

# States of Alderney

## Press Release

For immediate release: 27 March 2013

### **POLICY COMMITTEE Meeting 25 March 2013: key messages**

The States of Alderney Policy Committee<sup>1</sup> held its third full meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March. The full minutes will be published as soon as possible but the following matters are worthy of note.

#### **CAMPSITE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

The Committee took reports from the Finance Committee and the Business Development Tourism and Marketing Committee about the proposal from the Estates and Services Committee in relation to the capital expenditure at the campsite. Each Committee had decided to support the proposal having considered the value of the asset to the island and recognising many years of neglect. It was also acknowledged that there was unlikely to be a return on the investment for the whole project, but there was a case for finishing the job. The Committee acknowledged that the campsite would provide a positive addition to the accommodation options for Alderney and understood that over 100 campers were expected to use the site for the forthcoming Performing Arts Festival. The Committee were clear that there would be no further development at this time and recognised that the matters were now to be considered by the Building and Development Control Committee.

#### **ALDERNEY CENSUS**

The Committee approved a proposal to undertake a census in Alderney in 2013. Arrangements will be made to submit an ordinance to the States to ensure that the census is compulsory and there will be a programme of public information to ensure everyone is fully conversant with the project. It is anticipated that the questions asked will be broadly similar to those asked in 2001. The project will be delivered on island but will be analysed off island to ensure confidentiality of information. The final report is expected in the early part of June.

Paul Arditti Chairman of the Policy Committee said: "It is quite clear that the people of Alderney want a census. Time and time again when considering policy options we come up against the obstacle of not knowing how many people live here and this will settle that argument once and for all."

#### **RETAIL PRICES SURVEY**

In addition to the above project the Committee have agreed to undertake some research into retail prices in Alderney to establish a baseline for comparison with other jurisdictions. The project will look at 200/250 key items/services which can be used as a benchmark when considering economic indicator, including an analysis of TRP/rental costs in different parts of Guernsey. The Committee also agreed to consider whether there was merit in undertaking a cost of living survey.

Louis Jean said "This is very good news. For too long we have been without evidence that supports our view that our economy is very different to Guernsey. This will give us some much needed information which will inform the debate."

#### **AIRSPACE RECLASSIFICATION PROJECT**

The Committee discussed the recently issued consultation document on reclassification of Channel Islands Airspace, a project which is being led by Jersey Airport. The Committee supported the proposals which sought to downgrade the classification of airspace below 8,000ft to Class D.

Neil Harvey said: "This is good news for visiting private pilots and we support these proposals, as does our local flying club. Anything that helps to bring more people to Alderney can only help our economy and removing the restrictions on airspace is a significant step in the right direction."

## **ECONOMIC STATISTICAL REPORT**

The Committee received a new report from the Business Development Tourism and Marketing (BDTM) Committee, prepared by Matt Birmingham. The report replaces the quarterly bulletin which was issued last year and is considerably updated. It is attached to this Press Release.

Neil Harvey, Chairman of BDTM said: "We all need reliable information so that we can make informed decisions. This report provides a lot of useful data which we can now use to form the basis of policy considerations. It will form the basis of a quarterly report in a format which can be readily assimilated going forwards."

Ends

## **Notes for Editors**

1. The members of the Policy Committee are:

Paul Arditti (Chairman)  
Neil Harvey  
Louis Jean  
Robert McDowall (Deputy Chairman)  
Francis Simonet

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