

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.



Gailina Liew, Director, Jersey Policy Forum

How do you measure success?

As we approach the end of 2018 and prepare for the coming year, many of us will be reflecting on the year's achievements, and setting goals for the future, at both personal and organizational levels. When we look at ourselves in the mirror, what do we ponder when we assess whether we've been successful? Is it about how much money we've earned or saved, what we've done and what we own, what we're planning to buy and how we plan to spend our time and money? Do you think about how you're feeling, whether you're mentally, emotionally and physically fit? Do you reflect on your relationships with people like your family and friends, business partners, acquaintances? How about what you do with your spare time? Your hobbies? Whether you volunteer? Are you artistic, athletic, intellectual, creative, a problem-solver? Do you have children, parents, 'dear ones' to care for? Are you, and the people you

care about, happy? Can you make ends meet? Do you have access to good food, good schools, good jobs, good housing, a healthy and safe environment? Do you have a plan and resources to pursue a goal or dream, go to school, retire comfortably, provide for your children, grandchildren and contribute to your community?

What questions would you ask if you were reflecting on what a country and its people have achieved? What would you focus on in planning for the future? What would you think about if you were looking at the entire planet and the well-being of everyone who lives on it?

The United Nations launched The Inclusive Wealth Index in 2012 and it presents an interesting perspective on some of these issues. When we think about people that we care about and how we value them as people, most of us would go beyond an assessment of their net-worth, and also think about

how they have supported us in our times of need, our relationships with them and how they have contributed to our communities. Net-worth for an individual, like GDP (gross domestic product) for a country, is just a snapshot at a point in time, that focuses primarily on financial parameters. These measures look at what has happened in the past and cannot provide any insights, for example, about the existence or adequacy of resources to continue into the future and how comfortable and sustainable the future might be. Is the person or country thriving or struggling to survive? Is the person or country of good character? We intrinsically recognize the importance and wisdom of looking beyond net worth when we think about people. 'Tis the season for A Christmas Carol for Dickens' perspective on this issue!

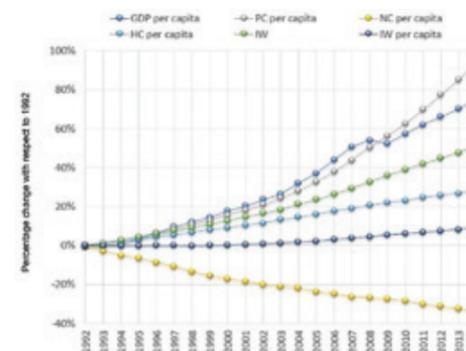
The Inclusive Wealth Index presents a framework that looks beyond traditional measures of productivity such as GDP to assess the social value and impact of other factors such as human and natural capital in addition to

manufactured capital on a country's wealth and success. We might debate the finer points of the framework but overall, it might be a useful tool to help us understand whether a country's economic progress or success will be sustainable and whether it is supporting the well-being of a country's people and the generations to follow.



Ref: Inclusive Wealth PROJECT - <https://bit.ly/2R53K2G>

The scope of natural capital (NC) includes fossil fuels, minerals, water and forest resources, agricultural land and fisheries; human capital (HC) includes population by age and gender, mortality probability by age and gender, discount rate, employment, educational attainment, employment compensation and labour force by age and gender; manufactured capital (MC – also referred to as produced capital (PC)) includes investment, depreciation rate, assets lifetime, output growth, population and productivity.



Ref: <https://bit.ly/20IK7v6>

The second report of The Inclusive Wealth Index was published in 2014. A summary of the data from 140 countries is shown in the chart.

Inclusive wealth and GDP have been rising but at the expense of natural capital. The third Inclusive Wealth Report is due to be presented on November 26, 2018 in Paris – after the submission deadline of this article. Where

do you think the lines of the graph will be now and what action might we collectively need to take if we are thinking about the future and the generations to follow us?

Where does Jersey stand in terms of inclusive wealth?

The Council of Ministers has lodged the Common Strategic Policy (CSP – see <https://bit.ly/2QbljzH>), currently scheduled for debate in the States Assembly on Dec. 3, 2018. It is presented as a statement of strategic aims and priorities that are intended to fit within the long-term Future Jersey vision.

The CSP will be followed by the development of a Government Plan (<https://bit.ly/2TA8E9h>) to set out a four-year budgeted plan of activity for 2020-2023.

Does the Future Jersey vision, CSP and Government Plan address what you believe to be important for the future of Jersey? What would you like to see as measures of success for Jersey?

Food for thought as we reflect, celebrate Christmas and bring in 2019 with our loved ones!