net). Your opinion is important to me.**

## Challenges

**We are facing a large number of challenges and need to develop a strategy how to approach and solve them in the best possible way and in the interest of the Isle of Man.**

Our main challenges at present are:

1. We need access to the European market through a new trade agreement
2. Diversify the economy further, making it less dependent on the few present key sectors (banks, corporate services, e-gaming)
3. Provide a competitive platform for Isle of Man businesses to strengthen their position in the market here and abroad
4. Improve the efficiency of the management in government departments
5. Raise the morale and motivation of civil servants
6. Allow the use of consultants only in exceptional cases and use local department knowledge instead.
7. Reform the planning department into a 'support tool' for business development.
8. Set clear and realistic targets with KPI's (key performance indicators) within budget limits for all government projects.
9. Develop a realistic strategy for infrastructure projects with target dates for completion for ports, roads, the promenade and all other projects

10. Make the Isle of Man an attractive and accessible place for tourism

11. Introduce measures to ensure that our elderly and vulnerable people get the needed and deserved support. Bring back free TV license and free public transport for pensioners

12. Ensure that all government contracts go through a tender process

13. Solving health department issues is a priority. The reported management problems and the loss of specialists needs to be sorted out urgently

14. Health and safety needs to be de-regulated

**To overcome the government challenges, we need motivated and committed civil servants who will work hard, efficiently and disciplined, serving our island to their best ability. "Ask not what your country can do for you – Ask what you can do for your country"**

(John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, 20th January 1961)



**Ensure that all government contracts go through a tender process.**



**Vote Buchholz**





# Opportunities

**We have opportunities which we could take now, otherwise they could be lost. These opportunities will help us on our way to a brighter future. If we take them, some will have a short term effect, others will have a on the long term effect.**

1. After the Brexit is triggered by the UK, we will still have our relationship with the UK but we will have to negotiate a trade agreement to retain our access to the European market. Presently we are complying with the EU requirements through the UK and could possibly continue doing so through the Republic of Ireland.

2. Our shortest access to the European market is to the Republic of Ireland. We have the opportunity that our businesses could benefit from a new cargo route to the biggest market in the world.

3. Tourism should once again become a focus and priority in our strategy to diversify and grow the economy. The natural beauty our island offers, with the tranquillity, safety, endless empty beaches, high sea cliffs, clean air and water has all the ingredients for a popular holiday destination. To become a destination for larger number of tourist we need accommodation in Douglas and in other attractive places of natural beauty. We need tourist attractions which include elements of our national heritage, attractive towns and village centres, pedestrian and restaurant areas around Douglas North quay inner harbour.

4. The new ferry service should be beneficial to the Isle of Man with a different ownership structure and different purpose. Any service provider should pay an annual license fee.

5. The sea terminal should become the central hub for our public transport again

6. Douglas harbour needs upgrading with a sensible extension to accommodate larger ships.

7. Recuperation and special care facilities should consider the Isle of Man to be a perfect place to establish

**“  
Tourism should  
once again become  
a focus and priority  
in our strategy to  
diversify and grow  
the economy. The  
natural beauty our  
island offers has all  
the ingredients for  
a popular holiday  
destination.  
”**





# Douglas Central

The constituency of Douglas Central combines the districts of Albany, Ballabrooie, Eastfield, Somerset and part of Garden City from the former Douglas West constituency, with Quay and St Georges from the old Douglas South constituency, and Tynwald from the old Douglas East constituency.

We have 4,842 registered voters living in Douglas Central. The total number of residents is much larger. Our Constituency is a densely populated area, right in the heart of Douglas. We have a large number of businesses. We also have a huge volume of road traffic passing through our area. A part of the TT course runs through Douglas Central when the racing cuts off some streets during the road closures. We are home to a number of schools.

My vision and priority for our constituency is to make our area a better and attractive place for living . . .

- Pavements and roads need urgent repair, resurfacing and markings
- Drop-off areas in front of schools and nurseries need attention to ensure parents can drop off children safely. The daily traffic chaos around schools needs addressing by the police
- The schools need investment and upgrading
- We have to ensure there is free parking for residents and create short term loading/unloading areas for shops.
- Pavements have to be free from obstructions such as overgrown hedges
- Our Parks and green areas should be made more attractive for residents to enjoy.

- We should support small businesses to establish by removing planning restrictions wherever possible.
- Even though we are a safe place in general, I would appreciate to see the local policeman patrolling through our streets.

If elected as your MHK, I will ensure that our area gets the attention and the support it deserves. It needs to remain a nice, safe place for living, doing business and where residents can depend on good schools and nurseries. It should be the place where our children grow up in a nice and close neighbourhood environment.

**“ Douglas Central needs to remain a nice, safe place for living, doing business and where residents can depend on good quality schools and nurseries. ”**



**Vote Buchholz**

# National issues

**We have a number of short term issues and long term issues:**

## **Finance**

We experience an unsustainable financial management in treasury and government departments. The situation is dramatic and needs change. Many important sectors of our economy contracted in the recent years. If we continue on the present course it is only a short distance into the financial abyss. We will run out of money in a few years and the pensions would not be secure. We need to turn the negative trend around and change our course. We can kick-start the economy, but need to hand the control of our nation to different and competent people.

- We have a structural deficit of £75m
- We have a public sector pension deficit of £58 m
- We have annual costs of £170m for public sector pensions (equal to 10% of all government revenue spending)
- Public servant pension lump sum payout of up to £650,000
- We have a £3 billion public sector pension liability
- Government has transferred £100m out of the Isle of Man reserves

We need to increase our revenue by a number of tools:

- Raise the tax cap from the present £125,000 with conditions to create jobs
- Grow the economy (see 'Economy')
- Introduce a low number corporate tax rate
- Create a competitive platform for our businesses
- Charging a licence fee for a monopoly ferry service provider

## **How can we reduce and control our spending?**

- Setting a budget and Key Performance Indicators working within set budget limits with discipline and regular reviews

- Review the public sector management and all government departments to identify possible savings and identify where money is wasted
- Only using consultants in exceptional cases. Use local departmental knowledge instead
- Review all government contracts with Monopoly services like gas, electricity, ferry service, TT organisers, building contractors and others.

**“  
Review all  
government  
contracts with  
monopoly services  
like gas, electricity,  
ferry service,  
building  
contractors and  
others.  
”**



**Vote Buchholz**







# Infrastructure and Economy

These two departments are the 'work horses' of the government. Good infrastructure is the essential basis for a prospering economy and it has to be in this order.

**Merge the two departments under one minister.**

Infrastructure does not only mean roads, trains, bus, ferry, flights, airports and harbours. It also includes electricity, gas and fuel supply facilities. To improve the infrastructure, we need efficient departments and efficient management. The planning department has to be reformed to become a tool for support of investments. We lost investment opportunities in recent years when this prime objective was not followed. Planning belongs naturally to the DOI and needs to be transferred back. If we want to grow the economy, we need to identify suitable and attractive areas for specific businesses and make those places available for development.

- Secure a future ferry service in a new ownership structure
- Repair roads and pavements
- Extend Douglas harbour within our financial limits
- Repair and improve the promenade area
- Provide more free public toilets on the promenade
- Invest in infrastructure projects for tourism
- Connect the whole island to a sewage system and stop sea discharge

We do not need world class projects; instead we need realistic projects suitable for the size of our nation.

Douglas promenade plays an important part for our residents and it gives an important first impression for visiting tourists. Traffic routing and the sunken garden scheme should be extended and systematically linked with the town centre. The promenade is also a prime location for cafes and restaurants. The bay area close to the sea terminal provides space for development opportunities.



**Douglas promenade plays an important part for our residents and it gives an important first impression for visiting tourists.**



**Vote Buchholz**





# Economy



**In general the economy needs full support of the government.**

- We need to provide our existing businesses with a competitive platform
- We need to provide new businesses with attractive conditions to establish here
- We need to diversify the economy further to become less dependent on a very few key sectors
- Fisheries and Agriculture needs support. We need to promote the consumption of local products Our focus should be on Tourism to grow the economy. All investments into tourism will stay on the Island unlike our present key business sectors. However, the natural beauty of the Island is not enough to attract tourists. Our national heritage plays an important role. We have opportunities to make the Island an attractive destination.

A few examples for improvement:

- Snaefell mountain-top panoramic restaurant/café
- Promenade cafe/restaurants in Douglas
- Miles of sandy beaches on the west coast
- Promotion of 25 miles of disused old train tracks from Douglas via Peel to Ramsey passing through the best parts of the Island for bicycles
- Further improvement to pedestrian areas around Douglas, Peel, Ramsey inner harbour quay areas

## Energy Sector

Renewable energy and and electro mobility is another promising business sector. We have free natural energy resources in abundance such as wind and tidal currents.

Wind turbines will help us to become more independent from soaring world market energy prices.

## Environment

The fishing areas, queenies scallop grounds and lobster areas in our territorial waters need protection. We also need to look at the fact that most of the fishing boats fishing in our waters are not Manx.

Reforestation should be a prime task for DEFA. We all live in the Isle of Man, we all have the right to enjoy unpolluted nature and have to make sure that we pass pristine conditions to our future generations.

**“  
The fishing areas,  
queenies scallop  
grounds and lobster  
areas in our  
territorial waters  
need protection. We  
also need to look at  
the fact that most of  
the fishing boats  
fishing in our waters  
are not Manx.  
”**



**ON 22nd SEPTEMBER,  
PLEASE VOTE FOR  
CAPT. KURT BUCHHOLZ...**



**...STANDING UP FOR  
DOUGLAS CENTRAL,  
STANDING UP FOR  
THE ISLE OF MAN.**