

Media Release

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Main Section of Media Release

The Energy team will be carrying out a series of engagement events on future Energy Policy to explore and discover insights. The feedback gathered during this discovery phase will be used to define and develop future energy policy.

On 1 and 2 October 2018 the Energy team held a two-day workshop with the following groups and individuals: Rubis, Channel Island Fuels Ltd, ATF, Guernsey Electricity Ltd, International Energy Group, Guernsey Coal, Little Green Energy Company, Plug n Go/ Green Acorn, Channel Design Consultants, States of Jersey, the Committee *for* Employment and Social Security, PWC, the Committee *for* Economic Development, the Chamber of Commerce, Guernsey Motor Trading Association and Dr Andrew Casebow.

A pre-questionnaire was sent out to all attendees to respond to and each group took part in an individual session with officers and members of the Committee *for* Environment & Infrastructure to present their feedback. That feedback was anonymised and summarised below and has been grouped under six different themes; Innovation & Change, Island Life, Energy Suppliers/Energy Organisations, Environment, Hydrocarbons, and the States of Guernsey:

Innovation & Change

“Businesses could be encouraged to create their own power – like Guernsey Post and Guernsey Electricity.”

“The Energy Policy’s goal should be to avoid mass disruption during the transition period.”

“Future uncertainty stifles innovation.”

“Guernsey’s small size makes it ideal for testing future innovations in the energy market, e.g. electric cars.”

“Guernsey needs an innovative energy solution due to unique economies of scale.”

“Competition drives innovation.”

“What will the Grid and future infrastructure look like in 25 – 50 years’ time?”

“There is uncertainty about the time for the energy transition period – it could be 25 years? It could be 50 years?”

“There could be a lot of unpredictability and volatility in future energy.”

“There is a big change coming for future energy.”

“The consumer will drive change and transformation during the energy transition.”

“Greater efficiencies for fuel economies will play a big part in the transition.”

“Energy demand will increase on-island due to technological advances.”

“The Energy Policy should mitigate the risk that Guernsey will reach a ‘tipping point’ or crisis of energy supply.”

“Future-proofing requires flexibility.”

Island Life

“Smaller islands rarely attract new competitors.”

“Guernsey should focus on security and resilience of energy supply using proven technologies.”

“Energy monopolies can be good and bad for Guernsey.”

“Security of energy supply is the most important part of the energy transition.”

“Dependence on other jurisdictions weakens Guernsey.”

“Guernsey is vulnerable due to smaller economies of scale.”

“Energy supply is an important part of the island’s resilience and should be supported by the States of Guernsey.”

“The transition period should be as smooth as possible for the consumer.”

“Fuel poverty is an important consideration.”

“The taxpayer should pay for infrastructure to support energy supply.”

“Fair competition is good for the consumer.”

“Consumer satisfaction is an important outcome.”

“Energy affordability is an important consideration.”

“Consumers are led by value for money fuel and cheaper energy options.”

“Complete energy independence is a pipe-dream.”

“Resilience, reliability and security are the most important factors.”

“The goal is to create a diverse, safe and resilient supply of energy to meet the island’s needs.”

Energy Suppliers/Energy Organisations

“Future uncertainties could be damaging for Government, business and ultimately the consumer.”

“Energy companies have an opportunity to instigate/facilitate behavioural changes for consumers.”

“Government and business should work together collaboratively.”

“Variety, diversity and choice are important considerations for suppliers and consumers.”

“Fairness is an important value/principle of the future Energy Policy.”

“Organisations should invest in innovation.”

“There should be a level playing field for energy suppliers.”

“All energy sectors should be equal.”

“Energy suppliers will drive change and transformation during the energy transition.”

“Profitability for fuel suppliers is an important factor.”

“Working collaboratively leads to better results.”

Environment

“Investment in energy efficiency education is important.”

“Introduce annual vehicle checks to get inefficient vehicles off the road.”

“Jersey’s overarching target of Pathway 2050 is to reduce emissions by 80% compared to 1990 levels, by using secure, affordable and sustainable energy – Guernsey could follow Jersey’s lead?”

“The States of Guernsey should be aligned to local and global targets for change.”

“Guernsey will be vulnerable to climate change and rising sea-levels in the future.”

“Working towards greater energy efficiencies should be a key part of the future energy policy.”

“Fear of backlash could stifle change and achieving emissions targets.”

“The future energy policy should be aligned with international environmental targets designed to mitigate the effects of climate change.”

“We don’t know when the ‘tipping point’ or ‘crisis point’ will be for climate change?”

“Guernsey should step up to the international table and demonstrate its ability to meet emissions targets.”

Hydrocarbons

“Do we know what the future energy landscape looks like for Guernsey? Yes, transition away from Hydrocarbons at a rate which is unknown.”

“Local regulation should be implemented to secure the future fuel supply.”

“Most transport in Guernsey runs on petrol and diesel – with greater efficiencies in fuel economy available.”

“Transition away from hydrocarbons should be controlled by government interventions, legislation and investment.”

“There’s a huge risk that the States of Guernsey won’t do enough to protect hydrocarbon fuel supply.”

“Hydrocarbon demand decreases will lead to price increases.”

“There has been poor progress on the Hydrocarbons supply programme.”

“When we say ‘*energy transition*’ we are talking about the move away from hydrocarbons.”

“High fuel duty prevents fuel tourism – e.g. larger vessels and cruise ships cannot refuel in Guernsey.”

“Investment in energy efficiency education is important.”

States of Guernsey

“The States of Guernsey (SoG) should safeguard fair competition.”

“SoG should create policy to support the energy transition period.”

“SoG should set the parameters of the security and reliability that Guernsey needs.”

“Review Electric Vehicle charging stations on-island to cope with future demand.”

“Have a clear view/understanding of forecast energy demand over the next 25-50 years.”

“Guernsey should be competitive with other jurisdictions and be benchmarked against competitors.”

“Planning rules should be flexible and adapted to support the energy transition.”

“The Energy Policy should support the Blue Economy.”

“Fairness should underpin the future Energy Policy.”

“Guernsey should follow good examples led by other jurisdictions.”

“The Energy Policy should feed into new building regulations.”

“Energy Policy is part of the bigger, strategic picture for the States of Guernsey.”

“Legislation should make room for innovation.”

“Energy Policy should support the bigger picture **and** the Blue Economy.”

“Fuel duty could be phased out and MOT style safety/emissions tests could be brought in during the transition period.”

“There will be some difficult messages to communicate during the Energy engagement period.”

“Communications should be clear so that all stakeholders can make investment decisions; industry and individuals should be given equal consideration.”

“SoG should facilitate and work with energy providers to find the best solution.”

“Energy regulation is not clearly defined.”

“Government intervention could be too little, too late.”

“Regulation should not be restrictive.”

“Government intervention could be too heavy handed during the transition period.”

“SoG should invest in making Guernsey energy resilient.”

“Guernsey should follow best practice of other jurisdictions.”

“SoG should incentivise energy efficiency.”

“What about incentives for cleaner fuels?”

All attendees were invited back to join an Energy Forum who met together, for the first time, on 22 November 2018 and further summarised the feedback and put together a set of ‘pillars’ that would form the future Energy Policy:

- Pillar One – A competitive energy supply market using shared critical infrastructure as appropriate;
- Pillar Two – Manage and support change in the energy market in line with global efforts to reduce emissions; and
- Pillar Three – An open energy market with all suppliers having shared responsibility for security.

The Energy Forum agreed that there could be further pillars that would be important to future energy policy.

The forum also discussed the “Energy Trilemma”, a global phenomenon that will be an important local consideration for future energy policy: Affordability, Environment and Security.

We will be working with the above feedback with other groups of stakeholders, during this discovery and engagement period, before we begin to define and develop future Energy Policy.

The future Energy Policy has not been written or decided yet. And, we know that thinking about future energy policy isn’t easy because there are many tangents, variables, scenarios and unknown factors involved. There might not be a hydrogen powered ship in the harbour anytime soon but solar panels on public buildings could become an increasingly familiar sight? Changes are already happening, some may come in our lifetime and others will be for future generations. It will be important for us, in the coming months, to be able to communicate any complexities that arise in ways that are easy for everybody to understand, and for as many people to experience the discovery of these issues along with us.

If you are interested in taking part in the conversation you can fill out an online survey which can be found here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/energy> and/or email your views and feedback to energy@gov.gg.

Keep an eye out on www.gov.gg/energy to see what we discover in the coming months.

We will keep you posted about future engagement events, as well as publishing the insights and feedback we receive – I'm sure you'll agree that it's interesting to read about what everybody is saying about future energy policy in Guernsey.

End.

Lois Mansfield

19 December 2018