

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER BY
DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 17th JUNE 2008

Question

- (1) Will the Chief Minister inform members what economic impacts are predicted for the Waterfront development on the overall Island economy, and what importance he places on these effects?

Answer

In an island economy like Jersey where land is scarce, the prospect of bringing reclaimed land into economic use has significant economic potential. The public consultation document on the Masterplan for the Waterfront highlighted how the development would bring economic benefits to the Island. It stated that by creating new investment, supporting innovation, allowing competition, encouraging enterprise and creating job opportunities it would help support productivity improvements in the economy and help achieve our economic objectives of economic growth, employment opportunities and low inflation. By improving the supply capacity of the economy, wider economic benefits could also arise in the medium term through efficiency improvements. The bottom line is it will add to our economic potential and create job opportunities for local people.

Question

- (2) Will he further state why he gave no indications of these impacts in his speech to the Assembly during the debate on the Esplanade Quarter Masterplan (P.60/2008)?

Answer

My speech during the debate, focused on the issues that I felt were of most concern to States members. The Ministers for Planning and Environment and Economic Development covered some of the economics issues in their speeches. As there seemed to be little debate about whether the development would generate significant economic benefits for the Island this issue was not a major part of my speech.

Question

- (3) Will the Chief Minister inform members of the grounds on which he has denied access to the Economic Adviser's Economic Impact Report on the Waterfront development, and will he now agree to release it, if necessary in redacted form or in confidence?

Answer

I have not denied access to any reports by the Economic Adviser on the Waterfront. The last report the Economic Adviser did for the Council of Ministers on the Waterfront was in February 2006 considering analysis from PwC on the economic impact of the proposed development at that time. A summary of the report was released to all the attendees at the Waterfront Forum on March 4 2006 at the airport.