

#SupportingOurCommunity

#PuttingIslandersFirst

#StrongerTogether

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I am standing as an independent candidate in the 2020 Guernsey Elections.

This is my first time standing for a deputy position. I have fresh ideas on how we can make **change** and **improvements** to enhance island life.

If elected I pledge to listen to islanders and work closely alongside our community, continuing to make Guernsey a great place to live.

Here are my key personal principles:

- Drive forward a stronger more resilient diverse economy.
- Make key decisions to impact change for our community.
- Build good working relationships with islanders and act with integrity at all times.
- Engage with islanders and provide clear communication.
- Promote diversity, inclusion and equality for all.

Background information:

I am a 40 year old local born resident. My father is also Guernsey born and my mother was from Northern Ireland before moving to Guernsey in the late 1970's to work as a nurse (my mother passed away in July 2012 from cancer). Losing her was one of the hardest parts of my life and had a great impact on my mental health. Through the support of my closest family and friends, I battled through this trying time. I enjoy all aspects of Island life and I am proud to call Guernsey my home.

Over the last 5 years I have been focusing on my own mental health/well-being, also working with others offering support on a one to one coaching basis, including signposting them to helpful on island and off island services. Currently I am a mentor for mental health charity Project Semicolon.

I have a wide range of experience in my professional career to date, from working in financial services, education, event management and project management. Currently I work as a Service Delivery Manager at the GTA University Centre and have been employed by them for 4.5 years, managing a small team of seven. My specialist areas are in project management and further education, holding two professional qualifications in project management; PRINCE2 and Agile.

I attended the Grammar school 1991-1996 and my academic studies continued after with qualifications in management/leadership, diploma in business administration and diploma in online business marketing.

All of these skills I believe are fully transferable to the role of a States Deputy.

Here are my views on policies and objectives, how we address them and tackle key island-wide issues moving forward:

Recovery from COVID

- Make investment in infrastructure, employing local contractors and specialists wherever possible.
- Relax regulation on work permits (extending licenses, especially for key workers and hospitality sector workers during recovery period).
- Focus on investment which produces significant social and financial benefit to help the economy grow.

Infrastructure and Regeneration

- Install Fibre broadband across the island within 3-5 years.
- Accelerate St Peter Port harbour and east coast redevelopment in a sympathetic way so we do not lose any of our island's beauty with a view to attracting more visitors to our island.
- Focus on improving marina and accessible services.
- Redevelopment of the Bridge area, including Leales Yard.
- Tax breaks for start-ups and business relocation (similar to the UK enterprise zones model launched back in the 1980s).
- Protection and improvement to our coastline and sea defences, such as the L'Ancrese sea wall.

Tax & Public operating costs

- Continue to encourage and maintain low taxation.
- Tax relief for local charity donations to assist third sector losses during COVID period, so they can provide further community services and projects benefitting islanders.
- Maintain all taxes to ensure we are still internationally competitive and send a clear message that we are 'open for business'.
- Full review of Government services and expenditure to reduce costs, without impacting on any key services.
- Review personal tax allowance threshold for individuals and look at potential increase for personal allowances in lower income households.
- No GST

Business & Finance

- Support more Green Finance business within the island to encourage more local and international investment.
- Continue to support local businesses. Looking at ways to enhance and increase local production of goods and services.

Education

- Post 16 education to be driven forward with the Institute and be fully in place by 2023, so we have the best training facilities we can offer for academic and non-academic professional and personal development.
- Three school model over 3 sites, with the addition of a sixth form centre of excellence.
- More SEN (special educational needs) facilities, services and teacher training.

Healthcare, Social Services & Welfare

- Reinstatement of reciprocal health agreement with UK and investigate if this could also work with other jurisdictions.
- Improve healthcare for over 65's together with a reduction of costs as many insurers will not insure them off island.
- Resolve pay and contract disputes for nurses to reduce staff turnover and encourage more locally born islanders to make this one of their primary career choices.
- Review the full healthcare system and determine whether we have the right care system in place to support islanders in community care, residential care and other adjoined services. This is not just for the older community, this also needs to benefit the lower and middle income households that need support, including individuals with special needs.
- Improve safeguarding children and vulnerable adults to ensure we can offer the best services in this area.
- Continue to support islanders seeking employment and provide further training options enhancing their skills set and making them more attractive to future employers.

Mental Health & Well-being

- Introduce more modern services to tackle all forms of mental health such as online services with experienced practitioners available 24/7 (modern day Samaritans). Reference Project Semicolon.
- Promote well-being in all aspects of day to day island life.
- More available services for younger islanders with mental health issues and for their families so they can understand their additional needs.
- Work with existing groups, charities and businesses to better signpost all available free or paid services currently available on island.

Energy, Renewables & the Environment

- Solar Panels to be included on new builds from 2022 to reduce our carbon footprint.
- States and GE (Guernsey Electricity) partnership scheme for free or subsidised solar panels to help reduce bills, with part payback from the proceeds of solar production.
- Research on island hemp production for the use of insulation in homes and new builds, plus the production of other environmentally friendly sustainable products.
- More electric, hybrid and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles including further charging points throughout the island (subject to increasing demand).

Tourism

- Promote our heritage and be proud to showcase this around the world and educate islanders further.
- Work with Visit Guernsey and other local companies to find new innovative ways to attract visitors.
- Continue to promote our sports, music, arts and local produce, with enhanced PR and marketing celebrating what we have to offer.
- More weekend markets throughout the year (themed to show diversity) and promote our local entrepreneurs and small businesses generating more into our local economy.

Transport & Traffic

- Encourage transition to electric, hybrid and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles. Introduce additional incentives for low-emission vehicles.
- Ensure we protect our sea/air links for security to our islanders which ultimately will also encourage further tourism.
- Introduce more cycle routes/lanes around the island alongside main roads, separating motor vehicle traffic and improving road safety and general well-being.
- More affordable fares from our locally owned airline Aurigny.
- Look into more viable airline routes and attract more airline operators with the 'open sky' policy approach.
- Introduction of average speed cameras for our top 20 main and busy roads/accident hot spots.
- Stop the reduction of parking spaces within St Peter Port, stay with free parking and continue to make the area assessable to all.

Law & Legislation

- Make medicinal cannabis more accessible to islanders for a wider range of medical conditions than currently in place. Training on island specialists who can support this and bring down turnaround times. Continue to enhance our knowledge, using fact based evidence and studies available from accredited sources.
- Investigate recreational use of cannabis subject to suitable regulation and THC limits, factoring in the right thought out approach and how this fits into island life. In the interim period of any potential changes to the law, introduce an amnesty for islanders who are caught in possession of a small amount of cannabis. Free up time in our police force and judicial system, reducing associated costs.

Housing & Licensing

- More initiatives to help first time buyers such as 'help to buy' or 'part ownership schemes'.

- Review work permit policy for key workers, nurses, doctors and specialists in all fields. Issue long-term licenses to reduce staff turnover and provide more security to their families.
- Review population management and forecast where we will be in 2030/2040.
- Review open market accommodation and licenses granted.

Planning & Development

- Full review of existing planning laws for office space, retail and private accommodation.
- Push for a reduction to planning turnaround times.
- Small planning applications to be dealt with directly by parish constables/douzaines and authorised accordingly.
- Redevelopment of unused hotel sites such as St Martins, St Margaret's Lodge and the Idlerocks, with planning proposals submitted not impacting our island's beauty and adding value to our local economy.

#Diversity

#Inclusion

[Adam Martel – Full Manifesto](#) – pdf download

Email questions to: adammartel2020@gmail.com

Many thanks

Adam Martel