

Vision Statement

Over the centuries, Jersey has achieved great success. The ambition of my proposed government is to ensure we realise our potential in every aspect of island life.

Together, as one strong island community, we can put Jersey back on track.

Together, we can create a government that will unite the Assembly and rebuild trust with islanders by promoting openness and transparency and providing better value for the public's money to secure a positive future, where everyone can prosper and thrive. A Government that will lead by listening, listening to the States, listening to the voters, listening to our frontline workers, listening to all.

Jersey has always been an island that has punched above its weight. Our shared objective must be to become the best small island in the world to live, work, raise a family, start a business, enjoy life and grow old with dignity.

I want to start by acknowledging the outgoing Chief Minister and his government. The last four years have been some of the most challenging in our island's history and while I will not pretend to have agreed with many of their decisions, I do not doubt their hard work or commitment.

Of course, the last four years have been a challenge. Brexit, Covid and the war in Ukraine have exacerbated fissures that already existed on our island. But reading through candidates' manifestos before the election, it is clear there is a unity of purpose across the political spectrum. We might disagree on the proposed solutions, but we share a common sense of the challenges and opportunities facing our island. We also agree that we cannot wait to address the big issues over the coming four years:

- Housing prices for a three bed house have gone up by 50% in the last four years
- The number of islanders waiting for an outpatient appointment in Jersey in June was 33% up on the number of people waiting a year ago.
- In 2021, there were more than 8,000 requests for different mental health services on the island.
- From the start of the year there has been an approximate 40% rise in the costs of petrol, 50% rise in the cost of diesel and 100% in the cost of heating oil

Our Assembly is a consensus building chamber, which is why we sit in a horseshoe pattern, rather than on opposing sides. With our united focus, we can work together to overcome these issues, get Jersey back on track and move our island forward.

I recognise the responsibility that this election has placed on me and on this Assembly. I accept that responsibility with humility, but also with determination. People have high expectations of us. They are right to do so. Over recent years, government has not done enough to show that it is on the side of ordinary people. The great thing about Jersey is that we are in control of what happens here. We have all the levers we need. Our problems are solvable problems. So I pledge that we WILL make a difference. What kind of island do I want to see at the end of four years? A greener, more prosperous, less divided and happier island. A community more at ease with itself.

- An island where, if people leave they do so out of choice not because they can see no future. And an island where they know they can return one day, safe in the knowledge they will find good jobs and affordable homes
- An island that is an inspiring beacon of sustainable economic growth, taking a leading role in a just transition to net zero carbon emissions.
- An island of opportunity, where business is valued and supported.
- An island with a government that is responsive and accessible and where civil servants are liberated to do their best work.
- An island where everyone can reach their full potential, not be held back by the shackles of poverty, sub standard housing or by discrimination.

Together we can build this better way.

The plan for the first 100 days

We do not have time to waste, if elected Chief Minister, I consider there will be much to do and a new government must start right away. To that end, we would start with 100 days of action. Of course Ministers will need time to prepare themselves and their brief, but we will need to start taking action right away with an ambitious agenda to address some of the biggest challenges facing the island.

In our first hundred days we will:

- 1) Address the cost of living crisis by proposing a mini budget that brings forward a suite of measures to deliver targeted support to islanders ahead of Winter.

- 2) Undertake a project to set out how islanders can better engage with government, what information is available and how we can improve.
- 3) As set out among the Children's Commissioner's many fine proposals include the need to involve young people in policy formulation and decision making. The Children's minister will bring forward proposals on that basis.
- 4) On the same point we need to ensure that older people are being listened to and heard. We will establish the Older Persons Living Forum with the Chief Minister to hear first hand the issues facing pensioners and older people across our island.
- 5) Hasten our progress towards a living wage for all, by lifting the minimum wage to £10 per hour. WE need to recognise that the island must remain competitive in international markets, for example agriculture.
- 6) Support small businesses facing outstanding repayment requests under the Co funded payroll scheme. An appeal process must be introduced. The majority of these cases are genuine and should be treated with sensitivity.
- 7) Create a Cabinet Office to coordinate the work of government and strengthen collective decision making.
- 8) Introduce limits on the number of houses that can be built over 3000 sq ft for a period of time in order to focus on tackling the housing crisis.
- 9) Appoint an assistant minister tasked with conducting an evidence based review to respond within 100 days and advise the Assembly whether changes can be made to the hospital project to deliver a more affordable and appropriate alternative. This review will take place in no more than 100 days and will report back to the States Assembly by 20th October 2022.
- 10) Establish a public service ombudsperson
- 11) Introduce legislation and funding to ensure that school children have access to one one meal a day in school.
- 12) Bring forward propositions to create prefabricated homes to help address the island housing crisis.
- 13) Create a People & Skills Commission which will monitor the population, availability of accommodation, skills gaps and employment opportunities.

- 14) Reorganise government departments to provide for direct accountability of ministers
- 15) Introduce a proposition to deliver free sanitary products.
- 16) All Ministers will finalise their plans for the coming year and present their plan to the States Assembly.
- 17) Open constituency offices.
- 18) Put in place a plan to open a Cultural Centre, celebrating our cultural identities and bringing islanders together.

But a government is more than just 100 days, it is for four years.

Within the first 100 days, the next Council of Ministers must agree a Government Programme which will take the place of the Common Strategic Priorities. This will set out the key priorities of the government and what we aim to do and how we will reach them. Moreover each Minister will be asked to publish their plan for the coming year, setting out which policies and legislation they will seek to prioritise.

This programme will address some of the following issues:

Addressing the cost of living

The Cost of living crisis was one of the single biggest issues raised by islanders over the last few weeks. We need to immediately address this before the winter brings fresh increases in fuel and food prices.

Many of the costs are driven by external factors, but that only increases pressure on us to help those who need support to weather the worst of this. In the longer term we need to find ways to introduce more competition in food and fuel markets. The Minister for Treasury & Exchequer will put forward a set of proposals in Autumn to explore how we can deliver targeted support for islanders.

A path towards a sustainable and prosperous economy

The last four years have been a challenging time for anyone starting or running a business. We must do everything we can to support Jersey's entrepreneurs. Businesses and other groups across the island are reporting a recruitment crisis. This must be addressed quickly.

I want to see a more proactive and supportive approach from the government towards entrepreneurs. We need to cut red tape and ensure we are providing

incentives for start-ups to help businesses grow and thrive. Examples include the ability to easily open bank accounts and the use of States-owned properties to provide low-cost units for startups.

Equally, for our well established finance industry we will devote attention to ensure its continuing success, by being responsive, innovative and providing the right framework within which it will thrive.

Jersey is fortunate to have the fastest fibre optic network in the world. We are a digital island and we need to ensure that these benefits are felt by businesses, workers and consumers.

Our traditional industries, particularly agriculture and tourism help to protect our beautiful natural environment and bring vibrancy to our daily lives, which increases the resilience of our economy. We would continue to engage with these important groups and take steps to secure their future growth, the focus would be on sustainability, food security and celebrating our heritage.

Education: Children are our future

A child's brain is 90% developed by the time it starts school at the age of 4. That's why it makes sense to invest in the early years, so that our children have the best chance to learn and succeed. This means supporting their families during those years in order to build a stronger society for tomorrow. Offering a good quality education to our young people is particularly important in our community as we need people to cover a wide range of skills, from care to construction and commerce.

The more productive our economy will be when they enter the workforce the better islanders' lifelong learning opportunities, the faster our economy will grow. I believe we need to invest in the first 1001 days by providing childcare as part of a package for key workers. We should also look to extending the school day to allow more time for physical activity, arts, music and one to one extra tuition. The proposals put forward by Reform Jersey in relation to free school meals need to be worked on, to find a deliverable and affordable way to introduce healthy and hot meals in schools. Most importantly, we must invest in children's and young people's mental health services and complete the process of responding to the findings of the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry..

A Home for Every Jersey Family

Too many people are leaving our island due to lack of housing. We need to ensure that our children and grandchildren have a place they can call their own. We must have more affordable houses built across the island.

We need a proactive and adaptable model in regards to planning that puts more focus on flexibility. We need a system that enables unused office space to be converted to housing.

We do not need to concrete over jersey to do this, instead a suite of measures can help us increase the level of housing. These measures include allowing the partial development of derelict glasshouse sites to create affordable housing, with 50% of the area being turned into either community gardens or returned to agriculture.

We can redevelop the old Les Quennevais school site for affordable housing. For a limited period, impose strict limits on the number of houses that can be built over 3000 sq ft. Increase the island-wide rate for large properties that enjoy the luxury of space and release undeveloped or empty States-owned sites for redevelopment.

Another element of this is to reintroduce the loan deposit scheme to help young people enter the property market and provide stamp duty breaks for first time buyers and last time buyers, alongside higher rates for buy to let property purchases. We will also consider introducing a rent to buy scheme for those returning to the island after a period of time in education or work in other jurisdictions and tax allowances against the cost of rent if it is over 30% of a household's income.

We must also protect and support those who are renting by introducing a landlord registration scheme.

Improving our Quality of Life

Over the past four years the island has slipped 5 places in the OECD's Better Life Index. Jersey must return to the top 20. By strengthening our community, focusing on health outcomes and moving from a minimum wage to a Living Wage. We must expand the community garden project, develop food hubs across the island offering seasonal produce and join together our active travel networks to encourage greater use as part of a wider suite of measures to enhance our quality of life.

Protect and enhance our environment

People care passionately about the natural beauty of the island. Our government will protect our natural heritage and move toward a zero waste, circular economy. We will improve water, air and soil quality by minimising use of pollutants and we will

continue our drive to reduce carbon emissions in line with our Carbon Neutral Strategy. This will involve securing investment in renewable energy as a power source, replacing the government fleet with electric vehicles. We will set up a grant scheme to get homes insulated. This will also reduce energy bills.

We need to accelerate our move to carbon free transport by legislating to phase out vehicles that burn fossil fuel and to replace the government fleet with electric vehicles, or where practical, use car sharing schemes and bicycles instead.

A Health Service for All

Our frontline healthcare workers deserve endless praise for their valiant efforts over the last four years. They have dealt with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing mental health crisis, all against the backdrop of a recruitment crisis caused by poor culture and the cost of living.

That must change. We will commission an independent inspection to rigorously assess our system to drive standards in our health care service. We will invest more in mental health facilities and services.

An assessment of the most appropriate course of action on the Hospital build will be complete by the end of October. The construction of a new hospital is one of the most important tasks faced by the incoming government. And we will focus tirelessly on achieving an affordable and appropriate solution.

How government will work

We need to bring the government and the States back to the people. If this election demonstrated anything it is the need to fight apathy and build engagement, communication and collaboration.

I was hugely inspired by the quality of candidates who put their name forward and many of the ideas they put in their manifesto. Some of the policies and ideas have been included in this statement. We are going to need everyone, from every party, and every independent across the political spectrum to come together and contribute.

For that is what is best for Jersey, working together for the betterment of all. Of course, we will have robust disagreement, but disagreements are good, we should discuss and debate the best course of action and take the best ideas from that debate. We should not be afraid of debate and discussion but it is vital that we take the tough decisions needed to move Jersey forward.

Too often during the last four years, constructive criticism was dismissed as political opportunism. No government should be afraid of Scrutiny and accountability, in fact we should welcome it. The distance between Scrutiny and Government is not a failing but a strength of our system that gives a different perspective to proposals and decisions. Scrutiny plays a hugely important role in our system and I want to support and enhance that. As Chief Minister, I will meet with the President of Scrutiny every month and hold a quarterly meeting with Scrutiny Chairs to ensure that any and all issues are being addressed. This will be on top of the current scrutiny arrangements in place.

On that basis, I promise to be open and transparent with States Assembly members about the plans and activities of the Government. Each year, the government will put forward the key issues and legislation it will seek to address over the course of the year. At the end of the year, relevant ministers will report back to the States. To strengthen delivery, SPPP will become a Cabinet Office designed to support the COM in delivery.

The Council of Ministers will meet once a month in one of the parishes, (Covering all 12 over the course of the year.) As well as this meeting, there will be a meeting with the Connetable and parish officials and an open evening to meet parishioners.

We will establish a Public Service Ombudsperson. We will establish a cabinet office to coordinate the work of the minister and strengthen decision-making and break down silos. This will not involve hiring additional civil servants. I will appoint an Assistant Chief Minister who will have responsibility for this department and for driving reform and efficiency in government

Our States Assembly and Government must be inclusive. None of us, government or scrutiny, have a monopoly on good ideas or wisdom and we need the best ideas to be incorporated into government plans.

We must strengthen the relationship between the government, States and the Parishes. On that basis, I will ask the Chair of the Comite de Connetables to be an ex-officio member of the Council of Ministers. The COM will also meet once a month in one of our 12 parishes and undertake public meetings with voters.

All Ministers will be asked to keep an open door policy for States members. If there is a disagreement I will ask ministers to consider alternatives with proposers rather than dismissing out of hand or asking for a review. In four years time, I want everyone who was elected to the States to have felt that their contribution, insight and ideas have been recognised.

Ultimately I want to lead a Council of Ministers that works with the States Assembly. That is open and transparent and responds to change. I want to ensure that we are taking the best ideas and offering challenges and solutions. Working as an Assembly that is united.

Close

I think my vision is actually best expressed by an email I received from a voter on Thursday morning, who said:

“I believe you want to build a better island for all, the island I came to 30 years ago but the modern version where people are proud to say I'm from Jersey”

I believe in the huge potential of Jersey, our better days are ahead of us, but we must take on some of the big challenges facing our island. I want to lead a government that is open, transparent, inclusive, accountable and most importantly, will get things done. In four years time, I want you and the voters to be able to recognise that the States has made a real difference in improving people's lives and setting us on a path of renewal and growth.