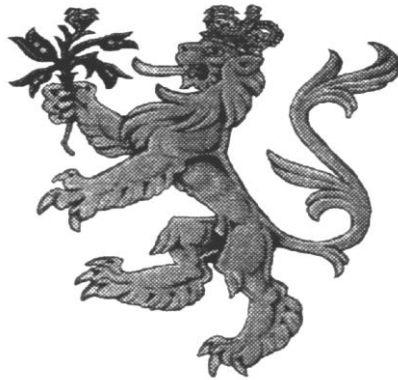


# STATES OF ALDERNEY



# BILLET D'ETAT

WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

Price: £2.25

**STATES OF ALDERNEY**

**BILLET D'ETAT**

**FOR WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

Members of the States:

I have the honour to inform you that the Meeting of the States will be held at 5:30 pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018. This will be preceded by the People's Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Island Hall.

W Stuart Trought  
President

**Item I**      **The Fees (Alderney) Law, 2011 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2018**

**The following letter was received from Mr Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

*"The States of Alderney at its meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2011 resolved to approve "The Fees (Alderney) Law, 2011". To bring this piece of legislation into effect an Ordinance of the States is required which appoints a date when the Law shall come into force on the island.*

*Law Officers Chambers have drafted the ordinance entitled "The Fees (Alderney) Law, 2011 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2018" which appoints the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2019 as the day on which "The Fees (Alderney) Law, 2011" comes into force.*

*I would be grateful if this matter is placed before the December meeting of the States of Alderney with an appropriate proposition.*

*Mr James Dent, Chairman"*

**The States of Alderney is asked to approve "The Fees (Alderney) Law, 2011 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2018"**

**Item II**      **The Fees (Alderney) Ordinance, 2018**

**The following letter was received from Mr Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

*"Fees and charges that are provided for under the Fees (Alderney) Ordinance, 1990 have not been increased since 2011, due to a substantial review being undertaken of the legislative provision for the fees and charges. The amendment to the Building and*

*Development Control (Amendment and Fees) Ordinance 2014, which in effect removed the Building fees from the Fees ordinance meant that this review needed to be undertaken.*

*The fees for the import of vehicles which fall within the Fees Ordinance have already been reviewed and approved by the Policy and Finance Committee at its budget meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and the General Services Committee at its meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017:*

*During the budgetary review in 2018 it was identified that there were other areas where it was considered necessary to increase the fees to cover administrative and associated costs; namely Employment permits, Weapons certificates and Hawkers Licences. This matter was brought to the Policy and Finance Committee at its meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 for consideration where the increase in the fees as set out in the draft Ordinance "The Fees (Alderney) Ordinance, 2018" was approved unanimously.*

*I would be grateful if this matter is placed before the December meeting of the States of Alderney with an appropriate proposition.*

*Mr James Dent, Chairman"*

**The States of Alderney is asked to approve "The Fees (Alderney) Ordinance, 2018"**

**Item III**

**The Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) Law, 2018 and the Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) (No.2) Law, 2018 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2018**

**The following letter was received from Mr Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

*"At the States of Alderney meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 "The Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) Law, 2018" was approved by the full States and at the meeting of the States of Alderney held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 "The Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) (No.2) Law, 2018 was also approved by the full States. To bring both these pieces of legislation into effect an Ordinance of the States is required which appoints a date when the Law shall come into force on the island.*

*Law Officers Chambers have drafted the ordinance entitled "The Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) Law, 2018 and the Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) (No.2) Law, 2018 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2018" which appoints the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 as the day in which "The Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) Law, 2018" and the "Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) (No.2) Law, 2018" comes into force.*

*I would be grateful if this matter is placed before the December meeting of the States of Alderney with an appropriate proposition.*

*Mr James Dent, Chairman"*

**The States of Alderney is asked to approve "The Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) Law, 2018 and the Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) (No.2) Law, 2018 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2018"**

**Item IV**      **Proposed increase in Mooring Charges 2019**

**The following letter was received from Mrs Paris, Chairman of the General Services Committee:-**

*“The General Services Committee has recently considered several recommendations from the Harbour Office in respect of reducing their annual revenue deficit (budgeted at £94,700 for 2019), which included a review of mooring charges, as listed below:-*

***Local Mooring Fees (Inner and Outer Harbour)***

*The fees payable by the owner of a local boat in respect of a mooring within the Inner and Outer Harbour (as shown in sections a&b) were last increased with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. The RPIX increase over this period (to Sept 2018) is 14.2%. The Committee is therefore recommending an increase of 10% in order to partially redress the balance on revenue, whilst also giving consideration to the capital investment in facilities, including the purchase of mooring chains, blocks, buoys, and the new boat hoist etc.*

***Visitor Mooring Fees***

*The Committee is not recommending any increase in visitor mooring fees at this time (as shown in sections c&d) as these were increased with effect from January 2018 (as per resolution of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017).*

***Boat Storage Charges***

*The Committee is recommending an increase in boat storage charges, where no mooring is allocated (as shown in section e), to the equivalent rate of the local outer mooring fee, i.e. based on length of the vessel. In reaching this decision the Committee took into account the current low rental charges for premium harbour space, together with the current inequality between the mooring and storage charges (which in turn encourages abandonment of vessels). The Committee is aware that this move should free up more space for those regular mooring fees holders to allow access to water and power facilities, and will assist with the clean-up of the harbour area, one of the main gateways to the Island, under the civic pride initiative.*

*The Policy and Finance Committee considered this matter at their meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 – and agreed, by majority, to the recommendations.*

*The enabling legislation allows the States to set mooring charges by resolution rather than Statutory Instrument. In approving the revised rates with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 this will automatically rescind previous resolutions.*

*I would therefore be grateful if you could place the revised fees schedule before the States with the appropriate propositions.*

*Mrs Norma Paris, Chairman”*

**The States of Alderney is asked to make the following Resolution :-**

- 1. To approve the rates for mooring charges and exemptions (sections a to d) as set out in the schedule of charges attached, with effect from and including 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, and revoke the previous resolution of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, and**
- 2. To approve the rates for boat storage charges and exemptions (section e) as set out in the schedule of charges attached, with effect from and including 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, and revoke the previous resolution of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Item V**      **Amendment to the Occupiers Rate Ordinance for Year of Charge 2019**

**The following letter was received from Mr Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

*“At the October States Meeting, as part of the Budget Report for 2019, the States of Alderney approved the Occupiers Rates Ordinance for the year of charge 2019.*

*As you will be aware, this Ordinance directly refers to the property descriptions and usage as construed in accordance with the “Taxation of Real Property (Guernsey and Alderney) Ordinance, 2007 (as amended)” and therefore is intrinsically linked to any decisions that the States of Guernsey may make on those categories.*

*Following the October Alderney States Meeting, the States of Guernsey considered proposals from Policy and Resources Committee which formed part of their own Budget, which recommended alterations to several Tax on Real Property categories. These proposals were subsequently approved by the States of Guernsey at their November States Meeting.*

*The main differences in relation to properties for 2019 was to split domestic properties into those rated as being under and over 500 assessable units and to further define office and ancillary accommodation to create additional categories specific to accountancy services and non- regulated financial services businesses.*

*To ensure that the Alderney Occupiers Rates Ordinance is in line with Tax on Real Property categories, it has therefore been necessary to amend the previously approved ordinance to reflect these changes. It should be noted however, that the progressive measures implemented by the States of Guernsey to apply a higher rate of tax on those in larger properties has not been reflected in the Occupiers Rates, and for 2019 charges have been maintained at the rates that the amended categories would have paid under their previous banding i.e. there are no further increased charges under this revised Ordinance it is purely a tidying up exercise, furthermore there are no amendments to any of the other rates as previously approved in October.*

*I therefore enclose a draft ordinance entitled “The Occupier’s Rate (Level for 2019) (No. 2) Ordinance, 2018” and should be grateful if you would place this before the States with an appropriate proposition.*

*Mr James Dent, Chairman”*

**The States is asked to approve “The Occupier’s Rate (Level for 2019) (No. 2) Ordinance, 2018”**

**Item VI**      **Declaration of Members Interests**

**The following letter was received from Mr Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

*“Currently the Rules of Procedure require States Members to declare annually their Bailiwick-wide property and other business interests. Some members have however voluntarily declared their world-wide interests.*

*As Alderney may shortly be negotiating commercial deals with institutions beyond the Bailiwick, it is time to reconsider whether the current requirements are sufficient.*

*The Policy and Finance Committee considered this matter at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and resolved to:*

*“Support the proposition for consideration by the States of Alderney that from 2019 onwards, elected States Members shall be required to declare their worldwide interests”.*

*I would be grateful if this matter is placed before the December meeting of the States of Alderney with an appropriate proposition.*

*Mr James Dent, Chairman”*

**The States of Alderney is asked to approve a revised wording for Rule 22 (3) in the Rules of Procedure:**

**“The President and all members shall, within one month of the commencement of their term of office and by 31<sup>st</sup> January in each year thereafter, make and lodge with the Greffier a declaration of all immovable property interests and business interests in Alderney, or any other islands within the Bailiwick *or elsewhere in the World* owned by themselves or their spouse.”**

**The following revised wordings should also apply to Schedule 1 – Section 1, Immovable Property Interests; Section 2, Employment; Section 3, Directorships; Section 4, Shareholdings/material Interests in Companies; and Section 5, Spouses’ Interests:**

**Where these words are found: “in Alderney or any other Islands within the Bailiwick” they shall be replaced with “In Alderney or any other islands within the Bailiwick *or elsewhere in the World*”.**

**[The additional wording to Rule 22 (3) and to Schedule 1 is shown in italics.]**

## **Item VII** **Annual Reports of States Committees for 2018**

**On 4 May 1977, the States resolved to instruct all committees to prepare an annual report, and for that report to be debated at the December States Meeting.**

### **(i) Annual Report of the Policy and Finance Committee**

**The following report was received from Mr Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

#### ***“P&F Annual Report 2018***

*This year the work of the Policy & Finance Committee has been dominated by matters centring on Guernsey, not least:*

- The nascent Public Service Obligation contracts for air services between Alderney and Guernsey and Alderney and Southampton and the rehabilitation of our runway*
- The Guernsey Budget and Guernsey’s reluctance to fund from General Revenue sources the support for the Alderney-Southampton route; and proposals to review the 1948 Agreement*
- Brexit – and the defence of our interests vis-à-vis the interests of the wider Bailiwick*

*Before I return to these three dominant issues I would however like to summarise our efforts, successes and work in a number of other areas:*

- *FAB/ARE/ACRE – we have settled the court case with ARE and are now free to return to the market for tidal energy – we have set up a Group that will be looking at the options for moving forward – long term our tidal energy resources are seen as one of our greatest economic assets.*
- *Marine Management – we have developed a Marine Management Plan, with the approval of the UK, and this has greatly assisted our efforts to have the Bailiwick's territorial waters extended to 12 miles.*
- *Ferry – after examining a number of options with high costs attached, an agreement was made to support a seasonal ferry service, the Little Ferry Company. Fares were deliberately set at an affordable level and the operation seen as an experiment to test the market. The service was a great success and we are now examining ways best to repeat and improve on the service offered in 2019.*
- *Fort Tourgis – negotiations have recommenced for the development of a major hotel, but this time with the added security of guarantees from the Dutch Government.*
- *Aviation Fuel – a contractor was secured and supplies restarted without the need for financial support from the States of Alderney.*
- *Surefast Internet – we continue to roll out this project which should provide all premises on the island who want it, super-fast broadband.*
- *Governance – while recognising the need for reform, we have come to understand that the process for moving forward must have popular support – as a first step, we are therefore looking at the options for moving forward – the process is likely to be lengthy, but given the importance of this matter, and the previous failed attempts at change we have accepted this is inevitable.*
- *Partnership Law – although we have been pushing for legislation and see this as an opportunity to attract new residents, progress has been slow, mainly because the law officers have been tied up on Brexit matters and have had little time to assist us on other issues.*
- *Tourism and Economic Development – we have recently approved the mandate for a new Group to steer these important issues.*

*On social policy, we have legislated on same-sex marriage and debated positions on opt-out organ donation, and assisted dying. We have also considered the relevance of current legislation on cannabis and the opportunities Alderney might provide those interested in its commercial exploitation. We have also continued to progress the wider Bailiwick debate on the regulation of health and care – calling for bespoke Alderney solutions to current problems.*

*Over and above our regular Alderney Liaison Group and Bailiwick Council meetings, we have promoted Alderney externally through: the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Environment Ministers Conference, the All Party Parliamentary Channel Island Group at Westminster, the British-Irish Council, the Normandy Regional Cooperation Agreement and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We have also had bilateral meeting with our counterparts in Jersey.*

*We are seeking to improve communications, and recognise that this is a not something we currently do well.*

*So back to the big issues and here I must stress matters may have moved on by the time this report appears on the December billet – there may therefore be changes to the text below. If so I will be pleased to report them at the meeting:*

- *The rehabilitation of our runway and the PSO contract for air services:*

- *Subject to States of Deliberation final approval it would appear that the project to rehabilitate our runway is ready to go for final design and then tender. If things proceed smoothly, the work should be completed in about two years. The runway will be returned to its 23 metre width and new lighting and other ancillary works installed.*
- *The PSO contract for air services on our two lifeline routes has been tendered by the States of Guernsey. The States of Guernsey accept ACI-GCI as a lifeline route and the States of Alderney have declared the ACI-SOU route a lifeline route. We would like to thank the States of Guernsey Committee for Economic Development and its President for their work in putting this document together and for their willingness to work with us on this project. We do, nonetheless, have certain reservations about the outcome:*
  - (i) *we believe that there may be insufficient safeguards should the operator awarded the contract withdraw part-way through the concession period; and*
  - (ii) *we believe that insufficient time may have been allowed for the mobilisation of a new operator and that this favours the incumbent. We suggested solutions to the CfED in regard to both these matters and, while partial solutions were incorporated into the tender documents, they were not totally as we would have wished. We, nonetheless, support the tender process and are encouraging candidate operators to submit tenders. There is of course one outstanding matter in regard to the PSO process that requires resolution and that is the funding of any financial support required for ACI-SOU. We take the view that the funding on the two routes should not be separated, and that there are efficiencies to be gained from operating the two routes as a package. We also believe that the SOU-ACI is an economic enabler and that support will be in the overall best interests of the Bailiwick, not just Alderney.*
- *The 1948 Agreement and the Guernsey 2019 Budget: the States of Alderney have made it clear that we would support a holistic review of this Agreement that incorporated not just financial, transactional arrangements but also economic, social and other aspects of the relationship between our two islands. We have also called for an independent chair.*
- *Brexit: we have generally relied on the preparations being made by the States of Guernsey but have been making our own representations in regard to our fish resources. The Bailiwick version of the UK's European Withdrawal Bill did, however, provide an unexpected opportunity for protecting Alderney from unintentional (or, indeed, intentional) secondary legislation that Guernsey's own policy and resources Committee might impose on us. We now have a mechanism for ensuring that secondary legislation comes before the States of Alderney with a motion "not to be annulled". Other areas where we may need to act on our own are in the areas of residence rights, and the ownership of immovable property.*

#### **Finance Sub-Committee Annual Report**

*The Finance Committee's work is dominated each year by the Annual accounts and the Budget for the forthcoming year. Despite no increases in the revenue support from Guernsey, we are managing to balance our revenue accounts.*

*We have substantial capital reserves assisted by growing receipts from the Alderney Gambling Control Commission. Over the last few years, despite substantial capital spending provisions incorporated in our budgets, we have been unable to spend all the monies allocated. For this reason, this year in our*



*annual budget we incorporated provision for increased human resources to allow the delayed capital projects to progress more rapidly.*

*Other matters of note in this year's budget were:*

- *some minor adjustments to occupiers' rate: these to reflect Alderney's economic and other priorities – overall, for the vast majority of properties we were able to keep the rise in charges to an amount required to account for inflation – the Committee deemed it appropriate only to consider more substantial changes to the structure of our property taxes when the collection of TRP has been repatriated to Alderney and when it has been combined with Occupiers' Rate into a single Property Tax (see below).*
- *a small, above-inflation, increase in water rates – unlike most other SoA businesses or enterprises supported, albeit only partially, by SoA grants, the Water Board, has no capital reserves – it was therefore deemed appropriate to increase the charges by a rate just a little over inflation so that a capital reserve could, over time, be established.*

*If I may return now to TRP: early in the year, the Committee noted that the TRP charges for some businesses were no longer appropriate for Alderney – for example, businesses that were once cash cows and which in many cases may still be cash-cows for Guernsey were being driven out of Alderney. For this reason, the Committee resolved to recommence its pursuit to gain control over all property taxes.*

*The Committee has been particularly mindful of its role in the allocation of grants to bodies operating independently at arms' length from Government but, nonetheless, playing important roles in the economic development, social and cultural fabric of the island. The Committee has sought to rationalise its approach to these grants, for example: (i) questioning the need for very high levels of reserves and cutting back on the grants when they were deemed excessive; and (ii) the various approaches by different organisations to ensuring such monies are placed on interest-bearing deposits. The Committee is keen that its approach to financial grant assistance should be based on need and the contribution that such organisations make to the economy, social and cultural fabric.*

*Finally, mention needs to be made of the Committee's involvement with the swimming pool and coins and stamps:*

- *Swimming Pool: this is a community, not a States Project. The involvement of the committee is tied by a number of external factors including: the States of Guernsey rules on spending limits to which Alderney must adhere; and the technical and financial reviews that the States of Guernsey have insisted on prior to any reconsideration of further spending. The Committee recognises the public desire to complete the pool and the unsatisfactory nature of the present position. The Committee cannot, however, resolve this issue without the agreement of others, including Guernsey.*
- *Coins and Stamps: while these are a Committee responsibility, the Committee works within the framework of the recently negotiated contract and recently renegotiated agreement with the Commonwealth Mint and Guernsey Post. The Committee's focus has consequently centred around any discretionary activity that the frameworks permit. The Committee must continue to work within those frameworks for the periods of contract/agreement. It should be noted that the contract with the Commonwealth Mint is producing substantially more revenue than the previous contract with the Royal Mint and was agreed after competitive tender over two years ago. The Committee has spent considerable time and effort seeking and providing data requested by residents interested in numismatics and philately.*

*The Committee resolved also to take greater responsibility for financial risk management.”*

**(ii) Annual Report of the Building and Development Control Committee**

**The following report was received from Mr Birmingham, Chairman of the Building and Development Control Committee:-**

*“The first four months of 2018 saw the members of the Building and Development Control Committee (BDCC), the staff of the planning department and Arup working frantically to complete the formation of the Land Use Plan, which included bringing together not just the Land Use Plan itself but significant legal changes and amendments in order to make the legislation work together seamlessly. This was the most difficult, technically challenging and controversial set of proposals that I have had to deal with in my eight years as a States Member.*

*There was a requirement for three separate amending ordinances, including updating the map of the designated area, changes to the 2002 law itself and an update to exempt development rights, in addition to the adoption of the complete Land Use Plan, all of which all had to be brought together simultaneously.*

*This process had been complicated by the need to amend the exceptions to allowable development in what has become known as the “designated area”. Over time, the committee had identified inconsistencies and omissions from part 3 of the law dealing with the designated area that had to be addressed to allow for the law and Land Use Plan to work harmoniously. This had stirred up significant debate on island and had led to considerable opposition to the proposed changes. Much of the dissent was based on misunderstanding, misinterpretation and mis-reporting of what the changes meant, while inaccurate speculation as to the reason for the changes plus the usual combination of conspiracy theory and Alderney rumour further inflamed the issue.*

*Consultation on the proposals had finished by the end of 2017 with over 320 replies many with a negative view of the changes. But it was clear from the responses that there was a lack of understanding over what the changes meant, why the changes were being made, what the designated area was and how it operated within the law. The level of public concern was such that, as Chairman of the BDCC, I felt the only course of action was to undertake a series of individual surgeries and instigate a direct information campaign, including the production of a video piece, in order to try and explain in greater detail, what the changes were and why they were required, but also why they were for the long term benefit of the island. I believe that this helped the public better understand the proposed changes and I would like to express my thanks to Mr. David Earl for his assistance in the production of that video which was of significant help in getting the factual message to the Alderney public. This was a very complex and detailed subject that was difficult to understand in isolation and factual misreporting lead to many members of the public thinking that the changes did the opposite of what was intended.*

*That engagement process was in fact so successful that at the Peoples Meeting into the Land Use Plan there were no comments or criticism of the proposals apart from a proposal of marriage to the chairman.*

*The Land Use Plan was subsequently adopted by the full States along with the accompanying law changes. Following the adoption of those changes the Committee then brought forward a further amending ordinance to the fees structure in June aligning the more significant changes to the law particularly the major projects process with the fees structure.*

*The full Land Use Plan was a long and complex process consisting of over four years work, two public inquiries, two call for sites, the creation of and consultation on five different areas of policy, Vision, Housing, Economic Development, and both Built and Natural Environment, along with numerous workshops into all these strands. This work has helped to solve numerous inconsistencies within the planning regime and to create the first comprehensive spatial island plan. My thanks go out to numerous individuals and local bodies that contributed to the process, but especially to the Alderney Society and the Alderney Wildlife Trust who both made a significant contribution. However, at the end of the process we have a solid foundation to work from in the future, one that balances the needs of development of the island with preservation of what makes Alderney special. At the same time, we have created a flexible system that can be scaled up to deal with major projects, if required, without the need for additional permanent staffing. The Land Use Plan is a document designed for the next 20 years not for the next 20 months. It gets away from the mentality that has been the weakness of the States for too many years. Short term solutions over long term goals. In this case we have a Land Use Plan of such quality that Arup themselves have requested that the States of Alderney allow them to put it forward to that UK planning awards next year.*

*However, is that the end of planning reform? The answer is no. There is still a further step to make. A final Projet de Loi is needed, dealing with some remaining matters that cannot be dealt with by ordinance. Those are issues that involve individual's statutory planning rights and the creation of new powers. Matters such as simplifying the appeals process, or the power to protect power important archaeological, historical or geological structures that are not traditionally covered by a conservation area. But, in my view this should not require the same level of financial commitment or time as the Land Use Plan and I hope it can be undertaken by the law officers in Guernsey as many of these powers already exist in other jurisdictions. To that end I have formulated a policy letter for the new BDCC to that could start a process of consultation on the remaining reforms of the planning law.*

*The changes to the planning system were made not just to improve protection but also to put in the groundwork to help improve the island economy. Have they worked? You could try and ask a builder.... if you can get one on the phone. They all seem rather busy. The construction sector is flying now mostly thanks to outside investment. This is good news. But, as I have said before, you can't just build your way-out economic difficulty. We still need to find other sources of income and employment for the sustainability of the island. But a busy construction sector will buy us some time while we try to find solutions to the island's other problems. And a flexible planning system is key to that.*

*As of the 1<sup>st</sup> November, the planning department has received 117 applications. Of which 70 were Form A minor applications, 32 were Form B for larger works such as extensions, 12 were Form B for new dwellings and 3 others were either re-advertisements or exempt. Over the same period 34 building control applications have been received of which 32 have been processed.*

*Fees income for 2017 showed an increase of almost double the previous year. And the projected receipts for 2018 remain of a similar level. As of the 31<sup>st</sup> October, total fees income stood at £31K while expenditure stood at £74K. This is a reclaim percentage of 42% which falls in line with the proportion of fees reclamation agreed with the Finance committee and which is greater than the UK average which sits around 38%.*

*There are number of exciting new projects with permissions granted, many using innovative modern building methods and incorporating sustainable builds which I look forward to seeing completed. Meanwhile some substantial conversions and renovations have either had their plans passed or are projects that are already*

*under construction and these have helped create new jobs and opportunities for local people.*

*This is my last report as chairman of the BDCC, a total of five and a half years in the job known by many local politicians as the "poisoned chalice". I hope some of the changes that I helped introduce will make the role significantly less toxic for the next incumbent. We now have open planning meetings, so the public can see that decisions are made fairly and if there are valid objections they are considered impartially. Minor and uncontroversial planning applications are fast tracked to save time and money. Clear planning guidance is now available in many areas to help inform an applicant and to help planning officers and States Members make consistent decisions. And of course, there is now a solid framework of policy from the Land Use Plan so that all decisions can be measured against clear criteria that have been formed through thorough public engagement.*

*I believe that when people can see that decisions are made rationally and fairly, they are more likely to buy into the validity of the process. I urge the BDCC in the new states to continue with the process and to finish the job of planning reform.*

*Finally, a few thanks yours. To John Young for his steadfast work bringing the Land Use Plan to fruition, the Arup team for their exemplary support, to Sam Osborne who had held the planning fort whilst dealing with the formation of new supplementary guidance, Laura Baines as acting minute's secretary and finally a thank you to Messer's Roberts, Dean and Snowdon for their support through the last two years.*

*That just leaves me the task of wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of the committee and to wish good luck to the next recipient of the post of Chairman of Building and Development, the future holder of the (maybe not quite so) 'poisoned chalice' ".*

**(iii) Annual Report of the General Services Committee**

**The following report was received from Mrs Paris, Chairman of the General Services Committee:-**

*"The General Services Committee has had another busy year. Regretfully, there has been some capital slippage as we have been unable to spend all the monies allocated. However, I am very pleased to report that the 2019 Budget contains more provision for human resources to help with the progressing of capital projects. This should ease some of the problems the committee has faced over the years achieving agreed policy.*

*At £5.4 million the 2019 Budget is high and ambitious, but most of the increase over previous years is covered by the project to extend the Connaught Care Home to provide more rooms and facilities for our increasingly elderly population. Much of the preliminary work has been completed in the course of 2018 together with further capital work to improve the laundry facilities, replacement of flooring in all of the communal areas and installation of a nurse call system.*

*The renovation of the Nunnery is complete and it is now the home of the Alderney Bird Observatory and the Nunnery Field Centre, the income from which supports the Observatory's activities. This has been a landmark project, hopefully the first of many. We have carried out the renovation of one of our most important buildings and found a use which is compatible with enabling public access to it and which will provide some funds for its ongoing maintenance. This sits well with the principles expressed in the Land Use Plan and, hopefully, will provide the States with some impetus to get to grips with its plethora of old and historic buildings, all begging to be renovated and sensitively reinvigorated by finding new uses for them.*

*The General Services Committee is concentrating now on plans for the future of the Old Connaught Building and the Old Fire Station. The front facade of the Island Hall has been repointed and repairs carried out to the side elevations.*

*In addition, the Butes Centre Trust lease was terminated in September 2018 and, whilst interim measures have been taken to ensure its ongoing use, a working group has been set up to explore medium term improvements and renovation of the building.*

*Work is continuing on the installation of Phase 2 of the Play Park, the Junior Section, which is a joint States and Community project, similar to the work carried out on the Toddler Section in 2015.*

*The Water Board continues to work in conjunction with Alderney Electricity Ltd to make further improvements to the water distribution network across the island. Phase 13 relating to QEII Street/Church Street/Connaught Square has been completed. In addition, Phase 12, which was the upgrade of the Disinfection System, is complete and awaiting commissioning.*

*The joint trench work undertaken by Alderney Electricity and the Water Board in 2017 delayed the implementation of the road resurfacing project until 2018, and this has now been completed as well. It has involved a system which has not been used for Alderney roads before, namely surface dressing with lock down binder, although it is a well established method in the UK. It has resulted in the treatment of a much greater surface area of road than would have been possible using asphalt, given our budgetary constraints.*

*A great deal of very satisfactory progress has been made with regard to our waste strategy. As a result of recent legislative changes to the transshipment of waste both in the Bailiwick and in Jersey, we are now in a position to follow up the possibility of sending our non recyclable waste to Jersey for disposal. This will be a more economic and responsible method of disposal which will generate power for some Jersey homes. A cleaner process for our mixed bulky waste has also helped with the aim of sending zero rubbish to landfill. Particular thanks must go our Technical Services Officer for the time and effort he has put into this project.*

*The Traffic Survey showed a large majority in favour of closing Victoria Street during Alderney Week. This was done on an experimental basis this year. Informal feedback has been generally positive, to the extent that the current General Services Committee would support doing it again in 2019. Parking generally continues to be an issue, especially in the Victoria Street area. The committee now meet regularly with the Police for exchange of views and information. Professional advice is currently being sought with regard to suggested changes at the Butes Car Park, the extension of the Court House Car Park and the practicalities of making more spaces available in Victoria Street.*

*The completion of the changes at the Braye Common Car Park will be delayed by the next phase of Alderney Electricity's trenchwork along Rue de Beaumont.*

*The States Works Department continues to be vigilant and has been successful in the destruction of Asian Hornet nests this summer. It is very important not to let this situation get out of hand so extra budget has been allocated for both safety equipment and more sophisticated tracking equipment so that we can continue as effectively as possible next season.*

*The Island Pride initiative has made some progress, although work such as the improvements to the airport track have been achieved out of alternative budgets. The scrap metal clearance process has commenced.*

*The Harbour has had an excellent summer, in part due to our exceptional summer weather. The success of the Little Ferry Company and a 20% increase in the number of yacht nights between April and September have made for a busy year. The 2018 increase in visitor mooring fees has not had a negative effect on visitor numbers. However, it is apparent that, in part, the harbour deficit is the result of the total lack of increase in the price of harbour services over the years. It can never be good policy to offer such services at a loss, hence the proposed increases on this Billet.*

*Coastal defence work continues and major work at Corbletts is in the 2019 Budget, together with cliff stabilisation measures at the Cutting.*

*Although the Breakwater is not strictly within the remit of the General Services Committee, we have continued to work closely with the Department for Environment and Infrastructure in Guernsey, whose responsibility it is. We were very pleased to be able to offer practical assistance so that a 2018 sonar survey of the Breakwater could be carried out in conjunction with our own survey work of the Fort Doyle Sewage Outfall and areas of the harbour. Again, in part due to the weather, it has been reported to us that an excellent summer's work has been achieved and objectives are in place for the 2019 season. There is optimism that the Guernsey Budget this year will give some reassurance of the availability of funding over the next five years, which will enable some continuity of planning. This will include a biennial sonar survey of the Breakwater so that evidence of changes can be accrued. Negotiations continue with regard to the handover of some parts of Fort Grosnez.*

*This is the last year I will produce the General Services Committee report and I am sure my committee will join me in giving special thanks to the Technical Services Officer, the States Works Department, the Water Board, and the Harbour staff for all the hours and hard work that go into implementing policy to maintain and improve our island infrastructure and environment. My best wishes for the future go to you all."*

## **Item VIII    Health and Social Care Delivery and Regulation – Debate without Resolution**

**The following letter was received from Mr Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

*“Over the last two years, there have been a series of initiatives by the Committee for Health and Social Care (CfHSC) of the States of Guernsey, that could, or should, impact on the way health and social care are delivered in Alderney. Among these have been:*

- the “Independent Review of Health and Social Care Need, Provisions and Governance” (the Wilson Report);*
- the “Health Target Operating Model” (the KPMG Report);*
- the CfHSC Policy Paper at the end of last year on the “Transformation of Health and Social Care”;*
- the more recent papers on the “Regulation of Health Care”; and*
- the “Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Older People”.*

*Health and social care are, of course, transferred services and, although the States of Alderney is consulted, we do not control them.*

*The States of Alderney has welcomed many of the proposals. A consistent theme in these responses has been the need for our island to be provided with bespoke*

*solutions appropriate to our more remote location. A one-size fits all policy is not always appropriate.*

*We have emphasised that, while we recognise that equal levels of service may sometimes be difficult, and in some cases inappropriate, it would be best for both our islands if the services we received were tailored to our circumstances. We need delivery methods adapted take into account our small population and the difficulties of travel.*

*Alderney, too, has been driving certain aspects of the debate. Most prominent over the last two years, has been and the regular expression of serious concern about the deteriorations in the emergency 'medevac' capacity.*

*One year ago, in December 2017, the Policy and Finance Committee resolved to:*

- Note the issues set out in the Summary Report of CfHSC's Policy Paper on the **"Transformation of Health and Social Care"**;*
- Publish the Policy Letter on the States web-site*
- Continue to engage with CfHSC; and*
- Identify an opportunity for debate at a future States meeting when more tangible improvements and changes are evident.*

*In October of this year, the Policy and Finance Committee consequently resolved to request a debate without resolution in the States and on the subject of health care. The intention was that members should be able to express opinions and concerns in regard to all aspects of the current and proposed health and social care delivery and regulatory models and that the new States and P&F in 2019 should have a record of some of the major issues currently facing the island.*

*James Dent, Chairman"*

**The States is asked to debate the subject "Health and Social Care Delivery and Regulation" without resolution.**

**Item IX**      **Questions and Reports**

**Issued: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018**