

VOTE CAINE

FOR GARFF ☒

INTEGRITY & EXPERIENCE

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Daphne Caine
Independent candidate



 daphne@caine.im

 **461338**

 www.daphnecaine.im

 **Daphne Caine for Garff**

 **@daffydowndilly**

 **daphne.caine**

It has been an honour and a privilege to represent the people of Garff in Tynwald since 2016, and to have served in the Isle of Man Government as Minister for Education, Sport and Culture since 2024.

I have made my home in the constituency since 1994, first at Banks Howe, Onchan, and for the past 30 years at The Dhoon, Maughold.

As a former journalist and public servant, and now with 10 years' political experience, I believe I have the knowledge, skills and insight to continue working to preserve all that is special about the island's culture and way of life while delivering positive change and enhanced opportunities for all.

In this manifesto I detail what I have achieved since my re-election and outline my ambitions for the future. The Isle of Man faces challenges in terms of our energy and food security, the cost of living, the availability of



affordable housing and the provision of health and social care.

Education remains a key priority along with growing our economy, keeping our young people on the island, and attracting others here. Investing in young people's activities, by further strengthening our leisure and sporting facilities, is extremely important, along with maintaining a strong cultural identity.

Infrastructure requires continued focus and ongoing investment in flood mitigations as well as maintenance of public facilities, roads and footpaths.

I hope to build on my achievements over the past decade and ask you to support me by giving me your vote on 24 September 2026.

Education and Children

I am pleased to have been responsible while Minister for the Department of Education, Sport and Culture (DESC) for bringing positive changes to our education provision, spanning learning, security, food, dental, early years and additional needs provision.

External quality assurance reviews have resulted in working groups made up of education professionals focusing on improving many aspects of our education system.

Manx schools have commenced a new way of teaching English, where all learners now have a clear structure and island-wide attainment goals from Years 1 to 7. It is already **improving attainment** for all learners and this innovative approach is being extended to Maths and Science. I have received much positive feedback from teachers and parents about the new system along with the extensive, tailored interventions used to assist all learners to reach the required standards.

Increased demand for **additional educational needs** (AEN) has been supported through increasing school staffing and teacher/pupil ratios, despite a falling birthrate resulting in lower pupil numbers in most primary schools. The Education (Amendment) Bill will bring in a new system around AEN provision and

more measures for safeguarding children. The Bill will be ready for introduction early in the next administration.

Pre-school provision

There have been significant increases in **childcare credit** payments for children attending nursery. This expansion followed work with nursery providers to ensure they would be able to meet the extended demand for children, who can now access the monthly contributions for nursery sessions in the year in which they turn three as well as the pre-school year.

There is also more support available to assist private nurseries to accommodate children with **additional needs** that cannot be met by reasonable adjustments. Placements will soon be provided for children with the most **complex needs** who have not previously been able to access nursery places.

We will need to ensure our pre-school provision continues to expand and improve over the coming years but much positive progress has been achieved.

Health and wellbeing

Health and wellbeing remains an important area linked to educational and life outcomes.

The focus for the coming years must be on school attendance and **expansion of**

technical skills including **apprenticeship learning** opportunities. Attainment across our schools is strongly linked to pupil attendance. I believe provision of technical options alongside academic studies needs further expansion. We should aim to ensure that **every school leaver has education, employment or training opportunities**.

Obesity and oral health

In my previous manifesto I highlighted the need to focus on children's obesity levels and oral health. I am pleased to have served on the Social Affairs Policy Review Committee that recommended a programme of **fluoride painting of teeth** be offered to all children, which was introduced by the Public Health Directorate in all primary schools this year under the Smile of Mann initiative. Long-term, this should see improvement in the oral health of our children and reduce the number of young children being admitted to hospital for tooth extractions, which was comparable to the worst areas in England. The Smile of Mann tooth brushing initiative complements this activity in many primary schools.

Another policy change I spearheaded was a focused review in 2024 resulting in a revamp of **primary school meals** from September 2025. The review found school dinners contained only 6% Manx produce



Isle of Man primary school meal 2026

while 51% was ultra-processed food (UPF), which is linked to adverse health outcomes including obesity and diabetes.

A new primary school menu was rolled out last year that reduced the UPF content substantially while increasing the local produce content to 25%. Following a procurement exercise and in response to pupil and supplier feedback, a revised menu will be offered from this September that will keep the **UPF content very low** (around 8%), while the menu will now contain around **40% Manx produce**, subject to availability.

Alongside food and nutrition awareness, opportunities for children and young people to enjoy **being active and participate in sports** remains important. More than 1,000 youngsters take part in the Sporting Club Manx Youth Games every year, many of whom then go on to join local clubs.

It was a huge thrill for me to attend the opening days of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games in July and cheer on Team IoM – 27 competitors reaching world level in multiple sports.

A new 10-year Sports Strategy will see continued investment and opportunity; however it should be recognised that financial constraints impact both **sport and culture funding**. I always champion the need for investment in both sport and leisure activities, which is money well spent, and levels must be maintained in the coming years.

We have seen more than £1.6million invested in the Villa Marina and Gaiety Theatre in 2025-2026, along with a revamped Outdoor Learning Centre at Ard Whallian – all essential elements that enhance sport and leisure opportunities in our community. These remain important priorities for me.

As we celebrate Blein ny Gaelgey, the Year of the Manx Language, it is also wonderful to see increased use of Manx in everyday life. Yindyssagh! Our language underscores our cultural identity and is fundamental to much of our creative output.



Heading to the opening ceremony Glasgow 2026



Environment

Nowhere boasts more natural beauty and variety than the Isle of Man: one hundred miles of sand, shingle and rugged coastline encircling rolling hills and mountain moorland, peatland and rich farmland. Gorgeous glens with gushing waterfalls and multiple heritage sites ranging from Celtic crosses to medieval castles and Victorian buildings with an unmatched network of **heritage railways**. What a wonderful place to live – but we must invest in our natural and built environment to ensure a sustainable future.

It was pleasing to support the funding in July Tynwald 2026 to enable completion of the **horse tramway** along the length of Douglas promenade. For the future I would support board-operation of our heritage railways as previously proposed, similar to the established Airport Board – government should devolve operational activity and concentrate on making policy and legislation. But the most important factor is that it is run efficiently and well

maintained.

Heritage, including railways, needs proper investment as does our natural environment.

There has been excellent progress under various Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) schemes over the past five years, for instance in undertaking peat restoration in our hill lands and in commencing the Manx Blue Carbon Project, which is putting the Isle of Man on the world map for protecting carbon stores in our seas and improving marine ecosystem resilience. These are important and positive projects but the majority of land maintenance is of course down to farmers, and I was concerned to learn how current geopolitical events and increased freight prices are impacting the agriculture sector's viability.

The level and distribution of funding across our **farming and re-wilding** schemes will need more focus in the coming years. I support an update to the Wildlife Act





1990 to protect more species. I would like to see the island achieve the 30 by 30 target – the international standard on achieving greater biodiversity by protecting 30% of land and seas by 2030. This will demonstrate the value we place on our natural habitats and is essential to retain biodiversity.

It is also recognised that being out in nature has a significant role in supporting people's health and wellbeing.

Food security is another priority. We know how beneficial it is to buy local in terms of the circular economy, and our food is of exceptionally high quality. As a community we should support measures to encourage the availability and consumption of Manx produce, and this will likely involve the better distribution of grant support directly to the food producers and custodians of our landscape.

The Isle of Man was the first whole nation UNESCO **Biosphere Reserve**, and I hope will be re-accredited following the first 10-year review, due in October 2026.

I served on the Select Committee on Footpaths, Bridleways and Green Lanes following a petition presented by David Buttery. In November 2022 Tynwald unanimously supported our recommendations to increase investment and maintenance of our public rights of way. As someone who regularly hikes around our island I am aware how much work is needed. A lot of damage to coastal and hill walks has resulted from severe weather events – and that will only increase. We need footpath maintenance to be effectively prioritised and funded. I acknowledge the improvements achieved by the Destination First board under the Visit Agency but more needs to be done for local residents as well as visitors.

Security

The Isle of Man remains one of the safest places in the world but we have seen increased levels of international and organised criminals target our shores in recent years.

I fully support improving our **border security** through a new Border Division that will develop into a Border Agency. Introducing identity checks on the Steam Packet routes, with permitted exceptions, will enhance our security by ensuring the passenger manifests are accurate.

The Government has tightened up **immigration**, implementing the Isle of Man Worker Migrant route from June 2026. This brings the island into line with the UK's Skilled Worker route, while retaining

IoM specific exceptions to meet our labour market needs. The reforms mean more emphasis on higher-skilled roles and encouraging appropriate inward migration where skills cannot be found on-island alongside investment in upskilling IoM workers.

I supported implementation of the **Immigration Health Surcharge** requiring visa applicants to help fund our NHS services.

Infrastructure

More efficient repairs of potholes and pavements are also required in villages across the constituency. In Onchan an extensive road reconstruction must be undertaken along King Edward Road to Groudle. Additionally, I would like to see the Department follow up on talks with local commissioners to improve road safety around our schools – including on Main Road, Onchan, and by providing new pedestrian crossings near Ard Reayrt, Laxey, and at the Dhoon School.

Significant **investment in major infrastructure** is also required to provide energy and buildings fit for the 21st century.

Investing in **renewable energy** will improve our energy security as well as our reduce carbon emissions, which 97% of scientists agree is contributing to climate change.

Continuation of the Energy Efficiency Scheme funds energy saving improvements in people's homes while the Heatwise

scheme will invest £2.5million to assist people to replace fossil fuel boilers with alternative heating systems such as air source heat pumps.

Decarbonisation of our energy generation will make a major contribution to meeting our climate commitments and wind power will be a key part of that.

I support the principle of **onshore wind turbines** as the cleanest and cheapest form of energy generation. It is essential Manx Utilities delivers onshore wind generation to reduce our reliance on gas although I have no opinion on the proposed site at Earystane. Until all environmental assessments are completed for Earystane, it cannot progress through planning. In the next five years I hope we will see the first onshore wind generation producing green electricity for Manx homes.

Licensing our seabed for an **offshore windfarm** was conceived for economic



Wind turbines featured in the opening ceremony, Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2026

benefit rather than electricity generation for the island. I remain open minded on the Mooir Vannin proposal as it is currently under examination by an expert panel who will investigate every aspect and determine whether it should be recommended for approval or not. I appreciate and share the concerns felt by people across the island over the size and proximity of the turbines. They could be **too big and too close** – while acknowledging that the height and number have changed significantly since the proposal came forward. However, these are matters for the panel to determine under our Marine Infrastructure Management Act, which is the legal process established by Tynwald to consider large offshore infrastructure applications. Any offshore development must balance the benefits of renewable generation with the environmental and marine impacts, after which Tynwald must also be satisfied that the financial benefits stack up.

It would be wrong to predetermine a position before all the evidence has been examined and the statutory process concluded. Ultimately, any decision must be **lawful, robust, evidence-based and properly reasoned** in terms of balancing the environmental impacts and the economic benefits to the island.

Other **renewable generation** I expect to see in place in the near future include floating solar panels on Sulby reservoir and at the **National Sports Centre** – planning approval has been granted to instal solar panels on the NSC roof, which

will generate 735kw of electricity for the island.

The impacts of climate change have been seen in Laxey, in particular the **October 2019 flooding**. Around £10million has since been invested to improve drainage from the hills, along Ballaragh, and Minorca Hill in addition to the Laxey river works. This has noticeably reduced the run-off in lower Laxey following a heavy downpour. There are two sections remaining to be done in the river and at Minorca along with seawall and harbour defences. Additionally, Dol is continuing to progress a flood reduction scheme for Jacks Lane/Port Lewaigue in Maughold.

Laxey and Baldrine will be the last places on the island to have a **sewage treatment works**. Plans for the Garff Regional Sewage Treatment Scheme have been submitted and a decision is awaited. Predictions are that it will result in consistently 'excellent' bathing water quality. The opportunity should also be taken to improve **community access to Glen Garwick and to make it a National Glen**.

Government has committed to investing £2.6million at the NSC, including resurfacing the running track and the all-weather pitch at the Bowl plus improvements to the grandstand.

School developments expected in the next five years include the STEM block at Queen Elizabeth II High School, the two-classroom extension at Henry Bloom Noble School, a traffic solution at Arbory

School, the replacement Castle Rushen High School, and a replacement single site primary school for Scoill Yn Jubilee at Park Road.

Community

The availability of **affordable homes** remains the highest priority, essential for young people to return to the island and for all wanting to make their home here.

The government's commitment to seeing 1,000 affordable homes provided over the next 10 years needs to be delivered. Recent changes to the shared equity scheme, and uplifts to the social housing thresholds plus first time buyer eligibility will contribute to this.

The fact is that more land will be required for development, and I would support the Area Plan for the North being brought back to Tynwald for approval, which re-zoned plots in Glen Mona for much wanted residential development.

Cost of living pressures

It is concerning to note the increase in **personal debt levels** on the island. The Salvation Army supported 181 people in the past year and have 51 active clients (at time of writing), 70% of whom are in a negative budget – whose essential costs exceed income before debt repayments. Worryingly 50% of people in debt experience mental health issues.

Isle of Man legislation relating to personal insolvency dates back to 1892.

I would support greater prioritisation of legislation to see the introduction of a formal insolvency framework. Considering the Isle of Man is the only place amongst the Crown Dependencies and British Isles with no mechanism for debt relief, it is long overdue.

Government efficiency can always be improved. Headcount has been controlled across government departments by implementing a Recruitment Control Framework over the past two years. However, Manx Care has seen a significant expansion of roles.

Greater pressures will come on our finances through **health and social care** provision. As an island we will need to determine what aspects of health and social care should be provided.

There has been a significant amount of policy development considering different models for part or wholly funded social care.

In May 2026, of the approximately 407 individuals receiving state-funded long-term care, around 73% (298 people) were in residential or nursing care settings, and around 27% (109 people) receiving state-funded home care.

Most people will be care givers or receivers at some point, and as a nation we should determine how we fund and provide services, prioritising support for people to remain in their own homes. We need to

recognise the huge part unpaid carers play in supporting people and find a balance for the future to bring fairness in how care is provided.

Economy

All of the above ambitions depend on the Isle of Man having a functioning, thriving economy. We have seen 30 years of growth tail off in recent times, and there are more challenges, not least the advance of AI and a contraction in some traditional sectors. The island will undergo a crucial MONEYVAL assessment as we go to the polls. The outcome will be critical in determining our future as a self-governing financial centre.

Government's role needs to be in enabling innovation and entrepreneurship.

There has been some positive growth including an increase in visitor numbers – up to 350,000 in 2026. The return of **film activity** with the Isle of Man movie set at the TT races is an enormous opportunity

to promote our flagship motorsport event and the Isle of Man generally. I would like to see film and television productions supported by IoM Government once more – not on the scale of the \$60million TT film but a small **Film Fund** ensuring the island can participate in film productions would bring many positives, including the on-island activity and local spend of film crews benefiting from support.

Connectivity is key to so much economic activity and clearly Steam Packet services are fundamental, along with air routes. I am pleased to have been part of the administration that voted to purchase the Steam Packet Company for £124.5million. I strongly believe it should not be fully nationalised and should remain a profitable company in order to invest in new vessels. Free travel for under 16s and support for sporting teams is a welcome benefit. However, I could support a future partial privatisation if shares were available to local people and with Treasury retaining the majority interest.



I hope I have demonstrated over the past 10 years how much I care for the Isle of Man and its community. It is important we govern well and responsibly to ensure the best opportunities and outcomes for everyone.

If re-elected I will honour manifesto commitments and pledge to work for a positive future for all residents of Garff and the Isle of Man.

Please contact me if you wish to clarify or discuss any points. Large print or Braille versions of this manifesto are available on request.

Thanks to my proposer Joanne Clague and seconder Hilary Simm and to all those who have supported and encouraged me to stand.

Gura mie eu

Garff pre-election meetings

- Monday 14 September: Laxey School, 7pm
- Thursday 17 September: Dhoon School, 7pm
- Friday 18 September: Elim Family Centre, 7pm

VOTE

Polling day is 24 September 2026

The polling stations for Garff are:

- Laxey Working Men’s Institute, New Road, Laxey, IM4 7BD
- Manx Fun Farm, Ballakeighan Farm, White Bridge Road, Onchan, IM4 6AD
- Maughold Church, Maughold Road, Maughold, IM7 1AS
- Onchan Methodist Church, Whitebridge Road, Onchan, IM3 1RD

You can vote at any polling station in the constituency. Please call me on 461338 if you need assistance to get to a polling station.

Published by Daphne Caine, The Wonder House, Dhoon, Maughold, Isle of Man, IM7 1HN. Printed by The Copyshop.

Garff is a two-seat constituency. Please give me one of your votes - vote for a positive future.

1.		
2.		
3.	Daphne Hilary Penelope CAINE	X
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		