

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 10th JUNE 2003, BY SENATOR E.P. VIBERT**

Question 1

- (a) Now that the tendering process is complete in relation to the proposed feasibility study into the future use of Fort Regent, would the President inform members of the cost of the winning tender for this work?
- (b) Will the President inform members –
 - (i) whether it has yet been established that the sports activities currently carried out at Fort Regent can all be re-located elsewhere to the satisfaction of the 42 groups using these facilities, and, if not the reasons why? and,
 - (ii) whether the Committee has obtained the view of the Environment and Public Services Committee regarding the construction of a sports centre at the Le Rocquier site, and, if not, the reasons why?

Answer

- (a) I am afraid that the Senator is misinformed. Tenders for the Feasibility Study will not be considered by the Education, Sport and Culture Committee until 16th July 2003.
- (b) (i) This will form part of the Feasibility Study, which has not yet commenced.
- (ii) No decision has been taken to construct a sports centre at Le Rocquier and, therefore, there is no need at this stage to obtain the views of the Environment and Public Services Committee. I can confirm, however, that the Director of the Planning and Environment Department is a member of the Client Team.

Question 2

- (a) Would the President advise members of the cost of the current replacement of the escalators at Fort Regent and building of a bistro/clubhouse for Active Card members?
- (b) Would the President also advise members of the business rationale of continued spending on Fort Regent when the Committee is actively looking for ways in which it can be handed over to private enterprise within the next three to four years?

Answer

- (a) A request was submitted in April 2001 to replace the escalators as part of the 2002 Minor Capital Programme. This request was deferred but subsequently included in the 2003 Minor Capital Programme.

The cost of replacing both escalators is estimated at £220,000, with associated building work estimated at £78,000. A sum of £47,000 has been set aside for fees and contingencies.

The existing escalators, which were installed in 1978, frequently break down, despite regular servicing in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. We have recently been advised by the manufacturer that some replacement parts may no longer be available. A major breakdown could result in the loss of the escalators for a considerable period of time which would seriously affect access to the facilities, particularly for major events, shows and conferences.

The 'Active Bistro' is being offered to an outside caterer on a concession basis. All costs will be borne by the operator and not the Education, Sport and Culture Committee.

We will be providing a small rest area for 'Active Card Members' using the Health and Fitness facilities. This is common practice in Health and Fitness provisions and a further indication of the Committee's commitment to improve the facilities for Active Card Members in order to retain customer loyalty. The cost of this additional amenity is £8,000, which will be funded through income derived from the Active Brand.

- (b) Until the Feasibility Study is complete and the States has had an opportunity to debate the outcome of the study, we must continue to operate Fort Regent to the high standards we have set to meet customer expectations. The Fort Regent Leisure Centre will continue to be used for many years regardless of any recommendations which may result from the Feasibility Study. Therefore, continued investment in upgrading and modernising facilities where appropriate, including meeting any requirements which may impact on Health and Safety such as the replacement of suspect equipment, is essential.