



I'm Sam Haskins.

I am independent- I will bring energy, agility and youth.

About me

Born in Guernsey, I am 35 years old, educated both locally and in the UK.

My professional background is in marine engineering and commercial skippering. After studying Computer Science at university, I returned to the Island where I then obtained my Diploma in Business Analysis before going to Warsash Maritime Academy to achieve a degree in Marine Engineering.

Working in charge of crew/passengers on boats and the maintenance of a fleet of boats. I am used to being a leader and working as a team. I am also used to prioritising and making tough, important, time-critical decisions in both a pragmatic and decisive manner.

My character, life skills and experiences stand me in good stead for being a forward-thinking and solution-based deputy. I am very practical with an affinity for fixing things and problem-solving. I have excellent leadership skills and believe in teamwork. I seek to optimise efficiency, being innovative and always ready to listen. I am committed to seeing Guernsey thrive and building a true community.

Enough about me...

It's about you. I believe that a deputy is a representative and a public servant. Deputies should be listening to the community to ascertain what is most important to us holistically. I want to collaborate with other deputies and/or parties to bring in change that will make our Island a world leader in being green, happy, and socially responsible. What we don't want is a repeat of our previous government's issues; where they were seemingly unable to bring about progressive policies.

Your opportunity is here... we are in a unique position to take advantage of what has been presented to us due to COVID-19. Let us use it to vote for those who really do want to listen to the views of the electorate and improve the Island, not those who are in this for self-gain & personal growth only. I believe we need innovation from the people, the states and the deputies to help us face the difficult challenges that we will encounter over the years to come.

I am careful not to make promises that I can't actually keep- we need like-minded deputies willing to collaborate to bring in the changes and progression we need. I truly believe independents can work together to move forward.

What are my focus areas?

Economy

I aim to apply my pragmatic and innovative way of thinking to how we move forward in a way that will enable us to support our Island through the possibly tough years to come. We need to be economically active, vibrant and diverse, whilst also being caring and responsible.

There is no quick solution to economic diversity and growth. We have the opportunity and responsibility to invest in the long-term future of the Island with new and bold ideas that will eventually grow the economy and increase our resilience. We must not however, ignore the finance industry (our primary revenue sector) and its future needs.

I would like to champion this type of economic diversity and transformation by:

1. pushing for transformation of our high-street to a more activity-based and community centric-vision to fill unused buildings by reducing red-tape for change of use, offering incentives and support.
2. improving skills base and career opportunities for our Islanders.
3. I would seek to introduce a light touch regulatory framework to encourage expansion in the finance sector.
4. encouraging start-up businesses and diversity by giving tax incentives/support in the set-up period.
5. proposing NO changes are made to taxes before ensuring that we have re-visited all possible solutions to avoid additional taxation.
6. creating employment opportunities for our islanders and encourage returning to Guernsey after higher education.

Investment

I believe that major investment is critically required at this time. Not enough has been spent wisely in the past to achieve optimal growth in terms of capital investment. I would support investment in capital projects to boost the economy, cater for the Island's future education needs, and promote progressive change, whilst balancing budgets and prioritising accordingly. I would:

1. Vote for the three-school model with a separate sixth form academy. We need to urgently solve the pending issue with the schools. Our children are our future; we have the responsibility to make sure they have the brightest possible future.

2. Vote for investment into a new, carefully designed Harbour/Sea-front to maximise its potential as an income-producing venture that we can all be proud of (whilst being environmentally responsible and forward-thinking of course).

Sustainability

As a group of islands, we have the responsibility and opportunity to be totally self-sufficient in various ways. I will do my utmost to ensure that we are as efficient, sustainable and green as we can be within the tight constraints that lie ahead, and that money is spent wisely and not wasted. I would:

1. Seek to empower our community to work towards sustainable, community-led and community-controlled endeavours.
2. Like to promote a more holistic and progressive approach in government. Every member of our community has the ability (and indeed responsibility) to contribute to society in different ways.
3. Endorse the policies protecting and nurturing the environment and sustainability in energy, transport and infrastructure whilst focusing on serving Islanders.

Mental Health

The reality is that many of us will suffer from mental illness at some point in our lives. There are many stresses that we all face, and adversely affect us. I am acutely aware of this- my older brother has Asperger's Syndrome and other mental health disorders. I understand all too well that having a mental health illness takes a huge toll not just on the person but on the whole family. Should I be elected:

1. I aim to work toward encouraging the community to not only be mindful, but accepting and helpful to those who are in need. As a community, it is important to provide support without judgement as one would being part of a family. I would strive to build and cement relationships within our community by promoting collaboration and charity work.
2. I would like to see the earlier intervention of the mental health services where it is needed, more community-led support and increased understanding.
3. I would seek the elimination of discrimination on every level.
4. I would like to see more support at the parish level for the elderly in our community.
5. I would be a champion for equality, community and a proper balance of work/lifestyle.
6. I would aim to vigorously cut down excessive noise pollution from vehicles.

Don't just take my word:

" I have known Sam Haskins all his life; I am his godfather. I've seen him develop as a young man and a human being. I am proud of his values and his qualities as a person. He has intelligence, integrity, and common decency. He will be a great asset to the States. He is not only well educated and experienced in life, but he has the welfare of the island at heart. I know in particular the environment and health issues interest him and if elected, which I hope he is, I think he would make a valuable contribution to the island."

Advocate Peter Ferbrache
Current States Deputy and Advocate

" I am delighted to nominate Sam Haskins as a candidate for election to the States of Guernsey. I have known Sam for many years and have observed his development and progress with great pride. He has significant experience and high-level qualifications in marine engineering, an area of unique importance to Guernsey. The ability to speak with authority in such an important area will be invaluable to the next States as it seeks to steer the Island through the consequences of the Covid pandemic. Sam is a man of high intellect and great integrity. His experience and compassion coupled with enormous energy and an absolute commitment to our Island all mean that he will be a real asset to the next States and a very effective and committed Deputy."

Professor Richard Conder
Former Deputy and Non-States Member

Where do I stand on contentious issues?

Here is my view. I am open-minded; should I be wrong I will raise my hand and share what I've learned. Perhaps I didn't consider all the information or was possibly ill-informed. This is why it's so important to listen to you, the people, and obtain sufficient evidence. We need deputies to say it how it is and get the work done (whilst keeping everyone involved and informed- you, the people are the major stakeholder after all).

Cannabis - Relaxing the law in-line with other countries, the main drive should be on facilitating use for medicinal purposes; equally there could also be other investment opportunities here.

COVID and vaccination - people should be allowed to make their own decisions based on scientific evidence. There is a likelihood that travel could be opened up (by any country) for those who take the vaccine, and those who don't may still have to isolate. We will need to listen to our professionals and make informed decisions.

GST (Goods and Services Tax) - I would be against the introduction of this; we absolutely have to be sensible in balancing the needs of our community in both spending and revenue. We need to be careful not to penalise those who have been affected harshly already- we are in this together. The selling off of underused/unused State-owned property could alleviate some pressure and raise valuable resources that could be utilised to fund our inevitable investment strategy. We need to establish our position after the changes to efficiencies and investment projects before raising/creating any future tax of any kind.

High Street - The High Street should not be seen as dying- it is transitioning or at least in need of transformation. Through facilitating easier and quicker changes to property use, we could fill the High Street with the ideas from our home-grown entrepreneurs. We should facilitate new age thinking. The world is changing, we need to embrace change, allowing us to grow with it rather than become stagnant and stuck in archaic ways.

Inheritance tax - I am against inheritance tax. Individuals should be able to choose what they spend their money on. Should they choose to not spend but rather to save to aid their families, they should be able to do so without being penalised. If we were to introduce this tax I believe it could result in many families gifting early, finding ways around this or quite simply leaving the island; the net result would be negative.

Long term care - I would like to encourage community care and charity work to be done by each of us. If we made it possible to look after our elderly without sending them to a home; there would be a reduction in cost to the state and thus to ourselves. Perhaps we need some ideas on how to facilitate this. The idea above isn't enough to bridge the gap, there are however many other ways in which we could look at how to address the remainder of that gap.

Opening our Borders - We need to balance competing needs- physical, mental, and financial. The first two rely on having the last one! COVID-19 is here to stay for a long while yet. We need Testing, Tracing and Tracking. We do need to take advice from our Local experts and be mindful of the developments worldwide. We will need to open up more widely and start our recovery- we may then need to isolate, shield and protect our vulnerable.

Public Sector Efficiency - Many believe this sector may have too many very highly paid individuals, this should be investigated and addressed if true- inefficiencies should

be addressed. Private sectors routinely look at their layout, the suppliers, processes, and systems they use and seek areas to improve (save money to make more profit). we should be aiming to do the same and replenish those assets that we had to use in the short term.

Schools - the three-school model with a separate six form is what I believe to be the best model going forward. Through education, we create the best chance of success for our future generations and thus the highest possible economic growth potential in the future. We need to look at the long term, not just what's right in front of us.

Paid Parking - I do not believe that introducing this would be beneficial. Studies in the UK show that paid parking acts as a deterrent for people going into city centres. This is the opposite of what is needed. Paying to use an underground/overground multi-story? Well, that is different- but where do we put it to maintain our beautiful seafront? I'm open to suggestions.

Social security- we need to be creative and apply some out of the box thinking here. There are limits to what we can provide, of course, however, we need to find the correct balance on what we can offer. If 100% of the island was needing financial assistance, we would simply not be able to meet this need. I think we also need some innovative thinking about how the system currently works, evaluate if it is working properly and the types of schemes and or programs we could introduce to encourage working or perhaps even volunteering for those not working.

Tax - this is NOT the time to increase tax. There is a tax reform looming- let's wait for the facts, figures and advice before changing anything. An increase in tax would mean less of us being able to spend money which is exactly what we need to do. There are other options and opportunities available to us! We have money in a bond, we have some savings. We could borrow more should it come to that. We could possibly privatise some un-used/underused assets to fund our short-term needs on running the island and investment. Yes, that could be seen as spending savings, many of us have unfortunately been forced many of us to use our savings! However, the islands were running a profit before COVID-19 and we will again. That profit meant that we were able to save for a "rainy day"- that "rainy day" is here.

All our expenditure should be done for the benefit of the people- this includes investing in projects that will 'turn a profit' not just spend the profit, to ensure we have the money in the future to invest in our people.

Where do I stand on important issues?

Backlog of medical issues – We need to clear these. Perhaps we can look at other options rather than just our contracts in Southampton. I believe the main barrier is the transport links to Europe. I do believe this is something we can work towards changing. We need to see the figures and address any concerns about how any presented options will work.

Electronic Voting - We should continue to look for efficiencies where we see there might be opportunities. I believe electronic voting is a "quick-win" efficiency we can make.

Faster internet - For the island to be more digitally friendly, innovative and advanced-fibre is a must and I will facilitate wherever I can.

Discrimination - Whether direct or indirect discrimination on any level is not acceptable, and I will strive to make sure there is no discrimination in any aspect of our island life for everyone. "Equal opportunities for all".

Inefficiency - due to my background and personality, inefficiency is a Pet-peeve for me. I would love to rid the island of all inefficiency; however, this may be too "blue-sky" thinking, even for me. It/we/they can always be better. I will question the status quo. Why was it done like this? Why does it need to be? Can we make it better? Can we make it faster? I don't have all the answers- but I'm sure together we can work toward resolving many of these issues.

One idea that comes to mind is pre-polling! I notice a lot of debate in the states where some deputies are trying to convince other deputies to swing to their way of thinking- but the decision was always going to be unanimous- why do we waste this time? Surely, we can speed this up and focus our time where it really needs to be spent and stay on task. Perhaps pre-polling can provide deputies with the reassurance that a certain issue will pass- reducing the desire to debate and swing votes that don't need to be swung.

Open Skies - I love the idea of having a revolving bus route style of small electric aircraft where we can hop on and off. We do need to be mindful of the effects on Aurigny, but if it is positive then we should facilitate this as soon as we can.

Sea Defences - We need timely and ongoing maintenance to prevent an even larger failure that would inevitably cost more.

Safeguarding - This is non-negotiable; we need to protect our children (yes, we need to protect everyone, but especially children). Safeguarding protocols need to be closely monitored and all staff should be up-skilled to be better equipped to deal with these matters.

Sea-front redevelopment - The harbour and seafront are lifelines and part of our heritage. We should ensure that this is upgraded to be a space we can be proud of, as well as ensuring it is profitable. We need to be joined up and have collaborative thinking to ensure an optimal outcome.

Renewable energy - This is absolutely where we are heading and where we should already be. We need to make our island as independent as we can be, especially with cheap, clean, renewable energy. This can take the form of tidal power, wind power and solar. We also need to help reduce our bills through more efficient heating systems and should enable houses (including rented) to install the relevant systems.

Runway - If there is a good business case for extending, this is something that should be addressed. Any opportunity to increase revenue to spend on reviving our economy and facilitating it to thrive should be considered.

Vote Sam Haskins



Samhaskins.gg