

# Press Release

For immediate release: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015

## POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Alderney Ferry proposals under review

The Policy & Finance Committee of the States of Alderney has considered proposals on ferry services to the island, albeit at different stages in their development. The current operators of the seasonal link to Guernsey, Bumblebee, have submitted revised cash flow projections based upon their bold plan for the States to acquire a substantially larger ferry reliant on capital guarantees, and annual subsidies. Bumblebee would operate this for a fixed fee. A proposal for a ferry link to Weymouth is also expected imminently from a consortium led by Peter Annereau – again it is expected to rely upon annual subsidies, capital backing and a long-term contract from the States. In response the States will be commissioning an independent review of both proposals to determine if either, or both, are viable.

In a separate move and following several years of relationship building between the States and the General Council of La Manche, a proposal has come forward from the General Council for a trial scheme based upon the existing but irregular links between Alderney and Dielette. The La Manche proposal is for a 2 year trial commencing in April, using the Victor Hugo, which would come to Alderney on a Friday and Sunday every other week from April to October, to help develop a day tripper or weekender tourism trade. The States is in negotiation with La Manche to provide a shuttle service to Cherbourg as part of the trial. The longer term aspiration of both La Manche and the States of Alderney is for a regular year round service to Cherbourg, including freight importation and exportation of Alderney's waste. The latter would be a solution to the upcoming closure of the waste facility on Guernsey that is currently used by Alderney. The States has agreed in principle to proceed with the two year trial subject to final agreement on cost subsidies.

Neil Harvey, Chairman of Alderney's Policy & Finance Committee said, *"We are delighted to have the very real prospect of a regular ferry service operating to France by April this year. The potential for the future is huge in opening up the French market to Alderney for tourism and freight. At the same time we have proposals to expand our sea links with Guernsey and possibly even re-open our maritime link with the UK – these must be given a fair hearing. This States is dedicated to working on the issues that matter to the people of Alderney – growing our economy and developing our transport links."*

The members of the Policy and Finance Committee are:

Neil Harvey (Chairman)  
Matt Birmingham  
Louis Jean  
Graham McKinley  
Robert McDowall (Deputy Chairman)  
Norma Paris  
Steve Roberts  
Chris Rowley  
Francis Simonet  
Ian Tugby