

# Press Release

For immediate release:

## **POLICY and FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The States of Alderney Policy and Finance Committee met on 23 September 2014. The full minutes will be published shortly and the following issues are worthy of note.

### **Marina development**

The Committee considered a revised submission for a marina development following a request for additional information following the meeting in May. A number of concerns remained following the deliberations and it was resolved to withdraw the preferred bidder status from the developer.

Chairman, Francis Simonet said “We have been seeking reassurance from the developer on key issues such as security of investment funding and financial viability and the Committee was not persuaded that the scheme is robust at this stage. We have taken independent advice and unfortunately decided that we will no longer support the current scheme”.

A viable marina in the future remains a key focus for the States and alternative proposals will be considered. Mr Simonet said “We are committed to this as a strategic objective and welcome any alternative proposals in the future. These will, of course be subject to the same level of independent scrutiny”.

### **Fort Tourgis**

The Committee resolved to start to revisit the possibility of a development at Fort Tourgis.

Francis Simonet said “We have had a number of attempts to develop the site in the past which have not progressed for a variety of reasons. The Committee felt that now is the time to resurrect this and see if there is interest from a developer to develop the site for residential and mixed use but sympathetic to the historical importance of the site. We will be taking advice so that we ensure everything is properly managed from the start.”

### **Financial Relationship with the States of Guernsey**

The Committee agreed to support a joint review with the States of Guernsey to examine the financial relationship between the two islands. This follows on from current work with Guernsey to review issues related to economic development in Alderney.

The review will seek to identify all funding flows between the two islands as well as reviewing the potential to improve and streamline current financial management processes. It will include input into the scrutiny of costs and efficiencies of transferred services.

Finance Committee Chairman, Robert McDowall said “This is an important piece of work for both islands and we are pleased that politicians on both sides support it. The costs of public services on Alderney have always been opaque and this gives us an opportunity for transparency in the future which will improve accountability to both government and taxpayer. We also want to work towards more spending freedoms within an agreed framework so that decisions are not frustrated by bureaucracy”.

### **Revised policing proposals**

The Policy and Finance Committee received a letter from the Guernsey Police and Border Agency to provide reassurance over future policing proposals. The letter confirmed that the Alderney Police Sergeant post will not be filled following the recent retirement but sufficient resources will be provided for the island needs.

Chief Executive of the States, Victor Brownlees said “We understand the financial pressures within the Bailiwick and acknowledge that a review of police resources is inevitable. I have received assurance from the Police this week that the final changes will provide sufficient resources to meet the needs of Alderney. I will be meeting regularly with senior Police officers to ensure that Alderney’s voice is heard.”

### **Alderney Wildlife Trust**

The Policy and Finance Committee discussed a proposal for closer working with the Wildlife Trust in future and agreed this in principle.

Chairman Francis Simonet said “We increasingly see areas of overlap between States Works and the Wildlife Trust in relation to land management issues. The civil service has been discussing this with the Wildlife Trust and both parties agree that a joint agreement should be considered with a view to focusing on a shared vision and objectives in future and pooling our scarce resources”.

The mechanics of such an arrangement will be worked out over the next period for presentation to Committee at a future meeting.

End

<sup>1</sup> The members of the Policy & Finance Committee are:

Francis Simonet (Chairman)

Raymond Berry

Matt Birmingham

Neil Harvey

Louis Jean

Robert McDowall (Deputy Chairman)

Norma Paris

Steve Roberts

Chris Rowley

Ian Tugby