

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE BY
DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSIER OF ST. SAVIOUR**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2007

Question

What progress, if any, has been achieved with the proposals to have a 'floating' youth club and a town skateboard park and when are they likely to materialise?

Answer

The importance of maintaining youth provision in the Waterfront/Weighbridge area was recognised in the States Strategic Plan 2006-11. One option that was considered was a proposal to develop youth provision on a lightship in Jersey harbour. This was in response to the potential closure of the 'Move on Café' in the old Harbour Offices on the Waterfront and a recognition that it would be difficult to secure appropriate alternative premises for the continuation of youth work in that area of St. Helier.

As planning was underway for the lightship development, the Department for Education, Sport and Culture received information from the Parish of St. Helier that the development company with responsibility for the 'Island Site' had indicated that it might be prepared to offer the Parish a medium term lease on the premises and that, if the lease could be secured, the Parish would be prepared, as part of its agreed youth partnership with the Comité des Connétables, to enter into a partnership with the Department for Education, Sport and Culture to retain the building for youth provision.

In view of this, officers of the Parish of St. Helier, Department for Education, Sport and Culture, and Planning and Environment have been working on a proposal which would be acceptable to all parties to secure continued youth work from those premises.

Several sites had been considered for the provision of a skateboard park. The agreed option is now to develop a facility on the Waterfront on top of the Waterfront car park adjacent to the green grassed area. Meetings have been held between the Chief Minister, Department for Education, Sport and Culture, Planning and Environment, WEB and Hopkins Architects to identify a suitable design in keeping with the overall concept of the Waterfront development. Architects are currently drawing up outline plans to determine and identify a design to fit the purpose. This will include other long-term youth facilities. The outcome of this process will be completed before the end of 2007.