



Mark Helyar

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MY PERSONAL PRIORITIES

- **HOUSING**
 - **GROW OUR ECONOMY & REDUCE COSTS**
 - **REFORM GOVERNMENT**
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There is no doubt that Guernsey is still a beautiful place to live and Guernsey people amongst the most resourceful, but we face real and significant headwinds, both local and external.

Housing

If elected, my first priority will be housing, where the crippling costs are beyond most people's aspirations. This is driving away our young people, creating wage inflation and significantly reducing disposable incomes, contributing to a spiral in high costs of living and growing homelessness.

My preferred approach is a practical one - government and political strategies and documents don't build houses, builders and developers do.

I will call for the new housing authority to organize a public conference to bring together the third sector, builders, developers, the public and lenders with the aim of generating real, tangible action points for government and to make their implementation a central priority.

More and ever larger government which we can't afford, and more documents, policies, objectives and rules is not the answer, we must start responding to the real problems.

Government is aggravating the problem by housing too many temporary staff in local, rental property and this has caused supply to drop and rents to rise. If elected, I will seek to re-submit the application to build the much needed 120 units of staff accommodation at the hospital, to

provide permanent relief for the private sector. This would be funded through borrowing rather than using our reserves and the rental income used to repay it.

We simply can't afford to be sentimental over small pieces of low-grade agricultural land, historically bought by the States specifically for hospital development, whilst islanders are sleeping rough.

It is also my view that the stalled plans for Leale's Yard need to be urgently resurrected to provide the planned 300+ units before momentum is lost yet again. If necessary that should involve compulsory purchase of the property to unlock the development.

The Civil Service/Public Sector

I sense real frustration at some of the decisions being made with insufficient regard for the effects on islanders' heritage, culture and way of life, including the indirect costs of having to comply with new rules and regulations.

When you elect a Deputy, you rightly expect them to have the authority to get things done and to be accountable for it, but far too much is currently being done without political oversight and the size and cost of government continues to grow as a result.

I believe we need to reset the relationship between politicians and the public sector to ensure that delegated authority cannot be used to do anything "novel, contentious or repercussive" without political input.

I want to see deeper reform of government and public sector relationships so that you can hold your politicians properly accountable for decision making.



Government Efficiency

The assembly is a source of vast wasted time and cost. Routine business could be done in a more efficient way, providing more time for informed debate on key issues. Selective rule changes could bring much needed discipline to the operations of government and the assembly.

I believe we should have a system where we have a committee of ministers, elected by their peers, capable of centrally controlling spending and policy plans. In my view this is the only realistic way to effect the savings and other changes we so desperately need.

I have been consistent in calling for cuts and savings throughout this term, the assembly currently lacks the powers and the cross-committee willpower to prioritise and enforce them.

Finances, Tax & Zero 10

Government is currently living on borrowed time and living off our savings. Whilst nobody wants to pay more tax we must face up to this reality.

The fairest means of raising revenue, without creating even more economic stress and risk, is through the now approved, progressive GST+ tax proposals. Under these, 60% of local households will pay less tax overall, even after GST, than they do today. This is because there will be a lower income tax rate on the first 30k of earnings, an allowance for social security and special protection for pensioners. You can find more details of this at www.markhelyar.gg. I am not in favour of GST without these additional elements and, as treasury

lead, I would not have supported the proposals without these significant, progressive mitigations. We now may be able to do even more by using the proceeds from the Pillar II corporate taxes which I introduced when leading treasury.

I have personally invested hundreds of hours working on this issue, together with some of the world's foremost tax experts, to try and avoid these steps, but the fact is that Guernsey remains a global outlier in collecting almost the lowest amount of GDP in the developed world and having no form of consumption taxation. We are rapidly running out of money.

Just 6% of residents pay 25% of all income tax collected and finance is directly responsible for 40% (indirectly for more). This group is already paying the majority of the Island's bills and we also simply cannot afford to risk chasing that revenue away.

We must broaden our tax base, enabling us to start rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure and generate some positive economic momentum for our Island. Every day we put this off we put our Island at further risk.

Over the years I have suggested that we should look to raise all corporate taxation rates, currently subject to zero-10, up to 15% and once the tax package is implemented we should pursue that further.

The Economy

We currently have no coherent plan for enabling economic growth. This is vital for providing diversity of employment, retaining our young people and growing a sustainable economy for the future.

If elected, I will call for an early kickstart - bringing all economic sectors and their governing bodies, the third sector, regulators and government across the whole Bailiwick together to debate regulation, innovation, connectivity, risk and our collective future. We currently have no unified growth plan and need it to come from our industries, not from government - policy generated by Islanders for the Islands.

If elected, I will stand for election as President of Policy & Resources, having been the Vice President and Treasury Lead for 3 years, but regardless of the outcome, I promise to continue to contribute to the best of my ability on your behalf.

Please visit www.markhelyar.gg for more detail.