

Secondary Policies

Off Island Transport Commission

Developing a long-term plan for an effective and efficient service for the Isle of Man that gives value for money and which helps to create the diversification in our economy is essential.

A Commission should be set up with representation from the freight, tourist and business communities to develop sound economic and competitive policies with regard to these lifelines for the Island.

We oppose the extension of the User Agreement, the full details of which have yet to be made public.

We will also be looking at the extension of the runway at Ronaldsway on an effective and cost efficient basis in order that we can accommodate larger aircraft so that we can reduce fares as part of the structure of dealing with tourism in the future.

Listed Buildings

We would take this responsibility away from DOLGE and put it into the hands of an independent body allowing the Council of Ministers to retain the right of veto, but such veto would have to be justified and openly explained. This independent body would also deal with the grant scheme and the Redundant Church Conservation Trust as part of its remit.

The Manx Language

This should have the same support as any local language would have in a British Isles country, with benefits for tourism and education which could both have an economic benefit for the nation. Always remembering “Gyn Chengey, Gyn Cheer” – No Language, No Country – the importance of our language has to be recognised, along with the development of new initiatives to allow all to be able to use the educational facility of Manx.

Manx National Coastguard

We will investigate the viability of a Manx National Coastguard based upon a model from the USA. The Manx National coastguard would deal with all related issues collectively and this will make for a service which will be efficient and effective when dealing with drugs smuggling, illegal immigration, and the destruction of fish stocks in Manx waters.

National Transport

The party advocates and supports free public transport for all.

The car culture is causing chaos on our roads, as anybody attempting to get in and out of Douglas at rush hour will know. Efficient and available public transport is the key.

Free travel for all on the buses is not an impossible dream but an economic necessity. The average capital cost of providing a single car parking space in Douglas is about £26,000. When the numbers of car parking spaces are totalled, it is obvious that the money so spent would go a long way to subsidising free travel.

The environmental damage is a legacy that we will be handing on to our children. There must be a culture change and we should look at reinstating part of the rail system as a viable mode of transport in and out of Douglas. We have not the room to build wider and bigger roads so alternatives have to be found. Any decrease in road traffic is bound to have an effect on carbon emissions, the reduction of which has to be a goal of any responsible Government.

Legal Aid Review

A Legal Services Commission has been set up but the Council of Ministers ignored the recommendations given. We will be calling for those recommendations to be made public and a

resolution to the problem that only the very rich or the very poor can utilise the Legal system. This is yet another situation which needs top priority. We would also welcome looking at small claims and tribunals as alternative effective and efficient ways of dealing with disputes.

Official Receiver

We would look to the establishment of an Official Receiver and an overhaul of the Bankruptcy Law. We would also reform the present system of Coroners making it a requirement that office holders must be members of the Manx Bar.