

## OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF TYNWALD

### **Vacancies on the Legislative Council: further particulars**

Four vacancies will arise on the Legislative Council on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 for a five-year term ending on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023. A fifth vacancy will arise at the same time for a term ending on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The Speaker of the House of Keys, the Hon Juan Watterson SHK, has determined under Standing Orders that an election will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018, with nominations closing on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018.

#### Job description

The Legislative Council is the second or revising chamber of Tynwald, the legislature of the Isle of Man. Of its 11 members, eight are elected by the House of Keys. The other three are HM Attorney General, the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man and the President of Tynwald.

The Legislative Council sits in public in Douglas on Tuesdays from October to July, with sittings beginning at 10.30am. Once a month the 11 Members of the Legislative Council sit together with the 24 Members of the House of Keys to form the 35-member Tynwald Court; on other Tuesdays the Legislative Council and the House of Keys sit separately. Members of the Legislative Council also sit as part of Tynwald Court annually at St John's on Tynwald Day. Future sitting dates can be found on the Tynwald website, as can Hansard transcriptions of past sittings going back to 1887 and audio recordings going back to 2014.

In December 2017 Tynwald adopted the following job description for Members of the Legislative Council.

“Members of Legislative Council are a fundamental part of Tynwald. They also play an active role in Government of the Island; they may be called on to take roles in Government or in Tynwald.

Members of Legislative Council are an important resource, supporting the publicly elected Members of the House of Keys in their Governmental and parliamentary roles. They provide a distinct and influential voice in political life on the Island, based on an understanding and experience of Island life.

Members of Legislative Council take part in debates and votes in Legislative Council and Tynwald, so an ability to express ideas in a public forum is necessary.

Members of Legislative Council promote, examine and scrutinise legislation, so an ability to read legislation in detail is necessary (but tuition is provided).

Members of Legislative Council scrutinise Government in Legislative Council, Tynwald and Committees in debate and through questions and motions.

Members of Legislative Council provide advocacy for individual members of the public.

Members of Legislative Council exercise a consultative role in the course of which they improve lines of communication between Departments.

Members of Legislative Council take part in the roles of Government and Tynwald by assisting with maintaining links with interest groups on and off-Island.”

### Eligibility

Any Island resident aged 21 or over who is not in receipt of a Government salary may stand.

### Remuneration

The remuneration of Members of the Legislative Council is due to be reviewed soon. Tynwald resolved in December 2017 in any examination of the pay and enhancements of Legislative Council Members the principles should be observed that the salary and benefits must be sufficient to allow everyone to be able to serve; and must be at a level to attract a diverse collection of community members.

Under the current arrangements, Members of the Legislative Council are entitled to a basic annual salary of £41,346.50. Members who serve in Government Departments receive an additional uplift of 30%. There is a tax-free annual sum for expenses of £7012.64 and Members are eligible to join a section 8 of the Government Unified Pension Scheme.

### Other employment

It is possible for Members of the Legislative Council to continue with other work outside the public sector; however, the demands of membership are such it is unlikely to be practical to carry on outside work to any great extent. Interests which may affect (or may reasonably be perceived as affecting) a Member’s judgement on the way in which he or she may carry out his or her public duties must be entered in a register which is published on the Tynwald website.

Persons in receipt of a salary payable by the UK or Isle of Man Government may not stand as Members of the Legislative Council.

It is not possible to serve simultaneously as a Member of the Legislative Council and a member of a local authority.

### Election process

The election process began on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018, when the Speaker of the House of Keys, the Hon Juan Watterson SHK, formally invited MHKs to put forward nominations. Nominations will close at 4pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 and the election sitting itself will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018. To be elected, a candidate will need the support of a majority of Members of the House of Keys voting in a public ballot on that day.

The first four candidates elected will serve a term ending on 28th February 2023. The fifth will serve the term ending on 29th February 2020. If the fourth and fifth candidates are elected in the same voting round, the longer term will go to the candidate with more votes.

Details of the election process can be found in the [Standing Orders of the House of Keys](#) at SOs 8.1 to 8.5 and at Annex 2.

The successful candidates will be sworn in by the First Deemster on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and will be able to participate fully in all sittings with immediate effect.

### How to stand for election

To be elected as a Member of the Legislative Council you must first be proposed as a candidate by an MHK. An essential first step is therefore to find an MHK who is willing to propose you. You may approach one of the MHKs for the constituency where you live or work, or any other MHK. Contact details for all MHKs can be found on page 42 of the 2018 Manx Telecom phone book, or on the Tynwald website [here](#).

There is no application form. If an MHK agrees to propose you, he or she will be required to submit a nomination in writing. There is no set format for nominations other than that they must be accompanied by particulars of the qualifications and experience of the candidate and the reasons why the proposer considers the candidate to be suitable; and must state the name of the proposer and seconder, and at least two other supporting MHKs, and the contact details for the candidate. See Standing Order 8.2(5). Nominations submitted in 2017 can be found [here](#) and those submitted in 2015 can be found [here](#).

The Speaker acts as returning officer for the election and has declared that he will not propose, second or assent to a candidate. However, he does have the right to vote in the election.

### Further information and advice

If you are interested in standing and would like to find out more about any aspect of the the role or the election process, you are encouraged to contact the President of Tynwald, the Hon Steve Rodan MLC, in the first instance. Mr President has no personal vote but will be happy to explain the requirements of the job and to assist in whatever is needed to enable candidates with no previous knowledge to learn about Tynwald. Mr President can be contacted by phone on 01624 685500 and by email as [steve.rodan@gov.im](mailto:steve.rodan@gov.im)

30<sup>th</sup> January 2018