



Vote



LAWRIE

HOOPER



For RAMSEY

www.lhooperiom.com

Dear Neighbour

It's been a privilege to represent you as one of your MHK's for the last ten years - thank you for giving me this opportunity and for putting your trust in me.

The last 5 years have been very different from my first term. Serving as Minister of Health and Social Care (and briefly as Minister for Enterprise) put me in very different roles to what I have been used to.

In these roles I tried hard to ensure that government is working in the best interests of the people and putting this ethos into practice as a Minister was a rewarding challenge. At the same time I've tried to hold my hands up where I've got things wrong, because I firmly believe that being completely open is the only effective way to govern.

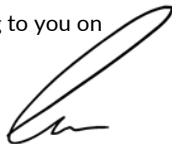
I grew up in Ramsey and it's where my family have settled. Ensuring that Ramsey and the Isle of Man continue to be great places to live is one of my driving aims.

I hope this manifesto gives you a picture of what I believe and how I would aim to represent you if you once again place your trust in me to be your representative over the next 5 years.

Politicians often make promises, and I want to reiterate the same promise I've always tried to hold to - I promise to do my best, to be honest and up front and to never shy away from difficult issues, and to always put your interests first.

Thank you for taking the time to read this manifesto and thanks to everyone who has provided input as I've been talking to you on the doorstep.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.



Lawrie Hooper



- Ramsey Commissioner 2012-2016
- MHK for Ramsey 2016-2026
- Leader of Liberal Vannin 2020-date

Government roles in the last 5 years:

- Minister of Health and Social Care 2021-2024
- Minister for Enterprise 2022 - 2023
- Member of the Department of Infrastructure 2024-2026
- Member of the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture 2024-2026

Tynwald roles in the last 5 years:

- Vice Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee 2024 - 2026
- Member of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs and Justice Committee 2024 - 2026
- Standing Orders Committee 2021 - 2026
- House of Keys Committee on the Assisted Dying Bill 2023-2024

About me

I'm 39, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a trained auditor, having spent the best part of a decade working in the Island's financial services sector supporting a mixture of local and international businesses before being elected to the House of Keys in 2016. I'm still engaged in accountancy practice, but very much in a supportive role as being an MHK is more than a full time job!

I live happily with my wife Rachael, our son and our dogs, doing my best not to drive them all to distraction.



GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT

Government and Tynwald always seem to focus on the next big project - when they should be focusing on making sure basic services are provided and core infrastructure is properly maintained.

We have hit something of a roadblock when it comes to Government investment, capital projects and maintenance work. As a result of concerns about the overall cost of government we've seen regular real terms reductions in maintenance budgets over the years. On the face of it, this looks like a saving, but in reality it just reduces regular maintenance and pushes the work and costs into larger capital schemes.

Coinciding with this, we see a Government afraid of the increasing costs of major capital work and so we end up with repeated delays and deferrals and inevitable cost overruns, meaning costs spiral and vital capital investment doesn't even get off the ground.

What we're left with is the worst of both worlds - we aren't maintaining what we have and we aren't investing in our core infrastructure to ensure it remains up to standard and fit for purpose.

This has to change

This is one of the most fundamental weaknesses within our government structure and is why we haven't seen projects like Cummal Mooar or Castle Rushen High School progress.

What's needed is clear direction from political leaders and a willingness to make investment decisions instead of continually putting them off. When investment decisions are delayed there also needs to be a clear acknowledgement of the additional cost this will incur.

Too often we focus on the cost of a service or an investment, rather than the value it provides and this can lead to a focus on short term decision making and sometimes some counterintuitive decisions.

Why is this so important?

Addressing the way we invest in our core infrastructure has a number of benefits. It will boost our local construction sector, it will ensure that critical facilities we rely on are properly maintained and can be used to best effect and it will support our broader economic growth.

Hold on, economic growth?

Ultimately, one of our key issues is our aging population, as we need to attract and retain younger workers who are net contributors to the Island.

Having well functioning core services is vital to this, and this requires a proper, planned approach to investment in facilities. I'm not just talking here about healthcare, education but also sporting and recreational facilities.

The Isle of Man is a fantastic place to live, work, and raise a family, so if instead of relying on schemes and incentives, if we instead focused on improving our quality of life by enhancing the way services function and are delivered, then that really would be a something that would leave us leaps and bounds ahead of our competitor jurisdictions whilst at the same time improving the Island for those of us who already live here!



CLIMATE CHANGE - THE ENVIRONMENT - BIOSPHERE

Biosphere

Liberal Vannin were **the first** - and still **the only** - political party to have signed the Biosphere pledge. This means Liberal Vannin candidates are the only candidates in this election who have signed this pledge.

We've done this because we strongly believe in protecting the natural wealth our fantastic Island and that the Isle of Man can be a world leader in sustainable development, with all the benefits that could bring.

A Just Transition

It's safe to say that we on the Isle of Man are not going to solve the climate crisis all by ourselves, and it's not unreasonable to argue that the actions of the Island are unlikely to move the needle on the global scale. I believe that we have to do our part, and what this means is we need to invest in Net Zero initiatives that directly benefit the Island. The focus has to be on people and we need to appreciate that carbon reduction is a benefit of these actions but not the core focus.

Investing in Net Zero is an investment in the future of the Island and we must ensure that everyone benefits from this investment, not just the privileged few. The current approach, where climate change funding is being invested to help people reduce their energy bills and improve their homes is absolutely the right way to do this.

Energy Generation

A big issue on the horizon (quite literally) will be deciding how we power our homes and businesses into the future. It is critical that we have energy security on the Island and aren't totally reliant on the UK. I believe the best way to achieve this is through a distributed grid with a mixture of power sources such as solar, wind, hydro, energy from waste, biomass as well as increasing redundancy with extra interconnector cables to the UK. This should bring down household energy bills whilst securing our energy needs into the future.

My Aims:

- Continue to focus climate change funding on energy efficiency and home improvement schemes
- Invest in upgrading the power grid and supporting the MUA in rolling out solar power on public sector buildings.
- Improve business focused energy efficiency measures
- Deliver an energy strategy to provide a roadmap for how we will transition away from our gas power plant and ensure energy security for the Island.
- Deliver a marine spatial plan to protect our marine environment and maximise the benefits to the Island
- Deliver a new waste strategy to support the introduction of kerbside recycling, or more recycling drop off points in towns and villages and secure the future of the Northern Amenity site and re-use centre



The UNESCO BIOSPHERE ISLE OF MAN Pledge



PLANNING - DEVELOPMENT - HOUSING

Suitable, Affordable and Accessible homes

The last election highlighted that we are in the midst of significant housing challenges. Unfortunately, this government has dropped the ball entirely when it comes to housing, with no focus on building public sector housing, lacklustre reforms to first time buyers support and inadequate support for local authorities to deliver their own housing plans

This must change. We should no longer accept a lack of action on affordable housing provision.



First Time Buyers - Downsizing - Affordable, good quality rental - Equity release

Liberal Vannin policy is for suitable, affordable and accessible housing for all. This means that government will need a variety of schemes to support people at every stage of their housing journey, whether it's buying their first home, renovating a dilapidated property or downsizing to a smaller property. The reality is the core housing issue on the Island is a lack of supply - there simply aren't enough houses to meet the demand from local people who want to a place to call home.

Building affordable homes

Liberal Vannin have approved a policy to invest £100 million into affordable housing schemes over the next 5 years. Our proposal is simple, the Government holds roughly £2bn in reserves, half of which is held inside the National Insurance Fund generating returns on long term investment. This money is already invested, so it's not unreasonable to say that some of it should be invested in assets on the Island.

I firmly believe that if the funding is made available and we reform the way we fund and support public sector housing, that local authorities, government and the private sector will all be able to respond with their own housing schemes. Government doesn't have to do everything itself, it can (and should) enable others to deliver as well.

Importantly - these homes should be for residents, for homeowners, not for investors.

My Aims:

- Improve building standards for energy efficiency, including solar panels and charging points as standard on new builds
- Revise planning rules to make it easier to redevelop town centres like Ramsey's
- Introduce rates incentives and disincentives to discourage properties being left empty and encourage redevelopment of dilapidated buildings
- Introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure developers pay a fair share towards infrastructure costs
- Invest £100m over 5 years into delivering affordable homes for residents, not investors
- Reform first time buyer schemes & introduce innovative schemes such as mid-rent and mortgage guarantee to help people save for a deposit on their first home
- Reform public sector housing rents and thresholds to broaden access and ensure the system is sustainable
- Deliver an Area Plan covering Ramsey and the North to protect from overdevelopment and ensure any development is appropriate and right for Ramsey
- Investigate establishing a government equity release scheme

EDUCATION - SKILLS - LIFELONG LEARNING

Education

Our education service is at a crucial crossroads and some big decisions need to be made about how the service will continue to evolve into the future.

Quite rightly there is a focus on the independent assessment of school performance and this needs to continue with more information made available to parents and students about how our schools are performing

I am a strong supporter of inclusive education and wouldn't want to see this approach change, however it is clear that our schools and teachers need additional support, training and funding to deal with the challenges they are facing in a modern teaching environment.

With a renewed focus on infrastructural investment we should be looking to **ensure that education facilities meet the needs of every child and student.**

Additional Educational Needs

A concern I hear regularly from parents is that they find it difficult to hold the education service accountable when they struggle to get the level of education and support they expect, especially in relation to children with Additional Educational Needs (AEN). **This has to change.** As part of the next Education Bill we must have a statutory AEN code to set the level of service parents can expect, **independent oversight** and an **Independent Education Tribunal** to ensure parents can hold the education service to account and ensure that our children get the education and support that they deserve.

Skills Training and lifelong learning

We need a better framework to support apprenticeships and other "in-work" training, as well as better support for vocational training. I've talked with business owners for whom the apprenticeship scheme doesn't work and to youngsters who want to take up apprenticeships but can't find support or employers to take them on.

Not everyone wants to go to university, but for those that do we must improve support to help students with the cost of living. Too many families find themselves unable to access adequate support under the current hybrid scheme. I propose that we should overhaul our student awards to make full student loans available, which can be written off if students return to work on the Island for a period of time.

My Aims:

- Ensure we have a proper capital investment plan for school and college infrastructure that meets the needs of all learners
- Launch a government-wide apprenticeship program
- Reform apprenticeship and vocational support, to support the needs of small business
- Overhaul student awards to introduce better financial support and incentives for graduates to return
- Reintroduce tax relief for Education Covenants and extend this to cover tax relief for pre-school, childcare and nursery costs
- Establish a statutory AEN Code and Independent Education Tribunal, alongside providing better training and support for schools and teachers to help meet the educational needs of students with additional needs



THE ECONOMY - JOBS - GROWTH

Economic Growth

There's no easy way to say this, but over the last 5 years our economic growth has been sluggish at best. What growth we have seen has been unequally distributed and it hasn't been felt by everyone.

Without a strong, sustainably growing economy then we don't have a firm base on which to build and deliver our key public services, this means we need a government that is responsive and proactive when dealing with this critical issue.

Government doesn't have all the answers. It has to continue to be flexible and must have a measured and sensible risk appetite to ensure that we are always able to seize opportunities that present themselves.

Effective public-private partnership working is the only way that we will see growth delivered on the Island and it rests on a number of key government strategies that we have to see **developed and implemented**.

People

The most important of these strategies is a people strategy, or a population strategy. We know that with an ageing population more has to be done to retain our young people and to attract young working families into the Island. The gap at present is that we aren't able to ensure that our inward migration is made up of people who are predominantly net contributors to the Island - and this is something we need to fix.

Controlled inward migration is the only realistic solution, coupled with investment in our core infrastructure to ensure that our schools, health service and housing can all accommodate a gradually increasing population. Trying to grow the population without investing in these facilities is simply not a sustainable or sensible approach.

As a UNESCO Biosphere we are committed to sustainable development and protecting our natural resources. I firmly believe that the Island has a lot of opportunities in developing a sustainable economy, creating skilled, secure, well paid jobs. Firstly, we need to nurture & retain our own talent. Secondly, we must to attract the right people to fill these jobs. Both of these require that we invest to create the best environment to live and work, with modern employment law that supports a healthy work / life balance, investment in good public services and housing that is affordable.

My Aims:

- Continue to update and strengthen employment rights
- Create a system of statutory sick pay to support employees and employers
- Deliver a population strategy
- Invest in our core infrastructure to ensure public services can accommodate a growing population, this includes investment in public spaces and facilities for sports and recreation
- Continue to support businesses to transition to a living wage
- Support and encourage the development of new economic sectors, whilst protecting the businesses and jobs that we already have
- Proactively support both skills development and inward recruitment



A NATIONAL HEALTH AND CARE SERVICE

In Ramsey & the North

I've talked a lot in this manifesto about renewing our focus on core infrastructure, maintaining what we have and investing in facilities for the future.

The reality is with an ageing (and growing) population pressure on health and care services will only increase.

This is why retention and investment in Ramsey & District Cottage Hospital is critical to the future of healthcare on the Island.



One of the biggest challenges with healthcare is long waiting times and the most effective way of improving services is to ensure people can get the right care at the right time. This means investment in regional wellbeing hubs and primary care services to try and treat people sooner and closer to home.

In Ramsey we are lucky to have the facilities at the Cottage, but we are now being told refurbishment of those facilities will cost in the region of £7million. Now is the time to pause and reflect, is it better value to invest this in the facility we have, or to look at investing in a new, modern facility for Ramsey and the North? When it comes to infrastructure investment, we have to look at best value - even if this is a higher cost. Government should work with the local community on what the future looks like for our key facilities.

If it is determined a replacement facility is better value for money, I would resist any attempt to reduce services or close the current buildings before this new facility is up and running.

Long term care

Your health needs don't stop when you hit retirement age - so why do we treat long term care differently to how we treat healthcare? I believe that our National Health and Care Service should provide for people throughout their lives, **long term care should be provided the same way as NHS healthcare, free at the point of use that we pay for fairly over the course of our lives.**

Consultations are underway on developing this new model and I will press Tynwald to make this happen.

My Aims:

- Introduce an 18 week referral to treatment target for Manx Care as part of the statutory Mandate
- Introduce robust waiting time targets for patients so they can see their GP in a timely manner
- Review and decide on refurbishment or replacement of Ramsey Cottage Hospital
- Support the replacement of Cummal Mooar with a modern facility
- Start to transform our National Health Service into a National Health and Care Service, to look after us for our whole lives
- Investigate a "Personal Care Budget" to allow more flexible delivery of care services, helping people choose the type of care they get



GOVERNMENT REFORM - DELIVERING BETTER SERVICES

More services delivered locally

Government is often slow to change, which means we need MHK's who are going to knuckle down and do the hard work - keeping trying even though much needed change is only coming slowly.

I believe that government services should be accessible locally, so we don't have to always travel to Douglas just to talk to someone face to face - this is better for Ramsey, better for the environment and better for all of us.

I'm quite happy to see services become "Digital First" - but they shouldn't be "Digital Only". There's always going to be a need for some face to face conversations and so this has to be retained within our communities.

Following my continued pressure the Government has begun the rollout of Community Hubs which will ensure that face to face services remain available even as more and more services move primarily online.



Rates Reform and Local Authority Reform

This is the age old problem - we all know the Rates system is broken but there are too many vested interests in getting it fixed. This also holds up any meaningful attempt to reform local authorities and any associated cost savings and benefits that could come from those changes.

The next government must commit to introducing Rates reform legislation in the first two years, otherwise it will never happen. The last time there was a consultation the public and local authorities supported a rates system based on the value of property - because it is simple, easy to understand and easy to administer.

Reforming the rates system across the Island will help rebalance an unfair system, the total rates paid in towns like Ramsey will drop, being balanced out by rate increases in the parishes and more fairly reflecting the cost of services being provided. I also believe there should be discounts for single residents and incentives to encourage redevelopment and to discourage leaving properties empty.

Government Reform

There's a lot of talk about improving the way government works - and I agree that there are definitely improvements that can be made. I don't believe that this is a silver bullet that will somehow solve all of our issues.

We need a meaningful efficiency program that empowers staff to improve the way they work and innovate new ways of delivering services. What we don't need are flashy headlines and brilliant soundbites that lack any substance.



My Aims:

- Improve & expand "Community Hub" services in Ramsey to protect face to face access to key services & ensure government is "Digital First" not "Digital Only"
- Introduce a rates reform bill to replace rates with a system based on property value
- Implement a meaningful efficiency programme to support innovation and improved service delivery

TAX - WELFARE - COST OF LIVING

Cost of living

It's pretty obvious to us all that the cost of living on the Island is ever increasing and there are some things government can do to help.

One of the biggest areas government can help impact the cost of living is through actively investing in our housing - by helping people make their homes more efficient, household bills will drop, by building more housing on brownfield sites, and building more efficient housing energy and rental costs will come down, by ensuring people have a secure roof over their heads government services can be more effectively and efficiently targeted.

Investing in core infrastructure can help bring down running and maintenance costs, and a meaningful program to support innovation in public service delivery could also help us redesign services and reduce costs. I've talked elsewhere about the need for economic growth and capital investment and the reality is all of these issues are interlinked and interdependent.

Tax

Throughout this manifesto i've talked a lot about the need to invest - the reality is this has to be paid for and even as a Chartered Accountant I've had to spend a lot of time getting to grips with government finances.

At the start of this administration the Reserves were at roughly £1.5bn, now they hold £1.9bn, so even where government has been drawing down on reserves the valuation has held steady or increased.

What this means is we don't need any knee jerk reactions - what we need is a considered and well thought out long term approach to taxation. This could involve looking at different types of taxation, or even reforms to our corporate taxation regime - but any changes need to be handled with care and introduced only after full and proper consideration and public engagement.

Welfare

The government has been gradually improving how people access social security and benefits. This work needs to continue to reduce the amount of paperwork and bureaucracy involved, especially where government already holds a lot of our information already!

Applications should be simple, understandable and wherever possible available both online and in a paper format.

It should always pay to be in work, but benefits need to be enough to live off so we don't end up pushing people into poverty - this is a difficult balance and, like taxation, changes to this system need to be introduced carefully and as part of a long term strategy

My Aims:

- Develop a long term tax strategy that is linked to our economic and social needs
- Reform national insurance to protect the value of the NI fund and also reduce the burden on employers and workers
- Introduce tax relief on childcare costs
- Ensure all benefits are linked to minimum income standards, so people have enough money to live on
- Make it easier and more straightforward for people to know what support and assistance they are entitled to and how to access support



POPULATION - BORDERS - BUDGET REFORM

Population

We have to start talking about our population. We know that we need inward migration of workers to help fill skill shortages, we also know that we have an ageing population and a low birth rate, issues which present challenges that have to be solved. More people on Island will inevitably put pressure on our infrastructure and so we absolutely must start investing in core services and facilities now.

We don't need, and shouldn't have, a population target. Instead, **before** seeking to further grow the population, the aim of the next government should be:

To develop our infrastructure and services to handle an increased population

Inward migration is important to our economic future, but it has to be **controlled** and **managed sustainably** and so it must be **underpinned by proper infrastructure investment and a population strategy**.



Borders

A big piece of the jigsaw will be ensuring that we strengthen our border controls and ensure that we know who is relocating onto the Island. The Isle of Man is a fantastic, welcoming community, and my conversations with you on the doorstep have only served to reinforce this view, but at the same time we need to ensure that we retain a control over our borders and our systems of migration.

Bizarrely, it's the way that we deal with people moving over from within the British Isles that is most in need of reform. We have a robust visa system for international migrants but when it comes to people relocating from the UK our work permit system is full of exemptions and for those who don't need to work there isn't any real control at all.

Whilst ensuring that people who relocate here can do so easily, with the minimum of friction we also need to ensure that we are attracting people who are net contributors to the Island. There are many ways that we can do this, such as increasing salary thresholds or requiring people to hold private health cover for a time or paying an NHS surcharge.

Budget reform

I believe key to a lot of the reforms I would like to see involves reforming the budget process. Currently everything is decided behind closed doors and Treasury has a disproportionate amount of influence over policy. Tynwald has recently approved a range of budget reforms that must now be implemented, but the next government needs to ensure that the ability of Treasury to micromanage policy is significantly curtailed so that they can focus their efforts on the bigger strategic issues.

My Aims:

- Improve investment and maintenance of core infrastructure and core services
- Implement Tynwald reforms to the budget process
- Develop a population strategy
- Reform our border and migration protections like work permits to ensure that we know who is coming to the Island
- Develop and improve relocation support services to help people who are relocating integrate into Island life

THE MOOR VANNIN OFFSHORE WINDFARM

Why it's important for MHK's to remain impartial

Unsurprisingly, the proposed Moor Vannin windfarm has come up quite a bit on the doorstep and whilst there have been many views shared there have been some common questions about the process. To try and help, I'll outline my understanding of the process here.



At its simplest, the application is currently going through a statutory process that is essentially akin to our planning process. What this means is the independent panel examining the application, and Council of Ministers as the decision makers, are only allowed to consider certain things and have to ensure that they do not pre-determine any decision or prejudice the process.

It would be a bit like a jury deciding someone's guilt before they've seen the evidence. If this happens then the government, and therefore the taxpayer, could end up at risk and on the hook.

So what is the process?

The process is outlined at www.mima.gov.im/process but, in essence, after the independent panel finish their deliberations and evaluate all the evidence they make a report and recommendation to the Council of Ministers (or if Ministers are conflicted, people appointed by the Council of Ministers) to make a decision. If that first decision is a "yes" then it goes to Tynwald for approval. The report will probably be the end of 2026 or early 2027.

It's the first part of this process we're at now, and it's the first decision that is the one at risk of being prejudiced by candidates taking a stance before they've seen all the evidence.

Ultimately if a candidate does conflict themselves by taking a stance then they won't be allowed to be part of that first Council of Ministers decision. Personally, I think if you've voted for me to represent you it's going to be hard to do that if I'm not allowed in the room!

When it gets to Tynwald approval however, all MHKs will be in the Tynwald Chamber and able to cast a vote. What this means is if the government decide to progress with the "planning" consent they will have to be able to explain the situation fully to Tynwald and to the public, otherwise it's unlikely they'll convince Tynwald Members to back their position.

This isn't the end of the saga though, as even with the "planning" consent there will still be agreements to work out and almost certainly further opportunities for Tynwald to influence or change course.

Where do I stand?

My position on this proposal is straightforward - I'll only be supporting something that is good for the Island and that is in the best interests of Ramsey and the Island as a whole. If it doesn't meet these tests, then it's not something I'll support.

I have a lot of unanswered questions about potential impact on industries like fishing and tourism, impact on our marine environment and coastline as well as what the real potential benefits are for the Island. Currently all of this is unclear and the report from the independent panel should help fill in many of these gaps.

As with any proposal, I'll need to be convinced.

THE LAST 5 YEARS - GOVERNMENT

Until 2024 I was a Minister, spending 3 years as Minister for Health and Social Care, and serving briefly as Minister for Enterprise. I ultimately left the Council of Ministers as I had fundamental policy disagreements with the Chief Minister and would not compromise my principles. I continued to serve in various roles in Government until January 2026 when I resigned completely over the decision to abandon the Living Wage, something which I strongly believe in.



Minister of Health and Social Care - Minister for Enterprise - Department of Environment Food and Agriculture - Department of Infrastructure

Over my time in the House of Keys I've now worked across a wide variety of Departments and functions, giving me the opportunity to help shape policy in a broad range of areas. I have always been clear that whatever role I hold, my constituents and my principles come first. Over the years this has resulted in me getting sacked from the SAVE team, removed from a Council of Ministers Committee, and resigning from Ministerial and Departmental roles. It's fair to say that I will always put my constituents and our Island first. Whilst in Government I've always tried to make decisions and keep things moving forward. Some of my successes this term have been:

Health

- Additional pharmacy licence in Ramsey
- Public consultations on the future of Nursing & Residential Care
- Autism spectrum condition strategy - leading to halving the CAMHS waiting list
- Restoration and recovery initiative to start to bring down NHS waiting lists
- Modernising Capacity legislation
- Overhauling healthcare complaints and establishing Health & Care Ombudsman
- Launch of a Carers strategy
- Launching independent inspections of health and care services
- Securing the return of services to Ramsey Cottage Hospital
- Establishment of regional wellbeing hubs
- Increased investment in Health and Care services, improving safety, resilience and patient outcomes

Housing

- Establishing a homelessness pathway
- Redevelopment of the Nurses Home
- Establishing the Housing Agency and hosting the Island's first public sector housing conference

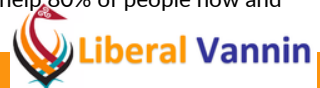
Economy

- Launch of the Island Infrastructure Scheme, attracting £80m in private investment redeveloping brownfield sites
- Increasing the minimum wage closer to a living wage
- Introduced shared parental leave and extending employment rights
- Securing the Northern Civic Amenity site and re-opening of the re-use centre

WORKING
FOR
YOU

It's not all been plain sailing, but my approach has been to simply try things - and if they don't work, put them on hold and try something else!

Government spends far too much time writing reports and reviewing and consulting on things, hoping to find a perfect solution - I prefer putting something in place that might help 80% of people now and then work on figuring out the rest



THE LAST 5 YEARS - TYNWALD AND SCRUTINY

Effective scrutiny is the cornerstone of a modern democracy - it is just as important to have good, robust scrutiny as it is to have a well run and efficient government.

As a Minister, I welcomed challenge and constructive debate, trying to foster a culture of openness and trust within the broader organisation. As a backbencher I continued to critically assess and challenge government - with a focus on ensuring that everything government does is fair, cost effective and value for money.



Vice Chair of the Public Accounts Committee

Member of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs and Justice Committee

- Taking the Reproductive Rights Bill and the Capacity Act through the Keys
- Tynwald Motions successful:
 - Regional community hubs for government services
 - Breathing space debt management scheme
 - All government land under single ownership
 - Including in benefits discretion for exceptionally harsh or oppressive circumstances
 - Extending parental allowances to self-employed people
 - Support for SME Businesses to help adapt to higher minimum wages
- In the last 2 years, I've tabled 306 questions in Tynwald and Keys as well as 19 motions, 71 items of government business, 4 Bills and been part of 21 Committee reports.
- In the last 5 years 24 Bills have gone through the House of Keys, four of which I took through. It's rare that I don't end up amending a Bill as part of my regular scrutiny work and this has meant I've tabled a significant number of amendments, most of which are successful. Some Bills have even been withdrawn by the government following my scrutiny work as it was clear they were not fit for purpose.

Inevitably, not all of my attempts at reform have been successful but I know that delivering change is a long haul in politics and I fully intend to keep on fighting for these reforms.

- Protecting the value of the National Insurance Fund
- Tax relief on childcare & higher education costs
- Replacing the tax cap with a more economically focused policy
- Replacing Rates with a modern tax based on property value
- Allowing cohabiting couples to choose to be treated as a couple for tax purposes

Looking back, I've also continued to make progress on aims from my 2016 and 2021 manifestos, including independent inspect of health and care services and the establishment of a Tynwald Auditor General.



I'm pleased to say that of the 61 aims I had in 2021, 45 have been completed or have seen meaningful progress.

29 have been fully achieved, including an additional pharmacy in Ramsey, updated employment rights for families and improving access to public sector housing.

16 have been partially successful or there is meaningful work underway, including reforming first time buyer schemes, redeveloping the nurses home, and increasing minimum wages

LIBERAL VANNIN PARTY MANIFESTO



Tackling the cost of living

The next government must:

- **End the endless debate and take real action on housing.** Commit £100 million over the next five years to local authorities and the Island's Housing Agency to build affordable homes for residents, not investors. Ensure developers' affordable-purchase options are taken up by government and update government house purchase support schemes.
- **Deliver fair, accessible education** with lifelong opportunities for skills, training, and personal development.
- **Bring our students home.** Reform the student awards system and introduce financial and accommodation incentives for graduates who return to work in key sectors.
- **Attract inward investment** to grow high-wage, high-skill, secure jobs.
- **Reform the welfare system** so no one is pushed into poverty and no one is trapped in the benefits system. Work must genuinely pay.
- **Continue the transition to a Living Wage Island,** reinstating the commitment that no one should be paid below the Living Wage by the end of the next administration, while supporting small businesses through the transition.
- **Support a greener, more sustainable economy** while protecting our farming and fishing industries. Ensure the Meat Plant is run cost-effectively for the benefit of farmers and consumers.
- **Modernise employment law** to better support families, carers, and people with disabilities.

Getting the basics right

Our priorities will be:

- **Upgrading our National Health Service into a National Health and Care Service,** reducing waiting lists and providing joined-up support throughout people's lives.
- **Ending the postcode lottery in healthcare,** ensuring universal access to NHS services, including dentistry.
- **Delivering a properly funded Additional Educational Needs Code,** ensuring that education works for every learner - from pre-school to postgraduate and vocational training
- **Investing in day-to-day maintenance of public assets,** including roads, schools, healthcare facilities, and core infrastructure.
- **Strengthening border security** so that individuals not entitled to travel to the Island are identified promptly and appropriately.

Open Government

We will work towards a government that:

- **Responds to Freedom of Information requests promptly and comprehensively,** with openness as the default, not the exception.
- **Publishes Open Data as standard,** making government information accessible to all
- **Brings transparency to the budget process,** ensuring that changes to fees, charges, and spending plans are clear, visible, and subject to proper scrutiny.
- **Holds departments accountable** for delivering projects on time and on budget, with clear reporting and consequences when they do not.
- **Protects whistle-blowers** through an independent process that encourages people to speak up about failings in government systems without fear of retaliation.
- **Ends the misuse of "commercial confidentiality"** to hide the details of public contracts. Public money is being spent — the public has a right to know that it is being spent wisely, effectively, and in the Island's best interests



Vote Lawrie Hooper

Strengthening our economy

- End the endless debate and take real action on housing. Commit £100 million over the next five years to build affordable homes for residents, not investors.
- Bring our students home. Reform the student awards system and introduce financial and accommodation incentives for graduates who return to work in key sectors.
- Attract inward investment to grow high-wage, high-skill, secure jobs.
- Continue the transition to a Living Wage Island with support for employers

Getting the basics right

- Upgrading our National Health Service into a National Health and Care Service, reducing waiting lists and providing joined-up support throughout people's lives
- Delivering a properly funded Additional Educational Needs Code, ensuring that education works for every learner.
- Investing in day-to-day maintenance of public assets, including schools, healthcare facilities, and core infrastructure like our roads (not just the TT Course!)

Open Government

- Bring transparency to the budget process, ensuring that changes to fees, charges, and spending plans are clear, visible, and subject to proper scrutiny.
- End the misuse of "commercial confidentiality" to hide the details of public contracts. Public money is being spent — the public has a right to know that it is being spent wisely, effectively, and in the Island's best interests

GET IN TOUCH!



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ELECTION DAY

24th September 2026

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE A
POSTAL VOTING FORM

Polling Stations

Ramsey Courthouse
or

Quayle's Hall

8am - 8pm

Public Hustings

Ramsey Grammar
School West Hall

Thursday 17th
September 2026

7pm - 9pm

ELECTIONS.GOV.IM



Liberal Vannin

www.liberalvannin.im