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Guernsey has everything. *It is time to use it.*

I am standing in this by-election on a single, connected argument. Guernsey already possesses the means to close its fiscal gap without a consumption tax, to provide homes for its own people, and to end diesel generation permanently. The resources exist. The technology is proven. What has been absent is the political will to deploy them. This platform is the plan to do so.

No GST. Tidal Revenue Instead.

Billions of gallons of seawater surge past this island every twelve hours with extraordinary, unwavering force. They have done so since before Guernsey was first settled. We have never captured a single kilowatt-hour of it.

The Little Russell and our Western coastline experience tidal currents comparable to the Pentland Firth and the Bay of Fundy in Canada, two of the most powerful tidal environments on Earth. What makes this resource uniquely valuable is its predictability. Unlike wind or solar, tidal energy follows the lunar cycle with clockwork precision. Its output can be forecast centuries in advance. Investors can price it. Grids can rely on it. Because the revenue stream carries no weather risk, it is substantially easier to finance than any other form of renewable generation.

Modern subsea tidal turbines are proven technology. The Orbital O2 has been generating grid-scale electricity in Orkney for several years and the O3, the World's most powerful tidal turbine, began operation in February this year. These machines sit entirely beneath the surface with no visual impact from shore, no noise and no blight on the seascape. A first array of twenty megawatts in the Little Russell, expanding progressively to forty or sixty megawatts, would generate electricity at costs that fall with every increment of scale. Structured as a community asset, the annual surplus flowing to the States treasury runs into tens of millions of pounds, permanently, from a resource the Island already owns.

> ***That surplus is large enough to make a Goods and Services Tax permanently unnecessary. GST is a choice, not an inevitability. The sea is the alternative.***

A Battery in Every Home.

Tidal generation follows the tide, not the clock. Without storage, a tidal asset is half an asset. A network of domestic wall-mounted batteries across Guernsey's twenty-five thousand households changes that. Each basic unit stores approximately ten kilowatt-hours, enough to cover a family's evening and overnight consumption from a charge built up during the day. Individually, these are household appliances. Collectively, networked and managed by a central Energy Management System, they form a virtual power plant of over two hundred megawatt-hours.

The scheme would run through a community energy mutual society, owned by islanders, not the States. The mutual society installs the battery in your home at no upfront cost. Your electricity bill falls by between 15% and 25%, from day one. The programme would be financed through bonds available to Guernsey residents, pension funds, and local institutions, thereby keeping the capital and the returns on-island.

For a family spending £2,400 a year on power, that is up to £600 back every year - with nothing to pay upfront.

And if the power goes out on your street, your home stays lit. For elderly residents and those with medical equipment, that resilience has a value that does not appear on the bill but is no less real.

The Power Station Site - Homes for Guernsey People.

Here is a consequence of energy independence that deserves to be at the centre of this debate. As the tidal array and battery network mature, the Vale power station's diesel backup generation becomes redundant. The States' own planners have already acknowledged what follows. The Local Planning Brief for the St Sampson's Harbour Action Area already identifies decarbonisation as the moment to reduce the power station's footprint and open this land to new uses. This is something our own government has mapped out and currently left sitting on a shelf. I would like to take it down.

Guernsey's housing shortage is felt by young people who cannot afford to stay on the island they grew up on, by families in overcrowded properties, and by employers who lose the people they need because there is nowhere affordable to live. The Vale site, freed by the energy transition, is land we will have. A clear, costed proposal brought before the States, with an agreed development framework with GEL and the planning authorities, could ensure the homes built there are genuinely affordable and available to Guernsey people - not sold at market value to the highest bidder and lost to the local market.

> ***The energy transition creates this opportunity. The housing need makes it urgent. It would be a serious failure of responsibility not to take it.***

The complete platform. *Three problems. One decision.*

The energy case with tidal turbines in the Little Russell, a battery in every home, and the power station land freed for housing, provides the financial foundation on which everything else on this platform rests. At full scale it generates tens of millions of pounds per year for the States from a natural asset we already own. That is the figure that makes GST unnecessary. It is also the figure that funds everything else on this platform without raising taxes, cutting services, or asking the island to choose between its priorities.

Reclaiming Our Freedom to Cross the Channel.

Guernsey did not vote in the Brexit referendum. We were given no say in the decision that stripped our residents' freedom to cross a border that matters to us, the one twenty-seven miles to the South. The 90-day rule now limits how long a Guernsey resident can spend in France without a visa. It affects people with French partners, residents with property across the Channel, and the next generation for whom Europe was an alluring horizon. It even reaches into our own legal profession, where an aspiring advocate cannot be called to the Guernsey Bar without first obtaining a certificate in French and Norman law from the University of Caen.

Our constitutional case is strong. Guernsey's connection to Normandy predates England itself. We already follow EU financial, data, and sanctions rules voluntarily. Gibraltar proved the principle that a British territory outside the EU negotiated specific mobility rights without surrendering a millimetre (or inch) of sovereignty. Our case is at least as strong. I would like to make it formally and persistently, with the Normandy regional government beside us and the UK Government in the room.

Putting Guernsey on the World Stage.

Jersey has joined a Pacific trade bloc, signed investment treaties, and is building its own treaty ratification process, the first Crown Dependency to do so. Guernsey's external relations have too often meant waiting to see what comes through London, or by keeping an eye on Jersey. That should end now.

We have tidal energy that global infrastructure investors are actively seeking, regulatory agility that the world's fintech firms need. And a Normandy relationship that gives us a genuine European anchor. A PwC report, commissioned by the States. found that Guernsey's digital economy could double with the right coordination and investment, unlocking over £150 million in additional value.

An argument within our own financial services community is that Guernsey's nimbleness and legal framework could make it a World leader in the application of AI to financial services. I hope to pursue that argument through action via innovation partnership agreements with UK fintech, France, and the Netherlands, a dedicated Guernsey Finance office in Singapore targeting the fastest-growing private wealth market in the world; and formal inclusion in UK trade negotiation briefings as a right, not extended as an occasional courtesy.

This ground is currently unoccupied. Guernsey should stand on it.

Five policies. One argument.

Guernsey has spent too long as a passive beneficiary of arrangements made by others whether importing its energy, accepting its post-Brexit constraints without challenge, watching Jersey move while we wait on London. This platform is the alternative. It uses what we already have, such as the sea, our Norman history, our regulatory reputation, and the institutional nimbleness that comes from being a small island with the constitutional freedom to act.

The energy surpluses take fifteen years to arrive in full. The European mobility arrangements require UK acquiescence before they reach Brussels. The international reputation needs consistent investment before it compounds. None of that is a reason not to start. It is, in fact, the only reason that matters. The generation that plants the tree does not sit in its shade but plants it anyway.

> ***Guernsey's best days are ahead of it. But only if we are bold enough to claim them.***

Full policy papers, evidence base, other topics and policies, and references at **www.wilson.gg**

Promoted by Jonathan Wilson, Candidate, States of Guernsey, By-election 29 April 2026