
STATES OF JERSEY



FORT REGENT POLITICAL STEERING GROUP: INTERIM REPORT

**Presented to the States on 12th January 2011
by the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture**

STATES GREFFE

REPORT

Introduction

This report is to update States members on the progress made by the Political Steering Group which was established as a result of adopting proposition P.188/2009 of the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel, as amended, which agreed to request the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture –

- (a) *to establish and lead a political steering group, consisting of representatives from the Education, Sport and Culture Department, Jersey Property Holdings, the Economic Development Department, the Planning and Environment Department, the Parish of St. Helier and at least one States Deputy of St. Helier No. 1 District, who would consult with other interested parties including the Jersey Heritage Trust and the Fort Users Association, with the aim of producing a cohesive and realistic plan for the future development of Fort Regent; and*
- (b) *to take the necessary steps to form the political steering group immediately and to provide quarterly updates to all States members of its progress regarding the formulation of a development plan for Fort Regent.'*

Membership and meetings

Membership of the Steering Group is –

Deputy J.G. Reed of St. Ouen, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture – *Chairman*
 Senator P.F. Routier, Assistant Minister for Economic Development
 Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré of St. Lawrence, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Deputy R.C. Duhamel of St. Saviour, Assistant Minister for Planning and Environment
 Deputy T.M. Pitman of St. Helier
 Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier.

The Steering Group have met formally on 6 occasions and have received presentations on –

- the history of Fort Regent, bringing together information on past reports and demonstrating the importance of Fort Regent to St. Helier;
- uses of Fort Regent since it has been a Leisure Centre, with information on current users, operating costs and subsidy levels;
- benefits of Fort Regent from an Economic Development point of view;
- existing and emerging planning policies which will guide the future development opportunities at Fort Regent and the surrounding area;
- site surveys that have been commissioned by Property Holdings;
- opportunities for development at Fort Regent and surrounding areas from Property Holdings;
- the implications for the demolition of the pool structure;
- consideration of all previous reports on Fort Regent.

The Steering group is supported by officers from Education, Sport and Culture, Economic Development, Planning and Environment, Property Holdings and the Parish of St. Helier, who have carried out further work between the main meetings.

The draft 'Vision' developed by the group (which will be the subject of public consultation) is to –

- maintain and enhance the sport, leisure and club facilities with improved social facilities;
- ensure the historic nature of the site is conserved and made more accessible to the general public;
- promote development which complements, enhances and supports the primary uses;
- promote commercial opportunities for capital and income generation to enhance the facilities and increase footfall;
- retain the iconic nature of Fort Regent structures;
- improve access and enhance usage;
- bring the front door into St. Helier and integrate Fort Regent into the Town;
- explore opportunities for adding development to current structure in partnership with the private sector.

The Group is currently in the process of identifying those assets which can be developed to either increase or support the core activities of the Fort, and those opportunities arising will be carefully assessed before forming part of the draft plan.

The vision and proposals included in the draft plan will be the subject of an extensive public consultation, involving key stakeholders such as Fort user groups, sport, leisure and entertainment groups, and the general public, from the elderly through to schoolchildren and nursery groups.

The feedback from the public consultation will inform the final development plan which will ultimately be presented to the States for approval.