

**Jersey Draft Island Plan Examination in Public**

**Day 8 - 29 September 2010 (am only)**

**Natural Resources & Utilities and Waste Management (continued)**

*General notes for participants in all topic sessions*

*The Inspectors have been appointed to provide an independent review of the (Draft) Jersey Island Plan. After the EiP they will write a report to the Minister for Planning and Environment recommending, with reasons, which aspects of the Draft Plan should be retained and whether, and if so what, changes should be made. They will take into account all written submissions including the Minister's own proposed changes in response to consultations, published in a schedule dated 20 June (EiP library core document IP8). Participants should also look at the Minister's response to the Strategic Environmental Assessment dated 13 August which recommends changes to a number of policies throughout the Plan.*

*They have also selected key topics for debate. Participants for the debates have been selected to represent a range of views. The Inspectors are looking to them not simply to re-state their views (which they will have read) but to challenge or support the views of others. It will be helpful if there is a lively and constructive debate. The sessions will be held in an informal atmosphere, with no cross-examination. The Inspectors are conscious that some participants from organisations, or members of the public, may not have experience of these events; they are a relatively new phenomenon in Jersey. Those participants can be assured that they will not be put under pressure, but that the Inspectors are very keen to hear their views in order to get a rounded picture of the issues*

*However the Inspectors are also looking where possible for specific proposals as to recommendations they should make; in particular they would welcome debate on specific suggested changes to the policies in the draft plan. Some participants have already couched their representations in this way but others have not.*

*Generally the timetable for the EiP is tight. Participants should therefore seek to keep their comments succinct and not to repeat views already expressed (though they may wish to express support for the views of another participant).*

*Participants should if possible have read the representations from other participants in the session, and also the relevant written representations from other parties.*

*The Minister will be represented at all sessions by officers from his department who will normally be invited by the Inspectors to respond to the points raised. Other Ministers and officials will be participating in topics of particular interest to them (housing for example); however the Inspectors want to hear a wide range of views also from organisations and individual members of the public.*

## **Specific comments for Day 8 participants**

The Inspectors issued a list of questions on 29 July. The topics for this session and the one preceding it the previous afternoon share a technical underpinning, but in other regards span several disparate matters. Specialists have been invited for particular issues, with a more generalist group invited to contribute throughout. It is hoped that this will facilitate debate that is well informed and brings a range of different perspectives. Questions 1 and 2 were subject to a separate Note and considered yesterday; this session continues with questions 3, 4 and 5.

**Question 3** There can be no doubting the importance of clean safe and reliable water supplies, something perhaps too often taken for granted by developed societies. Jersey has particular challenges, with limited below ground sources and obviously no opportunity to network supplies with any neighbouring water company. Paragraphs 9.10 to 9.16 set the context and Draft Policy NR1 the intended approach to safeguarding the quality of water resources. A single Water Pollution Safeguard Area is proposed taking in the outer boundaries of existing Safeguard Areas combined with Water Catchment Areas. It has been suggested that the Policy should be expanded to introduce Catchment Management Areas (something touched on but not taken forward in the Plan) to improve quality and in particular to limit nitrate levels. Is this desirable as an Island Plan measure and if so in what specific way might the Plan be amended?

**Question 4** Draft Policy NR1 relies on Draft Policy LWM2 regarding the circumstances in which development reliant on septic tanks, soakaways or private treatment plants to dispose of foul waste. Does LWM2 strike the right balance between safeguarding water quality while not unnecessarily inhibiting otherwise acceptable development currently not served by mains foul drainage? Is monitoring the performance of private systems a significant issue?

**Question 5** moves the discussion to energy supplies. Day 1 of the EiP facilitated a broad debate regarding climate change in relation to the Draft Plan; participants today are asked not to focus again on that (important as it undoubtedly is) but to consider the particular section of the Plan which addresses Energy Resources, initially with a focus on renewable energy. Paragraphs 9.20 to 9.33 set the context for the two key Draft Policies NR2 and NR3. Paragraph 9.21 refers to the Green Paper Fuel for Thought, to be brought before the States this year, and it would be useful at the outset to clarify the present position. The paragraph goes on to list factors that potentially place Jersey's energy supply in a vulnerable position. Only one of those factors relates directly to climate change (the Kyoto Protocol) and the stated aim "to achieve 'Secure, Affordable, Sustainable Energy', recognising that energy is essential to our quality of life, our economy and social equity" is surely a sound one with or without an added imperative of climate change.

The Draft Plan looks to two forms of off-shore renewable energy: tidal stream and wind. Though not it seems wave power? Is this approach supported by participants? Does

Policy NR2 set the right framework for exploratory measures and NR3 for implementation? Are there sufficient controls envisaged to protect the Integrated Coastal Management Zone?

On-shore renewable energy is addressed in Draft Policy NR4 supported by text from paragraphs 9.34 to 9.39. The Plan rules out on-shore wind energy at a 'utility' scale. Is that conclusion supported by participants? Other forms of on-shore renewable energy are then considered, including as examples various forms of district heating, and combined heat and power (CHP) in particular, and also anaerobic digestion. Does the Draft Policy (read in conjunction with GD1 and SP4) provide the right framework to facilitate renewable energy with appropriate safeguards? Should the Plan do more positively to promote such measures and others such as micro generation? Do the Minister's proposed amendments to Draft Policy GD1 (EiP Library reference CD/PC8) now meet previous concerns?

Finally, issues have been raised in submissions to the Plan regarding the balance in energy between gas and electricity? Does the Plan have a 'pro electricity assumption'? Is it overly sanguine regarding the source of low carbon imported electricity? Should more account be given to transmission losses? The Inspectors are interested to hear more on this but stress the need to focus on matters within the scope of the Draft Island Plan and in what specific ways amendments to it might be sought.