

Summary of Responses

GREEN PAPER ON ISLAND PLAN REVIEW: STRATEGIC OPTIONS

BACKGROUND

The Island Plan is the main document determining planning policy for the Island. The States are committed to reviewing and revising the current plan to take account of pressing issues affecting the Island, such as the future direction of its economy, urban regeneration, the impact of our ageing population, the future of the Port and housing needs.

The Island Plan Review Green Paper was designed to focus discussion on the strategic planning issues and future choices for Jersey. It set out a range of difficult planning issues and then tested and probed a range of choices or options, for planning policy. The outcome of this consultation will help to prepare a new Island Plan.

This Green Paper was detailed in its coverage to ensure that the new Island Plan can be supported by evidence that all the significant issues were considered and consulted upon. The revised island plan must be backed up by sufficient and robust evidence and consultation to ensure that it meets the tests which independent scrutiny will consider it against.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION DETAILS

The Green Paper on the Island Plan Review: Strategic Options was opened to public consultation on the 10th July and the consultation period was extended from 12 to 16 weeks by the Minister for Planning & Environment, ending on November 2nd 2008.

Some early respondents to the Green paper considered that the way in which the questions were posed may have been leading. The document was therefore reviewed independently and a handful of questions were modified to remove the potential for them to lead respondents to a particular viewpoint.

The Green paper was launched at a press conference to the local press, radio and TV station and adverts were placed in the local paper and key public sites over the full consultation period. The issues highlighted in the green paper also generated a number of lead articles across all media outlets and this boosted the presence of the consultation event.

The paper was made available on the web through the development of a new dedicated States of Jersey public consultation portal (<http://consult.gov.je/portal>). The site is designed to enable participants to read and print all of the relevant material, to respond to the questions posed in the paper, add their comments and to read the comments made by other respondents. In addition anybody registering on this web site will automatically receive this consultation response by email, together with any future details of subsequent consultation events, such as the publication of the white paper. Approximately 40% of all respondents used this method and in addition a large number of hits were registered on the site from those wishing to simply view the document and read comments that were made in response to the questions posed (this does not require users to be registered).

Over 600 hardcopies of the paper were requested and made available together with a summary paper containing the 79 survey questions.

The Deputy of St. Clement, Ian Gorst, also circulated a hardcopy survey containing 20 questions from the paper that he felt that were key to his electorate and these are included in the detailed response to the paper (appendix 1), together with the general comments received (appendix 3)..

OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

A total of 225 individuals responded to the paper, generating a total of over 7,500 responses to the questionnaire. There was a mixed response to the number of individuals answering each question, so for example the highest response was to question 1 with 197 and the lowest to question 78 with 55. The level of response to each question needs to be taken into account when considering the results to any given question and ultimately the weight given to using the results in the writing of the draft plan.

Appendix 1 lists all of the responses received to the questions together with any associated comments that were made in association with the answers given.

A number of general comments were also received from individuals and organisations (appendix 2).

A summary of all 79 of the questions have been analysed and presented as pie charts for easy review at the end of this report. Please note that percentages are rounded to the nearest number.

MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

The Island Plan Review Green Paper focussed on strategic planning issues and future choices for Jersey. It set out a range of difficult planning issues and then tested and probed a range of choices or options, for planning policy. The outcome of this consultation will help to prepare the new Island Plan.

Planning and Environment Minister Freddie Cohen said, "I am delighted with the quality of responses that have been received. These will be taken into account in the drafting of the new Island plan, which we expect to be published for Public consultation in June this year. As well as the public consultation in June, the draft Island Plan will be the subject to an independent public examination. It is therefore important that the plan has clear policies and proposals and we can demonstrate that they have been thoroughly underpinned by various stages of public involvement.

The opportunity to contribute to the review process has been taken up by many individuals, groups and organisations and I am pleased by the level of engagement that has been achieved to date.

The plan is important to the Island, it is right that the people of Jersey should help shape it and I hope that all Islanders will find time to consider and comment on the draft plan that will be published in June".

Senator Freddie Cohen

Minister for Planning and Environment

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