



# Dr Rob Harnish

## A Voice for Inclusion, a Vision for Guernsey

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*If you have trouble reading this manifesto, please contact me and I will try to provide a version that is more appropriate for you.*

Hello, I'm Dr Robert Harnish, though most of you know me as Dr Rob, or simply Rob. For years, my approach to politics has been guided by a simple principle: **My Ears, Your Voice**. It isn't just the slogan I adopted in 2016 and continued in 2020, it's core to how I believe a Deputy should serve.

### **"We all matter, Eh?"**

What I've heard across our island, in countless conversations and community meetings, is a deep desire for common sense, a passion for social justice, and an urgent need for good governance that truly listens. It's these voices that have fuelled my commitment to stand for Deputy again.

The truth is, when we fail to hear someone, we fail to include them. When we exclude even one person, our community is diminished. My experiences, particularly at the Ron Short Centre and the Guernsey Disability Alliance, have constantly reminded me that

### **Every Voice Counts!**

### **A Vision for Guernsey shaped by Your Voices**

What I hear from so many of you has nothing to do with leaning to the left or to the right, or else getting caught up in labels like 'based' or 'WOKE'. What comes through loud and clear is a call for less political noise and more practical, common-sense solutions to the challenges we face together.

You've told me about the pressing need to manage our public finances responsibly, to ensure future healthcare, to find a better balance between promoting the local economy and protecting our precious environment, to make sure that everyone can afford somewhere to live, and to ensure our island's interests are secure in a rapidly changing world.

Many of you share a frustration with short-term fixes, unfinished projects and last-minute crisis management. My commitment, strengthened by listening to your concerns, is to champion long-term solutions over quick wins that are likely to cost us dearly later on. It's about putting public service before private gain and unwavering principles before privilege – values I believe reflect the heart of our community's aspirations for Guernsey's future.

# Making Your Call for Common Sense and Honesty Really Count

What I repeatedly hear is that truth is the firm foundation of healthy government, and that facts are its bedrock. You've been telling me you don't trust our politicians and that our future depends on restoring the States' credibility by ensuring unwavering integrity and full transparency. Many of you feel there have been too many instances where things just hasn't worked that way.



So, it turns out that a **"Freedom of Information Law"** isn't just my priority, but a reflection of what you're asking for – a government in which honest politicians don't need places to hide, where every decision is open and every action is transparent. There is no other way to build the kind of public confidence that we all agree is vital right now. It's about ensuring our leaders have the honesty and courage needed to "say it like it is", because that's what you expect and deserve.

Political posturing and bureaucratic red tape are enemies of good governance. Making good decisions is not about pursuing personal agendas but about taking public interest seriously. Political debate is not supposed to be a battleground, but a meeting of minds. Participants have a common goal: to ensure that our government takes everyone and everything into account when making decisions and taking actions that affect us all.

Guernsey needs leaders who prioritise practical solutions over pet projects, sound reasons over self-serving rationalisations. We need decisions grounded in fact, logic and integrity, decisions that genuinely serve the public interest. It's time to put reason back at the heart of government: to restore a focus on openness, fairness, transparency and accountability.

## My Commitment: To Hear and Act for You

The message I consistently hear is the importance of practical solutions grounded in fact and integrity, solutions that genuinely serve our entire community. To quote Martin Luther King, Jr,

*"Rarely do we find people who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think."*

Because I am fully committed to truly representing you, I commit to the solid thinking and hard work needed to turn your concerns and hopes into effective action.

## Strengthening our Community Fabric – because You've Told Me it Matters Most

You've shared how vital community is to life in Guernsey. And many of you see, as I do, that while our government intends to work more closely with charities and businesses, our approach to commissioning services needs to better reflect best practices; otherwise, we will just keep wasting precious resources. Based on what I've heard, here are a few of my aims:

## The Things You've Asked For

First, of course, I intend to support every effort to build our local community. To that end, I will:

- **Champion Accessibility and Inclusion:** Your stories and experiences, especially from my work in disability advocacy, highlight the growing needs of our community, particularly as our population ages. I will be your voice for a fairer, more inclusive island.
- **Listen to and Support Local Initiatives:** I will actively seek out and support those fantastic community-led projects that you tell me foster unity and mutual support.
- **Encourage and Recognise Volunteering:** Many of you are already involved in volunteering and know its value. I want to make it easier for everyone to play their part, so I will fight for more government support for volunteers and the charities that train them.
- **Push Ahead with a Robust Commissioning Strategy that Works for Us:** You've pointed out to me that the third sector can often deliver services more efficiently and with greater compassion than the States. I will work tirelessly to ensure that the third-sector is empowered and funded to lead wherever charities can do it better than government.

## Making the System work for Everyone

You've made it clear that we need to get those basics right. But it isn't enough to strengthen the community without improving the government.

As the Managing Director of the Ron Short Centre, I have been in constant communication with government. I have been engaging with ESC regarding education and skills, ESS regarding access to employment, HSC regarding improving public health, E&I regarding pollution and public transport, and P&R regarding public property (including our purse!). There are some great people in the system – though maybe a few blockers. If I have learned anything from my time at the Disability Alliance, it is about how to work with the States in to find cost-effective solutions to the problems that face local people. My policy priorities are:

1. **Advocating for Fair Taxes;**
2. **Improving Public Transport;**
3. **Promoting Public Health initiatives;**
4. **Building our affordable housing stock;**
5. **Addressing the barriers to Education; and**
6. **Ensuring equal access to Employment for all.**

You'd probably like to hear more about my views and my goals in these areas, but they are big topics and there is not room here to do them justice. To find out more, please visit my website and follow me on social media. Or better, come and talk to me!

## The Bottom Line

If life has taught me anything, it is the importance of listening, understanding, and acting with compassion. I truly believe in a Guernsey where every voice is heard and every individual has the opportunity to thrive. Together, we can build a more resilient, inclusive, and vibrant community.



## Let's Keep Talking – Your Voice shapes Our Future

"My Ears, Your Voice" isn't just for election time. It expresses my ongoing commitment to everyone. I genuinely value your perspectives and believe the best way forward for Guernsey is through continuous conversation. Please, reach out, share your ideas, your concerns, your hopes.

I make only one promise. It is the same promise I made when I first became involved in politics. Whether elected or not, I will continue to serve this Island – my community, my home – with courage and integrity.

Thank you for considering me as your representative. Let's all keep working together for a better Guernsey.



**Dr Rob Harnish**

**MY EARS, YOUR VOICE**