



Jobs



Fairness



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LAWRIE

HOOOPER

For RAMSEY



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Dear Neighbour

It's been a privilege to represent you as one of your MHK's for the last 5 years - thank you for giving me this opportunity and for putting your trust in me.

Over the last 5 years I've been vocal about the issues that are affecting our town and our Island, challenging Government from the backbenches and Tynwald Committees, or driving transformation and change from within my Departmental roles.

I grew up in Ramsey and my wife and I have made it our home, a place where we have chosen to settle our family and so there is nothing more important to me than ensuring that Ramsey and the Isle of Man are great places to live, work and grow.

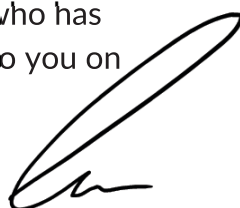
I've tried hard over the last five years to build fairness into government policy, to ensure that government is working in the best interests of the people and is held accountable for its failings. I've always tried to be constructive in my criticisms, scoring political points is not how to drive effective and positive change.

I hope this manifesto gives you a picture of what I believe and how I would aim to represent you if you once again place your trust in me to be your representative over the next 5 years.

Politicians often make promises, so here goes - I promise to do my best, to be honest and up front and to never shy away from difficult issues, and to always put your interests first.

Thank you for taking the time to read this manifesto and thanks to everyone who has provided input as I've been talking to you on the doorstep.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.



Lawrie Hooper



- Ramsey Commissioner 2012-2016
- MHK for Ramsey 2016-2021
- Leader of Liberal Vannin 2020-date

Government roles:

- Member of the Department for Enterprise 2016-2021
- Member of the Cabinet Office 2020-2021
- Member of the Department of Education, Sport and Culture 2016-2020

Tynwald roles:

- Vice Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee 2020-2021
- Member of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs and Justice 2017-2021
- Education Bill select Committee 2020

I'm 34, a qualified Chartered Accountant and trained auditor, having spent the best part of a decade working in the Island's financial services sector supporting a mixture of local and international businesses before being elected to the House of Keys in 2016. Once described by a professional colleague as "generally an all round good egg".

I live happily with my wife Rachael and our two cats, doing my best not to drive them to distraction.

RAMSEY BAY

I will not support any development that would potentially damage our marine nature reserve

Why I don't support the proposals

- I do not want to see the seafront "privatised" - the beach is a valuable free public amenity space and I don't want to see this change
- The proposed housing estate looks to be over intensive - I don't support any intensive housing development on "greenfield" sites and the beach is no exception (I don't think we should be building any housing on the beach at any rate!)
- There is no clarity on how the development would be funded or what might happen if any development fell apart before it was completed - I do not want to see your taxes placed at risk
- I am not clear on how the proposed development would impact on the working harbour or on flooding - these issues are too important to Ramsey to place at risk

Importantly - the first duty of an elected representative is to represent the people of their constituency, so if Ramsey isn't on board, neither am I

What is the current situation?

The Department of Infrastructure have advised me that no agreement has been entered into in respect of the proposals and to date, the pre-conditions that the Department would require prior to any agreement being reached, such as demonstrating value to the taxpayer, due diligence, funding and planning, have not been met. The Department for Enterprise have advised me that they have not endorsed these proposals. Visit Isle of Man have advised me that they have not endorsed these proposals.

The Department for Environment Food and Agriculture didn't respond to my request for information, but I have seen correspondence where they reaffirm the importance of the marine nature reserve.

So what's next?

In the unlikely event government decide to support the development the planning system has a lot of safeguards built in to prevent developments that might damage the environment, or reduce the amenity value of the countryside or the coast, your representatives just have to ensure these are robustly implemented.

The laws, processes and systems we already have will help protect the bay for future generations.

What protections already exist?

For any construction to take place in the Bay would need explicit approval from the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture (DEFA).

Tynwald would have to vote on any lease longer than 21 years.

The Strategic Plan that governs the planning system has a number of safeguards built in, just two of which are:

Environment Policy 1 - "The countryside and its ecology will be protected for its own sake".

Environment Policy 4 - "Development will not be permitted which would adversely affect...Marine Nature Reserves"



CLIMATE CHANGE - THE ENVIRONMENT - BIOSPHERE

Biosphere

Liberal Vannin are **the first** - and at this time **the only** - political party to have signed the Biosphere pledge. This means Liberal Vannin candidates are the only candidates in this election who have signed this pledge.

We've done this because we strongly believe in protecting the natural wealth our fantastic Island and that the Isle of Man can be a world leader in sustainable development, with all the benefits that could bring.



A Just Transition

It's safe to say that we on the Isle of Man are not going to solve the climate crisis all by ourselves, but we have to do our part, and we have to do this in the way that makes the most sense for our community.

I know that the transition into a sustainable economy and a sustainable Island will come with a price tag, but I believe this investment will have significant benefits for the Island. We must ensure that everyone benefits from this investment, not just the privileged few.

This means making sure that investment is targeted at people first. All climate change initiatives will take us closer to our "Net Zero" goal, so we should start by investing in actions that will benefit people the most, like home improvements and cheaper energy costs, and make sure that no one is left behind.

Energy Generation

A big issue for the next Tynwald will be deciding how we power our homes and businesses. It is critical that we have energy security on the Island and aren't totally reliant on the UK. I believe the best way to achieve this is through a distributed grid with a mixture of power sources such as solar, wind, hydro, energy from waste, biomass as well as increasing redundancy with extra connector cables to the UK. This should bring down household energy bills whilst securing our energy needs into the future.

My Aims:

- Set ambitious targets to reduce carbon emissions
- Target a net zero date much earlier than 2050
- Introduce robust measurement systems to ensure Government stays on track
- Increase financial support for home energy efficiency improvements
- Increase 0% loans for business energy efficiency or carbon reduction measures
- Ensure we transition away from our gas and diesel power stations by 2035
- Promote further development of initiatives like the Ramsey Forest Project
- Promote the introduction of a new Animal Welfare Act
- Support the introduction of kerbside recycling, or more recycling drop off points in towns and villages



Liberal Vannin are also members of the Climate Change Coalition



PLANNING - DEVELOPMENT - HOUSING

Suitable, Affordable and Accessible homes

It is now beyond doubt that the Isle of Man has a housing crisis. This has come about largely as a result of government not properly controlling development and not building enough public sector housing or ensuring that enough affordable homes are built.



This must change. We should no longer accept intensively developed housing estates or a lack of affordable housing provision.

I helped establish the Manx Development Corporation for just this purpose - to ensure government owned brownfield sites are developed in the right way, to provide affordable housing of all types - whether that's for rent or purchase, for first time buyers or older people looking to downsize.

First Time Buyers - Downsizing - Affordable, good quality rental - Equity release

As we move towards our Net-Zero target housing standards on the Island will have to increase - as well as more help for people to retrofit and improve their existing homes. Housing should be truly sustainable and this is why I managed to convince Government to adopt Liberal Vannin policy on Housing - to ensure we have suitable, affordable and accessible housing for all.

Housing First

Housing First is an approach that offers permanent, affordable housing as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and then provides the supportive services and connections to the community-based supports people need to keep their housing and build their lives. I've convinced the current Government to investigate this policy, now we need the next Tynwald to fully adopt and deliver it.

Flood protection

A big issue in Ramsey is flood risk and we must do more to ensure new developments have adequate flood protection and drainage systems. We must also ensure that development does not increase the flood risk of other properties. Flooding can also cause issues for Home insurance and that's why I support trying to make the Island part of the UK "Flood Re" insurance scheme to help keep insurance costs down.

My Aims:

- Improve building standards for energy efficiency, including solar panels and charging points as standard on new builds
- Update planning policy to promote net biodiversity gain
- Update planning rules to ensure drainage systems are adequate before developments are allowed to go ahead
- Introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure developers pay a fair share towards infrastructure costs
- Increase the number of public sector houses built
- Investigate establishing a government equity release scheme
- Reform first time buyer schemes & investigate ways to reduce mortgage deposits such as a mortgage guarantee scheme
- Reform public sector housing rules to broaden access
- Roll out more mid-rent properties and similar schemes
- Adopt a "Housing First" model of government support
- Enable and support people to work closer to where they live, supporting active travel and a better work / life balance



EDUCATION - SKILLS - LIFELONG LEARNING

Education

I spent 4 years as a Member of the Department of Education Sport and Culture (DESC) and so I've seen first hand some of the challenges facing our education service and how this government has let down educators, students and parents alike.

It's clear to me that our schools are in need of a revised funding method and additional funding to ensure that schools are properly funded to meet the needs of all students.

It's because of this experience that I was happy to support the NAHT with their candidate pledge - although I made it clear that I intend to work with all teaching unions and education professionals, as well as students and parents, to try and improve our education service.

I am on record supporting the call for higher starting salaries for teachers, to help with recruitment and retention, as well as more investment in our school infrastructure. Some of our school facilities are in real need of further investment, whether it's Arts and Music at Ramsey Grammar, STEM at QE2 or a whole new school at Castle Rushen. **We must ensure education facilities meet the needs of every child and student.**

A concern I hear regularly from parents is that they find it difficult to hold the education service accountable when they struggle to get the level of education and support they expect, especially in relation to children with Additional Educational Needs (AEN). **This has to change.** As part of the next Education Bill we must have a statutory AEN code to set the level of service parents can expect, **independent regulation** and an **independent Education Tribunal** to ensure parents can hold the education service to account.

Education - Skills Training and lifelong learning

Education shouldn't stop when you leave school - we have to ensure that people on the Island can continue to learn and gain new skills whether to retrain into new professions or simply for their own enjoyment.

We need a better framework to support apprenticeships and other "in-work" training, as well as better support for vocational training.

Not everyone wants to go to university, but for those that do we must improve support to help students with the cost of living. I also support looking at mechanisms to encourage graduates to return to the Island and as part of my role on the Economic Recovery Group helped introduce the graduate incentive we have today.

We also need to provide better support for distance learning, especially for skills that we need on Island.

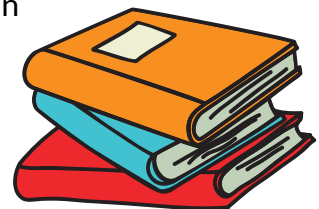
My Aims:

- Increase teacher starting salaries to better reflect the cost of living on the Isle of Man as well as to incentivise recruitment from the UK
- Ensure we have a proper capital investment plan for school and college infrastructure that meets the needs of all learners
- Reform apprenticeship, university support and vocational support, including better support for distance learning
- Reintroduce tax relief for Education Covenants and extend this to cover tax relief for pre-school, childcare and nursery costs
- Reform school funding formulas to better reflect the needs of students
- Introduce a Manx pupil premium to ensure funding is properly directed at the students that need it most
- Investigate graduate incentives to encourage graduates to return
- Establish a statutory AEN Code and independent Education Tribunal

NAHT Isle of Man candidate pledge

I pledge to work with the profession, listening to and acting on the views of school leaders as the experts in education in the best interests of all learners.

I commit to working with the Isle of Man NAHT on their manifesto for education.



THE ECONOMY - JOBS - A GREEN NEW DEAL

Economic Recovery

There is no doubt that Covid has hit the economy hard - and no doubt in my mind that this is not something our domestic businesses can rebound from quickly without help.

This is why, through my role on the Economic Recovery Group, I have been consistently pushing for greater levels of support and future investment - it is my view that we have to prime businesses to help jump start their recovery.



Unfortunately my colleagues don't all share my view and I've only been partially successful so far - but it is essential that we don't withdraw support too early or we risk further damage and potentially much more longer term economic harm.

Average wages only returned to their pre-2008 crash levels in 2017/18 - I believe this was a direct result of the almost-austerity policies adopted by our governments of the time and an unwillingness to provide the support that was needed. We cannot take 10 years to recover from the economic impacts of covid - **we must take a different approach.**

Jobs, People & Skills

The Island has bounced back quickly from the immediate impact of covid on our economy, with unemployment and job vacancies near pre-covid levels - but this brings it's own challenges, many of which have been made worse by Covid and Brexit. As well as work to close the skills gap we also need to continue to invest in and explore new opportunities.

As part of my role in the Department for Enterprise I have supported the development of regulations that will allow the creation of a medicinal cannabis sector on the Island, which could bring hundreds of jobs to the Island, and notably in the North. Government has to continue to be flexible and must have a measured and sensible risk appetite to ensure that we are always able to seize opportunities that present themselves.

A Green New Deal

As a UNESCO Biosphere we are committed to sustainable development and protecting our natural resources - and as part of tackling the climate challenge this is an important piece of the puzzle. I firmly believe that the Island has a lot of opportunities in developing a sustainable economy, creating skilled, secure, well paid jobs. As well as nurturing our own talent, to attract people to fill these jobs we have to create the best employment environment, with modern employment law that supports a healthy work / life balance, good public services and housing that is affordable.

My Aims:

- Update employment rights to bring in better maternity and paternity leave & shared parental leave
- Create a system of statutory sick pay to support employees and employers
- Utilise the Manx Development Corporation to create a "landing zone" where new arrivals can rent and make connections before moving to more permanent housing
- Continue to support businesses that have suffered through the pandemic & be willing to invest in longer term support where needed
- Support and encourage the development of new economic sectors, whilst protecting the businesses and jobs that we already have
- Proactively support both skills development and inward recruitment
- Support businesses and staff as we transition to a "living wage" Island



A NATIONAL HEALTH AND CARE SERVICE

Mental Health Services

A consistent theme when talking to people on the doorstep has been concerns around mental health services on the Island.

Mental health is just as important as physical health and needs to be treated as such. The biggest challenges seems to be recruitment and retention of staff and as with skill shortages in the private sector it is up to government to support our vital healthcare services with training and recruitment.



Waiting times

One of the biggest challenges with healthcare is long waiting times - I am firmly of the view that faster diagnosis and earlier intervention is critical when dealing with people's health. This is why I have been pushing the Department for Health to introduce a robust referral to treatment target to ensure that patients should wait no longer than 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment.

Essential to this will also mean people having quick access to see their GP in the first place and Manx Care should have a robust target to ensure patients get to see the GP in a timely manner.

I appreciate this needs resourcing, but we should first set out what we expect from our services and then work out how to pay for it - not determine the budget first and then see what service we can get.

Long term care

Your health needs don't stop when you hit retirement age - so why do we treat long term care differently to how we treat healthcare? I believe that our National Health and Care Service should provide for people throughout their lives, **long term care should be provided the same way as NHS healthcare, free at the point of use.**

This means we have to find a better way of paying for it - and I support reviewing National Insurance so that we all pay in fairly over the course of our lives and can then access long term care without having to worry about how we have to pay for it.

In Ramsey

Ramsey has some particular advantages and needs, firstly we should make sure we are making best use of the Ramsey and District Cottage Hospital; it's a great facility that is underused.

Our Residential and Care Homes are also in need of further investment, and there have long been plans to replace Cummal Mooar - these should be progressed.



manx care

Kiarail Vannin

My Aims:

- Introduce an 18 week referral to treatment target for Manx Care as part of the statutory Mandate
- Introduce robust waiting time targets for patients so they can see their GP in a timely manner
- Complete a Pharmaceutical needs assessment to determine if Ramsey and the North needs additional pharmacies to introduce competition and improve service levels
- Support the replacement of Cummal Mooar with a modern facility
- Start to transform our National Health Service into a National Health and Care Service, to look after us for our whole lives
- Improve funding for the Health service as set out in the Sir Jonathan Michael report
- Investigate a "Personal Care Budget" to allow more flexible delivery of care services, helping people choose the type of care they get



Liberal Vannin

GOVERNMENT REFORM - DELIVERING BETTER SERVICES

More services delivered locally

Government is often slow to change, which means we need MHK's who are going to knuckle down and do the hard work - keeping trying even though much needed change is only coming slowly.

I believe that government services should be accessible locally, so we don't have to always travel to Douglas just to talk to someone face to face - this is better for Ramsey, better for the environment and better for all of us.

That's why I launched the pilot Community Hubs around the Island. Whilst these are only once a month to start with, helping with digital inclusion and welcome centre support, my vision is that these will become much more regular and consist of a broad range of government services - immigration,

passports, tax, planning, debt counselling, registries - in fact any service the people of Ramsey might need. The pilot hubs have demonstrated that we can do all this with minimal cost attached.

Working locally

A second part of this pilot will be to roll out "Work Hubs" around the Island - meaning government staff can work from places much nearer their homes & work has already started on this. My vision is for a flexible office space in Ramsey where any any public sector staff can book a desk and work, instead of having to travel to Douglas. This will bring more employment to the town, supporting retailers and the high street as well as helping give people more time living and less time travelling. Hopefully then the private sector will follow suit, or this initiative could be extended out to include them.

Rates Reform

I have been pushing for reform of the rates system for a long time - and despite this being a very difficult issue politically I have had some successes in this last term. Government is now almost at a stage where they are ready to push the button - your MHK's just need to convince them to do this!

Reforming the rates system across the Island will help rebalance an unfair system, the total rates paid in towns like Ramsey will drop, being balanced out by rate increases in the parishes. I also believe there should be discounts for single residents, and proper consideration given to charging for some services (like water or refuse) on a "pay per use" basis, for example by using a water meter. This will give people much more control over their household bills.

Local Authority Reform

It wouldn't be a Manx General Election without talking about local authority reform! Tied in with reforming rates I believe now is the time to look seriously at reforming local authorities. The lack of interest shown across the Island in the recent local elections is evidence to me that we have too many local authorities. Merging local authorities will also provide greater scope for them to undertake more services.



My Aims:

- Improve & expand "Community Hub" services in Ramsey to deliver a much wider range of government services on a regular and frequent basis
- Invest in a "work hub" in Ramsey, as well as other towns to help give people a choice if they want to work closer to home
- Complete the rates reform project, to bring in a fairer system that will reduce the unfair burden on towns like Ramsey
- Press government to reform & merge local authorities



TAX - WELFARE - COST OF LIVING

Cost of living

It's pretty obvious to us all that the cost of living on the Island is ever increasing and there are some things government can do to help.

The most obvious is to rein in the constant increases in the cost of government services - we all appreciate that things have to be paid for, but I believe government should be more transparent when it comes to explaining what taxpayers are getting for their hard earned money.



One of the biggest areas government can help impact the cost of living is through actively investing in our housing and building a sustainable economy - by helping people make their homes more efficient, household bills will drop, by building more housing on brownfield sites, and building more efficient housing energy and rental costs will come down, by ensuring people have a secure roof over their heads government services can be more effectively and efficiently targeted.

Tax

We all know Covid has hit the economy hard, and as a result the government has used a lot of revenue and reserves to help keep the wheels on - but our reserves are holding strong at just over £1.6 billion and so now is not the time to try and push tax increases onto working families. If we do need to raise additional funds, there are other ways than making it harder for families to thrive on the Island.

One thing we have seen from Covid is the number of people who struggled to access some of this financial support. This is clear evidence that our National Insurance system needs to be reformed, so that no one who is paying in is left out in the cold when they need help.

Our 0 / 10 tax regime is coming under international pressure, with calls for a global minimum tax rate being made by the G7. This is potentially an opportunity for the Island to really develop our approach to tax, building a fairer system, with incentives to encourage people and businesses to invest and grow here. I would like to see tax reliefs extended to cover childcare, nursery and pre-school costs, as even a 10% reduction represents a big saving for working families.

Welfare

As with the tax systems, covid has shown us that the way we support people in need is in desperate need of being improved.



For starters, too much of our system involves people filling out lots of paperwork, when government already has a lot of this information at its fingertips! Applications should be simple, understandable and wherever possible available both online and in a paper format.

Many benefit rates don't reflect the cost of living on the Island - the rate for MERA was set at £230 and during Covid incapacity benefit increased to £230 as government acknowledged that £86.55 a week isn't enough to live on. **Benefit rates should be linked to the cost of living on the Island.**

My Aims:

- Reform our tax system to make sure we continue to meet international standards
- Reform national insurance to ensure no one paying in is left out
- Introduce tax relief on childcare costs
- Ensure all benefits are linked to minimum income standards, so people have enough money to live on
- Make it easier and more straightforward for people to know what support and assistance they are entitled to and how to access support
- Where possible, use information already held to reach out to people who may be entitled to support they might not be aware of

INFRASTRUCTURE - BUDGET REFORM

Getting the basics right

Throw a stone in Ramsey and there's a good chance you'll hit a pothole. Government focus always seems to be on the big schemes, and not enough on the basic things like proper maintenance.

I would like to see more funds invested in day to day services, like maintenance of our infrastructure and less going towards overblown capital projects.

The best way of funding this would be to ensure these big projects are better managed, by reintroducing the Capital Projects team to ensure capital schemes don't keep getting out of control, leaving more money for getting the basics right.

Better investment in road maintenance also has the side effect of giving us better ways to slow traffic - the picture on the right is of a junction elsewhere in the world but shows we can make our roads better and safer without always sacrificing space for cars or parking.

Often government presents road development as a binary choice - cars or pedestrians - when often good road design can have more than adequate space for everyone. Good road design also helps slow traffic, without needing things like speed bumps and Ramsey could benefit from more 20mph zones around the town, especially in housing areas.

Population

We have to start talking about our population. We know that we need inward migration of workers to help fill skill shortages, we also know that we have an ageing population and a low birth rate, issues which will present challenges that have to be solved. More people on Island will inevitably put pressure on our infrastructure and so we absolutely must start planning for this now, before services are stretched too far.

Budget reform

I believe key to a lot of the reforms I would like to see involves reforming the budget process. Currently everything is decided behind closed doors and Treasury has a disproportionate amount of influence over policy.

I propose that a portion of the road maintenance budget be set aside for Commissioners to "bid" into - highlighting roads of concern in their local areas that can then be focused on by the Highways team. This is a tried and tested method of budgeting called "participatory budgeting" and it used to great effect in many places around the world, even in huge cities like New York. If it works there, why not here?

I would also like to see the budget system reformed to allow for better oversight of how your money is spent. We could, for example, restrict some budgets to a % of total revenue, make better use of cross-government funds and provide more transparency around how Departments spend their allocated funds. Whatever route is chosen, the ability of Treasury to micromanage has to be curtailed.

My Aims:

- More investment in day to day maintenance in basic infrastructure, like roads
- Introduce participatory budgeting around road maintenance and investigate its use elsewhere
- Reintroduce a central oversight team to provide better governance and control over large capital projects
- Address speeding in Ramsey with the introduction of more 20mph home zones and better road design
- Reform the budget system
- Start a public debate around population
- Reintroduce regular in town bus services
- Investigate making public transport free to encourage uptake



Not the junction onto Jurby Road - but it could be...

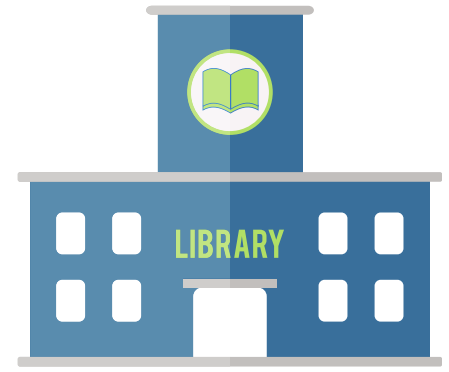


SOCIAL ISSUES

Libraries, Post Offices and Digital Inclusion

Libraries are far more than just places to borrow books, just like a post office is more than just a place to post letters, especially when so many people rely on them for pension or benefit payments.

I'm a big supporter of free local library services and would like to see everyone be able to access a library, whether in town or using a mobile service, just as I think everyone should have access to services provided through the post office.



As more and more services move online it's important that we don't forget about those in our community who prefer to conduct business in person. I believe this should always be a choice open to people as one of the great things about the Island is the ability to talk to a real person, face to face, when accessing services. I would also like government to expand the community support line to be a one stop shopfront for all of government, where anyone can call up to get information and support instead of having to fight through the maze of bureaucracy themselves.

Drugs

As the Chief Constable has outlined in his recent Annual Reports, the Island has a real problem with drugs. I believe that drug use should be treated firstly as a public health issue - many people involved with drugs face many other challenges and support and assistance is often the right answer, rather than pushing them through the criminal justice system. Tynwald has recently accepted my motion to investigate the potential of this approach, which works well in other jurisdictions.

Part of the solution I believe is the regulation of cannabis on Island, breaking the link between cannabis and the criminals who sell it and enabling licensing and regulation to make sure it is safe, in the same way we do with alcohol. However, we should not accept the import and sale of any illegal drugs, whatever they may be, and people involved in this should face stiff punishment from the Courts.

Early Intervention

Whatever the situation, whether healthcare, criminal justice or additional educational needs - we know that the sooner the right interventions are put in place, the better it is for everyone. This means we need to direct funding at those services that do these early interventions, such as CAMHS, the Police Early Action Team and others - in the long run this will also help reduce costs as well as pressure on other frontline services.

Savings

People on the Island don't have access to the same sort of government supported savings products as the UK - such as ISA accounts or enterprise investment schemes. There are also a lot of people without a pension provision and we should explore auto-enrolment like the UK.

My Aims:

- Sustainable funding for library services
- Ensure non-digital, face to face options in our communities always remain as government continues to go digital
- Review the way we address drug use & ensure people get the help they need
- Publish sentencing guidelines to improve transparency around criminal sentences
- Review how we fund early intervention services and invest where its needed
- Investigate setting up ISA savings products, Enterprise Investment Schemes & workplace auto-enrolment



THE LAST 5 YEARS - GOVERNMENT

Over the last 5 years I've held a variety of positions in Government, unfortunately Ministers always get the final say, so while I've not always managed to convince them to follow my lead, I've managed it often enough for these roles to be worthwhile.

Department of Education Sport and Culture - Department for Enterprise - Business Agency - Finance Agency - Cabinet Office - Gas Regulation working group - Zero Hours working group - Committee on Public Engagement and Community - Housing policy board - Economic Recovery Group - SAVE Team



Having this myriad of roles has let me get involved in trying to shape policy in a broad range of areas, but I have always been clear that whatever role I hold, my constituents and my principles come first. This position resulted in me getting sacked from the SAVE team when I refused to vote for a budget which I believed underfunded the health service and the police and removed from a Council of Ministers Committee when I refused to "toe the line".

In these various roles I've always tried to "do" rather than just "talk" and I've had a lot of successes, including:

- Doubling of Pre-school credits
- Increased income for student maintenance grant eligibility from £38,000 to £61,795
- Manx Internship scheme launched
- Launched Graduate Role Incentive to encourage graduates to return to work on Island
- Helped relaunch National Insurance holiday scheme
- As part of the Business Agency helped develop regulations for Medicinal Cannabis export, creating a significant new economic opportunity for the Isle of Man
- Replacing the existing gas agreement with statutory gas price regulation- currently a price freeze and hopefully a lower price cap in the next few months
- Established the Manx Development Corporation to help revitalise brownfield regeneration
- Overseeing over £25 million of business support through the Department for Enterprise Financial Assistance Schemes
- Improved financial assistance availability for businesses outside of Douglas
- Linked all Enterprise financial assistance schemes to the living wage
- Review and relaunch of the Isle of Man Government Digital Strategy
- Launched Community Hub pilot scheme in Ramsey, Peel and Castletown - the next stage of which could include "work hubs" to enable public sector staff to work closer to home
- As part of the Economic Recovery Group I've helped launch and oversee all the Covid support schemes including MERA & Salary Support and the Love IOM gift card. I've consistently fought for better eligibility conditions and additional support - for example:
 - I pushed to link the rate of MERA to the living wage, not the minimum wage
 - I pushed to increase incapacity benefit from £86 per week, to match the MERA rate
 - I've pushed to extend financial support over the summer

I've done this because I believe we need to ensure businesses are robust enough to bounce back stronger as we come out of Covid restrictions

WORKING
FOR
YOU

It's not all been plain sailing, but my approach has been to simply try things - and if they don't work, put them on hold and try something else!

Government spends far too much time writing reports and reviewing and consulting on things, hoping to find a perfect solution - I prefer putting something in place that might help 80% of people, then evolving and changing it to help the remaining 20%.

THE LAST 5 YEARS - TYNWALD AND SCRUTINY

Effective scrutiny is the cornerstone of a modern democracy - it is just as important to have good, robust scrutiny as it is to have a well run and efficient government.

Over the last 5 years I have tried to provide a firm challenge to government policy, with a focus on ensuring that everything government does is fair, cost effective and value for money.

I've also been very pro-active from the backbenches, a key part of the role of an MHK is to legislate, and when Ramsey constituents brought my



attention to an issue that needed the law to be reformed I was happy to take on this challenge - the end result was my first Private Members Bill. A few other things I've delivered on over the last 5 years are:

- Private Members Bill to improve leaseholders rights - drafted and introduced following concerns raised by constituents in Ramsey
- Member of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs and Justice Committee
 - Report on Adverse Possession
 - Recommended changes to the law profession to improve regulation
 - Recommended changes to the Attorney Generals Chambers to improve transparency
- Vice Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
 - Inquiry into Genomic Sequencing
 - Scrutiny of Government's response to Covid
- Tynwald Motions achieved:
 - Improved bus and card concessions for pensioners with disabilities alongside a full review of all bus fares
 - Limiting MUA Price Increases
 - Review of harms caused by illegal drugs, to look into alternative approaches
 - Establishing the Living Wage
- Fought for compassionate Covid border exemptions and against charging for tests
- Select Committee on the Education Bill
- Started the Inquiry into the DHSC move of endoscopy services away from Ramsey District Cottage Hospital
- I've tabled 726 questions in Tynwald and Keys, and that's without counting all the follow ups!
- In the last 5 years 81 Bills have gone through the House of Keys and I've tabled hundreds of amendments, most of which were successful - it's a rare Bill that I didn't end up amending in some way! For example, I worked on and was responsible for **147 amendments** just to the Landlord Registration Bill, to help improve the standard of rental properties on the Island.



I've also kept a close watch on my 2016 manifesto and am pleased to say that of the 27 aims I had in 2016, all except one has seen progress.

12 have been fully achieved, including increasing the personal tax allowance, increasing pre-school credits, more support for apprentices and incentives for graduates to return to the Island.

14 have been partially successful or there is work underway, including establishing an independent health regulator, reviewing the tax and welfare systems, national insurance holidays, rates reform and establishing a better system of means testing

I am committed to following through on my aims and policies

LIBERAL VANNIN PARTY MANIFESTO

Government should help create the environment to enable businesses to thrive and to ensure everyone has the opportunity for a secure job that works for them

- Continuing to attract inward investment and grow high wage, high skill and secure jobs
- Transition to a Living Wage Island, ensuring no-one is paid below the Living Wage by the end of the next administration and supporting small businesses as we make this change
- Enabling the transition to a greener, sustainable economy and protecting our domestic, rural and marine sectors
- Reforming employment law to better support families through modern practices such as flexible working and shared parental leave
- Continuing to support businesses and workers while the Island continues to recover from the covid pandemic and enabling business to bounce back stronger and better

However we engage with government, everyone deserves to be treated fairly - whether its when we pay our taxes, or when we need to access support or government services like healthcare or education

- Tackling the housing crisis through developing an all-Island housing strategy that delivers on suitable, sustainable and affordable homes for renters or owners - at every stage of life
- Ensuring education services, from pre-school to postgraduate and vocational education deliver for all students and deliver appropriate provision for students with additional needs
- Reforming our welfare system to ensure that no one is pushed into poverty
- Working to reduce the cost of living on the Island
- Upgrading our National Health Service into a National Health and Care Service reducing waiting lists and looking after all of us throughout our entire lives

Better decisions are made when we can all have an informed open discussion, when information is shared and when our representatives are held accountable for decisions they make

- Commitment to "Open Data", ensuring government information is available to the public as a matter of course
- Bringing more transparency to the budget process, so changes to fees and charges are not hidden away out of sight
- Ensuring government is held accountable for delivering on time and on budget
- Supporting and protecting whistleblowers who bring to light failings in government systems and actions
- Representatives accepting responsibility for their actions and owning up to mistakes

We will support policy and legislation that gives us more freedom over our lives, whilst protecting the Island through appropriate regulation and not unnecessary red tape.

- Freedom from discrimination
- Freedom to have a meaningful work / life balance
- Freedom from cruelty and mistreatment for our companion animals
- Freedom to choose to have care provided in our own homes in later life
- Freedom to choose our own path in life through ensuring equal opportunities to access lifelong education and skills training and supporting sustainable and secure employment



Jobs



Fairness



Open Government





Vote Lawrie Hooper

Jobs

Revitalising our Island after the impact of the pandemic will be crucial. Policymakers often talk about "rebuilding the economy" but our focus should be on what this means to people. Flexible working, a living wage, lifelong learning are great aims, but what they mean is higher paid, higher skilled, more secure jobs, with the education, training and support systems to enable people to reach their goals.

Fairness

Government services impact on all of our lives, whether it's collecting tax, providing healthcare or education, access to housing, benefit payments, or supporting businesses - none of us expect special treatment, but we do expect these systems to treat us all fairly. This means government needs to move away from box ticking, and start focusing on outcomes

Open Government

Ensuring information is publicly available as well as ensuring that policy can be debated and discussed helps improve the quality of decisions - which means better outcomes for all of us. We should all have the opportunity to choose how we access government services and how we engage with government. Government needs to support and enable people in making these choices.

**A VIDEO VERSION OF THIS MANIFESTO IS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.LHOOPERIOM.COM/VIDEOMANIFESTO**

ELECTION DAY

23rd September 2021

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE A
POSTAL VOTING FORM



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[@lawriehooper](https://twitter.com/lawriehooper)



www.lhooperiom.com

Polling Stations:

8am - 8pm

Ramsey North:

St Paul's Church Hall

Ramsey South:

Ramsey Courthouse

or

St Paul's Church Hall

Public Hustings:

Bunscoill Rhumsaa

Thursday 9th
September 2021

7pm - 9pm



Liberal Vannin

www.liberalvannin.im