STATES OF JERSEY

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POPULATION POLICY: PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND ALTERNATIVES (P.40/2003) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 8th July 2003 by the Policy and Resources Committee

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Policy and Resources Committee is lodging a proposition to ask the States whether they support the principle of a Migration Policy. If the States agree, the Committee will be committed to a substantial programme of work not only to develop the policy but also the processes to implement it.

It is the Committee's intention that development of the Policy should be overseen by a Steering Group comprising members from Economic Development, Housing, Employment and Social Security and Policy and Resources Committees, and that the work will be carried out by a Working Group of Officers from these and other departments.

We must get this right if we are to secure Jersey's successful future as a fair and just society. The Committee's work will, therefore, be underpinned by a sound and robust analysis of the factual data and expert advice, including a review of previous advice considered.

The Committee believes it would be unreasonable to expect the States to consider a proposal of such significance without the benefit of the underpinning analysis. The States should be reassured that if it approves the principle of a migration policy, the subsequent detailed proposition will include a proper evaluation of the data and advice leading to the proposal, as envisaged in P.40/2003.

The Committee therefore supports this proposition as a helpful contribution to developing an effective migration policy.