

Chief Minister



Final Report of the Housing Policy Development Board

Chief Minister's Introduction

I am pleased to publish the Final Report of the Housing Policy Development Board (HPDB) together with its Covering Note. The Board's Report is a comprehensive and evidence-based assessment of the challenges facing Jersey's housing market and puts forward ambitious policy recommendations intended to meet them.

As set out in the Covering Note, the Coronavirus pandemic delayed the Board in the completion of its work. I am, however, particularly grateful that the Board showed good judgement and diligence in re-convening last autumn to re-examine its conclusions in the light of the economic impact of the pandemic. This has provided even more assurance about the final recommendations of the Board.

The Board's recommendations, whilst advisory, are nonetheless extremely important. They run across several ministerial portfolios which is why a Political Oversight Group is being formed with key Ministers to ensure the recommendations are carefully considered and timetables for delivery scheduled.

These recommendations include the pressing review into the 90% Social Rent policy, and how government supports the delivery of more housing. It is also important to note that the Government is already taking forward several of the Board's recommendations, principally through the Government Plan and Island Plan frameworks. The formation of the Central Strategic Unit to coordinate housing and the release of government owned sites also ties into the recently published Estates Strategy. These important work streams will ensure that we deliver genuine improvements in the quality and supply of housing for Islanders.

Whilst I do not underestimate the challenges ahead, issues around housing affect all Islanders without exception and are therefore among the most important priorities for government. This report will help us move towards a more sustainable housing market in Jersey, which is something we all want to see.

John Le Fondré
Chief Minister