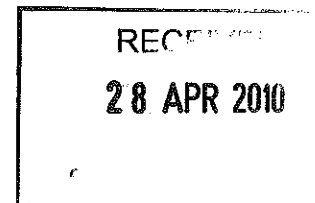


28th April 2010



Deputy C.F Labey
Chairman
Rural Economy Strategy Scrutiny Sub-Panel
Scrutiny Office
States Greffe, Morier House
St Helier
Jersey
JE1 1DD



Dear Caroline

Rural Economy Strategy

Thank you for your letter of 13th April 2010 requesting comments on the Strategy.

I will comment on Issues and Policy Options PE6 and PE7, which are within my area of expertise.

I believe that the issues and policy options are the correct ones. I suggest that the correct body to pursue policy option 6 is Skills Jersey who have the remit to identify skills gaps.

The issue of how to address the skills gaps is likely to be a problematic area as the training and expertise for vocational development is largely lacking in the Island and is unlikely to attract sufficient people to make on-Island delivery practical or affordable.

The solution might be to establish a link with a UK agricultural college, probably in the south-west who will be prepared to do some work on-Island. Such colleges are now highly specialist and provide a very wide range of programmes in agriculture, horticulture, country side management, sports and golf, and rural economy skills.

Highlands has links with a number of colleges through its University of Plymouth partnership and will happy to broker these discussions.

Yours sincerely

Professor Edward Sallis OBE
Principal & Chief Executive

