

**STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE
COMMITTEE ON 28th JUNE 2005**

I am pleased to confirm that, following extensive and detailed negotiations, the Education, Sport and Culture Committee, Jersey Arts Trust and Jersey Opera House Limited have concluded an agreement which secures the future of the Jersey Opera House.

This has been achieved by the Committee agreeing to bring forward £150,000 from the future funding stream for the Jersey Arts Trust which will enable it to increase the operating grant for the Jersey Opera House Limited by that amount for 2005. This money will be recovered over a five year period, commencing in 2006 by reducing the grant to the Jersey Arts Trust by £30,000 per annum. While the management of this reduced grant is a matter for the Arts Trust, I can confirm that it has agreed that the funds will be recovered through a reduction in the Opera House operating grant of £20,000 per annum with the remaining £10,000 being met by the Arts Trust through enhanced efficiency and fund raising. The Chairman of the Arts Trust has made a commitment that this repayment will not be achieved through reducing the grants to other organisations or individuals who benefit from their support.

The Committee is pleased, not only that this long standing issue has been brought to a conclusion which meets the needs of all parties, but also that it provides stability for the Jersey Opera House Limited's Board of Directors , the staff of the Opera House and the local groups who depend on the venue to stage their productions.