

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE EDUCATION, SPORT  
AND CULTURE COMMITTEE BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 10th MAY 2005**

**Question**

In July 2004, the Education, Sport and Culture Committee received a presentation on a possible new art gallery on the Waterfront to be funded by a benefactor.

Would the President inform members what progress, if any, has been made in moving this forward, and if so, would he advise –

- (a) whether the building work has been estimated, together with the annual running costs, and if so, how much and from where these funds will be sourced?
- (b) of the proposed location and size of the site?

**Answer**

- (a) On 28th July 2004, the Education, Sport and Culture Committee met with representatives of the Waterfront Enterprise Board, the Jersey Arts Trust, and a company of architects to consider an oral and visual presentation on a proposed Art Gallery to be situated on a development site on the Waterfront.

The Committee was informed that a benefactor had been identified who might be prepared to offer a sum of approximately £9 million for the capital development of an Art Gallery in the Island. Whilst this sum represented one of the largest donations in British cultural history, the Committee was informed that the development costs would be in the region of £7.5 million leaving only £1.5 million for running costs. It was estimated, however, that running costs would be in the region of £600,000 per year.

The Committee commented that the issue of running costs threatened the development unless further funds could be identified once the initial investment had run out.

- (b) Following further discussion at the meeting, the Committee recognised the Art Gallery's potential to become an iconic exhibition centre and cultural facility and it agreed that it would champion the scheme as much as possible in light of its responsibility for culture but that the current economic climate would limit its ability to offer financial support. The Committee, therefore, agreed to await the publication of a detailed business plan before it could identify how assistance could be offered.

Subsequent to that meeting the Committee has been informed by the Jersey Arts Trust that the offer of support from the benefactor did not materialise, and, in consequence the Committee has had no further involvement in this matter.