

HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION

Thursday 22nd September 2016

MANIFESTO

Lamode, Ballakillowey Road, Rushen

In this manifesto I offer you my honest assessment of the issues which currently affect our Island nation, and my considered approach to dealing with these issues, based on experience and common-sense. I have also addressed many of the issues raised with me on the doorstep which directly affect the people in Arbory, Castletown and Malew.

Clearly people are getting worn down by economic uncertainty, government cuts and charges, and constant negativity and they are now looking for politicians to bring hope and encouragement for a brighter more sustainable future. Having served as a Minister in the past three governments, **I see real cause for optimism and much brighter times ahead if only we have the maturity and optimism to move our Island forward with confidence and positivity.**

I have always been open, honest accessible and accountable, and will continue to be so if you choose me as one of your two MHKs.



**A proven track record
and an open, effective,
common-sense approach
for Arbory, Castletown
and Malew and our nation.**

VOTE PHIL GAWNE

I don't believe in empty election promises - honesty and integrity matter to me.

So if it's in my manifesto it is achievable.

I care passionately for our small Island nation, our people and our independent spirit. Having lived all my life in the South and with strong family roots in this exciting new constituency, it has been my privilege to represent your interests in the past three governments.

In considering the significant economic and political challenges ahead, it is vital that our distinctive political independence, our history, culture and beautiful environment are maintained and that our Island remains a wonderful place to live.

Government's record - the past five years!

While it is clear that the past five years have not been easy for many people in the Island, compared with our neighbours we are doing quite well. Government hasn't got everything right and I am particularly concerned about the financial impact of some changes for people on lower incomes. That said, there have been quite a few, largely unreported positives which I list below.

- Reserves down by only £27.8 million (or 2% lower than 2011) but still £1.422 billion - includes £723 million NI fund which grew by £120 million since 2011.
- Moved into our fourth decade of unbroken economic growth.
- Lowest rate of unemployment for eight years and one of the lowest anywhere in Europe.
- Successfully positioned the Isle of Man as a global leader on financial transparency, despite attempts by the OECD, EU, USA and UK to close us down!
- Lowest recorded crime rates ever for the Isle of Man.
- Introduced changes to Public Sector Pensions and an affordable plan to pay for them.
- Introduced plan to pay off the MEA debt through savings generated by creating MUA.
- Broke link with UK and made prudent changes to ensure state pensions are sustainable - no reductions for existing pensioners or those retiring before April 2019.
- Introduced single employment structure for government, significantly reducing bureaucracy.
- Reduced government workforce by 824 (over 10%).
- Reduced the £200 million a year deficit caused by the VAT cut, to just £75 million.
- Introduced new management team to reform and improve our Health Service.

A Brighter, Safer and Happier Future

I believe that government has been too eager to share its troubles with you over the last five years. While it is important to be completely honest with people, many people I've spoken with are tired of hearing about government's problems and more interested in knowing how government plans to make their lives better.

During the next five years we need government to be more positive and to focus more on people's needs. Most people I meet are looking for fair and sustainable incomes, safe and supportive communities in which to live and rewarding and fulfilling lives. They also want government to be clear and decisive, to work faster, and to deliver better, more responsive services.

Fair and Sustainable Incomes

Everyone needs a fair and reasonable amount of money to ensure that they can live comfortably. It is part of government's role to create the right conditions to ensure that we have a strong sustainable economy which delivers good employment opportunities for all, sufficient income to pay for the public services we all need and enough money to ensure that we can all look forward to a comfortable retirement.

This section of my manifesto explains how I would work to ensure that we all have fair and sustainable incomes.



Fair and Sustainable Incomes

International Affairs

Continued threats to our status as an international finance centre, the implications of BREXIT and possible break-up of the UK, and the ongoing and still unresolved impact of the global financial downturn, will undoubtedly require significant political attention if we are to maintain a strong economy.

All Ministers will need to play a part in this vital external work but in particular the Minister for Policy and Reform will need to work in tandem with the Chief Minister in promoting the Isle of Man's international agenda. It is also essential that government works with businesses and other appropriate partners to ensure our message is heard.

We will always need to keep a close relationship with our largest trading partner, the UK. It is though, over fifteen years since we reviewed our constitutional position with the UK and if elected I would call for an immediate review of all the options to see if a stronger option is available.

Tax Strategy

It is clear that while our economy continues to grow at a healthy rate government income is barely keeping up with inflation. This is partly due to our company tax structure and partly our historic reliance on VAT receipts. If we wish to retain good quality, comprehensive public services we need to find a more sustainable way of raising government income.

Our current 0:10 or 0:20 corporate tax structure is essential if we are to retain existing businesses but increasing charges unfairly impacts on those least able to pay. While it is essential that we maintain our headline corporate tax rates, we need to look again at a fairer tax structure which allows government income to grow in line with the economic growth.

The past government has worked up proposals for a fairer 'rates' system and this must be implemented as a priority by the next government.



Fair and Sustainable Incomes

Economic Growth

While our economy continues to grow we need to keep searching for new economic sectors and new ideas to strengthen existing sectors. I welcome and will continue to support the new IT Centre at the Nunnery, as IT, data storage, artificial intelligence and bio-med sectors represent our greatest opportunity for growth.

Opportunities remain in established sectors such as e-gaming, manufacturing and space but government is at times either too slow or too risk averse to grasp opportunities for further growth. To overcome this, we need to create or strengthen strategic partnerships with businesses to ensure they are more active in identifying opportunities and ensure they are much more in control of the promotion and development of their sectors.

Banking, Insurance and Finance still represent a third of our economy. While we have been successful in promoting the Island as a well regulated finance centre, we have in places become over regulated and I would support an **urgent review of financial regulation** to ensure that we haven't become uncompetitive.

Government needs to more fully embrace the concept of a 'can do' approach to supporting economic development. I would also support a **comprehensive review across government to cut out unnecessary bureaucracy and to simplify necessary processes**. I would place a statutory obligation on all Ministers to support their staff in finding ways to assist business.

Rebalancing Government's Finances

While we have been successful in filling a large part of the gap left by the £200 million VAT cut we have at times done this by increasing charges and cutting services which can make businesses less competitive.

I would support extending our current rebalancing plan over a further two or three year period to reduce the impact of cuts on both businesses and the Manx people. This is affordable and would allow a greater opportunity for our local economy to grow



Fair and Sustainable Incomes

Local Economy

With negative messages of worse times around the corner, stagnant wage growth and cuts and charges impacting on people's money, their spending in the local retail, hospitality, food and construction sectors has significantly reduced. **We need to be much more positive as a government in the next five years and avoid depressing messages, harsh cuts to services and unfair increases in charges.**

You are more likely to spend on new clothes, a night out, quality Manx food or some work on the house if you feel more secure financially. Government must be more careful to avoid undermining local business and more **government support needs to be made available to new business and innovation in the local economy.**

Travel and Tourism

While reliability remains a concern for some airlines, it is clear that lower prices are much more available for flights to and from the Island. **As Minister I have been working with airlines in recent weeks to improve the punctuality of flights and I hope this will become more evident in the coming months.**

I have also been working with the Steam Packet on a deal to reduce fares and freight charges, and improve services and reliability. **I would continue to fight for long term stability, reliability and cheaper fares** if elected.

Tourism helps ensure that there is a diverse range of activities for us all to enjoy as well as supporting the local food and hospitality sector. I support the new tourism plan and will encourage its implementation if elected.

Farming

The local food sector has initially benefited from the BREXIT vote but there are uncertain times ahead. Farmers are currently severely affected by very low red meat prices which are having a devastating impact on the industry.

Measures I introduced to allow farmers to have more control over what they produce can only work if farmers are competing on a level playing field on processing costs and returns. **Urgent action is needed to deliver this, if we are to ensure the survival of Manx agriculture!**



Fair and Sustainable Incomes

State Pensions

With the UK in great financial difficulty and no NI fund to rely on, government prudently decided to end the reciprocal agreement we had with the UK. This will allow us to protect our pensioners from any desperate measures the UK may have to take in the future and ensures that we can use our hard earned £723 million NI fund wisely to sustainably support existing and future pensioners.

There has been a lot of misleading information from people who would prefer to leave decisions about your future pension in the shaky hands of the UK Government. It is really important to emphasise that anyone in receipt of a pension or who becomes eligible for a pension before April 2019 will be largely unaffected by the change. Even those retiring after this point will only see modest reductions in their pension entitlement.

This change does allow us to introduce greater flexibility in the Manx pension system giving you choices on when you wish to retire, and rewarding people who decide to work longer with a much bigger pension. **I have been pleased to support these pension changes and would continue to support prudent measures which ensure fair and sustainable pensions and greater choice for you about your pension.**

Public Sector Pensions

Seven years ago we had seventeen public sector pension schemes all governed by decisions taken in the UK. Five years ago we took the major step of bringing public sector pensions under the control of the Isle of Man Government under one unified scheme.

Unfortunately the continuing global economic downturn has meant that many of the assumptions made by the actuary advising us on the unified scheme have proved inaccurate so in June this year further changes have been made. **We are now in a position that for the first time since public sector pensions were introduced here, government controls the pension scheme and has a sustainable plan to pay for them.**

The plan is expensive but the cost largely covers the legacy built up when the UK controlled our schemes. I would continue to support this plan and any measures that deliver greater fairness to the tax payer and public sector workers.

Fair and Sustainable Incomes

Work and Benefits

Since the last election **government has increased the minimum wage so that people are £38 a week better off in work than on benefits.** We have targeted the long term unemployed to help them back to work through training, support and removing the increase we used to give to those unemployed for longer than a year.

These actions have **helped reduce the long-term unemployment figures by 47%.** With the lowest unemployment rate for eight years and large numbers of job vacancies each month there are very few people capable of work that need to be long-term unemployed.

I would certainly support further investigation into how we could reform work and benefits legislation to ensure that people are fairly rewarded for the work they do and a stronger incentive to work is developed.

It is important to remember that benefits are there to help some of the most vulnerable people in society and they should not feel threatened or shamed when receiving the support they need. **I would continue to speak out to ensure that people who are in most need are given the support they require.**

Economic Fairness

We do have to be very realistic about the challenges ahead. We will need to continue to handle government expenditure with great care and it is important that growth in our economy assists those in the community who have struggled most in recent years, particularly those who have relatively given the biggest amounts towards the rebalancing of government spending.

We must work harder to ensure that taxation becomes as broad and as fair as is possible. New economic activities must be developed for the benefit of all.

Thoughts of using basic income as a basis for a secondary but nevertheless vitally important sustainable economy on our island have a number of supporters and this topic deserves a wider debate. Government has enhanced the minimum wage to ensure that work is more attractive than living on benefits and I would support a full economic appraisal on whether we should go further.



Safe, Supportive and Healthy Communities

Having a good and reliable income is important but equally important is a friendly and comfortable place to live. Again government plays a vital role in ensuring we have good quality housing, safe and friendly communities and an excellent health and social care service. This section explains how I would support this important aspect of our lives if I'm elected.

Housing

Over the past five years government has spent over £75 million helping 256 people buy their first home, building 399 new houses and substantially reducing public sector and first time buyer waiting lists. Plans are being developed to continue to respond to the needs of first and possibly second time buyers and I would continue to support such initiatives.

Public sector rents have increased by nearly 35% during the same period and while public sector rents are still low in comparison to the private sector it is clear that many public sector tenants are struggling to meet these substantial, above inflation increases. For this reason when I became housing Minister last year, **I abandoned plans for a further significant above inflation rent increase until such time as an appropriate means testing system can be introduced.** I believe that this is the only justifiable approach.

We have done a lot of work to insulate public sector homes and have for the first time built two houses which require little or no energy to heat. If elected I will continue to support this work and press for more zero or very low energy houses to be built. **This not only provides more comfortable housing for tenants but also reduces costs to the tax payer** as less money is required for maintenance and for benefits to pay for heating.

More needs to be done to support people living in fuel poverty usually in privately rented or owned housing. I supported the issue of a Government Bond which will be used to **help the private sector improve the insulation on their properties** and would continue to **support this and promote greater awareness of the savings better insulation can bring.**

Stronger legislation is required to control the relationship between landlords and tenants and a radical overhaul of all our housing legislation is long overdue. **I would strongly support moves to improve our legislation to better assist people in delivering their housing needs.**

Safe, Supportive and Healthy Communities

Immigration and Work Permits

Our only significant control over who comes to live and work in our Island is the work permit legislation as the UK controls our immigration policy. While we need to have more flexibility in our work permit legislation to encourage key people to come to work in the Island and fill the more specialist higher skilled jobs, **we also need to enforce the remaining legislation until such time as we have more appropriate means of controlling immigration.**

Population Growth

There are strong calls to grow our economically active population to help grow our economy. **While I recognise that some growth is necessary, it is important to firstly reconnect economic growth with growth in government income.** Until this happens growing the population only grows the gap between income and cost of delivering services.

I strongly support measures to encourage younger people into work and older people to stay in work and support moderate population growth in line with previous levels.

Planning

I have fought hard to introduce a high level review of planning to ensure that our policies and laws meet our Island's needs. While it is always difficult to get the right balance between protecting our built and natural environment and meeting the needs of our economy, I would fully support new policies and laws which make planning quicker, simpler, more transparent and more democratic. **Local communities should have more say in local planning.**

Roads and Infrastructure

Significant under investment in our roads and infrastructure maintenance for decades is now beginning to take its toll. As interest rates are so low at the moment we could borrow money at low rates and spend **an extra £3 million a year to radically improve our decaying highways.** We could also **invest some of our reserves in revenue generating projects such as a marina in Port St Mary or a deep water berth for cruise ships.** If elected I would support such measures.

Safe, Supportive and Healthy Communities

Health and Social Care

Alongside having enough money and a comfortable place to live, being healthy enough to enjoy life is important to us all. **One of Government's biggest challenges is finding the money to pay for our health and social care services.**

While there remains some inefficiency within the service which needs to be squeezed out and redirected to front line services, we are still nearly £10 million short of what we need to ensure waiting lists are reduced, quality improved and adequate numbers of staff employed.

We didn't increase employees NI contributions when the UK did several years ago. If we matched UK levels by increasing by 1% **we could raise enough to provide the extra money needed for health and social care services and stop any significant increases to the unpopular 'toilet tax.'**

I am a strong supporter of the new health and social care strategy's five strategic goals:

- **People take greater responsibility for their own health**
- **Help people stay well in their own homes and communities, avoiding hospital or residential care where possible**
- **Improve services for people who need care in hospital**
- **Provide safeguards for people who cannot protect themselves**
- **Ensure people receive good value from health and social care**

In the health service that we are all familiar with we tend to wait until we have a major problem before treatment is given. So we don't give sufficient physiotherapy support to prevent much more expensive operations being needed later. **We don't intervene early enough in mental health cases and wait until very expensive care and support is required.** I strongly support early interventions to avoid bigger more costly treatments when illness becomes more intense.

As more of us are living longer, despite improved home care and support to help us stay at home, we are going to need more residential and nursing homes. The Department estimates that we will need one new care home every two years for the next twenty years if we are to ensure that there will be sufficient places to satisfy demand. I would support the necessary measures whether delivered by the private or public sector to address this growing need.

Safe, Supportive and Healthy Communities

Safe Communities

Clearly if we are to have safe communities we need a strong police force. Despite significant reductions in the police's budget, recorded crime figures are at an all-time low. We must not be complacent about these figures and must **ensure that sufficient police officers are available to meet the minimum staffing levels the Chief Constable and his team have identified to ensure a reasonable level of service can be maintained.**

I fully support the more integrated approach to policing which encourages Government departments, local authorities and voluntary groups to support the police in keeping our communities safe.

Road Safety

I strongly support **designing danger out of our roads** where possible. I have also been progressing road safety legislation which will **encourage R plate drivers to take more advanced training**, as inexperience in the years after drivers pass their test is a key cause of accidents. I am also supporting measures to ensure cyclists and horse riders can be safer on our roads.

Public Transport

The **number of passengers using our buses has been growing by between 5 and 10% each year**, buses are more comfortable and reliable encouraging more passengers and savings of around £1.5 million have been generated through reduced fuel and maintenance costs.

I have supported the introduction of a trial of a community skipper bus service in the north to give more isolated, vulnerable or frail people greater opportunities to travel from their homes. If the trial is successful, a similar service is planned for the south.

Flood Defences

With increasing coastal flooding being widely predicted by most climate forecasters I have been keen to ensure that schemes are made available to defend communities should they wish. **Schemes for Castletown have been prepared and I would support them if you want them.**



Safe, Supportive and Healthy Communities

Environment

The positive way in which we interact with our environment was recognised earlier this year by UNESCO and I was proud to have played my part in this.

Working with farmers and fishermen to manage our landscape and territorial sea ensures that we have a pristine natural environment in which to live and work. We do need to give support and encouragement to them, and the voluntary groups that work so hard to protect and promote our natural environment.

I would support measures to limit uncontrolled burning of waste in the countryside, strongly support recycling where it is environmentally responsible to do so and would **support the introduction of a plastic bag tax which could be used to fund projects which have a positive impact on our environment.**

The built environment, our towns, villages and houses also need our support and protection. New legislation which I introduced will soon allow local authorities **more power to deal with unsightly and derelict land and properties.** I support measures to better protect and promote our more historic buildings and allowing flexibility to ensure they have sustainable future uses.

Energy

Collectively we spend well over £100 million a year on imported energy to heat our homes and fuel our cars. If we could save half that **through better insulating our properties, using more energy efficient lighting and appliances and perhaps driving electric vehicles, this would leave £50 million to spend in the local economy instead.**

Using electrically powered air and ground source heat pumps to heat our homes and greater use of electric vehicles would also bring the cost of electricity down as fixed costs are shared across more units. I strongly support the introduction of this technology and would support government initiatives to promote its use.

We have made some progress in promoting wind and tidal energy projects in our territorial sea. We must continue to press ahead with such projects as they are not only good for the environment but also a significant source of income for government.



Rewarding and Fulfilling Lives

Perhaps less obvious and less supported by government is our need to live happy, rewarding and fulfilling lives. **Support for arts and culture is sometimes considered desirable rather than essential, but happy people tend to be more productive and healthier people.** This section describes what I believe we should do to support this important aspect of our lives.

Education

I firmly believe that **education should be about inspiring children to learn** and that teachers should be encouraged to be innovative, not bogged down in centrally controlled process and dogma.

Changes to pre-school support introduced greater fairness across the Island but the change has led to Castletown losing its nursery provision. While it's unlikely we'll go back to the old system **we should encourage stronger links between nursery providers and local primary schools.**

Government must continue to invest in education for our Island's future and not allow our standards to fall back to those in the UK – **without the ability and enthusiasm of teachers nurturing and encouraging our young people there is little hope for our future.**

Students who obtain their degree should be encouraged to return to the Isle of Man through potential tax breaks or help with housing costs, after they have had an opportunity to gain experience in the wider world. **I would support the introduction of a loans scheme to help students who currently feel unable to pursue their education due to lack of funds.**

We need greater opportunities for apprenticeships and educational support particularly in areas where we have skill gaps. **Companies should be given incentives to support students both in academic and vocational subjects where they have skill shortages.**

Government offers excellent special needs provision and I will continue to support this service. The service should reflect the needs of children with learning difficulties but also those of exceptionally gifted and talented children. Corporate bursaries should be encouraged where practical.

Rewarding and Fulfilling Lives

Manx National Heritage

We have one of the finest heritage services in the world but cuts and squeezed budgets are beginning to show. We should ensure adequate funding of this important service and encourage greater commercial opportunities where possible.

Heritage Railways

Our heritage railways are not only great for us to experience but they also are a big draw for tourists. **I was pleased that we have been able to save the important horse tramway and plans are in place to reduce its deficit down to break even** in a few years' time. I would support moves to allow our heritage railways to operate under a similar charitable trust structure to MNH.



Arts and Culture

Manx arts and culture not only give us an opportunity to engage in and be challenged by new and entertaining experiences, but also **help reinforce positive perceptions of our nation, and have a positive impact on businesses and the visitor economy.** I strongly support the work of the Arts Council and Culture Vannin and am a strong advocate for our Manx language.

Sports

We have a range of very active sports communities in the Island who receive strong support from Government. **I have been particularly keen to encourage more outdoor leisure and sporting opportunities and have recently initiated the work to develop a new cycling strategy for the Island.**

Local Issues

I am a strong believer that **local decisions should be taken at a local level** and have spent the past two years working with local authorities to give them greater power and responsibility to look after their local areas. So far local authorities have taken back responsibility for certain highways maintenance functions such as hedge trimming, weed spraying and street sweeping, and greater control over parking issues.

Working groups have been formed to tackle inefficiency, bureaucracy and areas where both local and central Government do the same or similar work, and great progress has been made on waste and housing. A new Southern Area shared waiting list has been agreed which allows anyone in the south in need of a public sector house to put their name on just one list allowing them the opportunity for a public sector house anywhere in the South.

I would like to see local authorities take on **a much stronger and diverse role in assisting local charities and community groups to deliver activities, support and entertainment to the people in their area**. This would include helping central Government better identify the needs of vulnerable and isolated people in their local communities and **better targeted facilities for children and young people**.

Southern Issues

It seems strange to me that our constituency's MHKs, Commissioners, business leaders and community groups never meet formally as a group and if elected I would ensure that we establish an Economic Regeneration Committee for the South East.

This Committee would be able to strongly represent the interests of Arbory, Castletown and Malew pushing Government harder to deliver, for example, the Airport Technology Park planned for Ronaldsway, a replacement for the dated Castle Rushen High School and an upgraded public swimming pool.

The Committee would hold public meetings at least twice a year giving people a greater understanding of, and say on its work.



Local Issues

Castletown

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing your two new MHKs will be how to put the heart back into Castletown. **While a daunting but very necessary task, I am confident that with MHKs, Commissioners, business and property owners and retailers working together as a team we can put Castletown back on the map.**

- Some important steps have already been taken but any significant future work in the town must have greater public buy in.
- I strongly support the Castletown housing review. **Our town needs space to grow.** There should be active community engagement in deciding where houses should go.
- I support plans for further development of Poulson Park to provide more sport and recreation facilities for young people.
- I support the move of the police station into the Town Hall and the creation of a new policing museum on the old site.
- I will ensure that sufficient investment takes place in the Castle to ensure the next new Governor is sworn in in Castletown.
- I will look to improve nursery provision in our town.

Arbory

While a lot of work has been undertaken on the roads in the South this year, many of our roads remain in a poor state of repair.

- **I would support measures to improve our minor roads and estate roads across the constituency.**
- I would support further low cost traffic calming measures in Ballabeg and Colby.
- I support the introduction of the proposed skipper bus services which would link the more remote areas of our constituency.
- I would ensure that Colby has a break from large housing developments.

Malew

There are plans for more houses in Ballasalla which if developed could lead to greater congestion.

- I support plans being developed by DoI for a new bypass for Ballasalla.
- I would ensure the community is actively involved in planning new development.
- I would ensure the somewhat shabby centre of Ballasalla got a face lift.
- I would lobby for Silverdale to once more become an attractive tourist destination.
- I would ensure appropriate traffic calming was introduced in St Marks.

Faster, Better Government

Providing Better Services, Faster and More Creatively

Government is still struggling to drive out inefficiencies and deliver services which are more responsive to your needs. We need to be far more forward thinking and willing to take risk in delivering more rapid change across the public sector.

If elected I will:

- **Support measures to place a duty on the Chief Minister to support and defend staff who work outside of their comfort zone in trying to improve services.**
- Support early implementation of legislation to make government a single legal entity, so avoiding legal conflict between Departments and deliver more effective services.
- **Empower staff to take decisions more quickly and get the job done.**
- Ensure politicians stick to setting policy and strategy but also ensure that the relevant officers deliver the policies set for them.
- Encourage a more collaborative approach to decision making ensuring relevant stakeholders have the opportunity to influence decisions before they're made.
- **Urgently review financial regulations to reduce bureaucracy, improve efficiency, save money and allow work to be done more quickly and at reduced cost.**

Making Government Work for You

There is a growing part of the electorate that has become disengaged from or disinterested in politics. I am keen to support measures which will make government more transparent and credible.

If elected I will:

- **Support a programme for government being developed, consulted on, debated and agreed by Tynwald.**
- Fully support measures suggested by Lord Lisvane to ensure appropriate separation of government roles from Tynwald scrutiny roles.
- Support measures to more regularly ask the public to vote on issues that affect them and explore ways in which more direct democracy can be trialled.
- **Ensure public consultations are more meaningful and that public responses could more readily influence decisions.**
- Ensure that any issue which more than 20% of registered voters want debated will be raised in Tynwald.
- **Support legislation allowing voters to remove an MHK if more than half become dissatisfied with them during their term of office.**

Faster, Better Government

Our Digital Future

It is clear that **our Island's economic future will be significantly influenced by new technology and cutting edge innovation in the IT sector.** It is also clear that government services can be delivered to meet your needs in a more responsive way if we embrace this new digital age.

While **it is essential that we maintain access to all services for those who are not yet up to speed with computers,** we should increase digital accessibility so empowering people to more easily access the services they need. Government should aim to make sure that everyone who wishes is fully e-enabled.

The new MI Card which people are now using to claim their pensions should be developed more extensively so that it could be used, by everyone who chooses, as an access card for all government services. Treasury would ensure that appropriate access to services would be available through use of the card depending on each individual's needs. **Those most in need would get most support and varying degrees of support could be provided through to the more wealthy who would not need support.**

The system would be much more responsive to changes in personal circumstances allowing essential support to be more readily accessed. The card would also allow people to register their satisfaction for each of their interactions with government. **We could also use the card to cast a ballot from the comfort of our own homes** or perhaps the local post office or other government building.

While we are not quite ready to deliver such a system, it is clear that it should be a medium term aim for the next government, as it could significantly reduce costs and improve services.

If we are to make a success of this digital future then we must focus on supporting more of our people to build the relevant skills to allow them to do the hi-tech jobs in the new digital economy as well as supporting those less able to embrace the change.



VOTE PHIL GAWNE FOR ARBORY CASTLETOWN AND MALEW YOUR VOICE IN GOVERNMENT

If elected I will:

- **get involved, not shout from the side-lines**
- **listen to all points of view**
- **make sure that government lives within its means**
- **be decisive**
- **support measures to grow our economy**
- **be open, honest and accessible**
- **be fair to all sectors of society**
- **develop a stronger international profile**
- **protect and promote our heritage**

I believe in listening to and working with people. I have always tried to be pragmatic and responsible enough to realise that it is working within the system and not shouting from the side-lines which delivers results. If it is your wish, I would be honoured to represent you and our new constituency in the House of Keys, and I ask for your support on Thursday 22nd September.

Visit my YouTube channel Phil Gawne Election 2016 - to find out more!

By Election Day I will have called at every home in the constituency. If I've missed you or you want me to call again, or if you require a lift to the polling station please get in touch!

Call: 834844 or 416221 Email: philliebeg@gmail.com

For Strong Leadership, Experience and Teamwork!

Make PHIL GAWNE ONE of your TWO choices

