



ISLE OF MAN GOVERNMENT AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

- » Balance the budget
- » Protect the vulnerable
- » Grow the economy

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Isle of Man
Government
Reiltys Ellan Vannin

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An Agenda for Change

Balance the budget : Protect the vulnerable : Grow the economy



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FOREWORD

This document sets out the priorities for the Isle of Man Government for the four years to September 2016. It is not meant to be an exhaustive 'to do' list, neither is it set in stone. It will be subject to frequent review and will reflect both internal and external pressures and influences. The purpose of the document is to give a clear indication of the Council of Ministers' direction of travel for the Departments, Statutory Boards and Offices of Government and also the people of the Isle of Man. It is intended that this 'Agenda for Change' will be subject to scrutiny and debate in Tynwald.

The Agenda for Change is one part of the overall picture. It sits alongside and is informed and influenced by:

- the debate on the scope and size of Government.
- the way Government allocates budgets to meet its priorities.
- external pressures and relationships.

This document forms one part of an overall approach to building a sustainable future for our Island. It represents a set of priorities agreed upon by the Council of Ministers which are necessary if we are to meet the challenge of a much reduced budget for the future.

We must face that challenge with determination and with clarity. None of the choices facing us are easy; but they are necessary. This document sets out the foundations for a sustainable future for the Isle of Man. In some cases, we have identified clear actions, for example the publication of a children's plan. In other cases, it identifies principles which Government will follow, for example that the 'user pays' for certain services. We expect Departments, Boards and Offices to be guided by these principles as they review and assess the way they deliver their services.

We will see a fundamental shift in the way we support the vulnerable in our society, whilst ensuring we continue to protect the most vulnerable or those at risk of harm. We recognise that the way we currently provide social welfare is no longer sustainable and needs to be reformed. Government will continue to develop joint working to address the needs of children and their families effectively. We will ensure scarce public resources are targeted to those in greatest need,

being careful to assess, fairly and consistently, an individual's needs and ability to pay. This change will take time and will affect many people, but it is a key part of our reform. We would not undertake this reform, however, without also ensuring that Government makes changes to itself. We will continue to reduce the operational cost of delivering services whilst improving the way they are provided. Both the public and business expect Government to run itself in the most cost-effective and efficient way possible and we will ensure we meet those expectations.

Progress against the priorities and actions identified in this document will be measured through the new Government performance framework online. We intend to be open and transparent in the way we track and assess our progress and hope to launch a new interactive website in early 2013 which will allow Tynwald and the public to scrutinise our progress towards our objectives.



Hon Allan Bell MHK
Chief Minister

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document sets out the priorities for the Isle of Man Government for the next four years and can be seen as a manifesto for change.

The priorities for Government can be aligned to five key policy areas:



OUR ECONOMY

How Government supports the continued growth of our economy creating jobs for all in a sustainable manner.



ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

How Government ensures we maintain our built and natural environment in a manner that supports the needs of our community sustainably.



GOOD GOVERNMENT

How Government runs itself, delivers its services and deals with the public.



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

How Government determines the money we will collect through taxation and other charges. We recognise that we exist in a global environment and this section covers the way we interact with our international and local partners.



WELFARE REFORM AND WELLBEING

How Government will reform the welfare state, but also support healthy and safe communities.

OUR ECONOMY

We see further development of our diversified economy as being key to the future of our Island. We will create growth and with it good quality jobs for our people. We will ensure our education system is developing the skills and knowledge needed to support our economy.

We will:

- energise the Island's ability to innovate and create our future industries.
- forge new sustainable relationships with other countries and business partners.
- reduce bureaucracy for businesses.
- support local businesses to promote the Island in target markets.
- help more young people to find employment.
- broaden the school curriculum to provide more opportunities for applied and vocational learning.
- work with the construction industry to meet the Island's housing needs.
- use our natural resources to work towards building a post carbon fuelled Island.
- acknowledge and promote the economic value of our sport, arts, culture and heritage.



ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

We must provide an Island infrastructure that enables people to live, work and travel and to enjoy a good quality of life. We must also provide the support which new and existing business needs to flourish. We must use our natural resources sustainably and ensure we respond to the global challenges, responsibilities and opportunities which food security, energy security and climate change present.

We will:

- identify sustainable ways to reduce the financial and environmental cost of energy in the medium to long term.
- address the issues posed by the effects of climate change.
- produce a marine spatial plan to guide appropriate future commercial use of our territorial seas.
- prioritise the schemes in the capital programme which further develop our infrastructure and support economic development.
- make sure town and country planning supports economic development.
- ensure our transport links are secured.
- develop a realistic strategy for food security in the Isle of Man.
- promote the value and utilisation of our amenity, cultural and landscape resources.
- encourage sustainable economic activity in harmony with our natural resources.

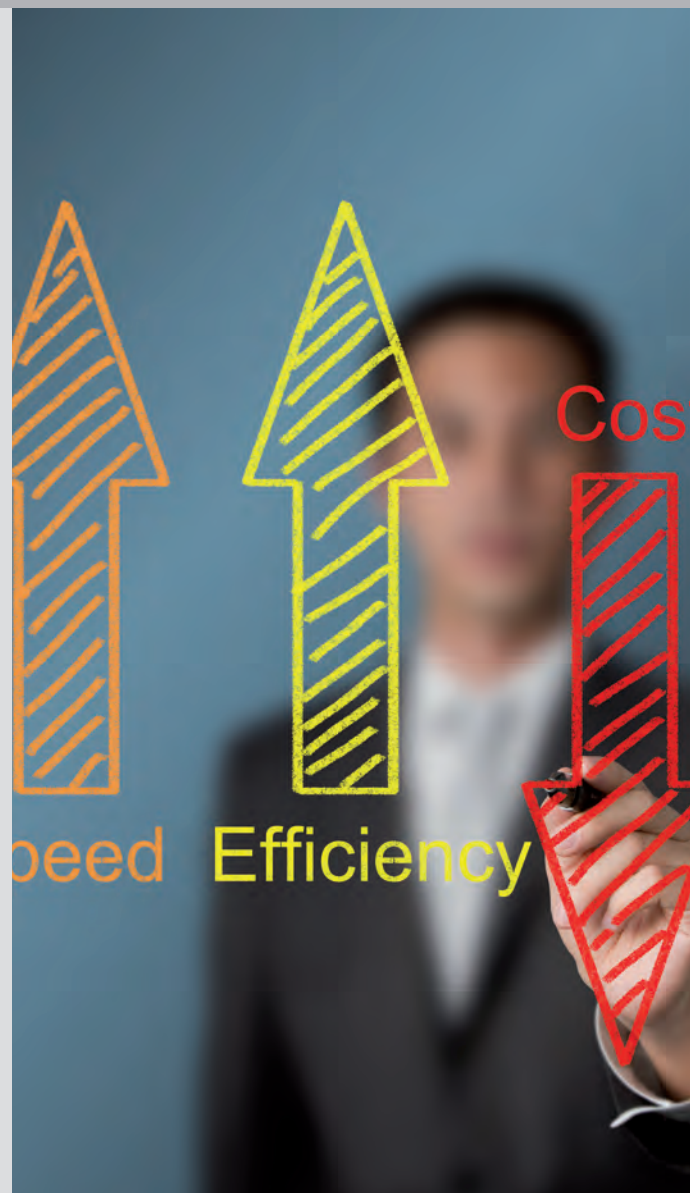


GOOD GOVERNMENT

We recognise that Government must change. We will lead the change to a more efficient way of working, using technology to support better delivery of services and reduce bureaucracy. We will work in partnership with, and listen to, the views of staff and our customers.

We will:

- create a smaller, simpler Government.
- cut employment costs.
- reduce bureaucracy and improve transparency.
- improve focus on the customer.
- routinely report on our corporate performance across Government.
- demonstrate the behaviours we value in our staff, including innovation, empowerment, courage to challenge and a focus on service.
- tackle any culture of blame and encourage a pragmatic approach to risk.



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

We recognise that the world has changed immeasurably in the past decades; we must continue to adapt to those changes. We will ensure we continue to be recognised as an internationally responsible, reputable and competitive jurisdiction. In rebalancing and redistributing the Budget, we will control Government expenditure, and apply charges where necessary but in a fair manner.

We will:

- maintain a taxation regime which is fair and simple to comply with, and strengthens our competitive position.
- bring forward our revised tax strategy which takes account of the current international and financial climate.
- engage constructively with the international community. This includes dialogue with organisations in relation to the implementation of developed international taxation standards.
- highlight our success in meeting international standards.
- introduce a fairer and more consistent approach to domestic rating.
- ensure that money owed to Government is collected.
- increase the number of Government services attracting a charge where necessary.



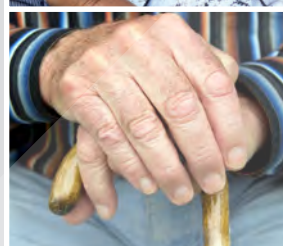
WELFARE REFORM AND WELLBEING

We see the continuing welfare and wellbeing of our community as fundamental to our quality of life. We must educate and develop our young people to give them the skills they need to be able to contribute fully.

We recognise that the way we currently provide our social welfare is no longer sustainable. We will radically reform our social policies, ensuring that those in greatest need are supported and protected. This will be done in a way that is both affordable and fair. The traditional 'universal services for all' model of provision is no longer sustainable and some services will be means tested in the future.

We will:

- define those services which will be universal to all and ensure they are high quality while being realistic about what we can afford. Key public services will continue to be free at the point of delivery.
- make sure the protection of the most vulnerable remains a high priority for Government.
- ensure scarce public resources are targeted to those most in need by assessing an individual's needs and their ability to pay, carefully, fairly and consistently. We will also extend charging for some services.
- provide better support to enable people to move away from dependency on public services and benefits and become more self-sufficient wherever possible.
- plan for the opportunities and challenges posed by our rising life expectancy which will significantly change the nature of our society.
- improve the link between the provision of public sector housing and social need.
- reform the Criminal Justice System, ensuring swift, effective administration of Justice whilst maintaining a safe society.



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**Isle of Man
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