

MANIFESTO OF

DAMIAN CIAPPELLI

FOR

DOUGLAS NORTH

WORKING TOGETHER
FOR OUR ISLAND



WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR ISLAND

Douglas North – House of Keys General Election, 24 September 2026

Dear Voter,

I am asking for your support to represent Douglas North in the House of Keys.

I am Manx-born, live in Tromode Park and qualified as a Manx Advocate in 2003. I have worked in law and business, both here and overseas.

I currently serve as Chairman of the Positive Action Group, a local think-tank, which examines issues of national importance and organises public meetings. I have also previously been appointed to the Board of a number of Island charities and organisations, including Age Isle of Man, the Sayle Gallery and the Council of the Isle of Man Law Society.

My father, Vincent, came from Sicily in 1963 to work in our tourism industry and later married my Manx mother, Bernie Clague. The Island welcomed him and gave our family the opportunity to build a good life here. I want future generations to enjoy that same opportunity.

I am standing because I believe Government needs to listen more carefully, spend more responsibly and focus on the things that matter in people's everyday lives. Recent years have seen confidence diminish sharply in our elected politicians. If elected, I would seek to restore that trust by ensuring that as your MHK you are properly represented.

My Priorities

If elected, I will concentrate on:

- A stronger economy and better opportunities for young people;
- Responsible Government spending;
- Better healthcare and social care;
- Controlled immigration that benefits the Island;
- Reliable and affordable air and sea-links;
- Affordable homes and better infrastructure; and
- Appropriate energy and environment policies.

A Stronger Economy & Better Opportunities for Young People

We need a confident and outward-looking economy that supports local businesses, encourages responsible investment and creates good jobs.

Our reputation for sound regulation must be protected, but legitimate businesses should not face unnecessary bureaucracy or lengthy delays. Government and regulators should be efficient, approachable and willing to make decisions, however, we need to **minimise red tape**. Equally, we need to ensure that the dialogue between the regulators and licensed businesses is constructive with each playing a role of encouraging and nurturing business relocating to the Island.

We must also prepare for artificial intelligence and other technological changes. Government should develop a practical digital strategy that **improves public services**, increases productivity and reduces unnecessary administration while protecting privacy and accountability.

Economic growth must improve people's lives. **It is not enough simply to increase GDP or the population. Success should mean better jobs, affordable homes, good services and a higher quality of life.**

We need to ensure that all sectors of the economy - including the struggling tourism, hospitality and retail sectors - are supported.

Young People

Young people should not feel that they must leave the Island permanently to find a good job, afford a home or build a future.

University is right for many, but it is not the only route to success. We need stronger apprenticeships and vocational training developed with local employers. This will not only benefit young people but will strengthen our economy and skills base.

If elected, I would support a **Young Entrepreneur Scheme** offering modest start-up assistance and access to experienced business mentors. There is much untapped potential and we have a duty to nurture and encourage such talent.

My aim is an Island where young people can develop useful skills, build careers, start businesses, afford homes and raise families. If elected, I will seek to support young families by looking at ways of **defraying the cost of childcare** which is sometimes referred to as a "second mortgage".

Responsible Government Budgeting and Spending

Government cannot continue overspending and borrowing without addressing its underlying costs.

Public money must be treated with the same care that families and businesses apply to their own finances. Government must reduce duplication, control unnecessary administration and be willing to stop funding activities that do not provide worthwhile results.

Any reform of the structure of the Government to enable cost savings must protect frontline workers and essential services while reducing avoidable bureaucracy and excessive management costs.

The Douglas Promenade and Liverpool Landing Stage projects are just two examples of why major projects require far stronger contractual and financial oversight.

Before substantial public money is committed, every major project should have a realistic budget, a proper assessment of the risks, strong contractual protections and clear responsibility for delivery. If not, the risk to the public purse is potentially catastrophic.

Tynwald must challenge questionable projects before the money is spent –not merely investigate them after something has gone wrong.

It is also necessary to look at and review the Government's long-term liabilities which have the potential to deplete reserves and contribute to the ongoing structural deficit.

If elected I would support a determined effort to look for savings in Government expenditure in the same manner in which substantial savings were made following the 2008 "VAT Bombshell" which saw the Island's finances reduced in one year by £140M.

This can only be achieved by a determined effort to look for savings and restructuring. History teaches us this is possible where there is a will to do so.

Better Healthcare and Social Care

Healthcare must focus first on patients who are waiting for appointments, diagnoses, treatment and operations.

Delays in making an appointment to see an NHS Dentist, GPs and Consultants have become a source of frustration among Island residents. I would support additional resources being deployed from savings made across Manx Care to ensure that access to these vital services is improved.

Frontline services should be protected, while management and administrative costs are kept under control. Manx Care needs clear budgets, measurable objectives and greater accountability for waiting times and patient outcomes.

We also need **better mental-health and addiction services** that help people recover and rebuild their lives. The mental health crisis affecting men of all ages in our society is something which I wish to see prioritised appropriately and addressed.

Older and vulnerable residents should be supported to remain in their own homes for as long as it is safe and practical. Family members and unpaid carers make an enormous contribution and deserve proper support. If elected, I would seek to ensure these unsung heroes are properly supported and recognised.

Controlled Immigration that benefits the Island

Immigration has played an important and positive part in the Isle of Man's story and history. My own family is an example of that along with countless others.

We need skilled people to support our businesses, healthcare system and essential services. Those who come here to work, contribute and build a life should feel welcome. However, immigration must be controlled and clearly in the **positive interests of the Island.**

Population growth should not become a goal in itself as appears to have been an unofficial policy of the last Administration. We must consider the overall impact of immigration—not only the additional taxes that may be collected, but also the demand placed on housing, healthcare, schools, benefits and infrastructure.

I will only support an immigration policy that:

- attracts people with skills the Island genuinely needs;
- considers the overall economic and social impact;
- protects employment opportunities for existing residents;
- matches population growth with available housing and services; and
- prevents vulnerable workers from being exploited.

Reliable and Affordable Air and Sea Links

For an Island community, reliable air and sea links are essential. They affect our economy, family life, medical appointments, business travel and holidays.

Too many residents now make travel plans without knowing whether their flight or sailing will operate. Bad weather cannot be prevented, but we can improve reliability, resilience and contingency planning.

I will press for appropriate measures to protect important air routes which are at risk and ensure that Ronaldsway has enough suitably qualified staff to ensure operational effectiveness and avoid unnecessary delays. The Island needs reliable air links with competitive prices to support the economy and the quality of life on the Island.

The Steam Packet must provide affordable and dependable passenger travel and reliable freight services. As a publicly owned company, it must be properly managed, independently governed and accountable to the Manx public.

At present, there appears to be no agreed marketing and pricing strategy between the Steam Packet and Treasury which is a significant omission. I would support the development of such a strategy being implemented to ensure that this strategic national asset offers more competitive prices for residents and visitors alike.

Homes and Infrastructure

Too many young people and working families cannot afford to buy or rent a suitable home. This is unacceptable.

The Island needs first-time-buyer properties, affordable rentals, social housing and homes suitable for older residents.

I will support faster delivery of affordable homes, better use of publicly owned land and buildings, and planning policies based on the Island's actual needs.

The organisations responsible for housing should be judged by the homes they deliver—not by the number of plans and reports they produce.

We also need a properly funded programme for maintaining roads and pavements, together with practical solutions to congestion, parking and public transport in Douglas.

Any future population growth must be matched by the homes, healthcare, schools, roads and other services it requires.

Appropriate Energy and Environment Policies

The Isle of Man needs a clear, affordable and honest long-term energy strategy.

Major energy projects can cost hundreds of millions of pounds and commit the Island for decades. Before approving them, Government must explain their true cost, how they will be financed, their environmental effects and the available alternatives.

I am concerned that in relation to current onshore and offshore wind farm proposals there is insufficient information available to make a considered decision in either case. I would therefore support a moratorium on such proposed developments until sufficient expert and legal opinion is gathered. In the end, the Island's residents should have the last word on whether such developments go ahead or not.

We should encourage practical ways of reducing energy use, including better insulation, double glazing and energy-efficient appliances.

As a UNESCO Biosphere, we must look after our countryside, bays and beaches through practical action rather than slogans. Our Biosphere status should inform our policy making and planning since it recognises the interconnectedness of the different aspects of our Island.

A Government That Listens

Trust in Government and the House of Keys has eroded. Too many people feel that decisions are made without listening to them or explaining the consequences properly. They also feel that there is a lack of scrutiny of proposed legislation.

I cannot promise that every problem has an easy solution. I can promise to listen, speak honestly, examine the evidence and **challenge decisions when I believe they are wrong.**

I want the Isle of Man to remain a safe, prosperous and caring place—where young people can see a future, families can afford a home, businesses can invest with confidence and older people are treated with dignity.

On 24 September 2026, I respectfully ask for your support.



Damian Ciappelli
Candidate for Douglas North





**WORKING TOGETHER
FOR OUR ISLAND**

Polling Stations

**Cronk-y-Berry School,
Hailwood Avenue,
Douglas,
IM2 7PA**

**Thie-ny-Shee
(Education Support Centre),
Glencrutchery Road,
Douglas,
IM2 6E**

"Aingarth", Tromode Park, Douglas, IM2 5LA

07624 416582

dc4mhk@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/anadvocateforchange

