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Towards a sustainability strategy for Jersey

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Sustainability is defined in many ways but, whatever definition is used, the concept is about long term planning and the full integration of social, environmental and economic factors in the decision making process.

The search for sustainability needs to reconcile population regulation on an island that enjoys significant economic growth, with the expectation of increasing standards and, uniquely, virtually no unemployment. The finance sector, a major component of the economy, creates labour demand and brings immigration pressures.

With population growth comes demand for housing, on limited land space, along with other consequences. These include traffic and transport issues, waste management, the maintenance of its high level of biodiversity and pollution problems. Related social and health issues point up the need for an integrated solution. In addition, Jersey must ensure that its international commitments, e.g to the Climate Change Convention, are honoured.

Given it's small island status, Jersey has the opportunity to become a role model. The initial phase of producing a sustainability strategy is reaching its conclusion. The paper will detail the progress and explore the difficulties associated with the adoption of a sustainable development strategy in Jersey.