

MC

JERSEY CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY
PANEL

(5th Meeting)

19th April 2021 at 14.30 hours

PART A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present.

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

L. Magris, Head of Sustainability and Foresight, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance
L. Jones, Senior Policy Officer, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance
S. Skelton, Group Director of Strategy and Innovation, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance
M. Clark, Secretariat Officer, States Greffe
Connétable J.E. Le Maistre, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel (observer)
M. Magalhaes, Research and Project Officer, States Greffe (observer)
E. Robbins, Chair Convener, Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change (observer)
D. Beddoes, Involve
P. Keane, New Citizenship Project

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

Welcome and Introductions.	A1. Panel Members and attendees were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair, Professor L. Bentley.
Minutes.	A2. The Minutes of the meeting of 29th March 2021, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
Conflicts of interest.	A3. No conflicts of interest were declared by Panel Members in respect of the matters to be discussed during the meeting.
Actions from last meeting.	A4. The Chair expressed appreciation to Panel Members for their diligence in reviewing and commenting on the Block 3 presentations and supporting materials in the period since the last meeting.

Update on
Citizens'
Assembly to
date.

A5. The Panel was advised that the final session in Block 2 had produced a robust and interactive discussion on offsets, as well as refining the Citizens' Assembly's recommendations on transport.

Feedback received from Group Facilitators regarding Block 3 had been universally positive. Several groups had requested additional information, particularly concerning energy supply and alternative energy sources. Block 3 would conclude on Wednesday 21st April with consideration of sustainable finance and further work on the Assembly's recommendations. The Lead Facilitators reported that it had sometimes been a challenge to avoid the Assembly becoming focused on detail, whilst at the same time ensuring that Members were sufficiently well-informed to be able to produce strategic recommendations.

Numerous requests for further information had been received from Members – sometimes these were to confirm or refute information provided in presentations from stakeholders. Some Members simply requested additional information in the hope that this would provide definitive answers to the climate change issues the Citizens' Assembly sought to address. The Lead Facilitators advised that they had consistently emphasised to Members that they were not expected to be economists or technical experts and produce overly specific recommendations. The Assembly's ambition for its final output, therefore, should be a set of broad recommendations, which were acknowledged to have been made by a representative cross-section of ordinary Islanders.

The Panel raised questions regarding who would advise the Assembly on alternative fuels and agreed to feed back (through the Chair) thoughts on how best to provide the Assembly with an independent overview of energy sector, to include information on bio-fuels.

It had also been noted in Block 3 (as well as in a follow-up written question) that participants had asked for more information on local natural resources and why it appeared that these were not being utilised.

Panel
discussion:
remainder of
Block 3.

A6. The Panel considered the remainder of the Block 3 content, comprising consideration of sustainable finance, which was acknowledged to be a complex and wide-ranging topic.

It was noted that the speaker had been advised to ensure their presentation provided a high-level overview of the topic, focusing on the potential scale of impact rather than specific metrics. The presentation was in the process of being recorded and would be circulated to Panel Members later in the day; comments were requested as soon as possible.

Panel
discussion:
outline design,
speakers and
factsheets -
Block 4.

A7. The outline design, presentations and supporting material for Block 4, which would begin on 8th May 2020, had previously been circulated to Panel Members. It was noted that a further session had been added, at the request of Citizens' Assembly Members, on Thursday 13th May.

Members noted that, towards the end of Block 4, Assembly Members would be asked to vote on a number of topics, including a suggested date for achieving carbon neutrality in Jersey. It was envisaged by the Lead Facilitators that voting would be used to prioritise both the Assembly's recommendations and a set of statements on sustainable finance, although the precise details had yet to be finalised. Some Members urged caution regarding the use of weighted votes, which could see one recommendation being the most highly rated, by virtue of having been everyone's second or third choice.

The Panel considered whether it was reasonable to ask the Assembly to produce recommendations without agreeing a date for Jersey to become carbon neutral, as the approach would differ according to the date adopted. Panel Members acknowledged that this was a ‘chicken and egg’ argument, as it would be difficult to decide on a date without having first considered what was achievable. Equally, it was conceivable that if recommendations were made first they might not all be supported by the chosen date.

The Panel also gave some consideration to how the Assembly would approach trade-offs, observing that broad recommendations such as ‘everybody should have clean air’ were easy to agree to in the absence of a discussion on how they would be paid for. The Lead Facilitators were asked to consider this in the framing of the questions that the Citizens’ Assembly would be asked to vote on in Block 4. The Panel was advised that a framework had been developed for the Assembly to work through as it formulated its recommendations and the Lead Facilitators undertook to share this with Panel Members following the meeting.

The Panel was content to note that an inspirational speaker, Rob Hopkins, would present to the Assembly in Block 4, with the aim of maintaining the current positive momentum as the process neared its conclusion. This was agreed to be a worthwhile step in helping to frame the overall vision for the Citizens’ Assembly, and filled a gap that had been identified in comments from several Assembly participants.

The Panel was also advised that any unanswered questions were collated at the end of every session in order to identify any perceived gaps in the information provided to participants and provide answers where possible.

Recommendations Report.

A8. The Panel was informed that the States Greffe would be writing and publishing the final report of the Citizens’ Assembly and that work on the report would commence shortly. The Assembly’s recommendations would be received after the final session in Block 4 and this information would be provided to the Greffe, for inclusion in the report, on or around 18th May. The final report would be presented to the States Assembly as a report in the ‘R’ series (meaning it was copied to all States Members and published on the States Assembly website) and it would also be published on the Jersey Climate Conversation website. The target date for publication was 4th June; ahead of this plans were being developed for Assembly Members to present their recommendations directly to States Members on 28th May and to the Youth Parliament on 1st June. A media briefing was also planned for 3rd June. Panel Members were asked to advise Ms. L. Jones if they would like to attend any of the pre-launch events.

It was acknowledged that the recommendations were those of Citizens’ Assembly and not a matter for the Panel, however Members agreed that the report needed to explain *inter alia* the overall process, the role of the Panel, how the sortition was conducted and the feedback given regarding presentations and other content. It was also agreed that the report should be an engaging, vibrant document, which could be used as a reference point for years to come.

The Panel remained content to review the body of the report as it was developed and provide feedback, as well as any assistance that might be required.

- Media. A9. The Panel noted that, since its last meeting, a press release had been issued setting out a summary of the process to date and an interview with the Chair Convener had been published in the Jersey Evening Post. There had also been broader media coverage around the target date for carbon neutrality and some political engagement on this topic. Officers confirmed that there had been significant public interest in the form of comments on published articles, which was useful and indicated that Islanders were passionate about climate related issues.
- Process for Assembly Members sharing their own resources. A10. The Panel was advised that, following Block 2, some Assembly Members had found their own sources of information and had asked whether there was an appropriate forum in which this could be shared with fellow Members. It was recognised however, that this information, unlike other material considered by the Assembly, would not have been independently scrutinised by the Panel.
- The Panel agreed that Members should be encouraged to share views and resources, even after the formal Assembly process had concluded, but that no capacity existed within the Panel to review additional material. Accordingly, it was recommended that this should be stored in a separate area on the website and caveated to the effect that any material in that area had not been subject to independent verification.
- The Panel then engaged in a wide-ranging discussion about what would happen after the Citizens' Assembly had ended, including a future role for Members, who had raised this question already. It was noted that there would be a public consultation on the Government's eventual recommendations on measures to achieve carbon neutrality, which would engage a greater number of Islanders. Officers had also begun to consider how interested parties and businesses could be brought together to form a carbon neutral alliance in future.
- The Panel supported asking the Assembly Members themselves what they would like to happen after the formal process had concluded, noting that they were clearly a highly energised and motivated group of individuals. The Lead Facilitators were asked to consider including this question in the final Assembly session.
- Date of next meeting. A11. The Panel agreed that, whilst there would be no further content to review, a further meeting should take place on 17th May 2021 for a final assessment and review of the process and to consider the draft report, with the exception of the recommendations, which would be provided later.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 15.56 hours.