

## **Project Proteus**

### **Introduction:**

There is general consensus and support that we need low footprint, high revenue industries and that the creative and ICT sectors could deliver this, and would provide Guernsey with increased access to Global markets. Technology is increasingly a key enabler of the majority of businesses. Ultrafast and resilient internet connectivity is just part of the solution. Guernsey needs to gain a reputation as a highly technologically advanced jurisdiction.

We need to be in the same league as Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Estonia. Guernsey currently has no e-government policy and our States ICT capacity requires significant improvement and upgrade.

I outline below some ideas to take Guernsey on a journey that should be considered and in my view adopted as policy, uptake would have to be fairly rapid. These points are not exhaustive, however I hope this document will form the basis of further discussion and decision making on where we wish to position ourselves and develop a vision at the highest Policy level.

### **Vision:**

**To place Guernsey in the top ten league of technologically advanced democracies and be universally recognised as such.**

### **Key Drivers:**

#### **Clearly no action is not an option**

Develop a policy to roll out ultrafast and superfast broadband (in progress)

Transformation Programme (TP) to replace FTP with a focus on e-government, developing a program to deliver our services wherever possible via the internet. Ensure that we invest in our internal ICT infrastructure to meet the latest standards.

Harmonise data collection across all departments (including Douzaines) to give the SofG big data to enable better evidence based decisions and statistical reporting.

Develop an Island wide Digital literacy programme across all age groups. (In progress)

As Government take clear leadership of this as an Island wide "Vision" and embark on a large media campaign to communicate the benefits and opportunities.

### **Economic Benefits:**

Developing an international reputation as being technologically advanced would undoubtedly attract new business and encourage local entrepreneurs. Furthermore it would help to retain existing business. The vision would be key in helping to diversify our economy into ICT/Creative sectors over the coming decade.

## Appendix: Rule 6 Qu Jan2014 Dep M Fallaize Project Proteus V3

I have access to many reports to evidence the positive economic benefits; however a short look at the Isle of Wight's website explains the rationale in simple terms

<http://www.iwight.com/Council/OtherServices/Superfast-Broadband/About>

The headline research from a recent report from Regeneris Consulting gives the following estimated benefits for a UK town enabled with superfast broadband:

- *An annual increase in GVA of 0.5% per annum over 15 years;*
- *For every £1 a business invests in superfast broadband, this will create nearly £16 in additional GVA for the UK economy;*
- *140 business start-ups as a result of cloud computing and support for 1,030 home workers;*
- *Around 225 jobs created through business creation and improved business performance.*

### **Social Benefits:**

Digital literacy, which goes beyond basic computer skills, is essential to maximise the investments we are likely to make in infrastructure and to ensure that Guernsey moves up the productivity ladder and develops a digitally savvy population. Digital literacy is that next step which gives Islanders the adaptive skills they need to participate fully in the global digital society, protect and advance their interests as citizens and consumers, and guarantees they will benefit from the digital economy and derive new opportunities for employment, innovation, creative expression and social inclusion

Digital literacy and connectivity would help our aging population in independent living, from staying in touch with off island family members to ordering goods and services.

The ability to access, for example, medical records etc. on line and to view not only those records, but to see who last accessed them (truly transparent government)

A digitally literate population is less likely to be a victim of cybercrime

### **Evidence:**

Is in abundance on line from nearly every advanced democracy and policy think tank.

Take a short browse around e-estonia website and you can understand how far Guernsey has slipped behind the rest of the world <http://e-estonia.com/components/x-road> .

I would also recommend the viewing of this video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IWpM9xtcyk> which explains Estonia's e-government approach.

A huge amount of resource can also be found here: <http://www.digital-government.net/index.htm>

In the UK the Digital Literacy Task Force headed by Martha Lane Fox has discovered that:

- 10 million adults in the UK have never been online and 4 million of these are socially excluded
- the 1.8 million children currently digitally excluded could earn up to £10.8 billion in their lifetime if they were to become digitally literate

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- people who are digital literate can earn an average increase in their lifetime earnings of over £8000
- the government could save £900 million a year if all digitally excluded adults were online and communicating with the government instead of face to face

**Could we deliver?**

Guernsey is just under 25 square miles total area

Our Government is relatively small

We are relatively wealthy and do have rainy day money.

We already have a well educated population.

The real question is we need to maximise opportunities and harness the political leadership and drive to make a step change in the very near future?

Do we really think doing nothing is an option?

**A personal view:**

Over the past 18 months I have had a “sleeves rolled up” attitude to really understand the challenges Guernsey faces for the future. Our Financial Services sector needs to fully embrace the pace of technological change. . Our regulator (GFSC) is only now, under the leadership of the new Director General, getting to grips with modern day AML , mobile money, virtual currencies and interacting with industry online is in its infancy.

On the plus side I am amazed at the innovation and creativity that we already have on the Island, but I am concerned in our ability to retain and develop this for the benefit of all.

I believe we are well placed to become “world class” and become a leader in FinTech (financial services technology) and develop a wider ICT/Creative industry base in fairly short order.

My concern is if we don’t make these changes now, we will, in the future, have to go through a period of forced rapid catch up which will be far more difficult to manage.

Deputy Kevin Stewart

26<sup>th</sup> October 2013/16 January 2014