

3.11 Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire of the Minister For Planning and Environment regarding the publication of revised new standards for residential development:

Could I ask the Minister when will the Minister be publishing revised new standards for residential development to ensure the provision of homes which meet people's needs and aspirations, please?

Senator F.E. Cohen (The Minister for Planning and Environment):

One of the key priorities of the States Strategic Plan is to adequately house the population. In doing this, it is essential that Islanders are provided with a good standard of accommodation. That means spacious and with adequate amenity space. In years gone by it is true that some accommodation was considered by some to be inadequate. Consequently, I increased minimum dwelling sizes by 15 per cent some years ago. As a result, we are now providing good-sized homes, in my view. The regeneration proposals and the North of Town Masterplan are based specifically on providing good-sized homes with good public and private amenity space. Furthermore, I propose to publish supplementary planning guidance setting out new standards for residential development as a draft for consultation early in the summer. Following a period of consultation, we will review representations received with a view to adopting new revised guidance in September this year. Thank you.

3.11.1 Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire:

I do not have the documents with me but I am certain that the independent Island Plan inspector said that it would be necessary for these guidelines to be issued prior to the Island Plan debate so we could be certain that the proposals within the Island Plan are going to meet the aspirations, and the Minister is saying he is going to make those public in the summer. We will have debated the Plan by then. Is it not necessary to get these guidelines out for us to understand what is being proposed prior to the Island Plan?

Senator F.E. Cohen:

No, not at all. These guidelines effectively take the form of supplementary planning guidance and it is indeed perfectly appropriate that States Members have the opportunity of debating the Draft Island Plan and then considering the principles within that and then a supplementary planning guidance follows and fills in the detail. Thank you.