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## **Jersey Citizens Advice Bureau Limited**

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**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

### **Response to the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change**

#### **Foreword**

I am the CEO of Citizens Advice Jersey, a position that I have held for the last 10 years.

We are pleased to respond to the call for evidence in relation to climate change, during the course of our work over the last few months, we have seen the problems directly associated with the pandemic, the financial impacts of which are only now starting to unfold.

This has exposed so many of the pressing issues in relation to climate change and how Jersey can best position itself to tackle this issue, now and into the future.

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#### **Over-consumption and over-ownership**

With climate change being one of the most pressing issues on world agendas, it is encouraging to see that this topic is being taken seriously locally with the appointment of Emelita Robbins as Chair-Convenor of the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change. Her task is an important one and I wish her well in her future endeavours.

While the world has been forced into restraint mode because of the pandemic, I believe that it is important that we use this time to reflect and try to take the positives from what we have learned.

The vaccine roll-out continuing at pace has given us all hope that we can, at last, see a time when we will be able to move forward and I am often asked when we will be getting back to normal. My uncomfortable response is what we called normal is not a place that we should be aiming for. Time spent away from the commute, removed from the ability to travel and having reduced time and money spent on the high street, whilst not good for the economy, has been great for the environment.

Is it possible to return to economic prosperity and reduce the negative impact upon the environment? The answer to that question is undoubtedly, no.



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So how do we solve the problems of over-consumption and over-ownership in our society? The pandemic has proved to us that we can live in a more sustainable way, we can pool resources and we can use digital solutions to maximum effect.

Electric cars partly cure one problem whilst creating another and so we need to address the subject of vehicle ownership rather than just the issue of abandoning fossil fuelled engines. Autonomous vehicles and Apps that allow people access to fleets of vehicles will be the most effective solution to this problem and Jersey is perfectly placed to be a test bed for such innovation. This type of model can be applied to almost everything in our lives, from clothes to food and ultimately even to our housing needs.

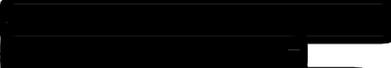
The target year of 2030 will come at us very quickly and we cannot wait until that date to start making changes. We have all had the opportunity to use the technological solutions that for many years have been at our fingertips and these will play a huge role in how we can adjust to the challenges and opportunities that are before us.

In a previous piece I wrote about Jersey in the new age and I think that we have all had a glimpse of what our society needs to do to be able to continue to thrive in the coming years.

Solving these problems will require the contribution of everyone in our society. While governments globally continue to print money as a short-term solution to a long-term problem and the result being that currencies become devalued the time may come when these systems eventually collapse.

Sometimes, of course, systems need to collapse to make way for new and better ways of doing things.

  
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