

3.6 The Connétable of St. Helier of the Chief Minister regarding the resignation of the Managing Director of the Waterfront Enterprise Board:

Would the Chief Minister explain in detail the circumstances leading up to the resignation of the Managing Director of the Waterfront Enterprise Board (WEB) and indicate what impact, if any, this has on the timetable for the development of the St. Helier Waterfront?

Senator F.H. Walker (The Chief Minister):

I am advised that the Managing Director of the Waterfront Enterprise Board was approached by a prospective employer based outside the Island, and he received an offer of employment which he has decided to accept. The departure of the Managing Director will not have any impact on the timetable for the further development of the St. Helier Waterfront. During his time in the Island, the Managing Director has fulfilled his brief to the full, and it is largely thanks to his efforts that the Island is about to benefit so significantly from the development of the new Radisson Hotel, the Island site, Centre Parcs development and other much needed residential and office accommodation. I am grateful to the Managing Director for his valuable contribution to Jersey during his period of office.

3.6.1 Deputy R.G. Le Herissier of St. Saviour:

Would the Chief Minister say whether in his post-resignation interview the Managing Director has reflected upon his period here, and what lessons has he learnt from managing WEB during that period?

Senator F.H. Walker:

We have not yet held the exit interview. That will be held closer to the expiry of the Managing Director's period of notice.

3.6.2 The Connétable of St. Helier:

Would the Chief Minister outline the process for finding a new managing director for WEB and confirm whether he will be doing this in consultation with the Urban Task Force?

Senator F.H. Walker:

There will certainly be consultation with the Urban Task Force. The actual process for the recruitment of the new managing director of WEB has to be given further thought, because there are new aspects in play. The Waterfront itself has moved on. We have the question of the regeneration of St. Helier, and of course we have the States Property Strategy as well, all of which have come into being since the Managing Director was recruited, and so it is possible, just possible, that we may be seeking to recruit someone for a somewhat different job to that held by the outgoing executive.

3.6.3 Deputy F.J. Hill of St. Martin:

I would like to ask the Chief Minister was the Managing Director subject to a contract whereby he could terminate his employment at any given time?

Senator F.H. Walker:

Yes, Sir. He has to give a period of notice; he has given a period of notice, which has been accepted by the board of WEB, and will work out that period.

3.6.4 Deputy J.B. Fox of St. Helier:

I wonder if the Chief Minister would give assurances that with the departure of the Managing Director, the facilities for young people will not be delayed in any way. The Managing Director played an important co-ordination part with many, many different organisations to bring this to the fore, and I would just like to seek reassurance that this will not delay the important facilities that are currently being considered.

Senator F.H. Walker:

Yes, Sir, I can give that assurance.