

**SWIMMING POOLS AT LES QUENNEVAIS AND FORT REGENT.**

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**Lodged au Greffe on 25th April, 1989  
by the Education Committee.**

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**STATES OF JERSEY**

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**PROPOSITION**

**THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -**

- (a) to authorise the preparation of detailed proposals for a community swimming pool at Les Quennevais;
- (b) to authorise the preparation of detailed proposals for a leisure pool at Fort Regent.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****NOTES: - 1. ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

The Establishment Committee notes that there is presently no detailed information as to what the staffing implications for the two new swimming pools will be, but considers that when identified, they will be significant. Whilst it is aware that there is a social need, in accordance with its established policy in relation to additional manpower, the question of authorising any new posts can only be considered when the Committee assesses the relative positions of the manpower proposals submitted by all States' committees for the period in question.

**2. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

In the event of States' approval, the Education Committee and the Fort Regent Development Committee will each present to the States in due course their detailed proposals in order to seek approval in principle for their respective schemes.

With regard to its agreed responsibilities the Policy and Resources Committee is of the view that the two proposals both raise issues of importance for the Island as a whole, and issues involving major resource implications. In reporting to the States on these issues, the Committee would wish to consider the acceptability and relative priority of each of the proposals in terms of such aspects as -

- (a) the various demands of Island residents for "community" facilities;
- (b) their relevance for the future of the tourism industry;
- (c) the manpower and financial resource requirements;
- (d) whether the detailed proposals (e.g. their siting and physical accessibility) offer the best value for money.

**Report.**

1. One of the earliest tasks undertaken by the Advisory Council for Sport, Leisure and Recreation was to consider the case for additional swimming pool facilities in the Island. The Education Committee had for some time considered the possibility of building a pool at Les Quennevais but had not determined the size or type of pool that was required. The Fort Regent Development Committee was known to be investigating the creation of a leisure pool to enhance the attractions for visitors and residents at the Fort - the swimming clubs of the Island had drawn attention to the limited availability of pool time for the serious swimmers in the community and the development of swimming as an activity for school children was severely limited by the lack of adequate facilities.
2. The working party, including representatives of Fort Regent, the Advisory Council and the swimming clubs, having looked at the various needs as they could be defined, recommended the commissioning of a proper study by expert consultants. With the agreement of the Fort Regent Development Committee, the Education Committee, on behalf of the Advisory Council for Sport, Leisure and Recreation, commissioned Pickering-Torkilsden Partnership, international recreation and leisure management consultants, to undertake a full survey of the Island's needs for swimming pools.
3. In the course of their survey the consultants received evidence from all those individuals and groups in the Island known to be interested in swimming as a sport and leisure activity. They had discussions with representatives of the Education and Fort Regent Development Committees, the swimming clubs and individual enthusiasts. They held a public meeting which was very well attended and conducted a "phone-in" on local radio.

4. Their report has now been considered by the Education and Fort Regent Development Committees; the consultants conclude that there is a pressing need for -

a new indoor community swimming pool, ideally six lanes of 25m. length and situated at Les Quennevais;

a leisure pool at Fort Regent, with improved accessibility to the area;

and that in the longer term there will be a requirement for -

a smaller neighbourhood pool towards the east of the Island.

5. The consultants advise that there is both an immediate need and a sufficient demand for a new community swimming pool, to meet the swimming needs of residents, schools and clubs, and a leisure pool, to provide for the recreational needs of visitors, tourists and residents. They point out that the Fort Regent Pool was built 17 years ago and that since that time there has been a considerable increase in the number of pools in the United Kingdom with many new developments such as leisure pools and other water amenities. Nationally, swimming continues to be the number one participant all year round sport and the Island is seen to be lacking in facilities both in terms of leisure pool developments and orthodox community pools.
6. In considering the report, the Education Committee believes that full support should be given to the recommendations both for an indoor swimming pool and for a leisure pool. They merit equal priority but for different reasons; swimming is an enjoyable and healthy pursuit for young and old alike and there is insufficient swimming pool time available to members of the public resident in the Island, particularly those with the greatest amount of leisure time, for example the elderly and mothers with young children,

while the swimming clubs have substantial lists of would-be members.

7. In Jersey, water sports of all kinds are extremely popular and the Education Committee is particularly concerned to ensure that all school children are able to swim before going on to secondary school. There is a need not only for individuals to be able to swim for personal survival but also for the survival of others in an emergency. For some time the Committee has been unable to implement fully its policy on swimming for school children because there are insufficient suitable pools available on the Island which are accessible to the majority of schools.
8. The Education Committee agrees with the Fort Regent Development Committee that a leisure pool would undoubtedly provide an important tourist attraction and it is needed to bring the Island's swimming facilities in line with those now widely available in the United Kingdom and abroad. Local residents would equally gain; leisure pools are extensively used in communities in the United Kingdom and provide for excellent healthy family enjoyment.
9. The Education and Fort Regent Development Committees fully endorse the view of the consultants that the needs of the resident population and of the tourists visiting Jersey justify the provision of two community swimming pools and a leisure pool. While further detailed studies have to be completed, the projected cost of a community swimming pool at Les Quennevais is of the order of £2 million while a leisure pool is estimated to cost £6 million. The community pool will cost around £225,000 per annum including salaries and wages and should generate income around £140,000 per annum. It is anticipated that a leisure pool will at least cover its annual operating costs including salaries and wages. If the States accept the principles of this report the two committees will each present in due course their detailed proposals for approval in principle.