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**“A fresh voice for
Douglas Central”**

**VOTE PETER
SHIMMIN**

on Thursday 24th September 2026

House of Keys General Election



**Making the Isle of Man somewhere
people can build a future.**

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About Me

“My roots are in Douglas Central. My future is here too.”



Homegrown

I'm in my mid-thirties, a Manxman born and raised in Douglas. I attended Ballacloan, Fairfield and Ballakermeen, all within our constituency.

My parents were teachers, and my father, John, later served as an MHK. Although public service shaped my upbringing, I have built my own experience and judgement.

Growing up on the Island showed me that, in difficult times, Manx people look out for one another and put community first.

I'm fiercely proud of our Island and ready to play my part in its future.

Experience

After gaining a degree in Acting, I spent five years as a professional actor in Spain and London. I also worked for startups including HelloFresh.

I returned home during the pandemic and made the decision to stay.

Since then, I have run Kensington Arts, joined the IOM Arts Council and remained active in our local theatre scene. I have also worked in communications and at Public Health.

In March, **I left my job to campaign full-time**, knowing that earning your vote would take time. I have since knocked on thousands of doors and spoken with hundreds of residents.

This manifesto reflects the concerns raised most often and what I believe are the most pressing national issues. Alongside this, I know helping residents with local constituency issues will always be a key part of the job.

I'm asking for your vote to represent Douglas Central and I promise to keep listening long after polling day.

Why I am standing

The Isle of Man is my home. It is where my family, friends and neighbours have built their lives, and where I hope future generations will build theirs.

I was fortunate enough to grow up here, be educated here and then build my career elsewhere before choosing to come home.

I am standing because the decisions made over the next five years will shape whether people my age and younger can afford to stay, work and raise a family here.

Tynwald needs people of different ages and backgrounds to help make the right choices.

I believe Douglas Central deserves a fresh voice who understands today's pressures and is focused on the long-term future of the Island.

I also hope to bring a modern style of politics. More visible, more responsive, and more connected to everyday life.

The type of MHK I want to be



Realistic

I will be honest about what one MHK can achieve and won't promise to fix everything.



Active

I will serve in departments and on committees, working across political lines.



Constructive

I will listen, work with others and focus on finding solutions.



Persistent

Whether it's a national policy or a local issue, I will keep pushing.

A stronger, more affordable Island

“Good government isn’t about doing more. It’s about making better choices.”

The Isle of Man has strong foundations, but many people feel it is becoming harder to survive, let alone get ahead.

Rising costs are squeezing many household budgets. Slow decisions and unreliable transport links are making it harder for businesses to invest and help the Isle of Man compete.

People have had to make difficult choices. Government must do the same.

We cannot keep spending beyond our means and drawing on financial reserves. We must remove the structural deficit and build a more sustainable system. Politicians must set simple, clear priorities and hold Government accountable for delivering them.

Spending better before asking for more

Public finances are more complex than household budgets, but the principle is the same: know what is coming in, control what is going out and make the difficult choices.

We must make sure any new commitments can be paid for. I believe there are only two sustainable ways to do that:

- **Spend public money better.**
- **Grow the economy.**

It must be the job of every MHK, Minister, department and senior public servant to make sure we are achieving these goals.

Spend public money better

Every pound wasted is a pound that cannot be spent on health, education or infrastructure.

Government already has priority-based budgeting and an efficiency programme. The priority now is delivering visible results.

Departments must:

- Merge **duplicated management structures**.
- Reduce reliance on **external consultants**.
- Stop projects that **no longer offer public value**.

Some choices will be difficult, but they are necessary.

A future-focused economy

Our economic position is fragile. Growth can bring more jobs, higher wages and greater stability. Businesses need the confidence to invest, employ people and plan for the future.

Government's role is to create the conditions for growth.

The Island should build on its strengths, support high-value industries and create more opportunities for the next generation.

My priorities:

- Budgets tied to clear priorities and public value.
- Published savings and improvement plans for every department.
- Greater transparency over spending and major capital projects.
- Quicker decisions and proportionate regulation.
- Better communication with local businesses.
- Stronger links between education, skills and employers.
- Greater focus on high-value industries creating skilled, well-paid local jobs.



A fairer future for young people and families

The Isle of Man should be a place where people can start out, settle down and succeed.

Leaving to study or see the world can be positive. The problem is that coming home has become too difficult. High house prices, limited career options and the rising cost of living are making it harder to build a future here. Government must remove those barriers by:

- Making it easier and more attractive for younger people to return.
- Supporting families who are raising the next generation.

People shouldn't have to choose between the Island they love and the opportunities they need.

Education that works for every learner

Schools should prepare children for adult life and work. Academic achievement matters but **technical, vocational and creative skills** should be equally valued.

Children with additional needs must get the right support, with families helped throughout the education journey.

Routes into work

Young people who choose to stay on the Island should see a clear path into a rewarding career.

We need **stronger links between education, UCM and employers**, so young people develop the skills businesses need.

I will push for improvements to apprenticeship schemes where businesses are left carrying too much of the risk.



Incentives to return

Coming home after studying should feel like a realistic option.

Government already offers **loan cancellation** for returning teachers. **I will push for that scheme to be expanded**, starting with other shortage professions, including health, social care and engineering.

This would give more graduates a reason to bring their skills home.

Support raising a family

Childcare is one of the biggest pressures facing working families.

The Pre-School Credit Scheme begins only in the year a child turns three, leaving many parents without support when costs are highest. During that gap, some reduce their hours, pause their careers or have to rely heavily on friends or family.

I support **extending the scheme** or introducing other help that enables parents to stay in work.

My priorities:

- Equal value for academic, vocational, technical and creative pathways.
- Earlier intervention for learners with additional needs.
- Improved apprenticeships, paid training and work experience.
- Stronger links between education, UCM, employers and Government.
- Extended loan cancellation for other shortage professions.
- Earlier childcare support for working families.

Housing people can build a life around

My priorities:

- A fairer chance for local buyers to own their home.
- Fewer cliff edges in first-time buyer support schemes.
- Tougher action against rogue landlords and better protection for tenants.
- Clear reporting on commuted sums and the homes they help deliver.
- Better use of brownfield sites.
- More long-term empty homes brought back into use.
- Close monitoring of the Westmoreland Village delivery.

“Everyone deserves the chance to put down roots.”

Having a decent place to live provides stability and confidence to plan for the future. Whether leaving home, raising a family or downsizing, housing should support every stage of life.

Right now, it doesn't.

- House prices continue to rise.
- The rental market is a mess.
- Social housing waiting lists are growing.

Government has spent years discussing the problems. It's time for action. The next administration will be judged not by the number of strategies it's written, but by **how many people can actually afford a decent home.**



Target rogue landlords

My door-knocking has shown me that some people in Douglas live in unacceptable conditions.

A small number of landlords are exploiting tenants who have nowhere else to go. They undercut responsible landlords and damage trust.

I will call for tougher action against landlords who exploit vulnerable people for profit.

Fairer access for local people

It is not fair that local buyers can find themselves outbid by off-Island purchasers or investors.

I will push for **reform that gives local resident first-time buyers a fairer chance**. This includes ensuring affordable homes are offered first to people with a clear local connection.

I would also support trialling rent-to-buy schemes, to help those who struggle to raise a deposit.

Affordable homes, not loopholes

Most new developments are expected to provide a number of affordable homes.

Sometimes, developers instead pay the Government a contribution (known as a “**commuted sum**”). That money is then meant to fund building other affordable housing.

We need clear public reporting on how much has been paid, where it went and what homes it helped deliver.

Use what we already have

It is shameful to see so many vacant properties across Douglas.

I will support development that makes better use of empty public land, brownfield sites and abandoned buildings.

Government should also help **bring empty homes back into use**. This could be achieved by charging rates where properties are left vacant for years without good reason.

Health and care people can rely on

Health and social care is one of the Island's biggest challenges, and it affects every family.

When people are worried about their health, navigating the system should not add to the stress.

Staff work hard under pressure, yet too many patients are left waiting, chasing appointments and repeating their story.

That is unfair on patients, families and staff.

We need a health service built around people, with stable leadership, less bureaucracy and more time for care.

More funding alone will not fix the system. We must also improve the structure and the culture.

We need to have an honest conversation about what the service can realistically provide and how it can be funded sustainably.

Leadership closer to care

Good healthcare needs leaders who understand the experience of their staff.

I would propose introducing a policy which requires **senior leaders** to spend regular structured time **working on the frontline** - listening to staff, supporting patients and seeing the pressures firsthand.

Digital access

When you are worried about your health, quick advice matters.

Too many people wait for an appointment or travel to the UK when a **phone or video consultation** could resolve the issue.

Face-to-face care must remain available, but digital consultations should be easier to access where safe and appropriate.

This would free up more in-person appointments for those who need them most.

Someone on your side

When you get stuck in the system, you often feel like you have nowhere to turn.

Tynwald has backed introducing an **independent advocacy service** which would help support those patients. Government has committed to delivering it, but progress appears to have stalled.

I will push for that promise to be delivered, especially for people with complex needs and children in crisis.

Clear published data

Manx Care already publishes some waiting-time information, but it should be clearer and easier to understand.

People are more likely to accept delays when they know what is happening and why.

We need honest, regular updates on how services are performing, where pressures are building, and what action is being taken when they fall behind.

“Everyone should feel confident that when they need care, the system is on their side.”

My priorities:

- Monthly publication of waiting times and backlogs.
- Improved access through increased phone or video appointments, while protecting face-to-face care.
- Delivery of the independent patient advocacy service.
- Reduced bureaucracy and management layers in Manx Care.
- Regular structured time for senior leaders on the frontline.
- An honest conversation about future sustainable funding for health services.

Getting the basics right

“Government can rebuild trust by doing the ordinary things consistently well.”

The “state of the roads” is a common concern on the doorstep. I am proud to live in Douglas, but standards across our city appear to have slipped.

Places we can be proud of

Potholes, broken pavements, litter and poor street lighting may seem minor, but together they can cause daily frustration.

I will push for **more investment in maintenance services**, with problems addressed before they become more serious and expensive.

A livelier city centre

Many small businesses across the Island are creating distinctive offers and strengthening our communities. Douglas should bring this together in a more lively, welcoming city centre. I would support **releasing Government-owned city-centre land** at reduced cost to help create **a vibrant central hub**.

Air and sea lifelines

Reliable air and sea links are essential.

The next Sea Services Agreement should include:

- Clear disruption standards for passengers.
- Better coordination between operators and Government.
- Exploration of resident ferry discounts or a customer loyalty scheme.
- Establishing a Passenger and Freight Council.



A welcoming, well-managed Island

I welcome people who choose to make the Isle of Man their home and contribute to our community. Inward migration can bring benefits, but **Government must plan properly for the added pressure on our infrastructure.**

A joined-up plan for growth

The previous administration aimed to grow the population to 100,000 by the 2030s. Population growth can bring much-needed skills and investment, but it also adds pressure to housing and public services.

I believe people are voicing concerns because they have little confidence that Government has **planned properly for the impact.**

If elected, I would support updating and implementing the **Residence Act 2001** to help manage population growth properly, without harming recruitment of the skills we need.

A fair and confident immigration system

Many people I have spoken with are concerned about the pace of change and want to know that our safety and security are being properly managed.

The proposed border agency is welcome, but I will push to ensure it **strengthens security rather than creating more bureaucracy.** I will also call for the agreed **Immigration Health Surcharge** to be introduced.

Protecting the Island we want to pass on

“Our Island’s future should not come at the cost of what makes us special.”

The Isle of Man is our home. Our coastline, heritage and community spirit make us unique. I believe we have a duty to protect our environment, culture and identity for future generations.

Supporting groups that build local pride

Charities and voluntary groups provide lifelines across our communities, often filling gaps where Government support does not reach. I will champion their work, listen to their experience and push for stronger partnerships.

Protecting culture and heritage

Manx culture and the arts have played a major role in my life. I will actively protect and promote our culture and heritage. I will also speak up for the Island’s creative industries, which have been largely overlooked in recent economic strategies.

Renewable energy

I support renewable energy and believe the Isle of Man should play its part in tackling climate change.

I have heard the concerns about Mooir Vannin’s impact on our coastline, wildlife, fishing and marine environment. I have read the application, followed the hearings and considered views from across the debate.

Based on the information currently available, Mooir Vannin does not command my support.

The Island is not guaranteed a meaningful benefit from the electricity generated, and if we are to host infrastructure of this scale, I believe local residents must benefit.

The Agreement for Lease should be published with limited redaction. Independent scrutiny of the claimed economic benefits is also needed.

My commitment to you

“Trust should be earned between elections, not just asked for every five years.”

This election comes down to whether you trust me to represent you well.

I cannot promise to solve every problem, but I will take local concerns seriously, keep pressing Government where change is needed, and keep residents informed.

“Having first known Peter as a student, I have greatly admired the contribution this proud and loyal Manxman has made to the Isle of Man.

I know he will work tirelessly for the people of Douglas Central.”

Adrienne Burnett MBE

Former Headteacher of
Ballakermeen High School

“Just very occasionally you work alongside someone who leaves a lasting, positive impression many years later.

Peter is one of those people.”

Patrick Drake

Co-Founder of
HelloFresh UK

“Peter is compassionate, considerate and caring.

His dedication, respect and understanding for both young and old make him someone I would wholeheartedly recommend and trust to represent our community.”

Barbara Livsey

Douglas Central resident
Retired midwife and charity volunteer



Douglas Central polling stations



All Saints Church Hall

Alexander Drive



Scout Hut

Demesne Road



St Andrews Church

St Ninian's Corner,
Glencrutchery Road



Trinity Methodist Hall

Bucks Road

**“This campaign is not the finish line.
It is the starting point. I am asking
for one of your votes because I want
to dedicate the next chapter of my
life to helping our Island succeed.”**

Cast your vote on Thursday 24th September

Where to vote

Polling stations will be open from 8am to 8pm. Your polling card will tell you where to vote, and you can vote at any polling station within Douglas Central.

Postal and proxy voting

Postal or proxy voting is available if you cannot (or prefer not to) vote in person. Contact the Crown and Elections Team on 01624 685754 or visit www.elections.gov.im for more information.

Need help?

Contact me for help finding information, completing forms or getting to your polling station. I am happy to arrange transport, offer support or explain the process.

Thank you for reading my manifesto and considering my ideas. Politics works best when people take part, so please get in touch if you would like to discuss our Island's future. I would genuinely like to hear from you.