

On 23 September
vote for

Michael Josem

A voice
for all
of us



JOSEM

FOR ALL OF US

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Dear Neighbour,

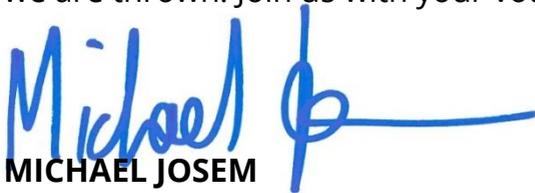
Our community plan has been built together by many local residents: people starting out in life, families juggling the pressures of work and children, and residents living on fixed incomes. Our manifesto is based on several core principles:

- Improving government services by holding senior government officials accountable (page 3)
- Easing the squeeze on the cost of living, especially by fixing our housing crisis (pages 4-5)
- Recovering from COVID-19 by addressing the health and economic challenges caused by lockdowns (pages 6-7)

My website online at michaeljosem.com has more details of these policies.

As a volunteer for many different community groups, I am grateful to have built a strong track record of serving our community and will take that to the next level as our representative in Tynwald. Combined with my experience as a business leader, this will help me to be our community's voice to the government, not the government's voice to us.

Let's work together so our island will stand strong whichever way we are thrown. Join us with your vote on 23 September.


MICHAEL JOSEM



Published on 100% FSC Certified Paper by
Michael Josem
Liberal Vannin Candidate for Douglas East
1 Hillary Wharf, South Quay, Douglas, IM1 5BL



Holding senior government officials accountable

We will fight for senior government officials to be held directly accountable. It is morally wrong that the people of the Isle of Man have been forced to pay for:

- All the errors on our Promenade
- Liverpool landing stage cost overruns
- NSC waterslide delays
- Bus Vannin budget blowouts
- The second and third COVID lockdowns

There were already proposals in the last Tynwald to link pay for senior government officials to performance, and we can build on them immediately. Rewarding staff for doing good things will improve our culture and improve public services.

Putting skin in the game

Senior officials need to have ‘skin in the game’: they need to be rewarded for doing good things, and to be held accountable for doing bad things. Currently, bad incentives mean that we have passive excuses of “mistakes were made” and “lessons were learned” without identifying specific mistakes, specific errors, or specific lessons – or holding decision makers accountable.

Improving performance through accountability

A core lesson learned from leading teams in business: accountability doesn’t mean handing out more punishments. Accountability means that errors are reduced in the first place, because staff performance improves. Rewarding high performing staff reduces their chances of leaving for work elsewhere, and builds a better culture focused on citizens.

JOSEM Easing the squeeze on FOR ALL OF US **household finances**

Cutting taxes for low-income earners

Cutting taxes for low wage earners will help families who are under the most pressure and build dignity by helping people get back into work. Earnings under the Manx living wage should not be taxed. This will increase the financial rewards of work while easing the squeeze on the cost of living. We'll oppose all moves to introduce new COVID taxes on families.

Extending VAT cut to help our community

The Manx Government must fight to keep the VAT cut on hospitality to help businesses and workers through winter. The current plan to increase VAT on hospitality on 1 October will harm workers, families, and businesses.

Enabling monthly payments for vehicle duty

Come on, it is 2021. Almost any bill can be paid monthly by automated direct debit. Vehicle duty should be the same.

Opposing pay cuts for key workers

Key workers should be paid fairly for their work. Paying police, doctors, teachers, and nurses fairly isn't just morally right, it will help our community attract and retain good staff. It was wrong for this Government to cut pay budgets for key workers.

Fixing car parking and better transport

We need to increase space for car parking by ending the Government's policy of opposing planning permission for temporary car parks. Residents should have greater control of parking on their street, including options of extended permit enforcement times (beyond 8am-6pm) if wanted.

Combating the Manx housing crisis

Build *and* renovate homes in inner-Douglas for people to create lives. It is absurd that big parts of Lord Street, Fort Street, Parade Street, Walpole Street, Regent Street, and North Quay are in ruins. Building *and* renovating housing will make housing more accessible, create good jobs and protect our environment.

Building more affordable housing

For many families, their biggest cost is the cost of housing: rent and mortgages. Homes are out-of-reach for many people, discouraging our children from building a future on our island. We need more private *and* public housing so that owning your own home is affordable for more families.

Scrutinising foreign purchases of Manx housing

Manx housing should be available first to families to build homes and lives. Homes should not be speculative financial instruments, and foreign speculation should be stopped.

Educating for the future

Our schools and UCM should provide a foundation for lifelong learning and respond to the different needs of different students.

- Empower school communities to have more local control.
- Work with teaching professionals, listen to, and act on the views of school leaders as experts in the interests of all students.
- Support adult education, especially in vocational training.
- Support a new Education Bill with statutory Additional Educational Needs to set level of service families can expect.
- Support independent Education Tribunal to ensure parents can hold the education service to account.

JOSEM Improving our health, FOR ALL OF US **physically and mentally**

Supporting local health care

Our island can never be *fully* self-sufficient for health services. However, we can make more services available locally through investment in local facilities. This will reduce the stress of travel for short consultations with doctors. Of course, when expert treatment is needed off-island, it should still be made available.

Protecting universally accessible treatment

Every person on the Isle of Man must have access to our nation's health service. Our health service must not be privatised.

Attracting high-quality staff and services

We need to build a high-quality service here in the Isle of Man. The new Manx Care CEO has spoken about challenges in providing career progression for elite medical staff in a relatively small community. Creating development opportunities is key.

Cutting mental health waiting lists

We need to address the shadow pandemic of mental health. It is alarming how many people in our community have been affected by mental illness, especially through the three lockdowns. Our island's current Mental Health Act is dangerously out of date, and Manx Care have advised that if the Act is not updated soon, it will put reciprocal agreements at risk.

The first budget of the new administration must include increased support for mental health, including introducing detox inpatient beds to Manx Care. Waiting times for acute (emergency) treatment have been reported as being up to two years, with similarly dire delays for long-term treatment.

Learning from the coronavirus pandemic

The next Tynwald should host an open and transparent public inquiry on our entire community's response to the pandemic. This will help to recognise those people who did great things and identify weaknesses to be fixed for the future. Any resident of the Isle of Man should be welcome to testify.

As we adjust to a post-Covid world, we must start publishing scientific advice openly and transparently. If the public is to "live with the virus," they should have access to the same scientific advice as Government ministers.

Improving accountability and public governance

End collective responsibility for supposedly "independent" politicians. All politicians should state their views honestly in public – not just in private.

Establish a permanent Manx Independent Commission Against Corruption to investigate allegations of misbehaviour by Government departments.

Improving animal welfare

It is time to upgrade protections for animal welfare. Back in 2016, Tynwald had a plan to get local people who care about animals together to write a new Animal Welfare Bill openly and fully care for animals in our Manx situation. Let's get that done!

While animal cruelty is thankfully rare on the Isle of Man, our laws should reflect our values as a caring community.



Jobs

Government should help create the environment to enable businesses to thrive and to ensure everyone has the opportunity for a secure job that works for them.

- Continuing to attract inward investment and grow high wage, high skill, and secure jobs
- Transition to a Living Wage Island, ensuring no-one is paid below the Living Wage by the end of the next administration and supporting small businesses as we make this change
- Enabling the transition to a greener, sustainable economy and protecting our domestic, rural, and marine sectors
- Reforming employment law to better support families through modern practices such as flexible working and shared parental leave

Fairness

Everyone deserves to be treated fairly - whether while paying our taxes, or when accessing government services.

- Ensuring education services, from pre-school to postgraduate and vocational education deliver for all students and deliver appropriate provision for students with additional needs
- Reforming our welfare system to ensure that no one is pushed into poverty
- Upgrading our National Health Service into a National Health and Care Service reducing waiting lists and looking after all of us throughout our entire lives

Open Government

Better decisions are made when we can all have an informed open discussion, when information is shared and when our representatives are held accountable for decisions they make

- Commitment to "Open Data", making government information available to the public by default.
- Bring transparency to the budget process, so changes to fees and charges are not hidden away out of sight.
- Support and protect whistle-blowers who bring to light failings in government systems and actions.
- Support anti-discrimination protections: People must be judged by the content of their character, not by the colour of their skin or other demographics.
- Transport data should be published openly and transparently using open standards for integration with phone apps.

Freedom

Support policy and legislation that gives us more freedom over our lives, whilst protecting the Island through appropriate regulation not unnecessary red tape.

- Freedom to have a meaningful work / life balance.
- Freedom to choose to have care provided in our own homes in later life.
- Freedom to choose our own path in life by equal opportunity to access lifelong education and skills training and supporting sustainable and secure employment.

Protecting our natural environment

Liberal Vannin is the only political party to be IOM Biosphere Partners. We can do better than the Government's target of reaching Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2050 by investing in clean energy solutions and infrastructure to reduce pollution:



- Prohibit fossil fuel extraction on land and in our waters.
- Empower Manx households to have the right to obtain zero-carbon emission electricity as part of their supply.
- Expand 'permitted development' to reduce carbon emissions.
- Safely regulate next-generation personal electric vehicles.
- End Government purchases of carbon-emitting cars.

Improving community safety

We must distinguish evil crimes (eg, indecently assaulting children) from stupid crimes (eg, a returned resident having a garage sale during isolation). It is not fair to send the garage sale man to jail, but not the man who indecently assaulted a child.

Toughening sentences for evil crime

Support reforms to the sentencing guidelines so that heinous acts are dealt with firmly. Sexual predators who are convicted of indecently assaulting children should go to jail.

Redirecting people who commit trivial offences

Trivial crimes should be deterred by using community service orders by default, not imprisonment.

Stopping waste on trivial charges

Taxpayer resources should not be wasted on prosecutions for possessing trivial amounts of cannabis. We should regulate cannabis locally, helping victims of addiction instead of punishing.

Work history: consumer advocate to Isle of Man

Born in Melbourne, Australia, Michael Josem came to the Isle of Man for work, and stayed for life. In Australia, he worked for various rural Members of Parliament, and led a global investigation which uncovered fraud taking place in online poker. As a result, US\$20 million was refunded to fraud victims globally.

Josem was then recruited by PokerStars, where he led anti-fraud and communication teams. For the last five years, he worked at start-ups here in IOM and now serves as the founder of the Manx TaxPayers' Alliance to help taxpayers get better value for money and fight government waste. He also works part-time for the Manx Cooperative Society as a connector with local charitable causes.

A track record of serving our community

Josem's primary volunteer work is for the Isle of Man Foodbank, delivering food packages to people in need, and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, helping to honour and share the stories of people who served. He also volunteers with several other community organisations.

Josem umpires for Isle of Man Netball and is on the board of the Manx Hockey Association. He represented the Isle of Man in Gaelic Football and Men's Netball. He helped establish Douglas Basketball Team and plays (badly!) for Castletown Hockey Club.

Full-time Member of Tynwald

If elected, Michael Josem will serve full-time as a member of Tynwald, *and* will continue to volunteer for the Isle of Man Foodbank, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and referee sport to help build stronger community organisations.

How to vote for Michael Josem



Election Date:

Thursday, 23 September, 8am to 8pm

Polling Stations:

Promenade Methodist Church Hall: Loch Promenade

iMuseum: Kingswood Grove

Manx Youth Band Room: Derby Road

Spiritualist Church: Lower Dukes Road

To vote for Michael Josem, simply put a single cross in the box next to Josem:

<p>JOSEM MICHAEL DEREK (1 Hillary Wharf, Douglas)</p>	 LiberalVannin	
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Do you have any questions ?

Please contact Michael Josem anytime:

Phone/Text: 07624 488557

Web: michaeljosem.com

Email: michael@michaeljosem.com

Social Media: @michaeljosem