

# POLICY

Liberal Vannin Party

Summer 2009

Draft Document

# THE ECONOMY

The Liberal Vannin party has recognised that any gap as an effect of the performance of the finance sector will need to be filled. We also recognise that to try and work through any solutions in isolation from the rest of the world economies would be a foolish. We have already seen some of the effects for ourselves of trying to go it alone in the finance sector. Our policy is to:

- 1 Diversify the economy.
- 2 Provide a Government framework that is able to respond quickly to global issues. (the environment, EEC regulation, financial regulation, energy, etc.)
- 3 Encourage investment in new and emerging technologies suitable for location in the Isle of Man. (High value business, design, development)
- 4 Low taxation environment to encourage growth of Isle of Man businesses.
- 5 Proactively protect existing major sectors (finance)
- 6 Provide an economically viable support infrastructure for all existing and new businesses. (Travel, energy costs , communication, etc.)
- 7 Promote improvements in Manx legal framework to support new businesses. (Patents, investment, e commerce)
- 8 Skills – Strategy for training key skills to support the diversification of the economy.
- 9 Government should provide initiatives through a clear strategy to encourage the development and use of more Isle of Man companies to support major Government projects. (Self sufficiency).
- 10 Raise the awareness throughout the world to promote the Isle of Man as a first choice for business location / re-location.
- 11 Improve and encourage closer ties with the UK government. To have an increased influence on UK government and to ensure changes in regulation in the UK / EEC have a minimal impact on Isle of Man business.

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 1 The Liberal Vannin Party will base its policy on the premise is that the whole of the Education System should work for everyone regardless of age or academic ability and we recognise that Education is for life.. Education should not be judged purely on statistical achievement and the drive towards administrative excellence as opposed to educational excellence will be halted. In order to do this the Party will :
- 2 Retain and protect both the present Education and Grant Systems (for students to attend University).
- 3 Encourage further development of Vocational and Life Skills Education and review the current style of curriculum taught in schools
- 4 Investigate providing more parental choice in school selection
- 5 Protect the right of children to have an education that will help them achieve their maximum potential in life.
- 6 Provide the resources to maximise the potential of the pupils who are less academically inclined and those with learning difficulties.
- 7 Ensure that the Manx Government in partnership with the parents take full responsibility for troubled and troublesome children.
- 8 Cease the practice of blindly following reforms from the UK.
- 9 Continue to provide grants to Manx students wishing to further their studies at University.

# THE ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

- 1 The Liberal Vannin Party will develop a sustainable agricultural policy which will build the future of the industry in the long term. In order to do this the Party will :
- 2 Develop food processing and marketing initiatives giving the Island a broader base and adding value to local produce catering for modern food markets..
- 3 Investigate the possibility of the Isle of Man becoming the world's first totally organic farming nation and a centre of excellence in small scale agricultural methods.
- 4 Investigate the possibility of a covered market for high quality local produce and to develop a strategy to support diversification unto new markets.
- 5 Continue to develop and promote a sustainable fishing industry and to Claw back control of this asset for the Manx and traditional users and thus protect the stocks for future generations.
- 6 Encourage the redevelopment of the Port Erin Marine Laboratory as an Irish Sea Centre of Excellence..
- 7 Will develop a wider, sustainable forestry programme and encourage the extension of the Island's glens rather than submitting them to the clutches of developers.
- 8 Maximise the use of public land for the diverse array of special interest groups in our society.
- 9 Remain committed to 'Sustainable Development' for the protection of our environment and supports the encouragement of a culture of recycling and environmental awareness towards developing a greener strategic agenda
- 10 Investigate tidal and wind power..
- 11 Maximise the Island's public transport systems and improve the systems so as to discourage the use of private cars. Provide an express service to outlying towns and augment the bus service.
- 12 Encourage a policy to ensure the effective and efficient spending of Overseas Aid. Have a purchasing policy for Fair Trade products and be part of the equation for Overseas Aid with the Government supporting a 'Fair Trade' Island status.

# HEALTH

The Liberal Vannin party believes every person on the Isle of Man has the right to adequate access to health service treatment, throughout their lifetime. From ante natal care through to pensions and care homes, 100% of the population should be catered for in a prosperous and caring society.

- 1 Health services including Dentistry - A first class health service is one of the highest priorities of the party.
- 2 Preventative health measures - Investment in early detection of preventable diseases, and open inspections of newly proposed checks.
- 3 Residential and nursing homes - Care of the highest standard should be made available to all residents, irrespective of their economic backgrounds.
- 4 Pensions - The public sector pensions system must be attended to urgently, the private sector cannot continue to fund government pensions at the present rate.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Liberal Vannin Party will develop strategies in tackling social issues that are proactive and a major factor in the creation of crime. We will put into place structures to deal with crime effectively and efficiently and ensure the services already in existence to help prevent crime are more accountable. In order to do this the Party will

- 1 Call for a truly independent review of the Penal System and bring back accountability into the policing of the Island and to have a Police Authority directly elected by the people of the Island to bring back accountability to the Chief Constable who is responsible for the way the police force is run. Advocate 'common sense policing' and abolish statistical based policing for maintaining law and order on the Island.
- 2 Make the Police Complaints Procedure an independent body in order that the general public have the right support in the event of a grievance.
- 3 Investigate ways in which the Island's law enforcement and drug agencies can deal effectively with the threat of drug trafficking..
- 4 Create a Manx Coastguard to deal with issues to do with law enforcement of the Island's territorial waters.
- 5 Work closely with the DHSS to help break the circle of addictions which leads to crime Investigate more progressive ways of preventing crime.
- 6 Investigate alternatives to the criminal justice system. Training, rehabilitation and re-education programmes, weekend detention, tagging and more effective community service orders.
- 7 Ensure that prison life will be tougher. Prison should be a 'last resort' but privileges will have to be earned. The teaching of Life Skills and job re-training would be an integral part of a prisoner's incarceration.

# IMMIGRATION

We will develop and implement a clear and controlled immigration policy, which tackles both legal migrants and illegal asylum seekers.

To this end the party will seek;-

- 1 Protection of Manx worker at home must be a priority.
- 2 Protection for Manx workers abroad
- 3 Controlled immigration based on the Islands economic need and prosperity.
- 4 A clear stand on the deportation of illegal immigrants and asylum seekers

# GOVERNMENT REFORM

The Liberal Vannin Party will restructure Government to create a responsible and accountable Government which is both focused and committed to facing up to the real issues and problems on the Island. In order to do this the Party will :

- 1 Change the current patronage system to one where Members are elected on merit and ability
- 2 Endeavour to serve the people of the Isle of Man and establish a sustainable economy for all
- 3 Create a fully accountable, auditable, transparent and efficient Government whose primary purpose is to provide quality public services that represent value for money
- 4 Restructure Government Departments in order to get the frontline services working for the people
- 5 Make sure that people appointed to the Public Accounts Committee should have no other role in Government
- 6 Introduce 'Conflict of Interest' Legislation
- 7 Create a new Public Information Service
- 8 Introduce a 'Freedom of Information' Act
- 9 Overhaul the Ministerial system so that no member of the Legislative Council can be a Minister or the Chief Minister in the Government of the day until elected by the people

# HOUSING

Liberal Vannin is committed to introducing a realistic and practical system for Manx workers and other groups to get onto the housing ladder by introducing a new 'Protected Local Housing Market'

The ability to care for our citizens and our economy depend on stability. For many the ability to find affordable housing is totally out of reach. If people can't afford to live here, they will leave the island.

To protect our way of life we will;

- 1 Support Government initiatives such as;
  - Government backed part equity schemes
  - Release of Government owned land for development of affordable housing
  - Incentives for 'Brown Field' development.
- 2 Raise the rental standards by way of; An 'Approved Landlords Registration Scheme'
- 3 Close the quality gap between lower end rental accommodation and the rest of the market. by asking landlords to work alongside Government housing standards officers towards a new minimum rental standard for rental properties.
- 4 Sheltered Housing
  - Establish small units of sheltered housing in conjunction with DOLGE and DHSS for the vulnerable and needy in our society. Provide a young chronically sick with long term funding and support.
- 5 Long Term Planning. To support long term and sustainable economic growth a strategic plan will be created and implemented.