

# THINK-TANK

Education, population, poverty, tax...getting views on topics like those in Jersey isn't the difficult part – but have you ever noticed how many people sound eminently credible when talking about them, even though they may actually be basing their views on conjecture, false facts and blind guesswork?

There is a real danger in making the 'facts' fit the opinion, rather than the other way around – which is exactly the point at which someone with an eye on the latest buzzwords will smugly insert the phrase 'post-truth' into the conversation, imagining its actually helpful.

So, we've asked the Jersey Policy Forum to add some robust material to those crucial local debates – the point is not to provoke agreement or acquiescence; it is to provide reliable material on which others can build their views.



By Gailina Liew, Executive Director, Jersey Policy Forum

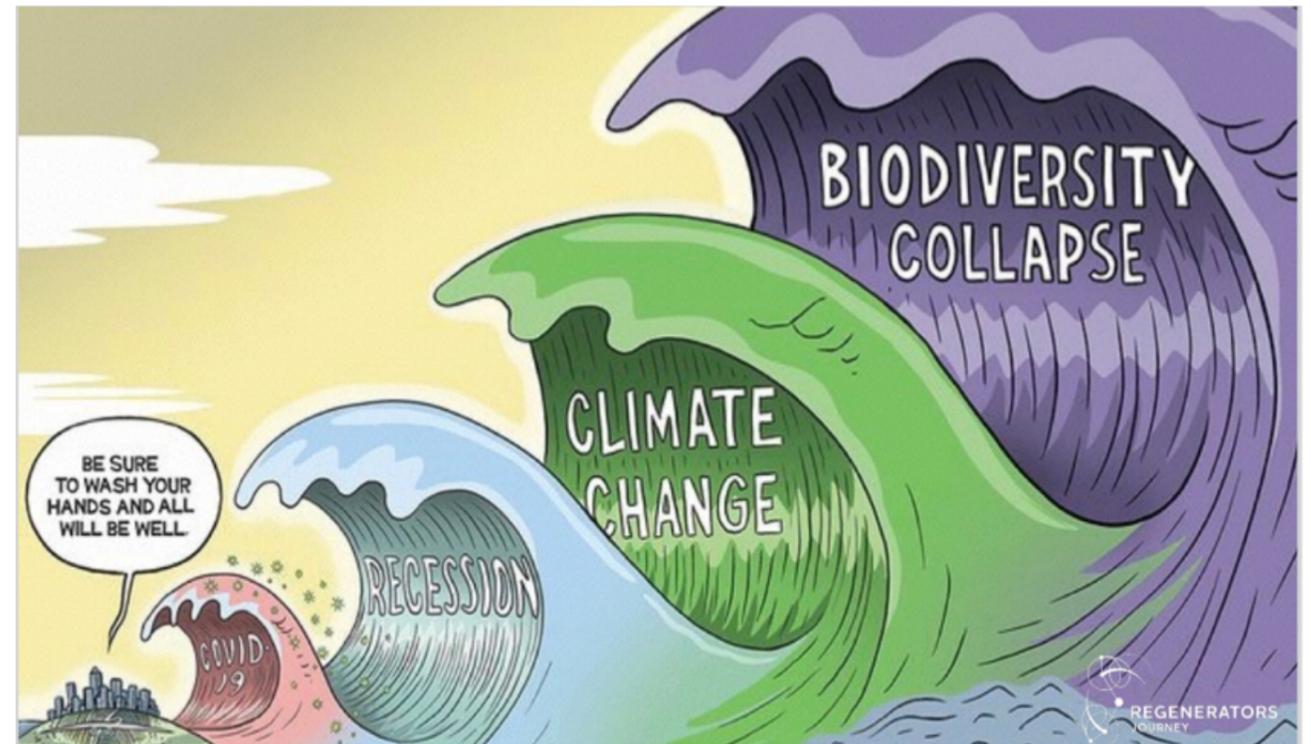
## Looking to the Future

As we approach the end of 2020 and look ahead to 2021 and beyond, we are hopeful about scientific and medical breakthroughs with new vaccines and treatments that are offering tantalising visions of being able to socialise in person with our loved ones and resuming the ability to wander freely and travel again. Going back to a time when handshakes, hugs, kisses, going to school/work and visiting elderly relatives were not potentially life-threatening activities would be very welcome, but do we want everything else to go back to a pre-COVID state?

The Jersey Policy Forum (JPF) launched its first citizen policy lab project – Looking to the Future - in May, including a broad-based survey and facilitated working sessions with 31 volunteer participants from a wide range of communities and disciplines about Jersey's future over the following months. The participants were provided with the survey results, evidence briefing packs

and the opportunity to engage in discussion and debate with four independent experts and each other about the challenges and opportunities for Jersey's future. The project outputs highlighted the urgent need for new ways of thinking and re-defining the meaning of success as the impacts of the pandemic continue to reveal, in even more stark terms, the risks that were already known. Project participants felt strongly that the planning for Jersey's future would need to be more aspirational while also acknowledging and tackling the known risks (shown top right) in a more meaningful way.

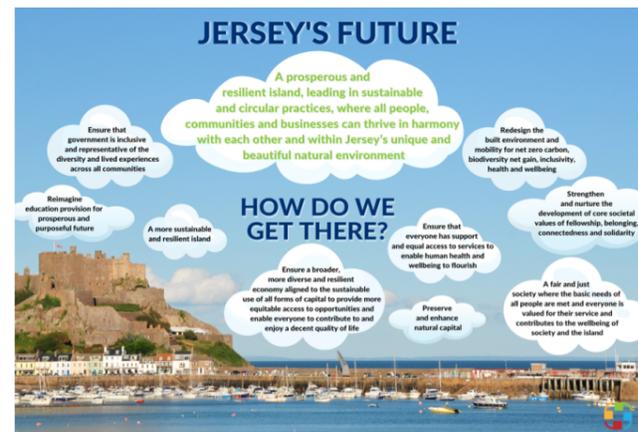
What might new ways of thinking and definitions of success include? The views expressed by survey respondents and the JPF Policy Lab participants reflected a number of broad themes, including the following.



- Transitioning to a more sustainable and resilient economy to ensure equal opportunities and meet basic needs for everyone.
- Nurturing and strengthening fundamental human and societal values.
- Re-imagining education to ensure fundamental values and new ways of thinking are instilled from the earliest years.
- A government that looks beyond the UK for more relevant and ambitious public policy benchmarks, is an exemplar in the transition to a more sustainable and resilient economy, and more representative of the different communities and range of lived experiences in Jersey.

The project outputs included the development of a shared long-term vision for Jersey supported by 9 strategic objectives.

Project participants worked collaboratively to share and debate specific policy initiatives that would lay out possible paths to



achieve the defined objectives. A number of clearly articulated policy targets emerged from this work, including the following.

- A circular economy for first-tier waste management by 2035 – this proposal is tied to the decommissioning of Jersey's incinerator in 2034 and includes new initiatives and building on the success of existing initiatives in the food, agricultural and re-use sectors such as Acorn, OLIO and Scoop to name just a few.
- Net zero carbon by 2035 – this proposal recognizes the government's commitment to take action on the climate emergency and is focused on the built and transport sectors and. It also builds on the success of existing initiatives such as Evie and existing regulations regarding new building requirements and proposes new initiatives such as the banning of sales of new diesel and petrol-based vehicles and incentives to transition to human and electric-powered modes of transport.
- Taking immediate action to protect our unique marine environment through a series of detailed proposals.
- A message to government to lead by example – participants believe it is important for government to ensure that all new infrastructure commitments such as the new hospital and new social housing provision are exemplars of sustainable/regenerative design principles, building materials and use/production of energy.

These policy ambitions are just a small fraction of the output generated by participants. All of the ideas and thinking that was shared by the JPF Policy Lab participants and the survey results can be viewed in the full report at [www.jerseypolicyforum.org](http://www.jerseypolicyforum.org). What do you want the future of Jersey to look like and what can we do together to get there?