

Media Release

Date: 12 March 2020

States of Guernsey considering steps to support employers on impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19)

The States of Guernsey is actively considering how best to support businesses and employers in mitigating the impact of the Coronavirus (Covid-19).

Deputy Gavin St Pier, President of the Policy & Resources Committee said:

‘We need to consider very quickly how we ensure businesses and employers are supported in a way that best serves our Island economy and community and that is fair and proportionate. While protecting the health of our community is our first and top priority, we must look at what can be done to protect their jobs, their livelihoods and the economy too, and helping the business community through a period of stress and uncertainty.

We have seen measures announced by the Bank of England and in the UK’s Budget today similarly aimed at supporting the UK economy, and given our close economic links, these are welcomed. It also further highlights the need to look at what measures are right for our local economy. On that basis, we have started the process of consulting with local business representative bodies, so we better understand their members’ pressure points and concerns, and the types of support that might assist.’

One example of the measures being looked at by the States of Guernsey is the possibility of a ‘hardship fund’ to support businesses.

Where necessary, the Policy & Resources Committee will take proposals to the States Assembly to agree the introduction of such measures. The President of the Policy & Resources Committee will provide an update to the States and the business community next week.

For details on existing support available for Islanders through social security, or for other coronavirus advice and guidance go to www.gov.gg/coronavirus.

Ends