***John Young***

***Alternative for Jersey Questionnaire- Replies***

***Population***

***Question 1.*** *All public departments (Healthcare, Housing, Education, Infrastructure water/waste/power/roads etc) are under increasing pressure, many of them are no longer able to cope with the quantity of people we have living in the Bailiwick of Jersey. What is your solution to the problems caused by overpopulation?*

*Would you like to*

*i. increase the funding to departments to increase their capacity, build more houses, hospitals, schools etc OR*

*ii. would you like to see the overall population numbers reduced to a manageable quantity, OR*

*iii. some other solution of your own*

*How would you fund and implement your chosen option?*

***Answer 1***: A combination of your two options. We must catch up with the infrastructure investment required and control the growth in our population. Set a population limit and introduce work permits.

Funding of infrastructure investment – short term borrowing only for priority projects, in longer term requires a review of our tax system.

***Question 2:*** *Everyone understands that all economies need a certain level of immigration. Would you be in favour of adopting new regulations such as those in many other similar sized Island jurisdictions like the British Overseas Territory, the British Virgin Islands (BVI)?*

*i. All new job vacancies must be advertised locally for a period of 3 months and all reasonable measures should be taken to find local (resident in the Bailiwick of Jersey) employees.*

*ii. Only if the above fails (they will need to prove its failure) may businesses be given licence to recruit externally and only for a maximum of 5-year contracts, after which the vacancies must become available and the above steps taken again.*

*What are your reasons for the answer given?*

***Answer 2***. The policies and criteria to apply work permits will have to be developed by the Minister in consultation. The principle of introducing conditions to work permits is a good one.

***Question 3:*** *Jersey has not had a census since 2011. We do not know how many people reside in the Island nor where they come from. Furthermore, we do not know the true reality of unemployment as the social security department will not add your name to the register unless the cause was mandatory redundancy. What are your thoughts on this?*

***Answer 3*.** Jersey census is overdue, we should have one every 5 years. The Social security data base is not comprehensive enough. We need joined- up information.

***Heritage***

***Question 1:*** *Many people feel that, for a very long time there has been deliberate attempt from various members of the States of Jersey to make the Island more like the UK. As a result, there has been what many describe as a form of cultural and social vandalism known as "de-Jerseyfication". What would you do to stop and reverse this trend, or do you not think it is an issue at* all?

***Answer 1:*** We need to adopt Planning Policies which require all developments to contribute to a sense of place and respect the character of their surroundings. Jersey’s special character needs recognition and protection, e.g. designate conservation areas, stronger protection for our coasts and landscape.

***Question 2:*** *How high on your agenda is preserving and protecting Jersey's heritage?*

***Answer 2***. Heritage is one of my 10 policy priorities.

***Economics***

***Question1*** *We read regularly in the media about the rise of poverty in the Island. How do you think we should tackle this issue?*

***Answer*** 1 A huge question – we have a divided society and income inequality. The reasons are not all economics, some are historic and cultural. e.g. our three-sector education system. I want to see more emphasis on primary health care, by the States establishing local health centres directly employing GP ‘s and support health workers. I am unhappy at GST being imposed on food and basic living requirements, but the income is too significant to remove it until we reform our tax system.

***Question 2:*** *Since 2008, Jersey has lost 10,000 tax payers and now relies on 40,000 tax payers to keep the Island running, this figure includes pensioners. What are your thoughts on how to prevent more working age people leaving and encouraging those who have left to return?*

***Answer2.*** I want to see policies to encourage our young people to gain work experience out of the island and then return with those skills. The States should acquire brown field sites to develop affordable housing for those on median incomes. We need measures to make child care more affordable. Pensioners are important, they do much of the child care, provide family support and voluntary work and bring huge wisdom to Jersey. It is ridiculous that our social security system forces people to take a pension at fixed age. People who can work well beyond should be encouraged. They should be able to pay contributions.

***Question 3:*** *The average wage in Jersey is on a decline yet the cost of living and inflation are rising out of control, as a result, Jersey is becoming un-affordable for many to remain here. What action would you take to remedy this?*

***Answer 3*** If we control population growth I would expect that would reduce supply and raise wages, bringing wages and inflation more into balance.

***Question 4.*** *We desperately need increased job diversity in the Island. What new industry would you like Jersey to develop and how would you implement it?*

**Answer 4** Jersey should exploit its potential as a centre for renewable energy technology both marine (utility scale) and terrestrial (micro renewables).

***Question 5.*** *The Bailiwick of Jersey relies largely on the finance sector as an employer and for bringing in revenue. Do you think;*

*i. we should attempt to become even more attractive to Finance Industry*

*ii. we should reduce the Finance sector in Bailiwick of Jersey*

*iii. we should tax Finance sector more*

*iv. we should keep the Finance sector as it is*

***Answer 5:*** Government will have need to enter into international agreements post Brexit to ensure this vital industry thrives, but the industry will have to progressively adapt to stronger international regulation and make changes in response to societal attitudes discouraging international tax avoidance.

***Question 6:*** *What changes would you make, if any, to our current tax system to include GST, VED and the proposed Retail Tax and why?*

***Answer 6.*** Our tax system needs reform. The trading profits of locally operating/trading corporates should be taxed, as income tax is only paid on the share of their profits which are distributed to local shareholders. The tax should be extended from retail into service businesses. VED perversely imposes a tax on the replacement of high polluting vehicles with less polluting vehicles. VED should be replaced. There is a very strong case for replacing it with a vehicle tax with the revenue applied into transport infrastructure improvements and public transport, especially buses.

***Question 7)*** *What are your views on the controversial Foreshore Tax and the threats of Waste and Health Taxes?*

***Answer 7.*** If the UK can’t properly fund the growing needs of their health service with 45% tax and other countries require much higher tax rate to meet health costs, how can we expect to do so with a 20% tax rate (with a lower tax effective rate). At some point we will have to face this reality, and look at options from the many independent reports on funding health from the Kings fund etc. In the meantime, the only strategy remaining is rationing and prioritisation of services.

***Question 8***) *In view of medicinal cannabis becoming available; would you consider the growing and extraction of cannabis and its active chemical compounds for medicinal purposes as a new industry for Jersey? If so, how would you implement it?*

***Answer 8.*** The growing of medicinal cannabis would need to be done under strict regulation in premises secured for this purpose with a bonded storage and shipping facility. We have the farmland, the weather and are a secure island.

***Question 9)*** *The States of Jersey removed the Christmas Bonus from the majority of our pensioners, they also reduced the amount due from the States Treasury to the States Pension Pot by £20.8 million. What are your thoughts on this?*

***Answer 9.*** The Social Security fund should be used for long term pension purposes and be actuarily based, not subject to short term expedient raiding for other uses.

***Question 10)*** *The more you pay into the States Pension Pot during your working life, the less you get when you reach retirement age. How do feel about a system where those who paid in the most during their working life get less than those who contributed very little? For example, those who contributed little get their TV licenses paid and also get the Pension Plus.*

***Answer 10.*** Jersey State Pensions are based on the number of years contributions in Jersey (forty-five years for a full pension) and are not earnings related. The regulations need to provide more flexibility for working beyond retirement age. I would propose setting up a secondary earnings-related opt- out pension scheme like the UK and Guernsey.

***Question 11)*** *Currently the single person pension payment from the States of Jersey pension scheme calculates at c. £6 per hour based on a 35-hour week which is less than minimum wage. Do you think that this should be increased to at least minimum wage?*

***Answer 11***. See my answer 10

***Question 12)*** *Do you think that financial support given to carers who look after their loved ones is adequate and if not, how would you change it?*

***Answer 12.*** I support the restoration of universal personal tax allowances as part of the review of our tax system for greater fairness. Care of a dependant person should rank for a tax allowance against income.

***Question 13***. *Are there any changes you would like to see in the way Social Security benefits are being allocated;*

*would you like to see criteria of entitlement being tightened up or loosened?*

***Answer 13.*** Income Support requires a major independent review, I don’t think one has been carried out since it was adopted, and the parishes were removed from the system. The system must always provide for emergency help in exceptional circumstances

***Question 14:*** *The States of Jersey owned companies (the quangos) do not provide publicly available financial statements. Instead their financials are included in the States of Jersey annual accounts and it is not possible (or at least very difficult) to collate financial information for each individual company. Do you think it would be of public interest to have an exception to the rule and release annually the companies own financial accounts?*

***Answer 14*** Yes

***Question 15)*** *Do you agree with the reinstatement of the single parent supplement? What are your reasons for the answer given?*

***Answer 15.*** I have no knowledge of this

***Governance***

***Question 1)*** *Very often these days we read in the media about UK consultants and UK independent reviews often brought in or carried out at exorbitant cost to the tax payer. We understand that it is not possible for all States members to have an in-depth knowledge on all matters and topics arising. Do you think it would be a better option for members in the States Assembly to hire talent from within the Island whenever possible, rather than looking externally for advice*?

***Answer 1.*** We must get good advice before major decisions are made but we do over use consultants. We must ensure their work is well targeted for best value for money. We should make more use of local qualified expertise at cost or an honorary basis. We should only use more expensive off island consultants where we neither have the in- house resources or capability, or there are major risks.

***Question 2:*** *What is your view on the Council of Ministers? Do you think that concentrating so much power in the hands of so few works for Jersey or would you like to see power spread out among all States Members and the return of the Committee System, or an adaptation of it?*

***Answer 2:*** I am not in favour of returning to Committees where executive responsibility is shared. I strongly support the introduction of Ministerial Advisory Boards, whereby Ministers are required to work cooperatively with a board of States members appointed by the States in developing and taking forward policy. I brought forward a law amendment for this change in 2014 and it gained strong support.

***Question 3)*** *Do you think Constables should form part of the States Assembly? What are your reasons for your given answer?*

***Answer 3.*** No. The role of constable is a distinct and seperate one from a constituency representative. Their States seat should not be automatic. My experience in trying to perform two working roles is that there is a high likelihood that one will not do either well. I have seen how their role in the states has operated as an extension to the Ministers minority, undermining the democratic checks and balances and weakening scrutiny. There may be a separate role for the Constables as law revising body. Change can only be achieved by a Privy Council appointed independent review.

***Question 4)*** *Do you think that all candidates should stand on an Island wide vote? What are your reasons for your given answer?*

***Answer 4.*** The Senatorial role has been undermined by the piecemeal law changes which have removed any real difference with Deputies, apart from the Chief Minister and possibly the Treasury Minister selection. The election hustings for Senatorial selection with circa 20 candidates is farcical, imagine how it would be if all members, with say 90 candidates were elected that way. I favour all seats being elected in multi member constituencies, as per Clothier with one class of member only.

***Question 5)*** *What are your thoughts on candidates who are "elected" unopposed?*

***Answer 5*** : I have fought in three elections, one as Deputy, once in Senatorial and a by-election and now unexpectedly find myself re-elected unopposed when the sitting member withdrew four days before election. I am disappointed, I wanted and was prepared for an election. See answer to Q4 – which is the solution.

***Question 6)*** *Currently a British citizen who has lived in the Bailiwick of Jersey for two years can run for election to the States Assembly*.

*Do you think that;*

*i. this rule should be removed and anyone who is resident in the Bailiwick of Jersey should be able to run as a Candidate*

*ii. the rule should be tightened to require several more years of residency and keep the British Citizenship requirement*

*iii. the rule should be tightened to require several more years of residency and require Bailiwick of Jersey full qualifications before one could run for States Assembly? (10 years)*

*iv. no change is required.*

*What are your reasons for the answer given?*

***Answer 6*** We should open this up to anyone meeting a residence requirement who is prepared to take an oath of office plus no criminal record etc.

**Question 7** 7) *How do you propose to improve the complaints process against civil servants?*

***Answer 7.*** At present each department deals with complaints against itself. This is incestuous and needs to be independent.

***Development***

***Question 1*** *What are your thoughts on the Future Hospital and the Future Airport?*

***Answer 1*** :I cannot see the need for a £42 M Airport development. I want to see a business case and how this is funded. We should live within our means and only meet the CAA safety requirements. We must make choices from the large number of building project as their insufficient construction workers available.

The hospital project is essential, we need to make sure it fully meets the clinical and community needs, is completed as early as possible, as risk free as possible and without incurring major damage to the town and surrounding properties. If that can be done more cheaply than planned on an alternative site to avoid or reducing the need to borrow, then if the abortive costs can be mitigated, we should abandon the flawed plan for the alternative.

***Question 2:*** ) *Do you think that the Future Hospital is on the right site and at the right price?*

***Answer 2.*** No. I am not convinced that the existing site is the right one. It is a high-risk project, will cause environmental damage and destroy the character of the west of town. Many clinicians are unhappy with it, it is bound to reduce our ability to recruit health staff, it will worsen already damaged staff morale and be intolerable for patients, residents in the area. I want an independent review of the suitability of the alternative sites, the Waterfront. Overdale and Warwick farm. We should not commit to the project until this is carried out.

***Education***

***Question 1*** *Have you reviewed the proposal for university funding and the last scrutiny hearing? If so, what are your initial thoughts?*

***Answer 1 : I*** attended the debate.I am worried that in the longer run this interim solution is unsustainable. We face competing demands from both health and education which are the most important priorities. But our tax system is not capable of producing sufficient revenue to meet them. We must review our tax structure.

***Question 2 ;*** *£20 billion is driven into the UK economy each year from overseas students. Do you think it would be a good idea for Jersey to have a bite of this £20 billion by increasing the size of our own university and offering more degrees on Island and invite paying overseas students? If so, how would you implement this?*

***Answer 2*** Yes, I think the Channel Islands need to cooperate and look seriously at establishing a college with links to a UK university to offer degrees in selected subjects. International finance, Compliance and marine ecology and ultimately renewable energy.

***Environment***

***Question 1*** *Do you have any thoughts on the Island's environment and protection of our coast line? e.g pollution, overdevelopment, air quality, renewable energy, drinking water and sea lettuce.*

***Answer 1*.** **My policy aims for the environment include:**

* Increased recycling of waste

 Reduce the use of plastics

 Elimination of water pollution

 Improved public transport

 Improved traffic management

 Reduce use of agri-chemicals

 Sustainable agriculture

**We need Planning policies which ensure Jersey remains a special place.**

The Island is under increasing pressure from damaging development of our coast and countryside.  Planning matters require greater vigilance and scrutiny; we have seen too many out of scale developments which have changed our Island for ever.

 We must have new policies to keep our Coastal National Park largely unspoiled.

 We must ensure all developments establish a strong sense of place which respects the special character of Jersey whether town or country.

 We must extend and strengthen the shoreline zone policy.

 We must ensure all new buildings enhance the setting of existing buildings, make a positive contribution to the urban environment and respect the scale of their surroundings.

 We need improvement areas in town and designate conservation areas.

 We should limit the impact of large replacement single dwellings.

 We should identify brown field sites throughout the island for affordable housing developments.

 We should zone land in the Urban areas for more public open green spaces, parks and play areas.

 We should put a stop to town cramming.

 We should produce a town development Plan which integrates the waterfront with St Helier for mixed use, homes and public uses

***Question 2 :****What are your thoughts on Jersey having energy independence as much as is possible via renewables such as:*

*Wind, solar, geothermal, tidal and exploring the possibility of fracking within the Wessex basin?*

***Answer 2.*** We should pursue the development of utility scale renewable energy which offers the potential for the new skills, new businesses and jobs. Jersey has the potential from offshore wind in its own seas to meet its energy needs 15 times over and export into a French /CI network. The potential for tidal power in Jersey’s own waters is less and unlike wind the technology is still under development and unproven. Photo voltaic technology is now mature. We need energy regulation and feed in tariffs to encourage its take up. Fracking – absolutely no.

***Me***

***Question 1)*** *What qualifications do you hold and/or experience do you have that would be of direct transferable benefit to the people of Jersey within the political sphere?*

***Answer 1***. I have had successful careers in the private and public sector, in many widely different roles and built up wide experience and qualifications. These are all detailed on my website [www.johnhyoung.com](http://www.johnhyoung.com)

***Question 2***: What changes would you like to make for a better Jersey? How would you implement your answer(s)?

***Answer 2***. My website details my ten priorities. If elected in 2018, I will work to achieve my aims by supporting other States members individuals, groups and who share my aims and values, listing questions to hold Ministers publicly accountable, participating in policy reviews, researching and bringing propositions to the States and by seeking Ministerial office where considered appropriate by other members of the States.

**Key issues:**

**We need to control our population growth** to reduce the unsustainable pressure on our public services.

**We must make the environment a priority** to reduce pollution, improve waste recycling, develop renewable energy and promote alternative transport.

**We need more affordable homes for our young people** by acquiring and developing brown field sites.

**We need to ensure our health and education** services meet the future needs of our community.

**We need greater equity and fairness in our tax system.** Our zero ten tax system is inflexible and unsustainable**.** Difficult decisions must be made.

**We need stronger planning policies to make sure Jersey remains unspoilt** for our children and grandchildren.

**We must deliver the improvement to our urban areas,** with an Urban Masterplanto halt town cramming,regenerate town and reclaim the residential streets from traffic.

**We need to transform government.** Public sector transformation must work while protecting front-line services.

**We need reform of our ministerial system** to ensure policies have wide political support and Ministers re-engage the public.

**We must diversify our economy** exploit the digital and creative sectorsand revitalise our traditional industries.

**We need to modernise and extend our pension schemes** to ensure everybody can accrue a decent pension on retirement.

**We need stronger Inter-island cooperation** to maximise our economic opportunities post Brexit and share services.

John Young