

States Greffe

Deputy Lyndon Farnham Chief Minister

BY EMAIL

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Dear Chief Minister,

## **Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel**

## Island Regeneration Plan - Follow-up

Thank you for your response to the Panel dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 in respect of the Island Regeneration Plan ('IRP'). The Panel has considered and discussed your response and remains unclear on the scope of the IRP, in particular, because of conflicting information about the workstream within the public domain. The Panel has provided some examples of this below and should be grateful if you could provide clarification on these points:

- 1. During a Quarterly Public Hearing on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025, the Panel heard in relation to the IRP "What is in scope is putting in place a long-term capital plan". Please can you explain the relationship between the Long-term Capital Plan and the IRP?
- 2. In a Quarterly Public Hearing with the Minister for Treasury and Resources on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the Panel was informed that Project Breakwater had "...evolved into a different project which I think is our regeneration plan". Please can you confirm that Project Breakwater is now the IRP and explain the rationale for this change?
  - a. Please can you confirm whether the scope of the original Project Breakwater now falls under the scope of the IRP?
- 3. In response to a written question ('WQ.383/2024') to the Chief Minister provided on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024, you advised that, "The Deputy Chief Minister is the sponsoring Minister for the project, and the relevant Ministerial oversight body is the Regeneration Steering Group, which is chaired by the Chief Minister". During an interview with BBC News on 31<sup>st</sup> January, you advised that the IRP, previously entitled 'Project Breakwater', would be led by the Deputy Chief Minister. However, during a Quarterly Public Hearing on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 the Panel heard that, "The Chief Minister is lead on the title of Island Regeneration Plan, which includes the work Treasury has been leading on, the long-term capital plan". Please can you confirm whether the Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister has Ministerial responsibility for the IRP and whether the Regeneration Steering Group continues to deliver the oversight function for the workstream?

- 4. In Written Question ('WQ.383/2024') it was advised that the Government Officer developing this project is Group Director of Policy, Paul Wylie. Please can you confirm whether Group Director of Policy, Paul Wylie, remains the Government Officer with responsibility for developing this project?
- 5. During the <u>BBC News interview</u> in January 2025, it was also reported that "...costed plans would be revealed to the public in March..." in relation to the previous Project Breakwater. However, the Panel has since noted in response to a written question ('WQ.70/2025') that the newly constituted IRP is at "concept stage" and during the <u>Quarterly Public Hearing</u> with the Panel on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025, that the concept is "...progressing into something more solid and as soon as we get to that stage, which I hope will be soon". Please can you confirm whether this project remains at concept stage?
  - a. If so, please can you clarify why the project was not ready by March 2025 as reported in your interview with the BBC in January 2025?
  - b. What factors will help progress this project?
- 6. During <u>Questions without Notice</u> on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025, you informed the States Assembly that "*I think I would certainly support public consultation for this*", in relation to the Project Breakwater/IRP. What is the status of public consultation in relation to this project?
  - a. Please can you advise on the revised timescales for this project?
- 7. The Panel note that it was recently reported by the Bailiwick Express on 7th April 2025, that the Deputy Chief Minister "...has revealed he has "reservations" about some aspects of recently-announced plans to redevelop Fort Regent". Please can you advise whether there is consensus within the Council of Ministers about the direction and investments to be made as part of this project and whether the Fort Regent workstream is still part of the Project Breakwater/IRP?
- 8. Once the IRP is finalised and approved by the Council of Ministers will the Minister for Infrastructure be delegated Ministerial responsibility for the IRP?

Additionally, whilst the Panel acknowledges that you intend to arrange briefings once the timescales for the workstream have been finalised, the Panel wishes to request a private briefing on the status of the Island Regeneration Plan and would be grateful to receive confirmation that a briefing would be possible at this stage.

The Panel would appreciate a formal written response detailing this information by no later than **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025**. Please be aware that it is the Panel's intention to publish the response it receives on the States Assembly website. However, should the information provided be confidential, please can you inform the Panel accordingly and the response will not be published.

Yours Sincerely

Deputy Helen Miles

Chair

**Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel** 

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