

**REPLY BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICY COUNCIL'S ALDERNEY  
LIAISON GROUP TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE BY  
ALDERNEY REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS JEAN**

**Preamble**

As Chairman of the Policy Council's Alderney Liaison Group, the Chief Minister has asked me to reply to Alderney Representative Jean's questions regarding the 2014 States' Resolutions on Alderney Airfield. I am therefore pleased to respond.

Before answering the specific questions, it may be worth reminding States Members of the main tenet of the Requête, which recognised that since 1948 Alderney and Guernsey have been inextricably linked and that there is now in effect fiscal union between the islands. However, Alderney is currently facing significant challenges, especially economic decline and depopulation. The States of Guernsey agreed wherever possible to contribute to stimulating Alderney's economy and reversing depopulation. This includes the Policy Council, by the end of this year, laying before the States recommendations relating to these issues. This report is also to have regard to the case for any work at the airfield which may be necessary to make it suitable for the next 25 years or which will likely contribute to stimulating Alderney's economy.

The answers to the five specific questions are as follows:-

**Question 1**

**Which of the "other interested parties" referred to in Resolution 2 has the Policy Council consulted thus far and which parties does it intend to consult later this year?**

**Answer 1**

The Policy Council has pursued the necessary research working in partnership with the Alderney Policy Committee through the Alderney Liaison Group. It has also consulted very closely as this work has progressed with the Public Services Department (PSD) (in regard to Alderney Airfield) and the Commerce & Employment Department (C&E) (in relation to the economic work). Indeed the PSD has commissioned the necessary airfield research, following terms of reference agreed by ALG, on behalf of the Policy Council, and C&E has done likewise in regard to the economic research (which once again has terms of reference jointly agreed with Alderney through the ALG).

The Policy Council will continue to work very closely and liaise with Alderney's Policy Committee, through the ALG, as the results of the research are discussed and recommendations developed to place before the States of Deliberation to fulfil the terms of the Resolutions of January 2014.

**Question 2**

**Does the Policy Council intend to open a consultation exercise, or hold consultation sessions, for the people of Alderney to contribute to the Policy Council's investigations which are of the utmost importance to the future of Alderney?**

**Answer 2**

As explained above, the Policy Council has worked very closely with the authorities in Alderney as the necessary research work has progressed, and this close working relationship will be maintained. While it has not held open meetings (nor intends to) in Alderney, the economic research has

included consultations with government and industry representatives, and the airport studies have similarly involved consultations with Aurigny.

### **Question 3**

**Do the Policy Council's early investigations into this subject make it confident that in 2014 it will be able to propose to the States measures which are affordable and sustainable to both Guernsey and Alderney and which are likely to help stimulate the economy of the latter before the end of the present term of the States of Deliberation?**

### **Answer 3**

The further airfield studies and the economic research commissioned are not due to report until the end of this month. ALG will then need to consider and discuss these reports and their recommendations. It is therefore premature to make any comments at this stage, although I can say that the Policy Council remains committed to submitting a report which fulfils the terms of the Requête within the timescale set.

### **Question 4**

**Does the Policy Council envisage that the investigations will cost £100,000, and if not, what does the Policy Council expect to spend on the investigations?**

### **Answer 4**

The investigations are still underway. So far works (on both the airport and economic research) totalling expenditure in the region of £60,000 have been commissioned. It is not yet known whether further expenditure will be required before the Policy Council is in a position to report back to the States as directed.

### **Question 5**

**In recognition of the huge importance of this work to the future of Alderney, are you as Chief Minister on behalf of the Policy Council prepared to make a statement to the States at the halfway point of this review to update members of the progress made and the work still to be done to bring the report back to the States by the end of 2014?**

### **Answer 5**

The halfway point for this work is effectively mid-July, and I would hope that the answers to these questions will give all States Members a general update on the work in hand. Until the Policy Council and the Alderney Policy Committee have seen the results of the research commissioned, and discussed any resultant recommendations, there is little to add at this stage.

Both studies are due to report interim results to ALG by the end of this month. If the way forward is relatively clear and uncontroversial the Policy Council will direct its limited resources towards preparing an early draft of the States report required to fulfil the States Resolutions. The necessarily long lead-in times for Billet items does require, however, that any States report be finalised by 22 September (for debate at the December 2014 States Meeting).

If, upon receipt of the research, it is clear that the way forward is complicated with a number of complex options (some of which may be controversial) then States Members will see that meeting the closing date of 22 September for the submission of States reports for the December Billet D'État may be unrealistic, if the work is to continue to be given the weight it requires. In such circumstances you may rest assured that I would seek the Bailiff's permission to make a Statement

to the Assembly. However, just to be clear I remain hopeful that this will not be necessary and that the Policy Council will be able to submit a States Report which fulfils the States Resolutions in time for debate in December 2014.

**Deputy A Langlois** Deputy Chief Minister and Chairman, Alderney Liaison Group

**Date of Question** (acknowledgement and Receipt at Policy Council): 8<sup>th</sup> July

**Date of Response:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014