

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
BY CONNÉTABLE S.A. CROWCROFT OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 19th JANUARY 2010**

Question

Does the Minister consider the Harcourt scheme for the Esplanade Quarter to be no longer practicable, and would he explain what, in his view, are the next steps for the development of this site?

Answer

The Planning and Environment Minister is absolutely committed to the Esplanade Quarter Masterplan and to its delivery as the new financial quarter for St Helier.

Having recently received advice from the Law Officers it is hoped that the Minister will determine the application shortly.

It is for the applicant to comment on how the scheme will be progressed rather than for the Minister of Planning and Environment.

Any permission will be subject to a Planning Obligation Agreement which will provide protection to ensure the development cannot commence until the financial standing of the developer to complete the development is proven, and to ensure the development cannot commence until a formal development agreement has been entered into and approved by the States. This will ensure that the States interests are properly protected.