

# Vote for Theo Fleurbaay



## **For Your Immediate Attention**

Dear Constituent,

I am standing as an independent candidate for your constituency for election for the House of Keys on September 29th.

Maybe I have already spoken with you on your doorstep but I would like to tell you a bit more about myself and what I stand for.

My name is Theo Fleurbaay and I am 53 years ago. After selling my business 13 years ago, my wife and I moved to the Isle of Man where we established ourselves as hoteliers in Douglas North. We have two children, 13 and 11 years old.

We all love the Isle of Man and we are enthusiastic supporters and ambassadors of this great little island.

Life here has been good for us, and for most of our fellow Islanders.

## **But...over the last few years, things have begun to go sour.**

We are faced with financial and economic challenges to which our Government, our elected representatives, failed to respond appropriately and instead wasted hundreds of millions of pounds of tax payers money, Your money, on projects that most of us didn't want or need.

They have shown an incredible lack of foresight, lack of leadership and lack of resolve in dealing with major issues which have resulted in enormous financial shortfalls. To name but a few: the Civil Service Pensions issue, the £350 million MEA black hole, the £500 million Kaupthing, Singer & Friedlander Bank fiasco, the cancellation of the Reciprocal Health Agreement and the "renegotiated" VAT agreement with the UK (twice!).

We are now faced with hundreds of millions of pounds less annual national income, read: less money to spend on schools, health, housing etc. This will affect each and every one of us, man, woman and child, for years to come. Our economy is under threat and with it our quality of life.

In the next few years Government has to drastically cut spending and find ways to significantly increase revenue to balance the national budget. On top of this, the changes to our corporate tax system forced upon us by the EU could mean an increase of income tax for the low to medium income earners. This we have to try to avoid at all cost.

Considering the performance over the last few years, voters have lost faith in their current MHKs being able to deal with these major issues. The people you and I voted for 5 years ago have let us down, big time!

We, as an island nation, are entering difficult times. Difficult times that ask for new ideas, new initiatives, new leaders, new MHKs. The call is growing to put more people with business experience in the House of Keys to come up with a plan, a strategy, to get us through the challenging years ahead.

I have been in business all my life and have successfully run companies in a number of countries. I have never shied away from making the necessary and sometimes difficult decisions needed to keep my business strong, healthy and profitable.

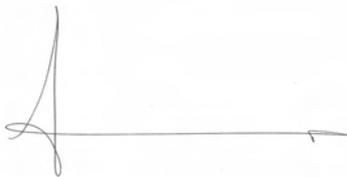
Now IoM plc is entering troubled waters I want to use my 30 years of business experience to help this Island and its great people steer a course away from the looming cliffs. I am convinced that with new MHKs, streetwise with experience in the real world and with a positive **CAN DO** approach, we will be able to see us through the stormy years ahead to a brighter future.

I have spoken with many of you, and I appreciate the valuable time you gave to discuss the issues on your mind. Many of these you will find included in my attached Manifesto, together with my ideas for better Government. Please read it and if you agree it is time for Change give me your vote.

Feel free to contact me with questions, ideas, issues or suggestions. You can call or text me on 380587 or email me via [theo4mhk@gmail.com](mailto:theo4mhk@gmail.com).

Please visit and register yourself on my website [theo4mhk.com](http://theo4mhk.com) so we can stay in touch and I can contact you for your opinion on major votes in the House of Keys.

Kindest regards



Theo W Fleurbaay

**“ Please read my full Manifesto and if you are just as keen as I am for a change for the better then on the 29th of September please vote Theo Fleurbaay ”**



Representation of the People Act 1995

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Printed by Words and Spaces, Unit 15 White Hoe Industrial Estate, Isle of Man.

[www.theo4mhk.com](http://www.theo4mhk.com)

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For Douglas North Thursday 29th September 2011

**In the face of the current financial challenges, the next government will have the following priorities:**

- ✓ Reducing cost
- ✓ Increasing revenue
- ✓ Protecting vital services
- ✓ Maintaining our quality of life.

Please find below my proposals to meet these.

## **Reducing costs:**

**Smaller, cheaper, more efficient government.**

**With a drastically reduced budget for the coming years we have to look at slimming down the current "Supersized" Government.**

## **We need to:**

Reduce management levels in government departments. Establish and protect what is really frontline staffing.

Review the 2006 "Scope & Structure of Government" report and implement those proposals that are suitable in our current economic and financial situation.

Explore the outsourcing of government tasks and services through Public Private Partnerships

and/or Corporations. Government retains ownership but services are run on a commercial basis.

Delegate certain tasks to local authorities. Too often MHKs deal with issues that should be dealt with on a local level.

Protect vital services like Health and Education from the necessary Government cuts. A Nation's biggest asset is its People, and we should look after them.

Investigate possible savings to our NHS budget if high earners would have to take out Private Insurance. This would free up NHS resources and shorten waiting lists. It is a disgrace that thousands of people are waiting more than 12 months to see a specialist, consultant or can't find a Dentist.

**contact@theo4mhk.com**



## **Reducing costs:** CONTINUED

Remove the Child Benefit Allowance for high earners. Review Government spending on Capital projects. Proposals should be based on a proper business plan with an acceptable Return on Investment.

Spend monies **on-island** wherever possible. Government, Private Sector and Individuals alike. Too many goods and services are bought in the UK. Any VAT paid off-island means less income for the Isle of Man out of the joint VAT pot and threatens Island jobs

Explore the possibility of collecting our own VAT, independent from the UK, in the shape of an Isle of Man Sales Tax. It would mean we could set our own rates.

## **Increasing revenues:**

**Improve investment climate for new businesses.**

Remove red tape as much as possible, there is still too much of it.

The private sector is generating the money and creates the jobs. Government should work with the Private Sector to look for ways to create and improve a business friendly environment.

We need to survey why companies come here and use that information as our selling points to

actively approach existing off-island businesses and start-ups and encourage them to move or set up business here.

Step up our international marketing through representative offices in international business centres (London, Brussels, Washington, Delhi, Beijing) co-funded/operated by the private sector.

These National Tourist Agencies and Trade Missions would be networking host countries' governments and businesses and sell the Isle of Man as a fantastic short break destination and a great base for business.

## **Employment:**

**Protect and increase employment.**

Tie-up education with local business needs. Ensure that our educational institutions (College, IBS) are offering courses that local businesses need.

Set up programmes to get NEETs (Young people Not in Employment, Education or Training) in employment or back into education through work placements and apprenticeships.

**Re-train people.**

It is calculated that each unemployed person costs the tax payer 15k per year; it is therefore worth spending money on re-training people for job positions that at the moment are difficult to fill (gaming, finance sector, hospitality). This will reduce our dependency on migrant workers doing the jobs for which no Isle of Man worker is available.

Set up more apprenticeship programmes and make it easier and cheaper for local tradesmen and companies to take on a (school leaver) trainee.

**Reduce the cost of Child Care.**

Parents of young children should not be held back from (re-)entering the work place because of unaffordable Nursery costs. We need to look at ways of reducing the fees through sponsoring or subsidising Child Care.

**call or text 380587**

## Other national issues:

### Government

The Legislative Council should be elected by the People.

### Housing shortage:

We need a complete overhaul of our Housing System. Whilst there are hundreds of (young) people desperate for housing, there are hundreds of empty properties on the Island. We need to look at ways to encourage property owners to make their empty properties available on the rental market at affordable rates.



Subsidise property owners for conversion of properties to first time buyers housing or rental flats. Explore rent/buy schemes for first time buyers.

There should be a Department of Housing Development which will design plans for new low cost house builds and put these out to tender.

### Energy Costs

We need to reduce our almost 100% dependency on expensive (up almost 25%! in the last year) imported fossil fuels for our energy needs and come up with a greener energy policy.

### Travel Cost

The high cost of importing goods in to the Island contributes to our already high inflation (currently at 7%!) and makes our Island less attractive to

visitors as a short break destination. The Isle of Man Government should renegotiate the Steam-Packet User Agreement or look into taking over the Company from the current owner.

### Freedom of Information.

The Isle of Man is one of the last western countries without a proper Freedom of Information Act. This is unacceptable in a modern society.

### IoM-UK Relationship.

The Isle of Man should be steering a more independent course, we are still clinging too much to the UK. We need to establish and improve our relations/partnerships with other nearby countries (Ireland, Scandinavia) and the EU.

## Local issues:

Improve quality of housing where necessary, we all have the right to decent housing.

Housing Shortage. See above under Other National Issues.

Encourage local government to follow the national government in reviewing their efficiency, cost effectiveness and management levels to reduce costs. Councils can work together to reduce costs. Encourage and expand existing and new town improvement schemes. Get local businesses involved, actively or as sponsors.

Improve the Bus Services to those areas of Douglas North that are now not well served.

Increase the police presence in certain areas. Existing Police posts are under threat of closing due to possible cuts in the Police budget. The Police presence in Douglas North should stay at the current level and increased where needed.

**If elected I will be working closely with Douglas Borough Council to improve Douglas for both our Residents and our Visitors.**

**contact@theo4mhk.com**

## Finally:

At present, many of us might not yet feel the effects of the global recession and our severely reduced national income. But it is obvious that we will have to tighten our belts in the coming years.

We need to implement our plans now: it will be too late to do anything when the effects are felt. We have to do our utmost to avoid tax increases, prevent job losses and deterioration of our quality of life. It is easy to govern when there is plenty of money around. But, with a far smaller national income for the years to come, it is crucial that we **ACT NOW** while we still can. While we can still make the choices that are right for us and not those that will be forced upon us.

I am convinced that a new House of Keys with a new "Take Charge" attitude will be able to cut cost and still deliver and even improve the high quality services we have come to enjoy here in the Isle of Man.

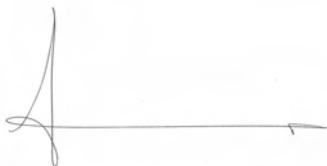
If elected I will be 100% your MHK. I will step back from my business and represent you to the best of my abilities, with **Resolve** and a **No Nonsense Common Sense approach**.

I will ask your opinion for every major vote in the House of Keys so you will have a say in the way I represent you over the course of the next five years.

**Douglas North, please vote wisely on September 29th.**

**Vote for new, vote for fresh, vote for change**

**Vote Theo Fleurbaay**



**THANK YOU.**

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**www.theo4mhk.com**