

HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 22nd 2016

YOUR
CANDIDATE
FOR
GLENFABA
AND PEEL

Ray
HARMER

Moving forward together





Dear Constituent,

Since being elected last September as MHK for Peel, it has been a privilege to serve, initiate positive change, and gain valuable experience. Many important projects have begun which I hope to see come to fruition over the next few years such as the completion of the sewage treatment plants and the expansion of Peel Medical Centre.

The way in which we approach the next five years is crucial. Innovation and vision are needed to deal with the impact of Brexit effectively, to find creative solutions for the public services pension and the budget deficit, to grow the economy and reshape government to meet future challenges.

Glenfaba and Peel is a great place to live with a vibrant community and rich heritage. I believe strongly that as we continue to move forward together, positive partnerships will open the way for a bright future.

Ray Harmer



Profile

Having attained an Engineering degree at Cambridge University and later an MBA with the Open University, I have worked in business on the Isle of Man for over 20 years. This has included responsibility for setting up offices worldwide and implementing systems and processes to enable companies to expand and become more efficient.

I was elected a Peel Commissioner in 2009 and served as Chairman four times. It was an exciting challenge to bring people together to try to make things better; a playground was constructed at Clothworkers School, Marine Parade was updated and Commissioner Housing was improved. More recycling sites were set up and many events, such as the Soapbox Derby, were

organised to attract visitors. The aim was to reduce costs in creative ways and even offer free library membership, free WIFI and free tennis courts.

Since being elected MHK I have been given roles in two departments: the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department of Infrastructure. Also since April's Tynwald I have been elected as Chairman of the Isle of Man Post Office. I am a member of the International Development Committee, Vice-chair of the Public Services Commission (Employers' Side) and have served on the Harcroft First Time Buyers' committee.

Being involved in local life is very important to me; I am Chairman of the Peel Heritage Trust, Vice-President of the Peel Gardeners' Association, Chairman of the Regeneration Committee, committee member of Western Live At Home, co-opted member of the Friends of Peel Centenary Centre, a member of the Western Athletics Club, the Isle of Man Cambridge Society and Peel Golf Club. More widely, I support the Manx Wildlife Trust and Manx National Heritage. I enjoy running and have completed the London and Paris marathons for charity. I play saxophone with the Manx Saxophone Ensemble and enter the Parish Walk each year, finishing at Peel several times and completing it twice. I am married to Adele and my son, Nathan, attends QEII.



Work starting on the new nurses' block.



Relocation of Douglas Post Office

Progress last year includes:

- *Commitment to the construction of Sewage Plants for Peel and St Johns in 2019.*
- *Manx Credit Union now established to support those on low income.*
- *More pre-school nursery vouchers .*
- *Involved in the launch of 5 year health strategy.*
- *Motion on flexible pension age supported.*
- *Review of Post Office strategy and successful relocation of Douglas Post Office.*
- *Tynwald agreement for a Liverpool landing stage.*
- *Working in the Public Services Commission to improve efficiencies in working terms and conditions.*
- *Substantial savings made in the Children Services division.*
- *Working with all parties to carry out Foxdale road improvements.*
- *Progress made toward long term solution for Peel dredging; trials for disposing Raggatt leachate.*
- *Progress toward the Dalby woodland scheme.*
- *Tenants association set-up for Food Park.*
- *Acquired Regeneration Funding and commitment to road improvements in the West.*
- *Working with Commissioners on a range of issues such as the creation of a Western Housing List.*
- *Held monthly surgeries with Commissioners and distributed a Spring/Summer newsletter both of which I aim to continue.*

Local issues in Glenfaba and Peel

Sewage

Originally the plan for Peel was an open sewage plant to meet 1976 bathing quality standards. After much hard work, research and negotiation, we finally reached an agreement with Manx Utilities for the building of a closed sewage treatment plant for Peel with tertiary Ultra-Violet treatment, which meets the highest European standards.

Last September it was clear that money had not yet been set aside for a sewage treatment plant in Peel and that the work had stalled. After I expressed strong concerns in Tynwald, the Treasury brought forward funding in the Budget for the design fees and preliminary studies.

Significant progress has now been made. Manx Utilities have confirmed that Peel and St Johns will have a covered sewage treatment plant in 2019. An environmental impact survey has begun. The location of the Peel plant is being finalised.

Doctors and Schools

The health care strategy will channel more care and resources into the community, rather than simply into Nobles hospital. I will continue to press for the expansion of the present Peel Medical Centre and implementation of First Responder unit.

I am supporting efforts for more provision for pre-school and after school clubs in Peel. I am also pushing plans for a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) block at QEII.

Business and Infrastructure

We have created a Peel Chamber of Trade and Commerce. We need to support our farming and fishing, and build on our art and cultural heritage. One aim is to develop the Food Park to its full potential and possibly to set up artist units in Mill Road.

Infrastructure must meet the needs of the growing population. Work is being carried out to restore buildings and repair worn out infrastructure. This is part of a greater vision both to attract tourism and business to the West and to enhance its historic buildings and natural beauty.

Earlier this year I instigated several road repairs with the DOI, and more are in the pipeline including East Quay, Market Street and Castle Street.

Some good ideas from the recent public regeneration workshop included tourist map signage, a heritage trail, a local market, and improved parking which are being explored.

National priorities

The Economy

The next few years will see significant change. Technology continues to improve rapidly and so we need to be at the forefront of innovation such as bio-medicine, IT, crowdfunding and bitcoins.

A key advantage is that as well as being innovative, we are able to react to change quicker than others because our Island can write its own laws. The Government needs more qualified staff to write legislation so that bills are not delayed and we can implement change more quickly.

Brexit affords both challenges and opportunities. We can help grow the Island's economy by forging new partnerships for example with China and India whilst maintaining access to current markets. We need to keep attracting global workers as well retaining the 3000+ EU workers already on the Island.

Tourism is a key part of the economy. With a possible reduction of global travel, the Isle of Man could benefit. We need to encourage more hotel accommodation and activities such as mountain biking.

Farming and Fishing

Farming is crucial to our Island. It is vital to widen export market opportunities for local produce and protect against low quality imports. We can build on

the Manx pedigree for high quality produce such as Manx flour for export use in artisan bread. We need to ensure that Manx Farmers receive at least the same support as those in the UK and Europe and enable them to maintain our environment and UNESCO biosphere status.

A key problem is the current performance of the meat plant, which is making substantial losses and has difficulties in delivery. The meat plant needs to be put on a sustainable footing. This may mean simplifying existing methods.

The fishing industry is important to the Island and following Brexit we need to secure the waters around the Island for our fishing fleets.

Health and Social Care

With the growing demands of healthcare, we need to become more efficient. By adopting an early intervention approach, we can treat people before problems become greater and provide better preventative care. This strategy will channel more care and resources into the community, rather than simply into Nobles hospital.

One area I have been promoting is better use of technology. This will remove rooms of paper files, save money and improve health services. It is due to start later this year. Joining up the systems between

the hospitals and the local GP will serve the community better. Above all it is essential to attract quality staff and reduce reliance on agency workers, for example by offering more affordable accommodation.

Within Department of Health I was given the challenging area of Children and Families which has had historic problems. These problems are being addressed and we received a positive report from the Scottish inspectorate. In addition we have been able to save money and come under budget in this division. Improved IT services and departments working together at an early stage were key.

This same approach could deliver savings in other areas.

Policing

We have an excellent police force on the Island. We do not want to see police numbers or the budget reduced.

We benefit greatly from low crime level, but we need to carefully monitor and review our security at ports and harbours. We need legislation on legal highs and further collaboration between mental health and the police.

The Police are beginning to embark on a period of embedding technology. In my last manifesto I highlighted that technology could remove some of the administrative burden. iPads could be used to record crime details on the spot, rather than imputing back

at the police station, resulting in more time on the beat.

New types of crime are being committed online or involving the use of technology. More resources are needed in this area.

Education and Skills

Education is critical to our future and is lifelong.

I have fought for expansion of pre-school provision and this was approved in Tynwald in July. Class sizes in school should be kept small. Resources to support children's learning should be invested in wisely.

In secondary education we should expand IT and entrepreneurial skills to enable a smooth transition into a business context

I would also propose a scheme to offset tax on earnings against the IOM Student Loans, to encourage degree students to return to work on the Island.

For those who need to retrain or acquire new skills, we could provide opportunities through the University College Isle of Man.

Pensions

State pensions have been put on a more sustainable footing. In Tynwald I proposed flexibility in the pension age, especially as women approaching 60 have lost out. Tynwald has agreed to look into this.

In addition to the state pension, all Manx workers should have either a private, public sector or company pension.

Not all employers provide a pension, which means many will not have sufficient to live on. For that reason we need a workplace pension scheme in the Isle of Man, supported by government and employers.

For those with private pensions, annuity rates are very poor, leaving pensioners with low levels of income after having saved for many years. I support flexible pensions providing access to funds when needed.

Regarding public sector pensions, it is very concerning that the public sector scheme was not funded since its inception. This has led to difficult decisions. I supported the motion in June to reduce the future liability.

However, there remains the legacy funding gap for those who will retire over the next 20 years which needs to be managed.

I support the reinstatement of a free TV licence for pensioners over 75, ahead of the BBC providing this from 2020.

Governance

Over the last year I have seen the dedication and hard work of our public service. However many obstacles are put in its way, with department rules and government procedures slowing and preventing the service from working the way it would like to.

Eliminating the annual £80million budget deficit will require action on a number of fronts. The method of working to Budget targets needs reform. All spending should be justified and not assumed. Over the last year as Vice-chair in the Public Service Commission, we have been reducing paperwork and red tape across the public service to create efficiencies.

However, it is vital the government reviews its processes and exchanges between departments and teams. This will identify where key problems exist. We also need to update our data exchange legislation so that government can work effectively whilst protecting the citizens it serves.

We need to encourage performance based on outcomes and we need to commission projects across departments. This can be done by cross departmental budgets. MHKs as political members should have responsibility across departments.



Thursday 22nd September 2016

Polling Stations

- Centenary Centre, Peel
- St John's Methodist Hall
- St Paul's, Foxdale
- Glen Maye Methodist Chapel

Will be open 8am until 8pm

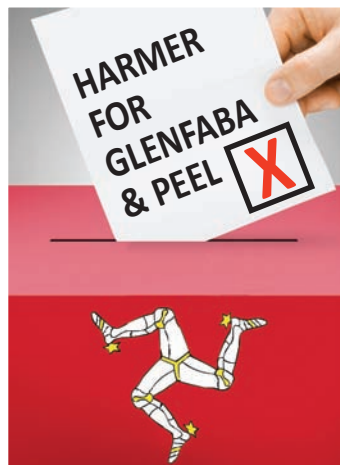
For more information contact **215577**

Surgeries will be held at:

- Peel Town Hall – Saturday 10 September 11am to midday
- St Paul's Church, Foxdale – Saturday 17 September 6pm - 8pm

This is a great opportunity to meet and discuss any issue or concern.

If you would like a lift on the day please call **215577**



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