

Press Release

For immediate release: 10 April 2014

POLICY COMMITTEE Meeting 25th March 2014: key messages

The States of Alderney Policy Committee¹ held its meeting on 25th March 2014. The full minutes will be published as soon as possible but the following matters are worthy of note.

Code of Conduct for States Members

The Policy Committee decided on 28th January that a small sub group should be established to consider any changes to the code of conduct for States Members. This group was the President, Francis Simonet, and Matt Birmingham, assisted by the Chief Executive. The group reported back to the Committee on 25th March with proposals for minor changes to the document. These included:

- Inclusion of specific reference to the media when considering the disclosure of confidential or personal information
- adoption of a standing panel rather than appointing a panel when a complaint is made

States of Alderney Accounts 2013

The Committee approved the accounts as presented by the Treasurer. The Committee commended the Treasurer and staff on the delivery of a year-end position which showed no losses, particularly in view of the additional expenditure incurred in economic development activities.

Airport Hangar lease

The Committee agreed to the proposal to extend the lease on the land for the proposed hangar project at the airport.

General Sales Tax

The Committee noted with some concern recent statements about the imposition of a General Sales Tax in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. The Committee were unanimously opposed to the application of such a tax in Alderney and agreed to undertake some research to establish the likely impact on the economy.

New Connaught Care Home

The Chairman of the Policy Committee reported on a productive meeting with the members of the newly constituted Board at Royal Connaught Care Homes Ltd. It had been agreed to establish a working party to work through the issues which had beset the smooth operation

of the Connaught. Francis Simonet, Chairman of the Policy Committee said: “We are all agreed that the Connaught and Jubilee are essential facilities for Alderney and that the provision of excellent care must be our priority. We are working together to sort out the problems that have impacted on the operation of the new Connaught and to make sure our relationship is focussed on delivering the best possible facility for those who live there.”

Transport Group

The Transport Group have recently agreed an “expressions of interest” notice for the operation of a regular ferry service to and from Alderney, including services to the UK and Guernsey. Responses are awaited. Neil Harvey, Chairman of the Business Development Tourism and Marketing Committee said: *“Transport is crucial for Alderney and while there has been much discussion about ferry services to Alderney this process will seek to establish if there is any real interest in the market. We recognise in our expressions of interest notice that there might need to be a subsidy, and we just need to establish how much that might be.”*

Economic Development Strategy

This proposal is as a result of meetings to discuss the preparation of an economic development strategy for the States of Alderney specifically in the context of the States of Guernsey January Requête: ‘The Airfield in Alderney’. There has been some encouraging activity at the airport over the past few weeks but the longer term solution is still less clear. It is therefore proposed that action be taken by the States of Alderney to assist our colleagues in Guernsey to reach the right decision for Alderney. The Committee agreed to appoint Dr Andy Sloan to advise Alderney on options for the future.

Francis Simonet, Chairman of the Policy committee said: *“We of course would like to see a positive outcome from the goodwill generated by support for this Requête. We know that the overall objective is that the Policy Council report to the States of Deliberation will recommend progression of the preferred economic development options, including airfield options, and we hope that these works will be incorporated into the current capital programme and budget provision made for any other items of expenditure. We need to make sure we have thought this through very carefully and to that end we are appointing Dr Andy Sloan, former economic adviser to the States of Guernsey, as our adviser on the project.”*

AGCC Chairman – appointment

The Committee agreed to appoint Mark Wordsworth as the next Chairman of the Alderney Commission for Renewable Energy. Mr Wordsworth has extensive experience in renewable energy and is a prominent businessman. The Committee extended their thanks to Pamela Dixon for her work as commissioner and then Chairman of the Commission

Ends

¹ The members of the Policy Committee are:

Francis Simonet (Chairman)
Raymond Berry
Matt Birmingham
Neil Harvey
Louis Jean
Robert McDowall (Deputy Chairman)
Steve Roberts
Chris Rowley
Ian Tugby

Roy Burke: 01481 822816; roy.burke@gov.gg