

# **Liberal Vannin**

## **Policy Discussion Paper**

On

### **Law Enforcement**

#### **Manifesto Pledge (What we will do)**

The Liberal Vannin Party will call for a truly independent review of the Penal System and bring back accountability into the policing on the Isle of Man.

We will help to change the downward slide of law and order by developing strategies that are proactive on tackling social issues which are a major factor in the creation of crime. We will put into place structures to deal with crime effectively and efficiently and ensure that the services already in existence to help prevent crime in the first place are more accountable.

We will work more closely with the DHSS to help break the circle of addictions that so often leads to crime and prioritise our efforts in helping these people back into society as law abiding and productive members.

#### **Policy Statements (How we will do it)**

##### ***Penal Review***

The Liberal Vannin Party is deeply concerned about the decision over the new prison at Jurby and the lack of a penal review beforehand to ensure that future generations are not going to be lumbered with yet another 'white elephant' with heavy financial liabilities. We are also concerned that this will prevent more cost effective and socially beneficially alternatives to custody for the overall protection of our society.

##### ***Policing***

The Liberal Vannin Party believes that the present record of the Department of Home Affairs in handling police affairs is appalling. Problems need to be addressed by a Police Authority elected directly by the people of the Island in order to bring back accountability to the Chief Constable who is responsible for the way the police force is run.

We would advocate common sense policing and abolish statistical-based policing for maintaining law and order on the Island.

If we are to win the battle on law and order, the police and the public have to work together and, towards this aim, the police must be more accountable but they must not be controlled by our politicians. The Police Complaints Procedure has to be an independent body to make sure that the general public have the right support in the event of grievances.

We would investigate ways in which the Island's law enforcement and drug agencies could deal effectively with the growing threat that drug trafficking poses to the quality of life for us all on the Island. If that means getting more officers on the streets, then adequate resources will have to be provided to enable this to happen. In line with this we would look to recruit civilian personnel to free up officers for front-line duties.

The Party would like to see the creation of a Manx coastguard on similar lines to the US which would deal with all issues to do with law enforcement of our territorial waters.

### ***Rehabilitation***

The Liberal Vannin Party would investigate alternatives to the criminal justice system such as training, rehabilitation and re-education programmes. The development of specific protective sheltered housing units for people who have addiction problems would be encouraged.

We would offer alternatives to prison for petty crime – prison or re-training would be one of the options offered along with weekend detention, tagging and more effective community service orders.

In collaboration with the DHSS we will investigate more progressive ways of preventing crime and we would prioritise our efforts in helping people back into society as law abiding and productive members.

### ***Criminal Punishment***

We believe that prison should be a last resort but for those who do end up in prison life should be tougher with privileges such as watching T.V. having to be 'earned'. Teaching life skills and job re-training would be an integral part of their incarceration.