

Michelle Le Clerc

St Peter Port North



Dear Elector, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to those of you who voted for me in the 2012 election and for those new to the electoral register I would like to say thank you for registering to vote in St Peter Port North.

I hope that I can rely on your support and your vote on the 27 April 2016.

Over the next few weeks my aim is to meet you in person as I will once again be visiting every household where there is a registered voter. I feel it is important for me to meet you face to face, but if I call and you are not in then please feel free to contact me by email with any questions or concerns. The same applies if I cannot call on you because you live in a restricted-access multiple-occupancy building

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So let me tell you a little about why I feel I deserve your vote.

I have received many calls and emails from people, both in St Peter Port and the island electorate asking for assistance in a wide variety of areas such as housing, planning, taxation, and traffic issues. Wherever possible I have given help and guidance on the best way forward. This is the part of being a Deputy that I find the most rewarding and even though I have no magic wand I have, and always will do my best for you.

What else have I been doing for the past four years?

I still work ten hours a week for a local bank, and have been closely involved with Amherst school through the charitable programme run by the bank. It is through Amherst that I have met Joan Annetts who has kindly agreed to second my nomination. I am also delighted that Rupert Evans has once again agreed to propose me.

I am currently on the Board of the Social Security Department (SSD) and stepped down from Home Department and the Public Accounts Committee to join the Health and Social Services Department (HSSD) in November 2014.

I have just completed 18 months on the Social Welfare Benefits Investigation Committee, looking at ways of reducing poverty for those on low incomes in private rented accommodation as well as amalgamating the Social Housing Rent Rebate system with the Supplementary Benefits System.

As a member of HSSD, I have chaired the Children and Young People's Plan Working Group. As you may recall I fostered teenagers for many years and one of my personal priorities remains the welfare of young people.

I have served on the Supported Living and Ageing Well working party, which has begun to tackle the long-term demographic challenges we face. Today, every 100 working people are supporting 53 pensioners. By 2040 every 100 working people will be supporting 76 – 80 pensioners.

The next four years: What has prompted me to stand for election again?

I feel that it would be a waste of the investment you the public have made in me and the knowledge I have gained, to now step away from the challenges we still face. I now feel it is time to take on a more responsible role, such as President of the Committee for Employment and Social Security (successor to the current Housing and Social Security Departments) or even as a member of the Policy and Resources Committee.

We still face huge infrastructure issues (we are not saving enough for our capital projects) as well as pressure on our General Revenue finances and Social Security Funds (Pension, Health and Long-Term Care). I have a good understanding of the choices we face and I want to be a part of a government that will provide solutions.

The Economy – The Financial Transformation Programme has already saved us £29m per year. That is the good news, but we need to continue our transformation, as we are not saving enough to meet our future capital expenditure needs. A Transformation Fund has been set aside to deliver services in a better and more cost effective way.

Treasury has already extended the scope of corporate tax. I know there are some who believe that territorial tax is the answer, but no such regime has been reviewed and approved by

the EU Code Group. Zero-10 has. We must still keep our eye on the constant changes.

We need to ensure our economy continues to thrive and grow. We rely heavily on the finance industry and will need to continue to do so. But we must also look to diversify. Initiatives like the Digital Greenhouse and Fintech are important developments. We must not forget hospitality and tourism which also bring economic benefits as well as supporting our transport infrastructure.

Health - Health consumes one-third of our annual budget. A recent review of services found that our health and social care system is, in some areas, considerably more costly than our peers. We have started but need to continue to reform our services and how they are delivered.

We are currently re-negotiating our secondary care service with the Medical Specialist Group. We must make sure that this service delivers what is right and appropriate but affordable for our community.

Housing - I know that islanders of all ages are concerned about the high cost of housing (rented and owned), particularly to first-time buyers, leading to the current low volumes of house sales. I seconded an amendment to bring a full review of the housing market and a scheme to assist first time buyers. This is in addition to the partial ownership scheme through the Guernsey Housing Association.

Education – *I supported the provision of universal pre-school education for both educational and social reasons. I also voted in favour of abolishing the 11-plus because I believe in equality of opportunity for all children. I support the 3-school secondary system, because it offers the best educational outcomes. My own preference would be to convert the Grammar*

School premises into a combined College of FE and Sixth Form Centre. That way we could still rebuild La Mare De Carteret, whilst savings tens of millions on the redevelopment of the College of Further Education.

Employment - As we are now extending pension age to 70 we need to encourage all those in work to keep their skills up to date. I am very proud that during my time on SSD we have introduced the "Work 2 Benefit" and other back-to-work schemes. We have acknowledged that there are some young people who need extra help and the work of The Prince's Trust with those who are not in employment, education or training is vital. We need to encourage more local people to train as nurses, teachers, social workers etc., instead of just bringing in more on housing licences.

Waste Strategy – Mont Cuët is almost full; waste must remain a priority for the next assembly as uncertainties and escalating costs are worrying for all of us. I believe in recycling but am still sceptical we can reach the required targets. In St Peter Port we have the additional concern of waste being moved in containers along Les Banques from Longue Hogue to the harbour for shipment. We are too far down the track to look at other options but it will be my priority to ensure that costs are kept under control and we keep the environmental impact of waste movement to a minimum.

Transport - During the past few months we have seen new problems arise with Condor failing to provide the level of service our island expects. We must keep the contract under review and put additional pressure on Condor over the next few months. I believe we must continue to support Aurigny as they provide essential lifeline links to Gatwick and between Alderney and Guernsey.

Island-Wide Voting – I support island-wide voting. The proposals before the assembly this term in my view have not been workable options. However, I am in favour of reducing the number of deputies still further and hope to see IWV in some form by the time of the 2020 election.

International - We cannot ignore what is happening in the UK. The EU referendum may have some impact upon us, but that decision is outside our control. Whatever the UK decides, our links with Brussels and Westminster will remain important to ensure that we keep ourselves and our contacts updated and informed.

I have only been able to touch on some specific areas in this manifesto. Please visit my website www.mkleclerc.com for my expanded views on these topics as well as some other issues that face our community. I also look forward to meeting you on the doorstep and at the hustings over the next few weeks.

If I have been unable to meet you in person or if I have missed you during my calls, please contact me on my e-mail michelle@mkleclerc.com

Michelle Le Clerc

Election date : 27 April 2016

You may vote by postal vote or at Beau Sejour Leisure Centre or at the Princess Royal Performing Arts Centre. Polling stations will be open between 8am and 8pm.