STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2010 (P.117/2009): TWELFTH AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 8th September 2009 by the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture

STATES GREFFE

Price code: A

PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (g) –

After the words "accepted by the Minister for disposal in 2010 and thereafter", insert the words -

"except that the property "D'Hautrée Site, St. Saviour's Hill, St. Saviour" shall be removed from the schedule of disposal set out in the said Table J".

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE

REPORT

The D'Hautrée Site is adjacent to the Highlands campus. Currently the exam centre is based in the permanent buildings on site. Other parts of the site house temporary classroom accommodation, presently being used to accommodate students, and required to support the new training and educational initiatives introduced as part of the fiscal stimulus package.

In future, additional space may be required to support the existing higher education facility at Highlands as the Department seeks to improve the vocational training provision in the years ahead. The D'Hautrée site could be considered the ideal site if a decision was made to further develop the Highlands campus.

No meaningful discussions have taken place with the present ministerial team on the future property requirements of the Education, Sport and Culture Department, nor has an overall strategic plan been prepared on what property will be required by the Department over the next 10 to 15 years. Until this has been carried out, it would be less than prudent to agree the sale of this site, especially as the site is already acknowledged by the Planning and Environment Department as being a site to be retained for educational purposes.

In section 9 of the Island Plan it states that: educational facilities are essential to the well-being of a community and should be provided in locations readily accessible to the communities they serve and compatible with the local environment. Policy SC1 states that: the development of educational sites for alternative uses will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they are surplus to educational requirements and the proposals are in accordance with other principles and policies of the plan. Policy SC2 specifically identifies the former D'Hautrée School site, St. Saviour as one of the sites that should be safeguarded for educational uses.

It is therefore considered premature for the States to agree the sale of the D'Hautrée site, and the Minister asks that this property is removed from Summary Table J until such time as the Department's future property requirements have been fully considered and agreed by all parties concerned.

Financial and manpower implications

Although there may be a short-term loss of income by not approving the sale, it is possible that other properties under the administration of the Department could be released for disposal once a strategic property plan for the Department has been developed. The aim is to undertake this work within the next 12 months. There are no manpower implications to this proposal.