

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 29th APRIL 2003, BY SENATOR E.P. VIBERT**

Question

- (a) In view of the fact that the States of Jersey, on 11th April 2000, adopted P.181/1999 – Fort Regent redevelopment, which supported the in principle redevelopment of Fort Regent into a modern community health and sports centre, would the President explain to the Assembly how the Committee considers that it is within its remit to carry out a new feasibility study at further public expense and which is contrary to P.181/1999, for the purpose of redeveloping Fort Regent by private enterprise and re-locating all sporting activity from Fort Regent to other places around the Island?
- (b) Would the President further inform members why the Committee has chosen to spend the majority of the feasibility study budget on studying the opportunities for the redevelopment at Fort Regent in the first instance before researching whether or not the sporting activities currently being carried out there can be successfully catered for elsewhere?
- (c) Would the President agree that if these sporting activities cannot be relocated, and if the Environment and Public Services Committee does not approve the development of a new sports facility at the Le Rocquier site, a feasibility study into redeveloping Fort Regent through private enterprise will not be possible, and, if so, will the President assure members that before committing any more public funds to another feasibility study the Education, Sport and Culture Committee will bring a proposition to the Assembly to rescind the States' decision in support of P.181/1999?

Answer

- (a) When the Senator asked a similar question on 18th March 2003, I replied, and I quote: 'The States approved the 'principle' of P.181/99 but not the funding'. I also stated that 'under the current fiscal climate the Roger Quinton Associates, (RQA), proposals for the redevelopment of Fort Regent were not of a high enough priority to attract funding from the Capital Budget in the foreseeable future'.

Given that the RQA review was carried out in 1997/98, some five years ago, and that funds for the redevelopment of Fort Regent have not and are unlikely to be forthcoming in the foreseeable future, it is clearly the duty of the Education, Sport and Culture Committee to carry out a Value for Money review on the Fort Regent site and to explore any possible alternative options that may be able to provide the Island with the modern sports facilities it requires.

- (b) There is little merit in looking at providing modern sporting facilities elsewhere, if no viable alternatives can be found for the Fort Regent site. It would be irresponsible of the Committee to propose any relocation of facilities, if the outcome resulted in Fort Regent being left without a viable future.
- (c) Once the Feasibility Study has been completed and a full review of all the options undertaken, the Education, Sport and Culture Committee will bring a Report and Proposition to the States, to enable a full debate on any proposals. It will be for the States to decide the future of Fort Regent, based upon all the facts and Value for Money options.