

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

9th April, 2025

Proposition No. P.2025/41

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ALDERNEY AIRPORT RUNWAY REHABILITATION

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Alderney Representative A Snowdon

Seconded by: Alderney Representative E Hill

In Proposition 1c), to delete the following text:-

“, ideally being before or at the same time as any Policy Letter setting out the outcomes of Proposition 2”

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The proposition neither contributes nor detracts to the States’ objectives and policy plans in relation to connectivity and economic development.
- b) In preparing the proposition, no joint working or consultation has been undertaken with any committee of the States.
- c) The proposition has been submitted to His Majesty’s Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- d) It is not believed that the proposition has any changed financial consequences for the States.
- e) Drafting advice has been sought from the States’ Greffier and no advice was sought the officers of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Explanatory Note

The policy letter appears to tie the report back to the States of Deliberation on the solution for Alderney's long-delayed airport rehabilitation to the reporting on the Bailiwick Commission's findings, which is December 2026. If the airport solution then needs to be further researched in detail, with any design approved by the Civil Aviation Authority and subsequently put out to tender it would appear to be very unlikely that any works would be completed before late 2027 or even 2028 at best.

Our very clear understanding from discussions with both Guernsey Ports and the Office of the Director of Civil Aviation, is that despite the twice yearly significant patching and repair work undertaken by specialist contractors in recent years, Alderney Airport now faces a very high risk in the near future that it will not meet the necessary licensing conditions (primarily relating to safety factors), resulting at best in the introduction of more stringent and restrictive operating limitations, or perhaps more realistically a long term closure of the airstrip.

We cannot stress enough that any long term closure of Alderney Airport would rapidly lead to a serious tailspin of both Alderney's social and economic well-being; neither of which would be acceptable to the States.

The States of Deliberation have honoured the 1948 tri-partite agreement (the States of Guernsey and Alderney, and the UK government) for more than 75 years (that's three generations of families on Alderney), enabling the modern day social and economic fabric of the island to have developed far beyond those very early post war years. While the States of Alderney are fully committed to an objective review of the modern day relationship between the islands, as set out in the Bailiwick Commission proposals, the Island is totally reliant upon its airport and air infrastructure, and this needs to be resolved before we can sit down and work constructively and objectively on our joint futures.

The airport rehabilitation has, after all, been previously agreed by both States on several occasions over the past decade. It was not the States of Alderney that moved away from the February 2019 resolutions to rehabilitate the existing airport at a cost of £12.2 million, with research which ultimately proved fruitless on extending the airport to enable the operation of much larger aircraft, and yet it is now Alderney as a whole that is being put at very major risk of a collapse in both its economy and in the social well-being of its residents and visitors, because of the decision by this Assembly to abandon the simple rehabilitation in December 2022.

We very firmly believe that the States of Deliberation should honour its previous commitments to resolve the rehabilitation of the Island's critical airport infrastructure, before embarking on a wider review of the relationship between the two Islands moving forward from this point.

This amendment has the effect of keeping the Bailiwick Commission as the priority, however, provides the flexibility to avoid risk of closure and serviceability of the Alderney Runway by continuing the works relating to the delivery of a solution to it. The solution for the runway should not be consequential to the timelines or the findings of the Bailiwick Commission.