

ISLE OF MAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: BUSINESS MANIFESTO

What's the purpose of the Business Manifesto?

In an uncertain world, Chamber members feel strongly that the Isle of Man is entering a new era that will present serious challenges to the economy and its status as a successful international business centre.

In that context, decisions made by the next Government could shape the Island's future for generations to come, which makes this year's General Election the most important in recent memory.

More than ever, Chamber feels it's vital that there is a constructive, informed debate during the election campaign about the issues that affect business and the economy. That's why we have created the Business Manifesto to help voters challenge election candidates on their views about those crucial issues.

Why does Chamber's Business Manifesto matter?

Chamber is the leading voice for the Isle of Man's business community. Our mission is to proactively drive economic growth and challenge for positive change. The Business Manifesto is part of that commitment, and it's the result of an extensive consultation process with our members who are drawn from all of the Island's major economic sectors and represent businesses that have around 20,000 employees (approximately half of the private sector workforce on the Island). Those numbers alone are a powerful illustration that shows why our Manifesto matters to voters and election candidates.



What are the main points of the Manifesto?

- Ensure that the economic strategy and vision for the Island continues to be relevant and flexed according to economic circumstances.
- Working towards that goal, we believe the next Government must...
- Reduce red tape
- Become smaller and more efficient
- Develop a more 'joined-up' approach by improving how Departments work together
- Create and implement a strategic skills plan aligned to the needs of the local economy
- Introduce root and branch reform of public sector finances
- Increase collaboration between Government and the private sector, and implement earlier meaningful consultation on business, legal and economic issues
- Ensure that projects started by Government are resolved to completion (i.e. eradicate the so-called 'black hole' into which uncompleted projects seem to disappear)
- Introduce regulation that is appropriate for the Island

Is Chamber supporting individual candidates that are going to stand for election, or a political party?

No, on both counts. The Business Manifesto, and Chamber's activities to promote it in the months leading up to and during the election campaign, are all about helping to inform the election debate about the issues that affect business and the economy.

