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JERSEY CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY
PANEL

(1st Meeting)

11th February 2021 at 14.30 hours

PART A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present.

Professor L. Bentley, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Meteorological Society

F. Barnes, retired (formerly Oxera and FCA)

R. Harker, Head of Technology, Digital Jersey

R. Diski, Lead of Just Transition Projects, New Economics Foundation

J. Hopley, Chair, Jersey Energy Forum

T. Park, Principal Advisor, Energy, Environment and Sustainability, Behavioural Insights Team

In attendance -

S. Skelton, Group Director, Strategy and Innovation, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance

L. Jones, Senior Policy Officer, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance

M. Clark, Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

Connétable J.E. Le Maistre, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

M. Magalhaes, Research and Project Officer, States Greffe

D. Beddoes, Involve

L. Adams, Involve

P. Keane, New Citizenship Project

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Welcome and Introductions.

A1. Attendees were welcomed to the first meeting of the Jersey Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change Advisory Panel (the Panel) by Mr. S. Skelton, Group Director, Strategy and Innovation, Government of Jersey, who offered thanks to Panel Members for their participation in the process.

Attendees introduced themselves and the Panel noted that Connétable J.E. Le Maistre of Grouville and Ms. M. Magalhaes were attending on behalf of the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel which would take the role of independent observer for the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change.

Professor L. Bentley was unanimously elected by Members as Chair of the Panel.

Minutes.

A2. The Panel was advised that Minutes of its meetings would be taken by officers of the States Greffe and it was intended that these should be published online.

Minutes would record high-level Panel deliberations, outcomes and actions. It was agreed that the Panel's decisions would be recorded, without attributing opinions to

individual Members, unless that Member had specifically requested that their position, or dissent to a particular decision, should be noted in the Minutes.

Background to
the Project.

A3. The Panel was advised that the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but would now take place between March and May 2021. The 'Explore' phase had just been launched and sought to inform, gather opinions and receive feedback from the public. The conclusions and recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change would be used to inform a long-term Climate Action Plan, which it was intended to lodge '*au Greffe*' in 2021, for debate by the States Assembly during the early part of 2022.

The Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change had a dedicated website, which had been designed to stimulate public interest and provide a high-level introduction to relevant topics, beginning with energy efficiency. Via the website, Islanders could access information and be directed to an online conversation platform to share their views.

Invitations to participate in the Citizens' Assembly had been mailed to 9,000 households in Jersey on 1st February. From those who registered their interest in participating (noted to be over 400 individuals to date) 45 people, representing the overall demographic of the Island, would be selected to take part. Applicants needed to be over the age of 16 and eligible to vote in Jersey. It was noted that the Sortition Foundation had been engaged to stratify respondents by age, gender, country of birth, the location and tenure of the property in which they lived and their broad views on climate change, to ensure a representative sample of the Island's population. A recruitment process was also underway to find a Chair-Convener (elect) for the Citizens' Assembly.

The role of the Advisory Panel would be to ensure that the evidence presented to the Citizens' Assembly was fair, credible and accurate. Various expert speakers would be invited to present to the Assembly and it was noted that this could include Panel Members, in view of their specific areas of expertise. The Citizens' Assembly would be advised in each case whether speakers were unbiased informants or individuals with a particular viewpoint on climate change issues (to be referred to as 'advocates' or a similar term).

Ms. D. Beddoes of Involve and Ms. P. Keane of the New Citizenship Project had been designated as Lead Facilitators for the Citizens' Assembly and would be joined by a trained team to support the overall process.

The Panel recognised that Citizens' Assemblies had been used for other large and complex deliberative projects and, when properly run, helped to facilitate collective decision-making by communities. Such processes needed a clear remit and guidance on what should (or should not) form part of the discussion, institutional ownership, independent oversight and clear leadership. The payment of an honorarium to incentivise participants was also noted to be of benefit, as it helped to attract those who would not normally participate and showed that their input was valued by the commissioning body.

Initial Assembly sessions would introduce participants to the subject matter to be discussed. After the initial learning/familiarisation stage, more detailed content would be delivered by expert witnesses. This would be followed by smaller group discussions and deliberation, under the guidance of the lead and 'table' facilitators, before opinions were formed. Given that the Citizens' Assembly would now take place entirely online, the design had been altered to provide for shorter sessions, with group discussions being facilitated in virtual breakout rooms. The wellbeing of

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participants was acknowledged to be extremely important and the Panel was content to note that support would be available where required. This would extend to practical assistance in using the technology required to take part and the provision of laptops and 1:1 training if necessary.

The Panel acknowledged that the States Assembly had already adopted the Carbon Neutral Strategy, which included Terms of Reference for the Citizens' Assembly. Accordingly, the Assembly would be required to formulate a view on how, and over what timeframe, this strategy should be achieved.

Ways of
working.

A4. The Terms of Reference for the Advisory Panel, having previously been circulated, were noted and approved.

The Panel expressed the wish to quickly formulate a clearer understanding of the topics to be covered by the Citizens' Assembly, to ensure that the relevant expertise existed amongst Members to adequately scrutinise the material to be presented and to identify any gaps in the proposed content.

The Panel also agreed, at a future date, to consider how the Assembly might address the issue of intergenerational fairness.

It was acknowledged that the Citizens' Assembly process, including the role of the Panel, was likely to be of interest to local media. It was envisaged that the Chair would act as the Panel's principal spokesperson, and noted that the press office would be advised of requests for comment in local or off-Island media. It was recognised that this was intended to support the coordination of communications as part of the Climate Conversation campaign and would not constrain the comments of Panel members.

Members were also encouraged to support and publicise the Citizens' Assembly through their own social media accounts and wider networks.

Design outline
and process.

A5. The Panel was provided with an overview of the design format and processes for the Citizens' Assembly, which had begun with the adoption of the Carbon Neutral Strategy.

Onboarding and orientation were agreed to be critical to creating a culture of respect, within which participants would feel comfortable to share their views and engage in constructive deliberations. The early sessions would also be used to frame the topics and provide the Assembly with an overview of matters to be discussed in greater depth in due course. The second and third content blocks would focus on more detailed information, with a view to producing high-level recommendations, which would be refined and consolidated during block 4. It was intended that the majority of the deliberations would take place in smaller, breakout sessions, supported by trained, independent facilitators, and that participants would have the opportunity to question the various presenters. A consistent protocol would be adopted for voting.

The Panel acknowledged that the subject area was extremely wide and agreed that it was preferable for the Citizens' Assembly to consider fewer topics in depth, which was more likely to produce considered recommendations on key issues. Members would also have the opportunity to ask for further information if they felt it would benefit their deliberations.

The Panel was advised that transport was one of the key areas in scope for consideration by the Citizens' Assembly, as it represented a major source of emissions in the Island, but could also be locally and directly addressed, including

via the Government's Sustainable Transport Policy. It was noted that energy consumption related to transport was high in Jersey, accordingly the topic would be given more weight than waste or agriculture, which accounted for lower levels of emissions. The Panel took the view, however, that the Citizens' Assembly should acknowledge the impact of the Island's agriculture, tourism and finance industries on its aspiration to become carbon neutral. Members were advised that the Carbon Neutral Strategy required that consideration be given to these industries, and one of the introductory sessions would focus on transition and consider global as well as local issues.

The Panel observed that its work would be assisted by the production of a single document setting out all the discussion topics that were intended for consideration during the Assembly sessions.

Process for Panel involvement in identification, selection and review of evidence.

A6. The Panel recalled that the evidence to be presented to the Citizens' Assembly would take the form of 4 separate content blocks. As part of these sessions, expert speakers would be asked to submit pre-recorded presentations of between 6 and 12 minutes duration. Whilst not all Members of the Panel would be asked to view every presentation, opinions from some Members would be sought in respect of balance, factual accuracy and any significant omissions for all core evidence submitted to the Citizens' Assembly. The Panel would also review factsheets which would be provided to Assembly participants, each covering a relevant subject area.

The first session of the Citizens' Assembly would take place on 13th March, accordingly initial presentations and factsheets would be finalised and available for review by the Panel within 2 weeks. It was agreed that all Panel Members should view the material for the first Content Block; thereafter material would be shared out and considered by a smaller number of Members, according to their particular area of expertise.

The Panel felt that a protocol should be adopted for use in instances where Members took opposing views regarding presentation materials or other matters. Should this situation arise, it was agreed that the Panel would discuss and vote on the issue, but that if fundamentally differing views remained, it would be acceptable to advance both positions to the Assembly.

Conflicts of Interest.

A7. The Panel agreed that conflicts of interest should be a standing item, and that Members, having viewed the agenda, should declare any potential conflicts at the start of every meeting.

Date of next meeting.

A8. The Panel agreed that the next meeting, to review the material for the first content block, would take place on 22nd February 2021.

Any other Business.

A9. There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 16.02 hours.