

STATES OF JERSEY



ISLAND PLAN 2011: APPROVAL (P.48/2011): THIRTY-SEVENTH AMENDMENT (P.48/2011 Amd.(37)) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 20th June 2011
by the Minister for Housing

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

This amendment suggests withdrawing Policy H3 of the Draft Island Plan and for a new policy to be formulated and brought back to the States.

The issue of housing demand and the need for affordable (including social) housing has been an issue of much debate for some time. It is a difficult topic to grasp given that it reflects demographic changes in our society, the changing hopes and aspirations of individuals, the availability of finance and our property market, which has of course been affected by global economic challenges.

The Draft Island Plan uses information on housing needs gathered by the Statistics Unit in 2007 in its Housing Needs Survey. The underlying need for affordable housing identified by the Survey is, I believe, still largely valid. However, the economic situation will have resulted in a significant shift in tenure requirements away from First-Time Buyer and Jersey Homebuy in favour of social rented housing.

The need for Affordable Housing and Social Rented Housing in particular is significant. There has been scant supply since 2007, despite a round of rezoning in 2008 (P.75/2008). Only one site zoned in 2008 has been delivered. The lack of supply is creating real hardship, right now and what we do not need at this juncture is more delay.

This Island Plan, including Section 6 and Policy H3 need to be approved and developers encouraged to produce the homes we need. If through the annual monitoring of the performance of the plan it becomes clear that sufficient homes are not being delivered, then the Minister for Planning and Environment can bring revisions to the States to fill the supply gap.

I will not be supporting this amendment.