Response to the Proposed Budget 2027 - 2030

Introduction

This report summarises the views of young people in Jersey on Jersey's future, the risks they perceive facing the Island, and the extent to which the Proposed Budget responds to those concerns.

The report draws on evidence gathered from:

1. A Jersey Youth Assembly (JYA) discussion session held at the BDO Hub on 20 October 2026, attended by 37 JYA Members aged 14-19.
2. An online survey of 67 JYA Members aged 14-19 (Survey 1).
3. An online survey of 119 young people aged 14-19, including both JYA Members and non-members (Survey 2).

Unless otherwise stated, findings draw on evidence from both the surveys and the discussion session. The findings were analysed and brought together by members of the JYA Executive Group, (an elected group of 7 JYA Members) with support from the States Greffe Education and Outreach Team.

The Executive Group's role was to analyse and summarise the views expressed by participants. The findings in this report are intended to reflect the evidence gathered rather than the personal views of Executive Group members.

Executive Summary: Key messages from young people

Many young people identified **climate change, the cost of living, housing affordability and future opportunities** as the issues that matter most to them.

Climate Change

Climate change emerged as a particularly prominent concern, especially during the discussion session. While young people recognised the Government's commitment to achieving carbon

neutrality by 2050, many felt that greater urgency and ambition are needed. Participants called for faster action to reduce emissions, improve climate resilience and address the long-term impacts of climate change.

Cost of Living and Housing

The cost of living was a recurring theme throughout the surveys and discussion session and was closely linked to many other concerns. Rising living costs affect decisions about housing, employment, financial security and whether young people can see a future for themselves in Jersey.

Housing affordability was identified as a particular priority. Participants highlighted the importance of increasing access to affordable housing and supporting young people seeking to establish independent lives in Jersey.

Future Opportunities

Young people expressed concerns about future opportunities on the Island, particularly in relation to career pathways, employment and access to well-paid work. In the discussion session, some felt that limited opportunities can make it difficult to build a secure and fulfilling future in Jersey.

Opportunities for education, skills development and personal growth were also seen as important factors influencing whether young people choose to remain in Jersey as adults.

Financial Security and Wellbeing

Participants highlighted wider concerns about financial security and the ability of future generations to achieve long-term stability and independence. Alongside affordability, respondents emphasised the importance of healthcare, lifelong learning and access to opportunities that support wellbeing and quality of life.

Overall Message

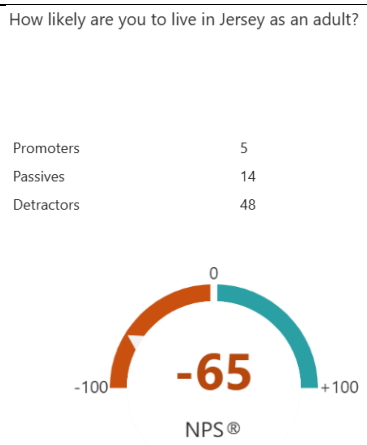
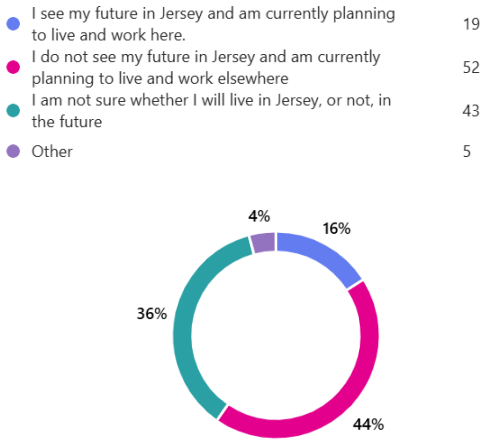
The findings suggest that only a minority of young people are certain that their future lies in Jersey. For many, the decision to stay or leave is shaped not by a single issue, but by the combined impact of housing affordability, the cost of living, career opportunities, financial security and confidence in Jersey's long-term future.

Part A: Will Jersey be able to retain young people?

Do young people see their future in Jersey?

The evidence suggests that many young people are uncertain about their long-term future in Jersey. While participants generally reported positive experiences of living on the Island, concerns about housing affordability, career opportunities and the cost of living were significant factors influencing future plans.

In Survey 1, respondents were asked how likely they were to live in Jersey as an adult. Responses were mixed, although far more respondents selected scores on the negative side of the scale than the positive side (48 against 5). Similarly, in Survey 2, 44% of respondents said they did not currently see their future in Jersey and planned to live and work elsewhere, while 36% said they were unsure.

Figure 1	**Figure 2**
	
Survey 1	***Survey 2***

Why it matters

The results show that many young people have not yet made a firm decision about their future. This presents an opportunity for policies and investment to influence whether young people choose to live and work in Jersey as adults.

Why might young people leave?

In Survey 1, career opportunities emerged as the strongest influence on decisions to leave Jersey (34%). Housing costs, the cost of living, travel opportunities and access to broader life experiences were also commonly cited. Discussion groups reflected similar themes. Participants

frequently spoke about wanting greater choice in education, employment and career pathways, as well as opportunities to gain experience elsewhere before deciding whether to return to Jersey.

Figure 3

If you left Jersey, what would be the biggest reason? (Choose ONE)



The "Other" category allowed participants to provide their own responses. These included access to university and education opportunities, Jersey's small social pool, political isolation, and concerns about transphobic policies.

Survey 1

The findings suggest that decisions about remaining in Jersey are heavily influenced by practical considerations. Affordable housing, access to employment and the ability to maintain a reasonable standard of living are closely connected.

The findings suggest that decisions to leave Jersey are often linked to future aspirations, affordability and access to opportunities, rather than dissatisfaction with life on the Island itself.

Why might young people choose to stay?

Despite concerns about affordability and future opportunities, most respondents reported positive experiences of living in Jersey.

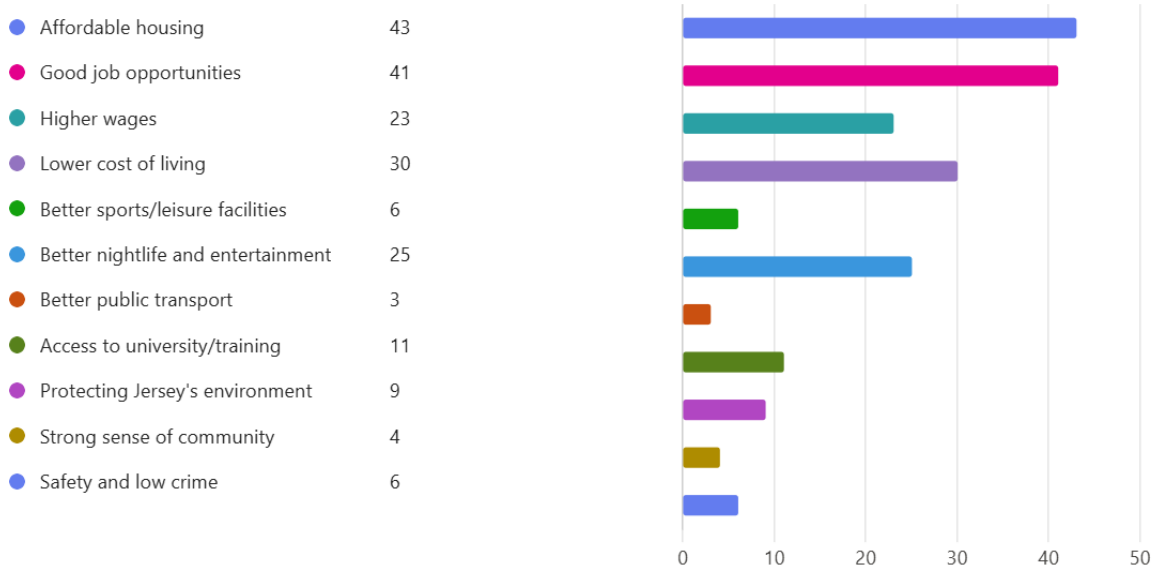
Of the 119 respondents who answered questions about their current circumstances:

- 75% described their standard of living as comfortable or high;
- 19% described it as acceptable; and
- 6% described it as below average or poor.

When asked which factors would most influence their decision to remain in Jersey, respondents in Survey 1 most frequently selected:

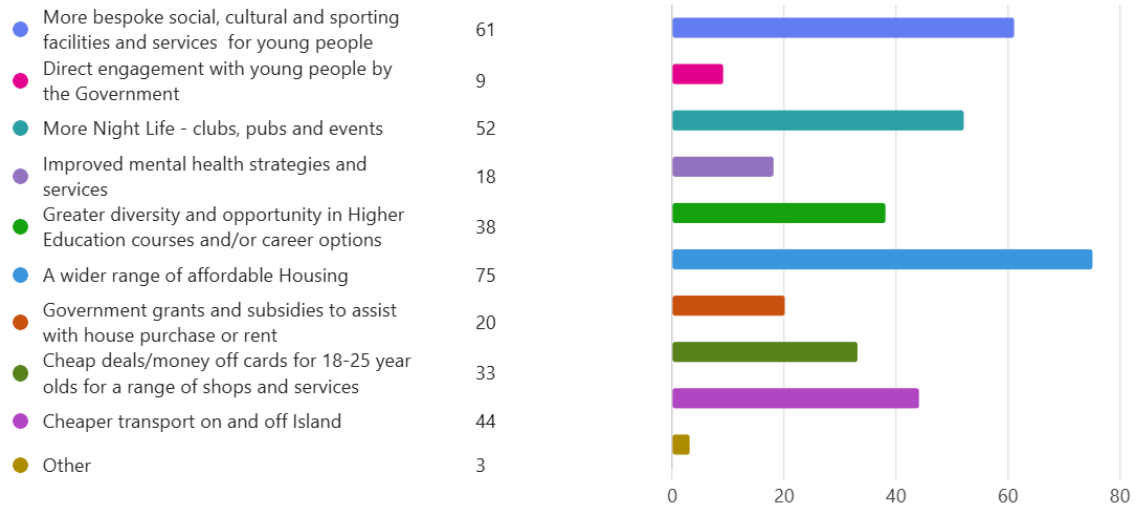
- Affordable housing (21%)
- Good job opportunities (20%)
- Lower cost of living (15%)

Figure 4



Survey 1

Figure 5



Survey 2

Alongside affordability, respondents highlighted a range of factors that would influence their decision to remain in Jersey, including career and education opportunities, higher wages, social

and cultural activities, sports and leisure facilities, nightlife, and a strong sense of community and safety.

When asked what would make Jersey more appealing as a place to live and work, respondents frequently highlighted the need for more things to do, dedicated youth spaces, affordable sporting opportunities and improved places for young people to meet friends and participate in community life.

Why it matters

The findings suggest that retaining young people is not solely about employment and housing. Quality of life also plays an important role in decisions about where young people choose to live and work. Many respondents would like to see a broader range of opportunities to socialise, pursue interests and develop independence as young adults.

Overall Conclusion

The evidence suggests that Jersey may face challenges in retaining young people in the future.

While some respondents expressed positive views about life in Jersey, concerns about housing affordability, living costs and career opportunities continue to influence decisions about where to live and work.

However, the findings also highlight a significant opportunity. A large proportion of young people remain undecided about their future, suggesting that action on the issues identified throughout this report could have a meaningful impact on whether they choose to build their lives in Jersey.

Part B: What risks and challenges concern young people most?

Which risks were ranked highest by young people?

Young people were asked to order the risks identified by the government within the Proposed Budget, ranked from highest concern to least concern. As can be seen in Figure 5, climate change and financial instability emerged as two of the most significant concerns identified by young people.

Across both the survey responses and discussion activities, climate change was consistently ranked among the highest risks facing Jersey. By contrast, risks relating to IT failure and digital infrastructure were generally ranked lower than environmental and economic concerns.

Discussion groups repeatedly highlighted concerns about the long-term impact of climate change on future generations. Many participants viewed climate change as an immediate challenge rather than a distant risk.

Figure 6

The Government's 10 potential risks to Jersey, ranked from the one of highest concern (top) to the one that is of least concern (bottom) by young people.



Survey 2

Why it matters

The findings suggest that young people place particular importance on risks that may affect their future quality of life and long-term opportunities.

Participants often discussed climate change in terms of its impact on future generations, while financial instability was commonly linked to concerns about affordability and economic security.

How do young people's concerns compare with the Government's assessment of risk?

There was broad agreement between young people and Government that Jersey faces a range of significant challenges. However, the relative importance assigned to those risks differed.

Young people consistently placed greater emphasis on climate change and affordability than is reflected in the Government's proposed budget. During discussions, many participants felt that climate-related risks should be given greater priority.

Cost of living pressures also featured prominently. In Survey 2, fourteen respondents independently identified cost of living and affordability concerns, including six explicit references to the cost of living and additional concerns about housing affordability, food prices, inflation, taxation and travel costs.

At the same time, some risks identified by Government, such as IT failure, cyber security and service disruption, were generally viewed as less urgent by participants.

Why it matters

The results suggest that young people are particularly focused on issues that directly affect their future lives, including environmental sustainability, affordability and economic security.

While many Government priorities align with issues raised by young people, the findings indicate differences in emphasis between young people and policymakers.

What additional risks did young people identify?

When asked to identify additional risks facing Jersey, young people frequently highlighted a number of societal concerns that, while reflected within the Government's stated priorities, were not reflected as prominently within its formal risk framework.

The most cited were:

- Housing affordability;
- Rising living costs;
- Climate change and environmental protection;
- Access to higher education and training opportunities;
- The availability of varied career opportunities; and
- Opportunities, facilities and support for young people.

Many of these additional concerns were closely linked to participants' views about whether they would choose to remain in Jersey in the future.

Why it matters

The additional risks identified by participants help provide a fuller picture of the challenges young people believe Jersey faces.

Many of the concerns raised relate to everyday experiences and future opportunities, suggesting that young people are particularly interested in practical measures that improve long-term quality of life.

Overall Conclusion

Climate change and financial instability emerged as the most significant risks identified by young people during this consultation.

Participants also highlighted housing affordability, living costs and future opportunities as key concerns. While there was broad overlap between the issues identified by young people and those identified by Government, young people generally placed greater emphasis on environmental sustainability.

These findings provide important context for assessing whether the Proposed Budget responds to the concerns that matter most to young people.

Part C: Does the budget respond to these concerns?

Do Government priorities align with young people's priorities?

There was considerable overlap between the priorities identified by young people and those identified by Government.

Participants consistently highlighted affordability, healthcare, housing and future opportunities as important priorities for Jersey's future. These themes are reflected in several of the Government's stated priorities and investment plans.

However, young people also placed particularly strong emphasis on environmental sustainability and climate change. Many participants felt these issues should receive greater attention within Jersey's long-term priorities.

Why it matters

The findings suggest that young people broadly support many of the Government's objectives, but differ in the level of priority they assign to some issues.

In particular, environmental concerns were consistently ranked more highly by young people than appears to be considered within the Proposed Budget.

What did young people think about the proposed actions to ease cost-of-living pressures?

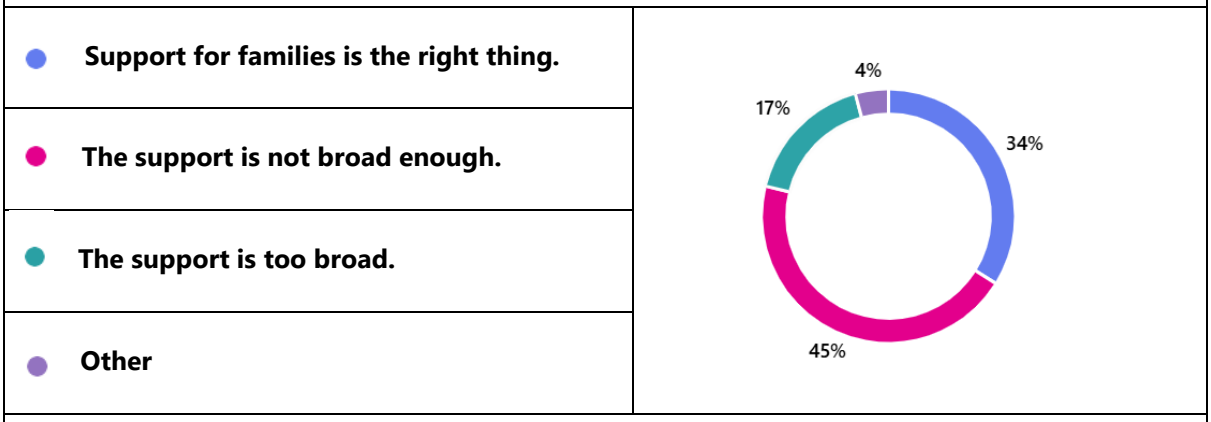
The cost of living was one of the most significant issues raised throughout the consultation.

Most respondents supported the proposed cost-of-living measures or felt they should be expanded further. Overall, 79% of respondents believed the proposed measures were either appropriate or not broad enough.

The largest single group of respondents (45%) felt that additional support should be provided beyond the measures currently proposed.

Participants frequently linked cost-of-living pressures with housing affordability and future financial security.

Figure 7



Survey 2

Why it matters

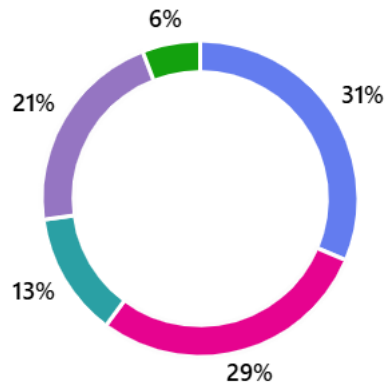
The findings reinforce evidence from earlier sections of this report that affordability is a major factor influencing young people's future plans. These findings indicate that action to address affordability is likely to play an important role in supporting young people to build their futures in Jersey. This aligns with the Government of Jersey's priority to ease cost-of-living pressures, which is identified as Priority 1 within the Common Strategic Policy 2026-2030.

What did young people think about the way the Government plans to raise money?

Young people were generally supportive of raising revenue through increased duties on products such as tobacco and alcohol. However, some felt that the overall approach could be made fairer.

Several participants suggested alternative approaches to raising revenue, including measures targeted at wealthier individuals or activities perceived to have greater environmental impacts.

Half of respondents selected either "the funding could be fairer" or "the Government should provide even more support", while relatively few felt that Government should avoid increasing taxes or spending.

Figure 8	
The funding is fair.	
The funding could be fairer.	
The government should not be increasing any taxes or spending more money in this challenging global economy	
The government should be offering even more support during difficult times	
Other	
Survey 2	

Why it matters

The findings suggest that many young people are willing to support Government intervention when it is seen as addressing important social, economic or environmental challenges.

However, there was less agreement on how additional support should be funded, indicating a range of views about taxation and fairness.

Overall Conclusion

Overall, participants felt that the Proposed Budget addresses some of the issues that matter most to young people, particularly through measures intended to support families and respond to cost-of-living pressures.

However, respondents also felt that some of their highest priorities, particularly climate change and affordability, were not reflected as strongly as they would have liked. Climate change emerged as one of the strongest concerns raised by young people and participants generally placed greater emphasis on environmental action than was reflected in the overall balance of Budget priorities. While many participants supported the proposed cost-of-living measures, a substantial proportion also felt that further action may be needed to address ongoing financial pressures.

Overall, the findings suggest broad alignment between several Government priorities and the concerns raised by young people, alongside some differences in emphasis, particularly in relation to climate change and affordability.

Recommendations

Based on the evidence gathered through the surveys and discussion session, participants identified a number of areas which they believe should be prioritised:

1. Continue efforts to ease cost-of-living pressures, particularly for young people and families.
2. Increase the supply and availability of affordable housing.
3. Give greater emphasis to climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability.
4. Support a wider range of career, training and continue investment in higher education and lifelong learning opportunities.
5. Improve public transport and sustainable travel options.
6. Continue investment in healthcare, including mental health services.
7. Expand social, cultural, sporting and leisure opportunities for young people.
8. Continue engaging young people in decisions that will shape Jersey's future.

These recommendations reflect the views expressed by participants throughout the consultation and are intended to support Jersey's long-term attractiveness as a place where young people can live, work and thrive.