

## 2 COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

### 2.1 Housing

#### GENERAL SITUATION

The overwhelming majority of people are satisfied with both their accommodation and the area in which they live, yet there are three times as many households in Guernsey with problems of damp as in Britain; twice as many with problems of mould or a leaky roof, and almost twice as many households with a lack of adequate heating facilities. There is a wide consensus that housing is a major area, if not the major area, to be tackled in order to deal with relative poverty on the Island.

Household growth has fuelled steady house price inflation. Over the five year period of 2001-2006, the number of domestic households rose by approximately 1,800 reflecting a number of socio-demographic trends. With a vibrant economy and full employment, more young people choose to live independently, rather than remain under the parental roof until marriage. The growing divorce rate (now more than 50% of all marriages) also means that 'one household can quickly become two'. Older people are living longer, and remaining healthier as well meaning that they can choose to remain in their own homes, or to move into 'sheltered housing', rather than into residential accommodation.

#### KEY FACTS

- There are around 24,500 households on Guernsey. Based on this figure and the estimated population size (61,800) the average household size appears to have fallen to 2.49 from 2.51 in 2001.
- Since 2001, St Peter Port has accommodated just over 1000 additional households representing a 14% increase; St Martin and St Sampson have both seen a 6% increase in households; the Vale and St Pierre du Bois have seen the number of households increase by 5%; in Forest and Castel a 4% increase is apparent; the smallest increase in households has occurred in St Andrew, which like St Saviour has recorded just 2% growth in the number of households. Remarkably, the number of households in Torteval has increased by 12% with the addition of 45 households.
- Between 1991 and 2001, the total number of local market properties increased by 7.5% to 20,894 units while the total number of open market properties remained stable at approximately 1,770 or less than 1% of the housing stock.
- Housing accounts for one third of the average weekly household expenditure. The local market average house price has risen from £212K in 2001 to £345K for the second quarter of 2008. There has been a 33% increase in the lower quartile average price over the past 5 years. For comparison, the four quarter moving average (£326,269) is slightly less than London (£336,545) and more than the South East figure (£270,262). Open market average prices have risen from £405K to £946K over the 2001 – 2008 period.
- The 2006 Housing Requirements Study (HRS) shows that housing in Guernsey became very unaffordable in the late 1980s and early 1990s due to a combination of high house prices, high interest rates and a recession on the island. Latterly, the affordability of housing has remained relatively steady despite the rise in house prices, due to interest rates being relatively

low. However, housing has become progressively less affordable since 2003.

- The joint waiting list for Housing Department and Guernsey Housing Association accommodation has fallen from a peak of 196 in 2001 to 107 in 2006, the lowest figure for nine years.
- The Housing Land Availability figures (Q1 of 2008) indicate that 755 additional units (563 urban / 192 rural) are either under construction or are in the 'pipeline' with some form of permission.
- There were 303 residential units available for sale or rent in Guernsey in February 2008 which equates to 1.3% of the existing housing stock.
- The Townsend Study in 2001/02 indicated that damp problems affect 25% of Guernsey households yet 95% of Islanders believe that 'a damp free home' is a necessity that everybody should be able to afford and nobody should have to do without. In 2001/2, fourteen percent of Guernsey households said they could not afford a 'damp free home'. In the same survey, poor housing conditions were reported to be affecting the health of more than one in 20 people. One in 10 adults aged under 30 or over 65 reported health problems caused by poor housing conditions.
- The 2006 Housing Requirements Study reported that, in total, 5,090 households contained at least one member with a health problem. Of the Guernsey residents with health problems, 75% (4,242) were able to care for themselves, and the remaining 25% (1,447) needed care or support. Of those residents who require care, 91% (1,321) felt that their care needs were being met. However, 7% (96) of those with care needs required more care services and 2% (30) needed to move to another form of accommodation such as sheltered housing or a residential home.
- The 2006 Housing Requirements Study identified an overall 5-year net requirement for 1,698 additional dwellings. The net requirement is attributable to an indigenous growth of 1,215 households (as more households form than dissolve) coupled with a net gain of 483 households through migration; the balance of housing requirements is for 9% social housing, 15% intermediate housing and 77% market housing.

**See Key Issues 2.1.1–2.1.4**

## KEY ISSUES

### 2.1.1 Housing land availability

In recent years almost all development has taken place on brownfield sites. The vast majority of development has been in the Urban Area and primarily in St Peter Port.

Based on the 2006 Housing Requirements Study, the projected future housing requirement for the next 5 years is 1,700 dwellings, of which 400 homes will be a mix of social and intermediate tenure provided through the Corporate Housing Programme. A major report into the recruitment and retention of “key workers” identified the specific requirement to provide dedicated rental accommodation to meet their needs.

Recent figures for dwellings, either currently under construction or benefiting from a planning permission, indicate in excess of two years supply. The designated Housing Target Areas of the UAP retain an estimated capacity for up to 1000 new dwellings and the Leale’s Yard MURA is expected to yield in the region of 200 additional dwellings within the next 5 years.

Opportunity sites (brownfield sites, conversions and sub-divisions) within the urban area are projected to continue to yield between 150 & 250 new dwellings each year for the next 5 years, while the rural area is likely to yield an estimated 50 new dwellings each year, through sub-divisions and conversions alone.

#### Key Issue 2.1.1

How can the island’s housing requirement be satisfied for the next 15 years?

### 2.1.2 A range of homes to match housing needs

The Social Housing Development Programme aims to replace/redevelop obsolete and un-conforming housing stock with new developments that better match the needs of the community. This rationalisation and renewal of the existing stock means that most of the need for social rental/intermediate market housing will be accommodated through brownfield redevelopment, at least for the foreseeable future. This also affords the opportunity to consider the inclusion of improved social facilities such as play areas and community centres.

The potential use of Planning Covenants to secure a proportion of social rental/intermediate market housing as part of residential development schemes within the HTAs has been approved by the States.

In the older parts of St Peter Port there has been a shift in the housing market towards multi-unit developments and subdivisions, often in the form of smaller flats/apartments, replacing larger family sized housing. Elsewhere in the urban area new residential developments have provided a mix of house types and sizes. In the rural areas, the tendency has been to replace or extend smaller homes in order to form larger units.

#### Key Issue 2.1.2a

How can we ensure fair access to a range of house types, sizes and tenures and achieve mixed neighbourhoods that are socially inclusive?

Open market properties are available for purchase by those not residentially qualified to live in Guernsey. This was seen as a way of attracting wealthy residents to the Island encouraging a 'trickle-down' effect throughout the local economy. It has successfully allowed key entrepreneurs to become resident in the Island. The presence of companies such as Specsavers, Healthspan and Long Port is owed in some part to the open market system.

Some of the open market housing stock is no longer of sufficient quality to attract high net worth individuals. In some cases, lower quality open market housing has been traded-in and returned to the local market in exchange for well designed modern open market housing in prime locations. Further rationalisation of this sector and trade-ins to help improve the stock of open market housing by exchanging with local market properties, may help to bring about positive regeneration through large-scale development. There may also be potential to tap into the growing trend for wealthy patronage of 'grand designs' in spectacular locations which often champion leading edge eco-friendly design principles.

A Labour Utilisation Strategy Group formed from the public and private sector was established in 2007 to investigate the most appropriate legislative regime to control population and labour use generally. This will include a review of the open market housing sector and will culminate in a report to the Policy Council for its final decision.

#### **Key Issue 2.1.2b**

How can we ensure that the potential benefits of the Open Market sector are fully exploited?

#### **Key Issue 2.1.2c**

How can we facilitate the exchange of low quality open market accommodation for well designed and environmentally friendly open market housing?

### **2.1.3 Sustainability & design**

Access to a decent home is a key element, if not the key element, of sustainable living, yet much of the island's housing stock is dark, damp and difficult to heat. Climate change could exacerbate these problems with more prolonged periods where damp conditions predominate and present difficulties for temperature control and energy management in the home.

#### **Key Issue 2.1.3a**

How can we achieve a step-change in sustainable design in order to improve natural light, ventilation and energy efficient/economical heating in more homes?

#### **Key Issue 2.1.3b**

What can be done to encourage the use of innovative design to allow for new homes to adapt to climate change in a sustainable manner?

### **2.1.4 Lifetime homes**

In an ageing society, we need to ensure that older people are supported, for as long as possible, to maintain independent lives and that housing providers offer desirable options that meet the needs of older people.

The findings of the 2006 Housing Requirements Study seem to indicate that very few residents need to move to another form of accommodation such as sheltered housing or a residential home. This may reflect the high volume of single floor accommodation (i.e. bungalows and apartments with level access) and the close knit nature of the island with its family support network. The results would seem to support a policy approach that favours adaptation of the existing stock and the application of Lifetime Homes Standards to new homes in order to enable residents to remain independent in their own homes for longer. In addition, however, it is likely that the demand will increase for retirement housing, sheltered housing and extra care housing. Useful information on this and other aspects of accommodation, care and support will be provided by the care and accommodation strategy for older people.

#### **Key Issue 2.1.4**

How can we ensure that homes and neighbourhoods are suitably planned and designed to facilitate independent living for older residents?

## 2.2 Crime & disorder

### GENERAL SITUATION

Guernsey is generally a 'safe' place to live and has low levels of crime relative to comparable locations. The people of Guernsey experience less crime than British people in most categories of crime, especially crimes of violence. Nonetheless, certain types of crime and disorder such as youth vandalism are felt to be spoiling Guernsey society.

Priority 7 of the Government Business Plan states the government will: "promote and support policies that keep the Bailiwick a safe and secure place to live. This means taking a firm action against crime and tackling the situations that give rise to criminal behaviour...". In order for this priority to be effectively achieved it is essential that all government departments recognise the contribution they can make to crime reduction and work in partnership to this end.

### KEY FACTS

- In 1997, the States of Guernsey set the police force establishment at 177 officers; during the last few years there has been an average of 155 officers.
- The figures for 2007 showed a drop of 11.4% in the crime rate from 2006. Between 2005 & 2007, the number of reported offences fell by 13% to 49 crimes per 1000 of the resident population. This compares to 52 per 1000 in Jersey. There are about 3.5 domestic burglaries per 1,000 households in Guernsey compared with an England and Wales average of 15.6.
- Over the longer term, reported crime has risen in the 10 years since 1998. Random acts of relatively minor criminal damage contribute the largest single proportion of reported crime (30%).
- The crime detection rate for 2007 was 32% compared with 33% in 2006, 34% in 2005 and 32% in 2004. The comparative figure in Jersey was 35% and for England and Wales it is 26%.
- The 2005 Fear of Crime Survey highlighted that 92% of respondents felt safe after dark in their own neighbourhood (compared with 85% in Jersey), but only 33% felt fairly safe after dark in Town or the Bridge, with 50% feeling 'not very safe' or 'not safe at all' after dark in Town. In Jersey, about 70% of people considered the centre of St Helier to be either a bit unsafe or very unsafe after dark.
- In an on-line survey, while just more than half of respondents were at least slightly concerned at the potential for being a victim of crime on a weeknight in Town, that figure leapt to 96% on Friday and Saturday nights. A total of 46% were slightly concerned about going to the Bridge at night on a weekend while 11% said it worried them even more.

**See Key Issue 2.2.1**

## KEY ISSUES

### 2.2.1 Localised patterns of crime and disorder

'Fear of Crime' is a perception relating to the concerns and anxieties that people have about personal safety and security in their local area. In an initiative to help reduce the fear of crime, the Police Service has assisted in the establishment of several Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across the Island (17 NWS's in 2007). In addition, a community presence in the form of surgeries have been regularly set up with four surgeries at the Bridge; three in St Martins, three in St Peters and one at Admiral Park. Also, The Crime Prevention Officer assists in designing crime out at the planning stage of development proposals and has been involved with projects implemented by the Housing Association.

The on-going deployment of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) includes the upgrading and development of the system in the Town and the Bridge with the installation of new camera sites and the acquisition of an island-wide transportable system. The phased programme includes the establishment of a central CCTV control room.

The Police, in consultation with other stakeholders, will seek to identify problem areas within the community and by a partnership approach will work to improve the quality of life in that particular area. Improved management of the public realm, which requires input from the Environment Department, Police Service, the Town Centre Partnership, Douzaines and other community interests in particular, could help to create more attractive and sociable spaces with the intention of peopling the streets and crowding out crime.

Due to growing statutory responsibilities there are now serious deficiencies in the standard of premises occupied by the Police. The need to safely store seized vehicles and other bulky items of evidence is an important requirement. Bringing the emergency services together under one roof could bring tremendous operational benefits such as shared garage and control room facilities. The overall harmonisation of Police and Customs should also be a consideration. The further development of St Sampson's Harbour (see 15.3: Harbours) together with major development proposals in the vicinity may lead in the future to the creation of a police sub-station on the Bridge.

#### Key Issue 2.2.1

What can be done spatially to help address actual and perceived patterns of crime and disorder, especially after dark in Town and The Bridge?

## 2.3 *Community involvement*

### GENERAL SITUATION

It is intended that the policy development process for the island will contain mechanisms for the ongoing consultation and involvement of local communities and especially young people.

### KEY FACTS

- 37% of males and 34% of females reported no involvement in a range of community, sporting, church or voluntary activities.
- 33,253 islanders registered on the Electoral Roll for the 2008 General Election, with the turnout averaging 56% of eligible voters per district. This compares with an average turnout of 63% in 2004.
- The voting age in Guernsey was reduced to 16 years in 2008.
- In 2001, a public exhibition on the review of the Urban Area Plan attracted 850 people to venues at Town and The Bridge.
- In 2002, before starting to draft the new RAP, a total of 21,000 consultation leaflets & questionnaires were distributed to households and a series of manned 'roadshows' were held at 6 different locations across the Island, which were attended by around 1,000 people.
- Over 400 people visited the Leale's Yard Mixed Use Redevelopment Area exhibition on the draft development framework for the Outline Planning Brief.
- A major research project to find out the views of the island's 10-17 year olds was undertaken in spring 2007.
- In Law, it is presumed that a child is capable of forming a considered view from the age of 12 years.
- The appointment of a Community Development Officer by the Guernsey Sports Commission has improved the engagement of young people in positive activities.

**See Key Issue 2.3.1**



## KEY ISSUES

### 2.3.1 Engaging with the public in policy development

Mechanisms for the on-going consultation and involvement of local communities, especially young people, in the policy development process are vital and will ensure that the community is fully engaged. Any potential solutions need to be tailored to local conditions following extensive and fully inclusive consultation exercises.

In the under-18 age group, there are a small number of disadvantaged young people in Guernsey, for whom the transition to adulthood is especially difficult, with housing insecurity or homelessness, poor prospects of work with labour market exclusion, persistent poverty and, in some cases, recurring offending and anti-social behaviour. Developing a shared corporate commitment to addressing the needs of young people is particularly important.

#### Key Issue 2.3.1

How can the States engage more fully with the whole Island community and especially young people in the policy development process?

## 2.4 Sports, leisure and the arts

### GENERAL SITUATION

Guernsey has a better than average range of recreational facilities, allowing many local, national and international competitions to be staged on the Island. Major sports facilities include Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, The Track, the Footes Lane Athletics Complex and the Table Tennis and Indoor Cricket Centres at Hougue du Pommier, as well as many other private or dual-used sports facilities. Informal leisure opportunities and in particular the amount of land accessible for public enjoyment, are also important indicators of quality of life.

Cultural facilities include the concert hall at St James and its adjoining Dorey Centre, the main public theatre at Beau Sejour and the new Performing Arts Centre. In addition, there are a range of public and private museums and over 80 historic sites including Castle Cornet, Fort Grey, Vale Castle and Chateau de Marais, for which the States are responsible. There is also an impressive legacy of fortifications.

The arts are well represented too: the local language, Dgernésiais, a variation on Norman French, is kept alive by enthusiastic groups and individuals, which now have official support from the States of Guernsey; Victor Hugo wrote much of his best known work during his 15 years of exile at his home in Hauteville; and the visual arts are flourishing with the new galleries and artists studios and the International Artist-in-Residence Programme. The performing arts also gained a new venue with the Princess Royal Performing Arts Centre, while the island's musicians continue to win local and international acclaim.

### KEY FACTS

- In 2008, there were 16,000 members of sporting organisations including: football with 2,364 members (up from 1,830 in 2005), golf with 2,219 members (a drop of 370 from the 2007 high and down from 2,475 in 2005), cricket with 1,501 members (up from 1,449 in 2005 and reversing the decline in 2006) and tennis with 1,407 (up from 1,116 in 2005 and equal to 2006 and 2007). Like cricket, hockey has increased participation following previous decreases in membership, and Rugby has regained interest following a sharp fall from a sudden increase.
- In a 2001/2002 survey on the quality of life in Guernsey, 7% of respondents cited a shortfall in sports/leisure/entertainment facilities and the need for better shopping facilities. Respondents felt that more entertainment and activities for young people would 'keep them off the streets' and stop them getting into trouble.
- In 2006, the amount of land available for public amenity was 10,025 vergees or 25.8% of Guernsey's total land mass. Out of the total land available for public amenity, 78% belongs to the Crown (mainly consisting of the beaches and coastal areas) and 8% is administered by the States (in the form of parks, gardens, cliffs and former quarries). The island has about 30 beaches offering a variety of orientation, shelter, and seclusion. Many of the beaches have a refreshments kiosk, parking and toilets.
- It is estimated that up to 20,000 people per annum use the Millennium Walk at St Saviour's Reservoir.

## KEY ISSUES

### 2.4.1 Sports facilities

Sport is generally well catered for within the island. However, there are some significant shortfalls in the provision of facilities. A shortage of grass pitches and the need for artificial training pitches remains the biggest issue for both football and rugby. The grass wicket facilities meet cricket's current needs, but a general improvement of facilities would enhance provision and the Guernsey Cricket Board's recent affiliation to the ICC means that there will certainly be pressure for at least one more cricket square. There is demand for additional indoor space from a variety of sports including archery, gymnastics, and equestrianism.

The provision of certain new or improved facilities would play a significant role in increasing participation and standards in local sport. In addition, a more effective use of resources may be achieved by upgrading facilities. Examples of this approach can be seen at Beau Sejour Centre and at Footes Lane. Similarly, it is important to consider the dual use of school sites for community use. However, dual use arrangements for gymnastics are more difficult because of the setting up and dismantling times for equipment.

#### Key Issue 2.4.1

How can the requirements for additional indoor and outdoor sports facilities be accommodated?

### 2.4.2 Informal participation

Many young people prefer informal participation in sports such as basketball, football, and skateboarding without having to pre-book facilities. Through the StreetSport programme, young people on Les Genats Estate have been encouraged to make use of their own environment for sports activities, introducing them to sports they can play anywhere at anytime (football, basketball, tag rugby, Frisbee etc). There is a need for more informal settings, like the new ball court on Le Bouet Estate, to be integrated within built-up areas, so that a wider range of youngsters can have immediate, independent and free access to a sports facility. This kind of initiative can help divert youngsters away from criminal and disorderly behaviour and develop community cohesion.

#### Key Issue 2.4.2

How can we accommodate more informal settings that can be used by young people who do not ordinarily participate in formalized arts, sporting and cultural activities?

### 2.4.3 Urban open spaces

Improving access to urban 'green' space involves enhancing access routes, (such as footpaths and cycle routes) and the provision of urban nature. Urban nature includes: parkland at Beau Sejour and Delancey with facilities for sports and playgrounds; Victorian 'pleasure' gardens at Candie and La Vallette; natural areas and semi-natural public land such as Le Chateau de Marais and Vale Castle; the coastal strip from Spur Point to the Halfway and Montville Drive; cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds; a variety of ornamental plantations and gardens; and the new ecology park planned for The Belgrave Vinery area. When providing accessible 'green' space, it is important to consider what form/type this provision should take and the different values that various people will attach to it. Providing

urban 'green' space that is, say, 5 minutes away will not in itself ensure that residents of an area will appreciate it.

In addition to 'natural green' spaces, there are a host of other urban open spaces that contribute to the amenity of the urban area and provide places for social interaction. Many of these urban amenity spaces are home to trees and plants and provide opportunities for new planting and/or succession planting. There are some notable examples where these spaces have been improved and enhanced including: les Echelons; the Crown Pier; the Liberation Monument; and Market Square. Other opportunities exist to address conflicts between pedestrians and motor vehicles and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour; the routes and connections between these spaces also need consideration. Some attention could also be given to The Bridge area, which has received relatively little attention.

Projections suggest that climate change will have implications for the design and management of public open space. It is expected that demand for and use of urban open spaces will increase as temperatures rise. People who may not be able to adapt their indoors environment are generally better able to cope with high peak temperatures when they are outdoors. So under extreme weather events, public urban open spaces may be particularly important for vulnerable members of society.

#### **Key Issue 2.4.3a**

What can be done to improve access to urban open space?

#### **Key Issue 2.4.3b**

What can be done to enhance the quality of urban spaces as places for social interaction and amenity value?

#### **2.4.4 Public art**

Given the growing interest that the arts are receiving, it is hoped that the recently established Guernsey Arts Commission will achieve higher levels of participation and experience of the arts through a raised profile and greater private investment.

Public areas can be made more attractive by the inclusion of artworks and bespoke street furniture. Jersey, for example, has introduced a Percent for Art Initiative, which requires developers to include some public art as part of their submissions. A similar community arts project could be realised in Guernsey through the development of a Public Arts Strategy and the Eastern Seaboard Initiative probably offers the likeliest opportunity for taking this approach forward.

#### **Key Issue 2.4.4**

What can be done to ensure that opportunities for public arts projects are realised?

## 2.5 Health and social care

### GENERAL SITUATION

The health impacts of the Island are changing with poverty, the impacts of increased car use, rising bodyweight generally and obesity rapidly establishing themselves as the island's next major public health challenges. At the same time, the provision of health services is also changing. For example, conditions that had been regarded as terminal e.g. Down's Syndrome, various forms of cancer and HIV, now respond to the treatments available. This means that the number of people requiring care, support and accommodation are constantly increasing. In addition, the number of people with age related needs is increasing demand for social services such as home care and for more specific services such as care for people with dementia. The increased burden on staff resources can only be met by recruiting personnel with the necessary expertise from elsewhere.

### KEY FACTS

- Guernsey has a higher 'life expectancy at birth' for both males (77.5 years) and females (82.0 years) than most comparator countries, and only a little behind Sweden (77.6 years and 82.1 years respectively), which is recognised as having amongst the best health in Europe.
- The number of residents aged 75 years or more is projected to increase by around 30% over the next decade.
- The poorest in Guernsey are four times more likely to be ill and are over fifteen times more likely to report social isolation or depression during the past year than more affluent people.
- The proportion of Guernsey men who were 'overweight' had increased from 50% in 1988 to 64% in 2003; whilst for women it had increased from 41% to 52% with a high of 57% in 1998. It has been estimated that the wider economic costs of rising levels of obesity (including the impacts on quality of life and economic productivity) would reach a sum equivalent to £45.5 million annually in the Guernsey context.
- The 2006 Housing Requirements Study reported 5,689 people as having health problems; the main problems were related to impaired mobility and difficulties due to old age.
- The Survey of Guernsey Living Standards identified over 3,000 households in Guernsey as poor. Almost half of these households have one or more children. When considering the proportion of each household type who are poor, almost two thirds of lone parents with one or more children are suffering from poverty, as are a quarter of large households with children.
- A significant proportion of households with dependent children are currently in unsuitable housing – including 26.5% of single parents and 23.7% of groups of adults with dependent children.

**See Key Issues 2.5.1 – 2.5.2**

## KEY ISSUES

### 2.5.1 Health and mobility impacts

The fact that people are living longer is likely to have a significant impact upon the Island's health-care services including long term care. In addition, the poorest people in Guernsey are the most likely to suffer health problems which are often aggravated by sub-standard housing conditions.

Unrestrained growth in private car travel increases air pollution, high levels of self reported stress among motorists, and discourages walkers and cyclists from using the roads, which in turn leads to fewer opportunities for exercise and rising levels of obesity. Promoting a more physically active lifestyle is the obvious key to reversing the growing trend to overweight and obesity in Guernsey.

#### Key Issue 2.5.1a

What can be done to address the health and mobility problems faced by an ageing population and especially the least well off?

#### Key Issue 2.5.1b

How can we create places that facilitate a more physically active lifestyle?

The narrow and meandering streets of St Peter Port are greatly admired as one of the island's principal attractions, but the cobbled surfaces and steep slopes can be difficult for people with restricted mobility to negotiate independently. Despite the limitations of the island's historic environments, more can be done to overcome the barriers faced by people with restricted mobility. Small improvements to facilitate access for people with a physical or sensory disability can make a big difference to how they feel about getting around independently and being catered for.

#### Key Issue 2.5.1c

What can be done to improve conditions for people with restricted mobility?

### 2.5.2 Young people and families (see also: 1.2.3 the evening economy; 2.3 community involvement; 2.4.2 informal participation)

A holistic and integrated approach to the issues that impact on families and young people could have implications for matters such as employment opportunities, decent housing, crime reduction, health improvement and social services. The importance of focussing on young people is highlighted in Corporate Anti-Poverty Programme and the Bailiwick Drug and Alcohol Strategy. Based on information in the report by the Townsend Centre, it will be important for neighbourhood initiatives to target needy families and children in identifiable areas of deprivation such as those living in rented accommodation in St Peter Port and the area around the Bouet estate.

**Key Issue 2.5.2**

How can we improve access to and use of facilities to meet the needs of young people and families?

## 2.6 Education

### GENERAL SITUATION

Education on the Island is generally regarded as being of a very high quality.

The provision of modern, fit for purpose facilities for all phases of the education system is one of the prime objectives of the Education Development Plan (EDP). Programme 1 of the EDP focuses on educational provision within the Special, Secondary and Post-16 education sectors. The States have already completed four projects – Le Rondin School & Centre, a primary special needs school and assessment centre, a Sixth Form Centre for the Grammar School, the Princess Royal Centre for Performing Arts for the College of Further Education and the first of three new high schools, St Sampson's High School, which is co-located with a new special needs school for secondary age pupils, Le Murier.

Over the next decade or so the Education Department plans to complete the reorganisation of secondary education by developing two new high schools, provide a new College of Further Education on a single campus and convert an existing building into a centre for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. The Department is also reviewing the provision of primary education and considering the introduction of nursery education.

The Island offers a traditional apprenticeship scheme that recruits students who otherwise may well have stayed in full-time education. A mean tested grants system is in place to support local students wishing to attend university.

### KEY FACTS

- There are about 9,000 school children between the ages of 5 and 16 (the school leaving age was raised to 16 in 2008/09 academic year).
- There are 11 primary schools, 2 infant schools, 1 junior school, 3 high schools (St Peter Port School is due to close in July 2009), a co-ed grammar school, two special needs schools and a College of Further Education. In the private sector The Ladies' College, Blanchelande Girls' College and Elizabeth College (boys) take fee payers with some special place holders supported by the States.
- 45% of the population has gained qualifications at NVQ Level 2, followed by 36% with intermediate qualifications, 12% at degree/HND level and 15% at higher degree level.
- In 2007, the proportion of Guernsey pupils achieving five GCSEs (grade A\* - C) was 61% compared to the 2005 peak figure of 64%. The proportion of Guernsey pupils achieving at least one GCSE was 84.3%, which was 2% below the seven year peak of 86.4% reached in 2005.
- Guernsey students who sat A-levels and GCSEs regularly outperform those in the UK. The 2008 A Level results saw a 100% pass rate which is a year on year increase since 2003. 84.6% of A Levels were grades A-C in Guernsey in 2008 compared with 73.9% in England. At GCSE level 77% of GCSE's were at grades A-C compared with 65% in England.
- In 2007, 71% of the 16 year old cohort was in education and 80% of the cohort was in education and training. The numbers of 18 year olds in Education and training remains at 42% in 2007. This is the largest proportion ever of students staying on to education and training and the number is expected to increase as the school leaving age was raised to 16 years in 2008.



- The number of students in higher education has steadily increased from 774 in 1994/95 to 992 in 2007/2008.
- More females than males are entering into post-16 education.
- The most popular subject studied by the Island's undergraduates are: Combined studies, Art & Design, biological studies and business studies

**See Key Issue 2.6.1**

## KEY ISSUES

### 2.6.1 Design and use of education sites

Some of our school buildings are showing their age and need to be improved. The Education Department has embarked upon a significant programme of redevelopment and new build in order to improve and rationalise the Island's education infrastructure.

The Education Development Plan, which is already well underway, has allowed the reorganisation of special needs education from 3 schools to two and the reorganisation of secondary education from four schools to three (completed in July 2009 following the closure of St Peter Port School). St Peter Port Secondary School will become the site of a new College of Further Education. The former Oakvale buildings are also due to be converted to provide a Centre for pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties. The proposals will increase capacity in the Post-16 sector and allow the school leaving age to be raised to 16 in 2008.

The completion of this first phase of redevelopment has allowed the College of Further Education to relocate some of its courses to the vacated St Sampson's Secondary School buildings at Delancey. Other courses will relocate to the St Peter Port buildings following the closure of the school. These moves will release some of Education's older unsuitable buildings such as Grange House opposite Elizabeth College in The Grange, the Old Boys' Grammar School in Brock Road, the former Longfield School buildings adjacent to Amherst School and Granville House in Mount Durand.

#### Key Issue 2.6.1a

How can we ensure that the rationalization/re-organisation of schools and colleges takes place in the most sustainable locations, where new facilities can be integrated with other development and adopt best practice principles for sustainable design, construction and environmental management?

#### Key Issue 2.6.1b

Given the States' commitment to maintaining a static population size, will the Education Department's on-going programme of works result in the release of former education sites for alternative uses? Can some sites be adapted to allow for greater community use outside of school hours?