

DEMOCRACY

DELIVERING THE GREEN VISION

THE LORDSHIP OF MAN

THE STRUGGLE FOR **MANX DEMOCRACY**

A NEW HISTORY
of the
ISLE OF MAN

VOLUME
III

The Medieval Period
1000-1406

A HISTORY
OF
THE ISLE
OF MAN

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DELIVERING DEMOCRACY

What?

- Transform our political and governance system to be dynamic, diverse, inclusive, responsive, participatory, deliberative, transparent, and accountable.

Why?

- Our political system is only truly representative if it gives room to the diverse points of views present in society.
- To enhance confidence in, and diversity and inclusivity of democracy, we should create political space for direct democracy.
- There is a weak separation of powers between Tynwald and the government. The number of MHKS in government is currently 83%. In the UK, a law limits the number of MPs in government to 16% of the parliament. The government is not satisfactorily accountable to Tynwald.
- Low engagement weakens our democracy. In the 2021 Isle of Man general election, the turnout rate of registered voters was 50.68%. In the UK's 2019 general election, the turnout rate was 67.3%.

How?

- Transform the relationships between our core political and governance institutions. **(1)** Create a single legal entity government that promotes a just and sustainable society, better separating delivery and regulation; **(2)** Reframe 'Government Ministers' as 'Board Directors' with oversight of the new legal entity; **(3)** Reframe MHKs who are not Ministers as 'shareholder representatives', representing the Isle of Man society in scrutinising and regulating the work of the Ministers ('Directors') and the government; **(4)** Reframe MLCs as auditors to scrutinise and question the functioning and delivery of the MHKS and legislation, reporting annually.

- Legally limit the number of Government Ministers (ie 'Directors') to 7 MHKS and legally exclude other MHKs and MLCs becoming 'Departmental Members'.
- To better reflect the diversity and pluralism in our society, transform our voting system from a first past the post system to a proportional voting system (similar to the historic transferable vote system).
- Introduce a Future Generations Act modelled on the current Act for Wales, building the needs of future generations into every government decision.
- Legislate to entitle a petition with 1,000 resident signatories to be discussed in Tynwald.
- Removing the role of Speaker of the House of Keys (who is an impartial member of that chamber) from a sitting MHK by vesting the role either in the President of Tynwald or holding a by-election for a replacement MHK once a speaker is elected by the Keys.
- Introduce legislation for a recall mechanism whereby a by-election would be called if 30% of the constituents on the electoral roll sign a petition for the recall of a MHK.
- Promote the consolidation of local authorities outside of the conurbations of Douglas, Ramsey, Peel, and Castletown.
- Introduce citizen assemblies (in the style of jury candidature) who form, as it were, a microcosm of the community to hear evidence, engage with, and make policy proposals, which are then considered by Tynwald, on the intractable problems of our time and the future society (e.g. affordable housing, rates reform, the role and function of local government).