

### **Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration – 12 December 2023**

#### **Written question from Phillipa Fairweather of Freshwater to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration**

Background: The Island Planning Strategy is immensely important as it will influence development on the Island for the next 15 years. The committee will be aware that a body of residents are concerned that the Draft Island Planning Strategy (DIPS) is not 'fit for purpose' and that proper and effective scrutiny is being compromised by the speed at which it is being pushed through. An example of this is service of the DIPS with no as late as 30th November. To expect residents to be able to assimilate the DIPS and submit written questions by 7th December is unreasonable.

Question: Please explain if this committee supports the DIPS being hurried through in this way and if not it will recommend to cabinet that the DIPS is paused to enable full scrutiny to take place by this committee, residents, and Town, and Parish Councils?

#### Officer response:

It should be noted that if the DIPS is agreed by Cabinet and then Full Council to move forward into the formal plan-making stages, the IWC are required by legislation to undertake a 6 week period of public representation. During this period, residents and town, parish and community councils will be able to submit any representations they may have about the content of the DIPS.

All of those comments would then be submitted, alongside the DIPS and supporting evidence base, to the Secretary of State for public examination. The SoS would then appoint an independent planning inspector to consider the comments made during the aforementioned 6 week period and whether any changes to the plan would be required as a result.