

## HOUSING & HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

### PRESS STATEMENT

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#### **FIT FOR THE FUTURE: GREATER INDEPENDENCE AND CHOICE FOR ISLANDERS NEEDING CARE AND SUPPORT**

At its May meeting, the States will debate proposals from the Housing and Health and Social Services Departments to build 'extra care' housing adjacent to the Housing Department's two residential homes - Longue Rue House and Maison Maritaine – which will be demolished once the new accommodation is built.

The new accommodation is principally targeted at re-housing the 99 existing residents of the two residential homes, but at Longue Rue will also include up to 15 self-contained flats for people with a learning disability who would otherwise be accommodated in residential homes run by HSSD.

Both sites will comprise of self-contained flats, communal lounges, a restaurant, activity rooms, hairdressing salon, and other community facilities; in addition, it is proposed that there will be a Day Centre on the Maison Maritaine site.

Housing Minister, Deputy Dave Jones, said:

*“When we announced the plans to residents and staff in the first week of February we were concerned how they would react. That concern proved unnecessary as we were blown away by the enthusiastic reaction and the spontaneous outpourings of support we received.*

*In hindsight perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised, as the residents and staff know only too well the deficiencies of the current care homes, which are unsatisfactory for residents and staff alike.*

*Even so, this response has strengthened our resolve to provide this new accommodation which will not just benefit our current residents but also successive generations of Islanders that are looking for more independence and choice than is provided by traditional residential homes. ”*

This point was reinforced by Carolynne Bourgaize, manager of the two residential homes:

*“Residents and their families have been quick to see the benefits of the new accommodation and, since the plans were announced, a number of them have already been involved in planning meetings to help design the new flats and associated facilities.*

*Senior staff in the homes have also started to look at how our staff can be retrained and reskilled to deliver a new kind of more personalised care and*

*support service to everyone who will live in these two extra care schemes. We are really excited about developing this new service.*

*It follows that we're really keen to see whether the States will give us the go-ahead to take the planning of the new schemes to the next stage."*

The States Report sets out the proposals in detail, including the anticipated capital costs of the two schemes. Commenting on these, Housing Chief Officer, Stephen Langford, said:

*"When the proposals were first announced, it was estimated that the total cost of the two projects would be in the region of £30-35 million, with the States contribution being between £20-25 million. We've now firmed up these estimates and the States will be asked to approve funding of not more than £22 million against an estimated total project cost of £32 million for both schemes combined.*

*The States will also be asked to sanction a further £900,000 of 'one-off' expenditure to enable the new flats to be furnished. This is because the existing residents of Longue Rue House and Maison Maritaine, and those persons with a learning disability currently accommodated by HSSD, will not have such possessions having lived in residential homes and given them up when moving into care. "*

Mr Langford went on to say:

*"The Housing Department believes that more of this type of accommodation needs to be provided elsewhere in the Island; however, in preparing this report, some political concerns have been raised about whether or not existing funding mechanisms are appropriate either for the States or for individuals. The report, therefore, identifies a number of complex funding issues that need to be resolved inter-departmentally, not just before this new housing is occupied, but also to establish a sustainable funding model for 'extra care' housing for the future."*

Health and Social Services Deputy Minister, Deputy Andrew Le Lievre, added:

*"It is significant that these proposals will be considered at the same meeting as the States debates our 20/20 vision for the future of health and social care in Guernsey, as a key theme of that vision is enabling Islanders of all ages to live as independently as possible.*

*Almost before the ink is dry, these projects give us a great opportunity to translate parts of the 20/20 vision into action, as 'extra care' housing will enable Islanders with care and support needs to be more involved with their local community than is sometimes possible in a residential care home.'*

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. 'Extra-care' housing marries built form with the provision of care and support services, delivered on a 24/7 basis according to the needs of the individual. 'Extra-care' housing is increasingly seen as an alternative to residential care provision, as it enables people to retain as much of their independence as possible, whilst receiving a care package that is tailored to meet their individual needs. (A glossary of terms associated with these proposals is attached.)
2. The Guernsey Housing Association (GHA) has been selected as the development partner for these projects. Following the model that has resulted in the successful delivery of general needs social housing in recent years, the GHA will act as developer and will manage the building projects on behalf of the States. Part of the capital funding for the schemes will be borrowed by the GHA.  
Upon completion of the schemes, the GHA will become responsible for all aspects of tenancy and property management on an ongoing basis.
3. Further information about the proposals is available on the States website: [www.gov.gg](http://www.gov.gg).
4. There is a dedicated telephone number and e-mail address for queries on these proposals: tel. 717190; e-mail: [housing.extracare@gov.gg](mailto:housing.extracare@gov.gg).