



House of Keys General Election  
Thursday 29 September 2011



# **Liberal Vannin Party**

## **National Manifesto**

*Bringing politics back to the people*

# Liberal Vannin Manifesto

Dear Voter

I am pleased to present the Liberal Vannin Party Manifesto which has been developed by our Party in recent years as the problems with our Government have been getting worse.

I am delighted that we are contesting nine constituencies in this election and in my constituency of Onchan I am joined by Zac Hall making the number of Liberal Vannin candidates ten in all.

I have been engaged in politics on the Island for over 30 years and I am delighted with the values, skills, and experience of all the Liberal Vannin candidates. With your support, we can face the national challenges head-on, bring about democratic reform and protect our prosperous and caring society.

Each of our candidates has developed a manifesto to reflect the interests and challenges of their particular constituency. But at this election we have all been surprised, and pleased, that most voters are much more concerned about national issues rather than the issues on their doorstep.

We have therefore developed this manifesto to address the national issues that are country is facing and I commend it to you.

Yours

*Peter Karran*

*Liberal Vannin Party Leader*

# LIBERAL VANNIN PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT



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

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

## REFORM AT HOME AND CONFIDENCE ABROAD

### Enhance openness and increase scrutiny

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

### Reduce the cost of politicians

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

### Reform the process of selecting the Chief Minister

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

### Improve democratic representation

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

### Act more self-confidently abroad

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

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

**Manx People Power  
2011**

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

**LV Research  
2011**

## SUSTAINING ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

### Finance sector, diversification and innovation



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

### Island's strategic lifelines

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

### Leisure, food, energy and environment policy

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

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

**IOM Newspaper  
July 2010**

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

**LV Survey 2011**

## REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT WASTE

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

### Create culture change

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

### Maintain competitive tax rates

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

### Performance improvement

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

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

**Report by the Standing Committee of Tynwald on Public Accounts 2011**

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



# OUR CARING SOCIETY

## Health care

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

**Dept of Health  
August 2011**

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

## Social care



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

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

**Charles Wilson  
Honorary Colonel**

## Military covenant

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

# OUR CARING SOCIETY

## Education and Training

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

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

**Hansard data  
February 2011**

## Housing

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



## Immigration

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

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

## Pensions and Benefits

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

**LVP research 2011**



Want to know more about our policies? Visit [www.liberalvannin.org](http://www.liberalvannin.org) for a spoken or large print copy just write to  
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# You & Liberal Vannin

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

**Reform the political system**

**Reduce government cost and waste**

**Support the private sector to sustain economic growth**

**Provide efficient world-class health and education for all**

**Protect housing for locals**

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

## Meet the Liberal Vannin Party Team



*Bringing Politics Back to the People*