

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 30th MARCH 2004,
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

Question 1

Would the President inform members whether the Committee is committed to the provision of a town 'hoppa' bus service as part of a proposed 'hop-on/hop-off' tourist service, or as a separate service?

Answer

There is a significant difference between the visitor service and the 'hoppa' service. If operated in a similar manner to the experiment in 1999, a 'hoppa' service would require a subsidy in excess of £300,000 per year to operate. The Committee has a number of fundamental issues to tackle with the bus service and has a duty to ensure the Island is getting the best out of the current contract with Connex before committing the States to any further expenditure.

Question 2

Would the President inform members of the Committee's intentions regarding the imminent expiration of the residential parking scheme for those living in the Stopford Road area of St. Helier on 4th May 2004, and whether a reasonably priced replacement scheme will be introduced in early course to allow full consultation with residents of the area concerned?

Answer

The Committee has not yet formally considered this matter but will do so at its meeting on 8th April 2004. Since assuming the Presidency, I have had discussions with the department concerning the residential parking scheme. Last week I wrote to all permit holders to seek their view ahead of the meeting on 8th April. What I can say today is that the Residential and Business Parking Scheme is as a permanent scheme and is not due to expire, as inferred by the Deputy. Most permits will be due for renewal on or about 4th May 2004. The previous Committee had set a fee of £150 for a six month period. The current Committee will consider what fee to charge for the next six month period on 8th 2004 April 2004.