

Kate



LORD-BRENNAN

for Glenfaba & Peel

RENEW ✓
REVIVE ✓
REFORM ✓



Independent candidate for the House of Keys General Election

2021 Manifesto



Kate LORD-BRENNAN



for Glenfaba & Peel

Dear Voter,

Anyone can set out a list of issues at a given time.

Far beyond that though, is the truth that style of approach and motivation matters.

Being willing to listen and to reflect on a position are of enduring importance.

I am someone who feels strongly compelled to understand and get to the heart of issues, to seek the right and just course of action, who speaks up and challenges when things are wrong (even against the odds!) and who seeks to influence and persist for the best course of action. This is what drives me. It relies on curiosity, an openness to be informed, and at times, a strong will, because it is not always easy. I have demonstrated this in my Legislative Council and Tynwald roles already.

I have already thoroughly enjoyed getting to understand the different communities in Glenfaba & Peel in a deeper way. I recognise that these communities are different and have different needs. I value that, and if elected I pledge to take care in that regard across the constituency, to be around and to carry out the role of MHK in a conscientious way with strong representation.

It is in the spirit of this approach, and with these values, along with presenting my manifesto, that I ask you to put your trust in me to be your House of Keys representative in the service and interests of Glenfaba & Peel, and the Isle of Man.

Thank you and best wishes,

Kate

House of Keys General Election

Thursday 23rd September 2021

From a global to a community level, there's no doubt we've been through a challenging period in history – but with this challenge comes the opportunity for both change and growth.

There is no question in my mind that now is the perfect time to:

RENEW

- Our Island's overall approach to government.
- Long overdue investment in essential services in the West.

REVIVE

- The economy.
- An offer for the younger population.
- Our places – the natural & built environment.

All of this needs a brave new look.

REFORM

- Good government for delivery & competency.
- Fairness, accountability & stewardship of funds.
- An end to the siloed approach which hampers effective government at a strategic, policy and operational level.

This, in a nutshell, is what is needed to improve services and outcomes so that government and the system delivers for people on the ground.

My vision for our Island's future for the next 10 years

Our Island

Our Island is already beautiful. My vision for its future is an Island that is not only **clean, healthy and vibrant** with natural beauty, but because of the **sustainable and thoughtful policies** that put people, our environment and our economy first, and demonstrates values of **care, fairness and justice**.

Our government

I believe we deserve a government that demonstrates **listening leadership**, one that serves the interests of the people, not itself; that champions accountability and performance and has clear focus.

I believe that **projects, policy and prioritisation of public funds should ensure a positive impact**; investment needs to be linked with outcomes driven by sound values and a strategic approach.

Our society

A strong society is one that empowers and respects communities and is truly family friendly. I stand by policies that support **sustainability and prosperity**, and ensure our older people receive appropriate care. A society where our younger population are provided with opportunities and an Island where they want to be; one that aligns with **wellbeing, is vibrant, and where a sense of pride** is restored.

For our Island to be a place where people want to stay, raise their families and grow their businesses, we need to start now.

My key priorities for Glenfaba and Peel

Investment in infrastructure for Glenfaba and Peel is long overdue and does not match our growing population. I would advocate for the following:

CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

- Investment here is urgently needed. Corrin Home has highlighted that we need residential care in the community: a residential care model that works, and modern, fit-for-purpose facilities for the West.
- Eligibility for sheltered housing needs to be reviewed.

CLEAN, SAFE BAY & BEACH FOR PEEL

- It is completely unacceptable to have raw sewage and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) discharged into Peel Bay. It presents a public health risk and is at odds with Biosphere status. This has been ignored. A public health and aspirational approach must be taken.
- Sewage treatment options (both regional and centralised) must be fully, honestly and openly appraised, taking proper account of long-term costs, impact and year-round water quality. Regulations should be updated.
- This demands honesty and transparency about how PCBs will be dealt with, and the inclusion of an extension of the outflow pipe, which discharges into the bay and all year round UV treatment for any regional treatment options.

Peel deserves a firm deadline for decisions and completion in relation to these issues.

SCHOOLS AND HEALTHCARE

- Investment and expansion of Peel Clothworkers’.
- Integrated healthcare is a key aspect of healthcare transformation, which I fully support. Western Wellbeing Partnership - which is held out as the blueprint for integrated healthcare for the Island - must have much greater relevance for the healthcare of people in the West. We must also get to the core of the issues which are leading to difficulty accessing GP appointments and see that a regional approach to healthcare remedies this.
- I would like to see local community provision for new mums and babies, and for integrated healthcare to have impact and visibility in terms of public health and wellbeing.

SOCIAL POLICY & PEEL POST OFFICE

- We need to ensure the Sub-Post Office in Peel is retained. Helpful counter services in the community and access to cash **remain incredibly important, especially since the loss of the bank**. This issue demands a social policy for older people, and those who cannot deal with digitalisation, to be developed from the centre of government.
- More broadly, a change of policy and approach is needed to recognise the social good of our Post Office and ideas need to be listened to as well as full consultation with public on continuity of local services where there is retirement of sub-postmasters across the Island. Priorities need to be decided between funding to support head office costs and actual services that function in communities. This may well require a totally different strategic approach, but not everyone is ready for digitalisation. Access to these services is a real issue for Glenfaba & Peel in particular. A strategic approach needs to fulfil a social policy for older people and digitally disenfranchised.
- ‘Community Hub Services’ for the West, as introduced by government, should be with the Peel Post Office, not attached to the Western Wellbeing Centre (which should be about Health).

JOB, ENVIRONMENT, TOWNS & VILLAGES

- Encourage employment opportunities and thriving businesses in Glenfaba & Peel to uplift the towns and villages.
- A well-planned community where most of people's daily needs can be met by a short walk or cycle. This is achievable for Peel. It also aligns with targets for both climate change and wellbeing, and the need to improve roads and streets to make them easier to walk and cross, push a pram, or use a mobility aid, as well as make journeys by car.
- Air-quality monitoring, particularly around schools. Biodiversity policies should be fulfilled.
- Government grants in relation to property and climate change should include reintroduction of financial assistance for properties affected by damp.
- Interventions, safe crossings and limits on speeding need to be based on wishes of people who live there and use the streets. We need a policy for streets.
- Having had concerns about the Eastern Area Plan, I am not convinced of the approach of the North West Area Plan, especially given the present inadequacy of infrastructure and the recognised need to prioritise development of brownfield sites rather than greenfield sites.
- Community-led and collaborative plans would be preferable based on real engagement and **a vision that considers the needs and wants of people**, especially young people, businesses, social needs, housing needs, creative endeavours and the responsibilities of government and local authorities in order **to revive what were once thriving towns and villages**.
- Infrastructure projects need to be informed by the wealth of local knowledge and expertise already out there. A principle of asking (early) to get insight needs to be embraced.
- Many people are questioning why the basics don't get attended to in terms of roads, verges and very basic maintenance. **A sense of pride and tending to the practical matters is needed**. Basic maintenance services at a local and Island infrastructure must be done on a regular schedule.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CHARITIES

- Community groups and charities play a valuable role in day-to-day life. Regulations and laws impacting smaller charities should be reviewed, as should accessibility of potential government funding, which may be available to the private sector.

Island-wide perspective

Government needs to address fundamental issues in a focused way and seek opportunity for economic growth and an improved quality of life.

Government needs to address priority needs first, and in some areas, employ a back-to-basics approach. This should include prioritisation of resources to the front-line.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND GROWING FAMILIES

Young people need to feel they have a stake in the future of the Island.

We need an approach that offers something for younger people, to make their way in life and also ensures that the Island is a vibrant attractive place to be.

My view is that the following would help:

- Formulation of a **clear and positive offering for young people** and those returning to our Island following university. **This needs to be tied in with housing policy / schemes.**
- Focus needs to be on **how the Isle of Man can be a great place to have children, and to be a child.**
- Cross-government policies to address these issues should be considered, along with considering the issue of reduced fertility rate and policy responses.
- Increase to Maternity Allowance.
- Childcare strategy needs to be finalised and implemented.
- Improve Island with economic plan, brownfield site development and tourism & leisure offering.

HOUSING

The new administration **must initiate a housing task force to quickly identify** the supportive policy, legislative and financial interventions which will spur quick action so that young people, first-time buyers and key workers can get a step on the ladder.

This may include:

- Restrictions on who can and cannot purchase.
- A focus on redevelopment of brownfield sites for key workers and first-time buyers.
- Reappraisal of the thresholds for support and schemes as well as a proper look at a shared equity scheme or government deposit guarantee scheme in conjunction with a Housing Association.
- Changes with regards to this and a clear offer should be in effect by **Feb 2022**.
- Housing schemes should not only apply to new builds.
- Housing and planning policies need to be moved in line with **sustainability and local crafts**. This in turn, like a programme to build more care homes, would feed a planned demand for apprenticeships and local craft expertise.

FUTURE OF EDUCATION, CHILDREN, YOUTH SERVICES AND APPRENTICESHIPS

It is vital that education is working to **serve and prepare children and young people** for when they go through each stage of the education system and critically, for when they leave school, to cope with a changing world.

My sense is that education reforms in terms of the Beaman's Review are a work in progress and my concerns are that we should put schools and children first, not the Department of Education, Sports and Culture first.

Leadership should be in the hands of the school leaders and educators. Alongside that, there is a sense from parents that some of the basics in learning or structure that may have once been routine need to be brought back.

The way forward should ensure the confidence of educators and parents in the best interest of children and teens as they develop through life.

I believe the following warrants consideration.

- Open and independent attainment data.
- Greater degree of independence in review / evaluation.
- Basic tests for students.
- Youth services play a vital role which could be wider.
- Apprenticeships for new skills.
- Establishment of Children's Commissioner.

THE ECONOMY

- Support approach taken by the Treasury led cross-government Economic Recovery Group for long-term economic plan with emphasis on a green, digital and safe future for the Isle of Man.
- Roles / set up of Department for Enterprise and agencies need to be re- evaluated, the agencies need greater independence and focus on attracting inward investment and trade needs impetus.
- A strategic and professionally developed and marketing-led plan for the future of tourism in the Island with a focus on stimulating growth. This could also tie in with potential brownfield development plans and Island revival.
- All this needs to **convert into action**, not just sit on the shelf.
- It is imperative that government does not stifle private sector through its own policy / actions.
- Strip back bureaucracy.

AGRICULTURE

- I am concerned that the core purpose and future of agriculture doesn't get forgotten. Different aspects of what makes up and supports agriculture could be improved. The core goal of quality and food production on island needs to be kept in sight. I will listen to farmers in the constituency. Government needs to decide what it wants from farming.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Healthcare transformation is underway. We now need to keep with it and ensure it is followed and **working properly for the community** and as intended by recommendations of the Healthcare Review, and that DHSC reduces its scope and size as Manx Care develops.

In this we need to ensure that:

- Appropriate expert nurses or doctors are available and get to bottom of issues around lack of access to GP appointments.
- **Integrated healthcare is working fully for individual healthcare needs in communities, including mental health, and crucially that IT supports this.**
- Much of this could be nurse-led, or for maternity services, midwife-led, which is why it is important to have resourcing to the frontline.
- There are a number of indications that social care is still not working as it should. **This must not fall off the agenda.**

CLIMATE CHANGE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Transitioning to net-zero is a major challenge. Although it should present some exciting and life-enhancing opportunities, it is also nothing in absence of a plan.

- It is essential that government seek an **ambitious and equitable** rather than a punitive approach and appreciate that demands for change need to be **easier for people and business to achieve as they adjust.**
- Government must also look seriously at its own decisions in the context of the climate change emergency and focus on concerted effort rather than surface-level promotion. Options and efforts should be costed and funds used wisely.
- Once the energy strategy is settled, a **vision for a green future** needs to be outlined.
- **Climate change and environmental considerations should be interwoven with normal policy and actions.**
- Biosphere, animal welfare, and air-quality monitoring also need to be approached in a sincere, meaningful way: not just promotional.
- Waste strategy needs to be updated, especially for hazardous waste.
- Transport Plan: which needs to include making the public bus service deliver better for communities, walking and cycling (segregated lanes) and also include / recognise taxis and driver needs through green transition.

TAXATION, NATIONAL INSURANCE & PENSIONS

It is not only global taxation pressures that will force a reappraisal, but also the need to finance the major demands, such as climate change and healthcare.

- The economic review will provide a chance for careful thought and perhaps a new approach on taxation and National Insurance. This is a very finely balanced issue - sustainability and acceptability for the Island's economy is important.
- Some important changes for National Insurance are necessary for fairness and sustainability and to fund future health and social care needs. Our response to UK changes will need to be considered.
- Public Sector Pension Liability: This has increased to reach a record £4.8bn. I stand by my position expressed in Tynwald in 2019 in support of closing the civil service defined benefit pension scheme for new entrants. Ultimately new entrants should be on a defined contribution scheme, potentially with a hybrid scheme in the interim. Presently it is out of kilter with the private sector.
- Workplace pensions and pension planning for young people need to be promoted.

JUSTICE REFORM

- There has been legislative progress, and pursuit of key recommendations related to justice reform have been settled. However, there are still serious issues across the system and a **great deal that needs to change**, particularly around how children, families and victims are treated.

COVID

- A reset of approach from the new administration for the COVID-19 response is needed, to improve communication, response and handling. **A cross-government COVID-19 group should be established.**
- As a matter of justice, accountability and transparency, there should be a **public inquiry into government handling of COVID-19** from the onset of the crisis in early March 2020.

Core Issues: Why some reforms cannot wait

We need to realistically address not only what needs to change, but how it needs to change.

Each major failing, concealment, or project of concern over the past few years can be traced back to the need to change how government does its business and delivers.

Here is a summary of these. Each is about making government deliver better for people.

1) SPLIT POLICY AND STRATEGY FROM OPERATIONAL DELIVERY

We suffer from an inadequacy of policy development and delivery.

Splitting out policy and strategy means the following:

- Ending the governmental system of multi/siloed departments.
- Seeking broader perspective on policies, from outside government, that aren't based on the narrow view of one department.
- Common-sense check for policies.
- Ensuring an honest appraisal of suitability to deliver policies at an early stage of major decisions. Expertise need not be permanent as the government itself is too large, too inward looking, and needs to become more productive.

The first task for this approach needs to be housing for young people.

2) ENHANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE

- Changes to the line management of CEOs should be addressed. Departments should preferably be operational divisions and should instead have Chief Operating Officers, with a direct line of accountability to the Chief Secretary, a position which also needs clear accountability.
- The system of HR should ensure promotions and appointments happen with due process, with public value and interest in mind.
- Performance and accountability are functions that can be carried out by the Public Services Commission. This needs more emphasis.

Overall government needs to:

- Be smaller – the increasing size is not sustainable.
- Be more efficient and productive
- Put people first

3) REGULATORY SEPARATENESS

Regulatory separateness refers to separating regulatory functions away from government departments.

We simply cannot continue having regulatory functions housed inside government. **Without this change, government regulates itself on matters on environmental protection, to transport, to health, leading to conflict of interests.** It is inappropriate that government judges its own work.

This is wrong in principle and can be damaging. It is neither conducive to good outcomes nor transparency.

4) FINANCIAL AND PROJECT CONTROL

- **Departmental prioritisation of resources should be more effectively delivered to the frontline, in line with what is identified as affordable at an early stage.**
- A project management focused **Capital Projects Unit to control cost and management of large infrastructure projects** is a vital and welcome reform from Treasury. There needs to be no hesitation in progressing this given the scale and number of the major projects that have got completely out of control.
- It is impossible to talk about this without referencing DoI. This has come up on the doorstep more times than even I expected. I believe a better position would be for the DoI to be reformed to focus on the basics, the **day-to-day on the ground operational matters** which serve people. Adding in more management will not help.

All the above adds accountability.

How should this be approached?

At a very early stage the next administration needs to define the following:

- The Island's core priorities.
- How to approach service delivery and associated costs.

This will require a focused, simple, and budgeted plan that evolves around the following:

- A prioritisation of government and public resources (services and funds) with objectives.
- A kickback against complacency.
- A no-nonsense approach, focusing on impact, not endless promotion.

I believe this is achievable with a focused approach and government reform that includes **people at the heart of policymaking**.

In fact, I believe it is an opportunity for a reset of approach and a fresh direction; an opportunity for government to step back in some areas and step up to seriously deliver where needed.

I am calling for a reset and a fresh approach to steer the course for recovery and renewal.

I hope you can support me in striving for that, with your vote on the 23rd September.

Kate



Kate LORD-BRENNAN



for Glenfaba & Peel

Vote on 23rd September 2021

Polls are open from 8am – 8pm

Polling stations: Peel Centenary Centre
Glen Maye Methodist Church
St. Paul's Church, Foxdale
St John's Methodist Church Hall

Your polling card will tell you where your polling station is.

- Do you need help with transport on polling day? Please call or text 450749.
- Would you like to support this move for change by displaying a poster or helping with the campaign or on election day? It would be great to hear from you, please let me know.
- For an easy-read or audio version of this manifesto please get in touch.

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