

Robert Howard **QUAYLE**

GENERAL ELECTION Thursday 22 SEPTEMBER 2016
CANDIDATE FOR MIDDLE

MANIFESTO



The Manx Government will be facing some major challenges in the next five years but if we can overcome them - and overcome them we must - then the Isle of Man will be on a secure footing to both protect and develop the services we all seek. At such an important time in the Island's evolution we need MHKs with political experience and vision to reduce expenditure and grow the economy.

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ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE MANIFESTO



Introduction

Dear Residents of Middle,

Many of you will know me as I live in the constituency and I and my family - wife Lorraine and three children - have been actively involved in the local community for many years. I am writing to you with my manifesto and to remind you that I am seeking re-election for Middle in the forthcoming House of Keys General Election. We look forward to meeting many of you in the days ahead or on Election Day itself.

I have a wide range of work experience in the public and private sectors both as an employee and employer. I have been employed within Government as a civil servant in Treasury and have found myself on both sides of the table in relation to my presidency of the Manx National Farmers Union. As a private businessman I have developed three successful undertakings.

Over the last five years I have had the privilege of representing the people of Middle and the Isle of Man. Due to the recent boundary changes Middle welcomes back residents of Santon to the constituency and will now elect two members to the House of Keys.

My track record hopefully demonstrates determination, innovation, an ability to listen to others and ultimately the delivery of what I believe to be best for the Island. I am an ardent supporter of the Isle of Man and am committed to ensuring we promote and safeguard the Island's unique way of life, together with securing a sound, healthy future for the next generation.

I would be grateful for the opportunity of continuing to work with my fellow residents, and Middle's local authorities, for the good of the constituency, future generations and the Island community.

ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE Candidate for MIDDLE GENERAL ELECTION Thursday 22 September 2016

The Key Challenges:

On the front page of my manifesto I refer to the major challenges this Island is facing. These are:

1. Managing the liability of public sector pensions over the next 40 years.
2. Balancing still further the loss of £200 million in VAT receipts - now down to £75 million.
3. Handling, and responding to, the attacks on offshore finance centres which are likely to increase in the coming years.
4. To continue the provision of a sustainable and high quality health and social care service.
5. To ensure the Isle of Man is in a position to capture the opportunities that the departure from the European Union, as a result of the Brexit vote, may present. It is all very well listing what are the challenges without detailing how we go about addressing them. However, throughout my manifesto you will find that I tackle these subjects head-on and specify what I am doing to help overcome them.

Over the last five years, I have shown I can be innovative and prepared to tackle major issues rather than just point scoring. I have worked with the Office of Fair Trading to bring forward legislation banning cold calling on the Island. I did this with a view to protecting the public from rogue builders and other sharp practices. This year in Tynwald I moved the introduction of the long overdue Disability Discrimination Act which will start to be implemented from mid-December 2016.

During my time as Health and Social Care Minister I have overseen the development of a new health and social care strategy and introduced the Isle of Man's first-ever mental health and wellbeing policy. I also took a motion to Tynwald aimed at initiating a development fund to help new businesses locate to the Island and enable local ones to expand.





ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE MANIFESTO

Education - an opportunity to succeed

Education is vital for ensuring the success of our Island. It is critical to improving our economy and creating career opportunities for our children. We all have a responsibility to develop our young people to be successful learners and confident individuals.

We are blessed with very good primary schools in Middle and secondary schools on the Island. However a priority for me, once we have successfully balanced the economy, would be to increase the numbers of teaching staff and reduce classroom numbers. I support cutting bureaucracy and paperwork to a minimum, thereby enabling teachers to maximise their time in class and continuing to achieve outstanding educational results.

I believe we need to focus our training and education opportunities to provide everyone wishing to learn or retrain with a chance to develop their skills and talents to fulfil the dynamic opportunities which our diverse economy offers. These range from a nurse, an engineer, and an IT specialist to niche manufacturing. I fully support the establishment of more apprenticeship schemes in these, and other, areas. We have to remember that some children, with maybe different skills, often flourish in a less academic environment and with this in mind I feel there needs to be more support and training for these young people.

We need to devise a method of encouraging more of our graduates, and perhaps their graduate friends, to return to the Island to help fill the skilled job vacancies in those areas where we are currently struggling to attract qualified candidates. I would suggest that perhaps the Isle of Man hosts stands at Careers fairs at top universities where we have strong affinities.

I would also propose a tax break for a few years for all of our Manx graduates who return to work on the Island. It could provide the Island economy with an additional highly educated workforce.

It has been my long held belief that we need to teach more of our students Chinese and I have lobbied for this since being elected to the Keys. I am delighted that Ballakermeen High School has recently established their Confucius classroom to promote further learning of the Chinese language and culture.

ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE Candidate for MIDDLE GENERAL ELECTION Thursday 22 September 2016

Health & Social Care:

I recognise that our Island's Health and Social Care system is under pressure and faces a range of tough challenges now, and into the future. Yet, the focus of some people on what isn't perfect within our Health system detracts from what is working well and the many improvements that have been made. We have a Health and Social Care system which, in spite of the many issues it must face, has improved performance and increased productivity. We have hugely committed and professional staff working extremely hard to provide an outstanding service to the Isle of Man.

The fact that more of us are living well into old age is something to celebrate but it will undoubtedly create challenges. Adult care and support plays an essential role within our Health and Social Care system, helping many Island residents to maintain their independence and quality of life. This responsibility can only increase in the years ahead.

Soon after being appointed Health and Social Care Minister it became apparent to me that our current health care model was unaffordable for the next generation. The King's Fund health service think tank based in London recommended that NHS trusts investigate the Canterbury model which had addressed the question of treating an ageing population within the community.

As a result, I travelled to New Zealand to see for myself how this policy was delivered and the Canterbury team then came to the Island at its own expense to help us take it forward. There was criticism in some quarters of my trip to New Zealand but meetings with doctors, nurses and the general public have resulted in the formulation of a five year health and care plan. The proof of the pudding will be in the eating but one thing is certain - we must deal with the situation where the number of people over 65 will rise by 53% over the next 20 years while the number of people of working age will rise by only 2%. An answer has to be found and I believe the Canterbury model is the way ahead.

It is a fact that already various NHS Trusts in the UK - not to mention parts of Australia - have gone down the Canterbury route so we are obviously not alone in thinking that this policy could serve us well in the future.



ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE MANIFESTO

New Health Facilities:

In order to address staff shortages in specific skilled areas I have initiated the construction of a new nurses' home to provide affordable and convenient accommodation close to Nobles Hospital, as well as increasing the number of nurses we train. Under my tenure this increased from seven in 2013 to 20 in 2014

The new Mental Health facility "Manannan Court" which is currently under construction, will come on line in April 2017 and assist in the delivery of a much improved Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

A recently constructed Endoscopy Suite and a publicly funded Breast Care Unit have both recently been completed and demonstrate our commitment to improving the services offered to the people of the Isle of Man. I am particularly delighted that the teamwork and co-operation with the Manx Breast Cancer Support Group has delivered a state of the art facility.

Planning:

The Eastern Area Plan has at long last started with a call for development sites which affects all of Middle. This will continue for the next few years.

While I am supportive of additional first time buyer and sheltered housing developments it is imperative that residents follow what is being proposed as once this plan has been approved by Tynwald, following an Independent Inspector's hearing and report, changes to this plan are unlikely.

I have already spoken with officers working on this plan to try and ensure that the provision of a site for a shop in Santon is taken into consideration when additional zonings are being proposed.

A shop, road crossing and bus layby have received planning approval in principle in Crosby.

ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE Candidate for MIDDLE GENERAL ELECTION Thursday 22 September 2016

Business, Finance and Growing our Economy:

Growing the economy has always been my top priority. A successful economy is key to our future prosperity and a pre-requisite for building first class public services, social justice and an island of opportunity.

I value enterprise and will promote an entrepreneurial culture while recognising the need to support risk-taking as a means of expanding the economy.

Admittedly some joint public and private working groups have been set up, but not enough has been done. Therefore, I will continue to promote this in the next administration, and with the fallout from Brexit it is important we all work together to find opportunities for the Island.

The Department of Economic Development needs greater funding and restructuring to help grow the economy. Our competitors spend significantly more resources in this direction than we do.

Our Shipping and Aircraft registries, which have been highly successful, need to be allowed to run at arm's length from Government as I have seen the possibility of further growth being restricted by internal processes.

Balancing government accounts and finding extra money to improve the services that we all hold dear will be difficult in the next administration.

Obviously the best option to do this is to grow the economy. With this in mind I took a proposal to Tynwald in 2013 stating that we should set up a £50m enterprise fund which would lend money to successful local companies looking to expand and also to encourage new business to the Island (not in direct competition with our existing ones.) This project/fund has just been launched by the Department of Economic Development and will be a great help in growing our economy. However, we must continue to reduce the size and cost of government.





ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE MANIFESTO

Brexit and International Relations:

The Isle of Man is a world class player, not just in sport but in many aspects of our diversified economy. Therefore, we need experienced politicians who can represent the best interests of the Isle of Man at both domestic and international levels. In my last five years as your MHK I have gained invaluable experience through representing the Island at the British Irish Council meetings, discussions at Westminster, the Labour and Conservative party conferences and as a participant in a UK Treasury Scrutiny course.

The Brexit decision has come as a shock to many people but is now a reality. We must seize any opportunities to develop new markets for existing Manx-based businesses, and also encourage new exciting projects that are looking to relocate to the Island, to help further diversify and strengthen our economy, providing increased opportunities for everyone.

We must press for the most favourable conditions possible in any post-Brexit negotiations. It is not all doom and gloom as many positive opportunities will present themselves so it is essential that - when they occur - the new Government is in a position to take advantage, as well as creating its own initiatives.

I believe that our Government needs experienced business people - the kind who seek out opportunities, have an ability to take bold decisions for the good of the Island and wish to harness the wealth of knowledge there is within this Island. In short, we need people who want to help us go forward as Team Isle of Man.



ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE Candidate for MIDDLE GENERAL ELECTION Thursday 22 September 2016

Pensions:

MHK and MLC Pensions-

Following an election pledge in 2011 I was on the committee which proposed to Tynwald - and this was accepted - that all members should pay the same percentage pension contributions as civil servants.

The same committee later recommended - and again it was approved - that all re-elected members should contribute 15% of their salary towards their pension. This is a responsible move and ensures politicians are leading by example.

Public Sector Pensions-

My budget speech in 2012 highlighted the issues relating to the unsustainability of the Public Sector Pensions scheme. I described it as being, effectively, a 'Ponzi' scheme which was reliant on the contributions from the current workforce to pay for those who had already retired.

It was my Tynwald motion in February 2014 which called for a full review of public sector pensions. This led to the introduction of increased contributions from members of the scheme together with a reduction in accrual rates, making it more sustainable and affordable for both members and the taxpayer.

This cannot be the end of pension reform but should be considered a step in the right direction. We must be mindful that this scheme needs to be competitive if we are to continue to attract key employees - for example, medical staff.

State pension-

With around £700 million in reserves for the state pension, and a new scheme which will come into operation on 6th April 2019, its sustainability has been assured. Now that this has been agreed I feel we should look to make other amendments in the next legislative term.

These changes should include a flexible retirement age for those whose employment involves heavy physical work, as well as a more gradual increase in the pension age for women rather than the current situation which revolves around those born in a certain year.

Transport

The main local complaint concerns speeding traffic with Middle's roads being the main artery into Douglas. All the South and West traffic comes through Marown, Braddan and Santon and the speed of vehicles is a major concern.

Over the last five years I have successfully lobbied the Department of Infrastructure to provide additional traffic calming measures. I have also requested, on numerous occasions, that the Police attend with speed cameras to try and slow down traffic to a safer level when travelling through the constituency. While this has helped in some areas it has certainly not solved the problem and I feel an all-Island solution must be developed to educate and deter speeding motorists who have no respect for the concerns of residents.

In the last five years I have lobbied for a new bus station in Douglas so that passengers can take shelter from the elements and it is hoped that re-development in the Lord Street area in the near future will bring this about.

Our transport links to and from the Island are a major concern. This does not only affect our sea-links but the number of cancelled flights and delays at our airport are unacceptable and improvements must be made if we are to reduce the cost of goods and services on the Island.

The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company is looking to extend its User Agreement in the very near future. If this is to happen then concerns must be dealt with over any future sale of this company where the price is significantly greater than the company's physical assets - due to a large value being attributed to the User Agreement.

The cost of travelling - whether it be freight, residents or tourists - must be properly addressed before any agreement is signed. A major factor in growing our Tourism Industry revolves around achieving competitive prices for travel on and off the Island.

ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE Candidate for MIDDLE GENERAL ELECTION Thursday 22 September 2016

Environment and Countryside:

The Isle of Man has recently been awarded the accreditation of a UNESCO Biosphere reserve which acknowledges the outstanding beauty of our Island and how we, as a Nation, work with it. We are the first and only entire jurisdiction to be awarded this recognition and I will work to ensure we capitalise on the opportunities it can bring. This designation can be a major selling point in attracting an increased number of visitors while, at the same time, encouraging more niche companies to relocate here. It would result in economic investment while enabling employees to enjoy our unique quality of life. In addition, my aim is to further promote our Island's unique quality products, including food and other services, together with goods marketed or manufactured by local companies.

Agriculture on the Island is undoubtedly being impacted by low commodity prices and I believe we can market our top quality award winning produce better, with clearer and distinctive labelling highlighting the unique attributes of the Island. We need to ensure that our farmers are able to compete on a level playing field with their competitors, and that consumers who wish to buy Manx food and drink can be assured of the provenance of their purchases.

Brexit may present some unique opportunities for our agricultural industry and I will be happy to try to create those opportunities, and assist with accessing new market openings.

I will continue to support the development of on-Island renewable energy streams and believe that we should consider any new opportunities to develop innovative sources of energy generation. As Minister of the Department of Health and Social Care I have also supported the trialling and implementation of energy efficient social housing.

A new Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Management Strategy has been delivered and I will endeavour to ensure that we all do our utmost to protect those individuals and businesses who either have, or could be, impacted by changes caused by extremes of weather.

While supporting the need to create and develop new economic opportunities, as a custodian of the countryside I remain very mindful of our unique, beautiful and now internationally recognised living working landscape.



ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE MANIFESTO

Protecting our Island and Community:

I am delighted that the crime rate on the Island continues to fall, guaranteeing our Island community remains a safe and enjoyable place in which to live. Our hard working police force have done an excellent job and I remain committed to supporting and working with them. I also remain committed to cutting red tape and paperwork thereby enabling police officers to carry out practical community policing such as speed control and ensuring “bobbies are on the beat.”

A high percentage of our Island’s prisoners are there as a result of drug and alcohol issues and the more preventative work we can do will help to reduce these numbers. I have instructed officers in the Department of Health and Social Care to work with all the appropriate agencies including the Police, Prison Service, Probation Service and non-Government organisations to carry out a full review of our drug and alcohol strategy. This will make certain we are addressing the actual issues rather than perceived ones.

Representatives from the Department of Health & Social Care have been working closely with police officers so that appropriate help and support is available for the increasing numbers of people with mental health issues.

I was delighted to support the new Fire Service building in the South of Island.

Having witnessed at first hand, the professional actions of the various emergency services, I remain committed to pressing for the allocation of adequate funding to resource these hard working and invaluable organisations so they can continue to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

Some of My Initiatives:

As Chair of the Planning Committee I introduced changes to the Permitted Development process which has reduced red tape for home owners, enabling them to make minor improvements at a cheaper cost to both Government and the taxpayer. It has also resulted in the delivery of a better service for individuals.

During my tenure I also reduced the operating costs of this division from £1.045m to £585k per annum.

ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE Candidate for MIDDLE GENERAL ELECTION Thursday 22 September 2016

As Minister of the Department of Health and Social Care I led and delivered the widening range of schemes to help people get on the property ladder by expanding the Shared Equity Scheme for first time buyers, and I hope to develop this further. Working closely with my fellow Manx Electricity Authority Board members, I have brought forward and implemented a structured business plan to pay off the MEA debts.

During my term as Health and Social Care Minister I have ensured that waiting times for hip and knee operations have been cut by one year. The Health and Social Care Bill will give the public their first Patient Charter. Since I have become Health and Social Care Minister the majority of patients suffering from Wet Macular ARMD are now treated on Island.

Local Issues:

I like to think I am approachable and during my five years as an MHK have dealt discreetly with a wide range of issues affecting my constituents. Working together with local authorities and appropriate government officers has ensured schemes and projects which have been brought to my attention by residents of Middle have been delivered in a timely fashion.



Early in my tenure I lobbied for, and have had introduced, speed limits for the Braaid and Baldwin village. In co-operation with Braddan Commissioners I have ensured road crossing refuges have been installed at the Forge near Mount Murray, Tromode Woods entrance and by the shop in Union Mills, together with a car park in Union Mills.

I successfully lobbied to have the roads adopted in the Cronk Grianagh Estate. During the re-surfacing of Peel Road I ensured that some of the old hard-core was recycled to resurface the railway track from Union Mills to Crosby. This is now a much used asset within the community.



ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE MANIFESTO

I have liaised with officers from relevant government departments to secure additional car parking spaces at Marown School in an attempt to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety for users of the school. I have also had Wig Wam flashing lights installed for Marown School – again to help calm traffic and improve child safety. It is anticipated that traffic calming measures in Eyreton Road and Top Crosby Road will be in place in spring next year. Surveying has already started and again I have worked closely with the Department of Infrastructure to achieve this.

In Conclusion:

Thank you for taking time to read my manifesto and for your strong support over the last five years. I genuinely believe that by working together and using the huge range of skills and contacts available through our local residents, we can continue to prosper while growing and further developing the economy. This can be done without diluting, in any way, care for the more vulnerable individuals in our community.

During the last five years as MHK for Middle, I have gained an increased wealth of political and business experience both on Island and overseas and I would endeavour to use all of these contacts where I could to secure a sustainable, vibrant and caring future for the Isle of Man.

I try and listen to all of your concerns and do my utmost to represent you both individually and collectively to the very best of my ability. I would welcome the opportunity to represent the electorate of Middle for the next five years.

Yours sincerely,



ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE Candidate for MIDDLE GENERAL ELECTION Thursday 22 September 2016

The polling stations are open from 8.00am to 8.00pm at:

Marown

Crosby Methodist Church Hall,
Old Church Road, Crosby.

Santon

Santon Old School,
School Lane, Castletown Road.

North Braddan

Commissioners Office
Snugborough Avenue

South Braddan

Port Soderick Recreational Hall,
Quines Hill.



VOTE ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE

**The General Election takes place
on Thursday 22 September 2016**

If you require an absent voters form because you are unable to attend the polling station due to incapacity or absence from the Island please contact me on 496038 or 851659.

Alternatively a proxy form may be completed if you are absent from the Island and you wish to appoint another person to vote on your behalf.

If you would like transport on Election Day, please do not hesitate to contact me.

VOTE QUAYLE
Robert Howard



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