



States of
Guernsey

GOVERNMENT WORK PLAN

SUMMARY



ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT WORK PLAN

On 23rd July 2021, the Assembly agreed its Government Work Plan, which will be the States of Guernsey's roadmap for this political term.

The States' challenges in navigating a dramatic global context of COVID-19, Brexit and climate change are unprecedented. There is much recovery work to be done but government resources are tight, so the Plan by necessity concentrates on essential and 'biggest-bang-for-the-buck' actions. Unlike previous States' plans, it unites every States' initiative – except for every-day, business-as-usual activities – into a single, synergised plan of action with a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

It has four Priority Areas, under which there sit specific actions to be carried out in this political term:

Four Priority Areas

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This is an ongoing, 'must-do' activity as the Island transitions to living responsibly with COVID.

MANAGING THE EFFECTS OF BREXIT AND MEETING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Our jurisdiction's autonomy, international identity and adherence to international obligations must be maintained within the changed global landscape.

DELIVERING RECOVERY

This priority area contains phased integrated actions, designed to support the Island's economy and natural assets, and boost the myriad factors that contribute to Islanders' ability to thrive. A Top Ten list of recovery actions is refreshed annually. These actions hold special importance and receive priority resourcing.

RE-SHAPING GOVERNMENT

This priority area re-shapes how government works, making it more efficient and effective, thereby better enabling the economy, community and environment to thrive. Fiscal and human resources will be deployed more efficiently and cost-effectively across the States for maximum impact. Government itself will deliver only that which it is best placed to carry out and will establish new ways to work in partnership with our community's private and third sectors to more effectively deliver key projects and vital services.

The Plan also incorporates capital projects, extant Resolutions and prioritised legislation.

As agreed by the Assembly when it discussed the Plan's outline in March 2021, it will enable the States to 'work in partnership to recover our economic prosperity, build on our inclusive community values and capitalise on our many strengths to make Guernsey a safe haven based on sustaining health, wealth and community.'

In short, it is a phased, integrated action plan that focuses resources on our immediate economic, social and environmental needs while also positioning Islanders and our Island for a thriving, sustainable future.





Top Ten Recovery Actions to commence in 2021



Scope and deliver urgent measures
necessary to address **housing** pressures



Commence the reorganisation of secondary
and post 16 **education**



Set out and resource proposals to grow
knowledge and **skills** in our community



Determine and begin implementation of the
approach to enhanced **digital infrastructure**



Support vulnerable **children** through revision to
Children Law and action on the Outcomes Report



Assess the fitness for purpose of our **population**
and immigration framework, recognising the need to
balance economic needs with maintaining quality of life



Invest additional funding into promoting Guernsey's
finance sector and establish a **tourism** plan and
campaign to expand Guernsey's tourism offer



Establish a development agency and enable work
to begin on the development of the seafront
regeneration masterplan



Set out a clear and co-ordinated **transport**
connectivity and infrastructure policy and further
develop the general and commercial aviation sector



Support the physical and mental **health recovery** of
Islanders through new occupational health schemes
and a pilot mental health centre.

GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT

The States have diverted a good deal of financial and human resource into responding to the global pandemic since early 2020. These initiatives to keep Islanders safe and the Island up and running include on-island testing; adjustments to the hospital, care homes and community care; helplines; contact tracing; vaccinations and boosters; border controls; and financial support for Islanders and local businesses.

Prior to the pandemic, the impending arrival of Brexit occupied a significant amount of States’ personnel and resource, given that new international arrangements are now required for everything from food imports to pet passports. The work to negotiate trade agreements and border processes within this new European landscape continues.

Climate change is another challenge with accelerating urgency and gravity, as witnessed by 2021’s extraordinary extreme weather including flooding, heatwaves and wildfires. Not only does Guernsey have a role to play as a global citizen in mitigating climate change, as an island nation it is vulnerable to rising sea levels.

The Bailiwick has other challenges such as an ageing demographic that will strain States’ resources, and growing inequalities between Islanders. The pandemic magnified those inequalities, hitting some parts of our economy and some Islanders harder than others.



SUPPORTING ISLANDERS AND THE ISLAND ITSELF

The Bailiwick’s future rests in its people. The Plan takes action on what Islanders need to flourish and prosper. While supporting physical and mental health is essential, it is recognised that several socio-economic factors that influence Islanders’ wellbeing need attention.

The Plan also looks to address a trend of underinvestment in the Island’s infrastructure. In previous terms, the States had fallen short of their own capital spending targets. It invests in the Island that sustains us all – enriching and regenerating its economy; improving its digital connectivity, physical infrastructure and transport links; and protecting its environment.



SYNERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

When Islanders thrive, the economy thrives and when the economy thrives, Islanders thrive. The economy, social concerns, and the environment are interconnected – they all contribute to the prosperity, health and wellbeing of Islanders and the Island in what is termed a ‘wellbeing economy.’

The Plan recognises and builds upon these synergies. Its 16 outcomes align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which provide a basis for governmental policymaking to spur economic growth, ensure health and wellbeing, reduce inequality and protect the environment.

The Plan supports our Island’s core economic drivers while enabling growth, regeneration, diversification and innovation. It fosters a competitive environment through enhanced digital connectivity, physical infrastructure and transport links. It cuts red tape

and reduces unnecessary burdens on business while meeting international standards, through proportionate, risk-based regulation.

It invests in a range of interlinked factors that enable Islanders to flourish, known as the ‘wider determinants of health.’ This includes education and skills-building; safety and security; economic opportunity; inclusion; housing; and a healthy natural and built environment.

Ensuring Guernsey’s natural sustainability is more critical now than ever. The Plan includes initiatives to assess the status of Guernsey’s marine environment and calls for the extension of the Paris Agreement on climate change to Guernsey. Its commissioning proposals as part of re-shaping government will enable innovations in delivering environmental protection through a new, Nature Commission.

WORKING TOGETHER

Just as the interconnections among the economy, social inclusion and sustainability are critical to the Plan’s potential, collaboration underpins its development and implementation.



Under its mandated responsibilities to lead the States’ policy planning, the Policy & Resources Committee works collaboratively with other States’ Committees, and the Assembly as a whole, to develop and refresh it. Engagement with key stakeholders representing business, social and environmental concerns also informs the Plan’s development.

Guernsey’s economy is linked closely to that of Alderney – with whom Guernsey is effectively in fiscal union – and of Sark. The Islands’ Assemblies are mindful of the mutual benefit in Guernsey, Alderney and Sark having strong economies, and where appropriate and practical will seek to work together.

This wider engagement within the Assembly, across the Islands, with the private and third sectors, and with Islanders in general, will continue. Partnership working, co-design of policy and operational solutions, and commissioning of public services will be hallmarks of the Plan’s implementation.

WHAT’S NEXT: AGILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

It is important to note that the Government Work Plan is not set in stone. The global and local context will shift as the term progresses, and the Plan needs the agility to respond to both threats and opportunities. Future initiatives and policy developments will be considered as part of the Plan’s annual amending, reporting and monitoring process.

In line with the Plan’s holistic approach guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, its monitoring process will include sustainable measurements of success, not just GDP.

The Policy & Resources Committee will provide updates on the Plan’s progress through Statements in the Assembly and on www.gov.gg/GWP.





Read more at [Gov.gg/GWP](https://www.gov.gg/GWP)
