



**Isle of Man**  
**Government**

*Reiltys Ellan Vannin*

# OUR ISLAND: A SPECIAL PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

PROGRAMME FOR  
GOVERNMENT  
2016-2021

GD No: 2017/0002



# INTRODUCTION

The Council of Ministers is pleased to bring its Programme for Government to Tynwald.

We have used the guiding principles agreed by Tynwald in November to inform the further development of the document.

It states our strategic objectives for the next five years and identifies our initial priorities. We have begun to set out policy statements in key areas and the Treasury has begun the process of aligning the budget to reflect our priorities.

The Council of Ministers has been clear that this Programme should not be fixed, but instead be a living document that evolves over time. It should respond to emerging threats and challenges and be flexible enough to allow us to adapt quickly to opportunities as they arise. The ability to adjust and respond has long been one of our strengths and we need to maintain this attitude now more than ever.

We should be rightly proud of the way our Island has evolved over time. Our economy has continued to grow and diversify where others have stalled. We have a superb quality of life and

excellent public services. But we also need to be realistic about what we can afford. We should recognise that in some cases we cannot continue to provide the same level of service as before and still expect our public services to be sustainable.

We need an honest debate about what our priority services should be in the future and how we will pay for them.

To do this we must ensure we continue to support economic growth. We have been clear in this Programme that the Council of Ministers sees Government's role as creating the environment in which business – established and new – can flourish. This includes ensuring access to skilled workers, financial support and pragmatic regulation and legislation.

We believe our Programme for Government sets out an ambitious but achievable vision of a nation that is inclusive, tolerant and sustainable. It builds on solid foundations to support and encourage further growth in our economy, allowing everyone the opportunity to flourish and prosper.



# ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document sets out the Council of Ministers' Programme for Government.

The programme consists of several different components.

There are three **Strategic Objectives**. These are the overarching aims of the Council of Ministers in the long term:

An Inclusive and Caring Society

An Island of Enterprise and Opportunity

Financially Responsible Government



# ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

There are twenty **outcomes** in total and they have been grouped into five main **themes**:

Enterprise and Opportunity Island

Responsible Island

Sustainable Island

Inclusive and Caring Island

Healthy and Safe Island

Each outcome is supported by a number of policy statements. These broad statements are intended to represent the Council of Ministers' commitments in relation to each outcome.

A number of initial actions have also been agreed by Council of Ministers which help take Government closer to achieving its overall objectives. These are detailed at the end of the document against the relevant theme. Departments, Boards and Offices will develop further actions and plans over the coming months to support the outcomes identified in this programme.



# ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

## Measuring performance

All Departments, Boards and Offices will be expected to produce a service delivery plan which sets out how they plan to achieve the outcomes identified in this programme. The Cabinet Office will work with Departments to identify performance indicators against the outcomes. These will be published quarterly. The Council of Ministers will bring the full national indicator set to Tynwald in April.

# OUR ISLAND: A SPECIAL PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK



# ENTERPRISE AND OPPORTUNITY ISLAND

OUTCOME	POLICY STATEMENT - WE WILL
We have an economy where local entrepreneurship is supported and thriving and more new businesses are choosing to call the Isle of Man home	Create an environment that allows businesses to thrive and flourish
	Continue to invest in and support businesses at all stages of growth and work to attract new enterprise
	Work with our business sectors to understand, support and contribute to the quality and professionalism of our business sectors
	Maintain our reputation at the forefront of innovation and emerging technologies and respond quickly to new business models
	Continue to diversify our main financial services economy
We have a diverse economy where people choose to work and invest	Focus on sustainable job growth for our Island
	Grow the economically active population, promoting our Island and its qualities
	Consider the social and economic benefits when disposing of or leasing Government property and land
	Maximise the social and economic value of our Territorial seabed
	Ensure our employment legislation is responsive to the needs of business whilst growing the talent in our local workforce
	Respond to changes in new and emerging working patterns by ensuring our legislation is flexible enough to meet these demands
We have Island transport that meets our social and economic needs	Ensure the future security, sustainability and reliability of our sea and air routes
	Provide public transport which best serves the social and economic needs of our communities
	Support and promote healthy, safe and cost-effective travel and encourage the uptake of low carbon transport
We have an education system which matches our skills requirements now and in the future	Expand vocational, employment and skills training provision linked to social and economic need
	Improve standards and availability of pre-school education
	Ensure we're getting value for money for higher and further education
	Ensure that our young people have the skills and knowledge to be ready to enter the workplace
	Ensure our education system is responsive to future employment needs
We have an infrastructure which supports social and economic wellbeing	Ensure we are a digital Island, ready for new technologies like 5G, so we remain competitive now and in the future
	Prioritise maintenance of our strategic highway network and ensure our streets and roads are safe
We have utilities that support our Island communities and businesses	Support the three goals of energy security, the 2050 Emissions Reduction target and affordability to ensure an effective, secure and appropriate long term energy plan
	Set out a more active role for the Communications Commission in the pricing and quality of our telecoms provision

OUTCOME	POLICY STATEMENT - WE WILL
<p>We are financially responsible while providing services that meet the needs of our community</p>	Demonstrate sustainable public finances with clear recognition of financial targets that support Government priorities
	Modernise the rates system so it supports services appropriate to the 21st Century
	Maintain a stable tax and public revenue regime that meets our fiscal, social and economic needs
	Identify and bring proposals to Tynwald which address the legacy funding gap for the public sector pension
<p>We have public services which are fit for purpose, modern and provided in the right place</p>	Ensure Government's purchasing power is used to spend locally wherever possible
	Make access to our services more focused around the needs of our customers
	Continue to make more Government information available and increase transparency in the way Government delivers its services
	Continue our drive to transform Government services through the use of digital technology
	Improve the way we consult and engage on new policies and legislation, taking into account the possible use of pre-legislative committees in Tynwald
	Decide on whether Government would operate better as a Single Legal Entity
	Encourage change which improves our services and strive to manage change effectively
	Have Political and Departmental leaders who will give clear and effective leadership that enables delivery of the Programme for Government
<p>We have more responsive legislation and regulation</p>	Intervene where necessary in those markets where there is a dominant market presence, in order to ensure reliable, sustainable and beneficial services for the Isle of Man economy and consumers
	Introduce new legislation for national telecommunications which creates a more effective regulatory framework in this area
	Rationalise regulation and ensure it better supports our economy, environment and community
	Ensure that Isle of Man law and policy is equivalent in effect to the forthcoming European Union General Data Protection Regulations to give our businesses confidence that they can continue to trade in Europe
<p>We engage, participate and are respected internationally</p>	Continue to influence and engage with the UK, EU and others to ensure the best possible outcome for the Isle of Man from Brexit
	Continue to develop our engagement programme with the UK and further afield
	Maintain our commitment to meet international standards in relation to tax and transparency
	Deliver against our commitment to reduce our carbon emissions
	Maintain our commitment to international development



# SUSTAINABLE ISLAND

OUTCOME	POLICY STATEMENT - WE WILL
<p>We are an Island where people choose to live and visit</p>	<p>Make best use of our Island's land and seas for leisure and work through food, agriculture and fisheries strategies, plus tourism and recreational use that work together with our environment</p>
	<p>Continue to promote and support our national heritage, culture and language at home and around the world</p>
	<p>Nurture Manx culture and arts by encouraging creative activity</p>
	<p>Build on and promote our UNESCO Biosphere accreditation for the benefit of our economy, environment and community</p>
	<p>Work with partners to provide sports opportunities for more people to be more active, more often</p>
	<p>Take care of nature and wildlife so that our uplands, plantations, glens, and rivers can help us deal with the challenges of a changing climate</p>
	<p>Grow the visitor economy in the Isle of Man</p>
<p>We have a planning system which supports sustainable growth</p>	<p>Shape and design a planning system informed by recent reviews and consultation</p>
	<p>Make it easier for Government's priorities to be reflected in the way planning applications are considered</p>
	<p>Develop a programme for the on-going monitoring and updating of the Island Development Plan and, where appropriate, consider bringing forward development land by other mechanisms</p>
	<p>Review our processes and desired goals in respect of the conservation of our built environment</p>
<p>We have a natural and built environment which we conserve and cherish and which is adapted to cope with the threats from climate change</p>	<p>Provide proper disposal routes for problematic waste</p>
	<p>Better manage the way we deal with historic and current waste whilst improving environmental management</p>
	<p>Continue to invest in sea defences and in reducing flooding and coastal erosion risks for those areas identified as high risk in our national strategy</p>
	<p>Consider innovative approaches to supporting people to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient</p>



# INCLUSIVE AND CARING ISLAND

OUTCOME	POLICY STATEMENT - WE WILL
We have affordable and accessible housing which meets our social and economic needs	Ensure we have housing which meets the future needs of our community
	Continue to develop initiatives to safeguard the interests of landlords and tenants in private rented accommodation
	Develop long term investment plans for housing following completion of the housing stock review
We have appropriate, flexible and equitable pensions for all	Introduce flexibility for private pensions
	Develop and review options for future retirement
	Ensure the state pension is sustainable for the future
We have open and transparent Government which engages effectively with Tynwald and the public	We will work together with local authorities and other partners to deliver the right services in the right place at the right time, making sure national priorities are funded accordingly
	Make Government more accountable
	Improve the operation of the tribunal system
	Consider how better to engage and collect the views of the third sector, trade unions and private sector to develop Government policy.
We are tackling the inequalities in our Island society	Ensure our welfare system is providing better defined and more appropriate support for people



# HEALTHY AND SAFE ISLAND

OUTCOME	POLICY STATEMENT - WE WILL
We live longer, healthier lives	Help everyone to take greater responsibility for their own health, encouraging good lifestyle choices
	Help people to stay well in their own homes and communities, avoiding hospital and residential care wherever possible
	Improve services for people who really need care in hospital
	Work to ensure that everyone receives good value health and social care services
We have improved the quality of life for children, young people and families at risk	Improve governance and accountability in the way we provide health and care
	Explore opportunities for shared commissioning for safeguarding and early intervention services for those most at risk
	Work with the Legal Aid Committee on proposals to develop more efficient, effective and equitable legal aid provision for the future
	Provide safeguards for people who cannot protect themselves
We live our lives safe from crime and danger	Continue to modernise our criminal justice system through the implementation of the Criminal Justice Strategy
	Respond to the increasing threats to our national security
	Continue to support the work of our emergency services
	Maintain our robust, zero tolerance stance in relation to money laundering and the financing of terrorism



©Paul Marriott

# ENTERPRISE AND OPPORTUNITY ISLAND

## ACTION BY OUTCOME

Promote and drive the Enterprise and Development Scheme and ensure it is delivering jobs and new businesses for our Island

Partner with business to offer skills, training and accreditations

Increase the uptake of our new products, like the alternative banking regime and crowdfunding

Complete the Lord St and Parade St tenders

Extend the number of work permit exemptions and review the effectiveness of this policy

Secure the provision of a replacement landing stage in Liverpool

Consider and report on options for securing our strategic air services

Implement the strategic sea services policy and strategy

Put a demand responsive transport service into place

Develop a strategy for active transport to increase the number of people using walking and cycling to get around

Introduce a regulatory framework for pre-school services

Harmonise our further and higher education to ensure we achieve a more effective and value for money service

Update the 2001 Education Act to refresh existing legislation and address gaps that exist in our current legislative framework

Encourage and stimulate the return of our graduates

Agree a 50 year National Infrastructure Strategy by July 2017 which considers the public and private infrastructure required to deliver long term economic growth and social wellbeing

Prepare a Harbours Maritime Strategy for the Island to include the exploration of the feasibility for a deep water berth and the ability to bring forward a non-tidal marina by end 2026

Complete the substantial works to Douglas Promenade

Complete the regional sewerage infrastructure by the end of this administration

Conduct an independent review of Manx Utilities' financial position to assess the ongoing stability of its long-term financial plan and the assumptions that underlie it

Work with the MUA to limit cost increases in the short term for water, sewerage and electricity to reduce the impact of charges and utility rates on economic activity and the cost of living

Consult on a minimum 10Mb universal service obligation for broadband

# RESPONSIBLE ISLAND

## ACTION BY OUTCOME

Set out a fiscal plan for the term of this administration which gives clear cost reduction targets and controls expenditure

Create a team to identify opportunities, efficiencies and savings in public finance expenditure to meet the cost reduction targets which will be identified in the 2017/18 budget.

Review and consider public/private approaches to financing capital and regeneration schemes

Set out a plan to improve the way debts are identified, collected and monitored by April 2018

Set out a full plan for rates modernisation by October 2017

Introduce the agreed changes to the public sector pension

Improve our procurement policy to ensure we spend more money locally where possible

Fully implement our Freedom of Information regime by 2018 and extend an open government policy

Present to Tynwald a feasibility study on considerations relating to a Single Resident Record for the Isle of Man by December 2017

Continue to support and fund the digital strategy

Review and update the Consultation Code of Practice, implementing any changes by December 2017

Finalise the single legal entity review, including a review of government bodies and committees by July 2017

Introduce a competition bill and review our approach to regulating monopolies

Modernise the Telecommunications Act and work with industry to review associated mechanisms so that consumers are better served

Produce a report on our regulatory framework which explores options for better regulation

Ensure the Island's legislative position is equivalent to the EU General Data Protection Regulation directive by May 2018

Consider and respond to issues identified in the international MONEYVAL report on the Isle of Man, prioritising and taking action as required



# SUSTAINABLE ISLAND

## ACTION BY OUTCOME

Open the Isle of Man's first cultural centre, promoting cultural and political identity and develop a Manx Language Strategy by April 2017

Develop and launch a National Development Strategy for Culture and the Arts linked to heritage and tourism by April 2017

Organise a Year celebrating our Island as a special place to live and work in 2018

Target higher spending visitors and new markets as well as getting more spend from existing visitors

Work with the industry to improve and enhance our overall proposition for tourists

Invest in better design and layout for our residential streets

Bring into operation the Area Plan for the East by the end of 2019 and set out a timetable for the Area Plans for the North and West.

Extend permitted development rights by the end of 2017

Revise our waste management strategy

Implement an energy efficiency scheme for the Island by the end of 2017





# INCLUSIVE AND CARING ISLAND

## ACTION BY OUTCOME

Work with housing providers to identify and develop suitable alternative types of housing to meet the Island's future needs

Investigate how to ensure we have accommodation that can meet the needs of an ageing population including 'care' and 'extra care' housing, and nursing and residential homes

Introduce the Houses in Multiple Occupation standards and monitoring regime

Develop a rent deposit protection mechanism and associated tenancy arbitration process, together with other necessary landlord and tenancy arrangements

Modify the access and eligibility criteria for housing so that access is prioritised for those who are most in need, both at first point of allocation and at any subsequent tenancy review

Work in partnership with Local Authorities to establish shared public sector housing waiting lists

Bring forward proposals for flexible options for private pensions by the end of 2017

Explore options for contracting out and second tier pensions

Introduce a new Manx State Pension in 2019

Review the current approach and timetable for local authority transition

Appoint a Tynwald Commissioner for Administration and align its activity and that of the health and care review bodies and Tynwald committees

Introduce a Manx national economic development forum to ensure all views are heard and taken into account

Develop a high level policy for means testing by May 2017

Change the way we help people get back to work by establishing clearer support pathways

Investigate the option to introduce a Living Wage

Implement the Equality Act



# HEALTHY AND SAFE ISLAND

## ACTION BY OUTCOME

Continue the external peer review process of the hospital and implement the recommendations

Move more services from the hospital into the community so care is provided closer to people's homes

Define the essential services always provided in health and social care and be clear about those that aren't

Continue to digitally transform the hospital and health and care services more generally

Define the health services which will be provided on-Island and those that will be provided off-Island

Reduce waiting times for operations

Publish hospital waiting lists by April 2017

Maximise efficiency of the services delivered through digital and tele-health care

Improve the way we communicate with the public about the way we provide healthcare

Become an employer of choice in healthcare

Ensure we continue to improve mental health services and access

Address the long term funding issues posed by an ageing population

Implement the mental health services strategy

Consider and recommend funding options for residential and nursing care

Implement the recommendations in the Care Inspectorate 2014 report of an inspection of services for children and young people, and respond to the comments in the Care Inspectorate's 2016 update report

## ACTION BY OUTCOME

Put the Safeguarding Children Board on a statutory footing through legislation, and consider introducing a statutory board for safeguarding adults

Investigate and make proposals for independent regulation of health and social care

Widen the scope of offences covered by cautions and fixed penalty notices

Develop new guidelines for our sentencing, parole and probation frameworks

Enhance early intervention, including extending our successful youth justice strategy to include those aged 18-25

Reduce reoffending through community rehabilitation and restorative justice programmes

Drive digital transformation of the criminal justice system, particularly in the Police and Courts, and widen the scope in which evidence can be heard and cross-examined

Amend jury arrangements taking into account the Tynwald resolution of November 2016

Increase our ability to respond to cyber attacks

Develop a border security policy by June 2017

Implement any improvements identified by the MONEYVAL assessment





# LEGISLATION 2016/17

## PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR 2016/17

NAME OF BILL	SPONSORING DEPT	COMMENTS
Insurance (Amendment) Bill	Treasury	To modernise legislation consistent with international standards
Credit Union (Amendment) Bill	Treasury	To amend and update regulatory sections of the Credit Unions Act 1993
Customs and Excise Bill	Treasury	To amend the Customs and Excise Management Act 1986 to make it consistent with UK legislation and to create a flexible framework to fit requirements imposed by virtue of the EU, MONEYVAL and FATF
Fraud Bill	Home Affairs	To modernise legislation consistent with international standards
Road Transport, Licensing and Registration (Amendment) Bill	Infrastructure	To make amendments to the Licensing and Registration of Vehicles Act 1985 and the Road Transport Act 2001
Beneficial Ownership Bill	Treasury	To meet international commitments
Communications Bill	Home Affairs	To replace the Telecommunications Act 1984 and the Broadcasting Act 1993
General Registry Bill	Economic Development	To transfer the function of the General Registry to Economic Development
Payment of Members' Expenses (Amendment) Bill	Treasury	To modernise the Payment of Members' Expenses Act 1989
Public Corporations Bill	Cabinet Office/ Treasury	To deal with matters arising from the corporatisation of statutory bodies
Sentencing Bill	Home Affairs	To meet obligations of the Criminal Justice Strategy
Casino (Amendment) Bill	Treasury	To introduce a mechanism to transfer licences for premises and regulations and powers to permit AML/CFT oversight of a casino licence holder
Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill	Cabinet Office	To enable the Information Commissioner to be listed as a public authority; and to protect information sharing between jurisdictions



# BILLS EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

NAME OF BILL	SPONSORING DEPT	COMMENTS
Education Bill	Education	To update and refresh existing legislation
Data Protection (Amendment) Bill	Cabinet Office	To modernise legislation consistent with international standards
Rating and Valuation Bill	Treasury, Cabinet Office	To modernise legislation for rating valuation and collection
Bail (Amendment) Bill	Home Affairs	To modernise the Criminal Justice, Police Powers and Other Amendments Act 2014
Competition Bill	Environment, Food and Agriculture	To replace Part 2 of the Fair Trading Act 1996 with a modern framework of competition law
Local Government Amendment (2) Bill	Infrastructure	To facilitate the modernisation of local government
Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Bill	Home Affairs	To provide for offences for obscene publications, acts with children, pornographic images, and the registration of offenders, along with anonymity for victims of sexual crime
Licensing Bill	Home Affairs	To modernise the Licensing Act 1966 and 1995 and the Licensing (Amendment) Act 2001
Anti-Money Laundering (Gambling) Bill	Treasury	To modernise legislation consistent with international standards
Douglas Promenade Improvement and Tramways Bill	Infrastructure	To provide for the reconstruction of the Douglas Promenades and Douglas Bay Horse Tramway
Social Service (Amendment) Bill	Health and Social Care	To introduce statutory provisions for safeguarding children board and safeguarding adults partnership and provide powers for the Department in relation to the commissioning of services and managing the care market
Tynwald Commissioner for Administration (Amendment) Bill	Cabinet Office	To enable the provision for a right of appeal against a decision not to investigate
Wayleaves Bill	Department of Economic Development	To modernise the process for the use of wayleaves
MONEYVAL	There may also be amendment bills which arise from the recommendations arising out of the MONEYVAL assessment of the Isle of Man's anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism regime. These will be prioritised	
BREXIT	Potential need for amendment bills and possible primary legislation following the triggering of Article 50 by the UK Government	

# CONCLUSION

As a Council of Ministers, this Programme for Government is the first step on our journey and should be seen as a living document which will evolve over time.

We will support this plan with an open and transparent set of performance measures which will be published quarterly. We will also ensure Tynwald receives an annual update document and the opportunity to debate the progress and direction of the Government at that time.

In developing this programme we have tried to be inclusive. We have worked hard to make sure we have heard and acted upon the many different views of Tynwald Members.

The rapid development of this programme so soon after the General Election means that the public's aspirations and needs have been heard too, through recently elected Members.

We have also listened to the views of the business community and hope they recognise their input to this document.

While not everyone will be able to support all parts of the programme, we hope that this programme represents a broad consensus; our Island already is a special place to live and work, but we know it can be even better. We can only achieve this by working together.



Council of Ministers





**Isle of Man**  
**Government**

*Reilrys Ellan Vannin*

Isle of Man Government  
Government Office  
Bucks Road, Douglas  
Isle of Man, IM1 3PN

Email: [generalenquiries@csso.gov.im](mailto:generalenquiries@csso.gov.im)

[www.gov.im](http://www.gov.im)

