

## Statement

DATE: 16.08.17

### STATEMENT ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO AURIGNY WITHDRAWING LONDON CITY ROUTE

David Oxburgh, Chairman of the Guernsey International Business Association, which represents the finance sector, said:

“This is dreadful news for Guernsey as a whole and has the potential to have a significant adverse impact on the development of our economy. Whilst Policy & Resources recommended in May that the Committee for Economic Development seek competitive tenders for the operation of the London City route, the idea that the island’s main industry is left without this key route until such time as an alternative provider is found is of major concern.

Although the route was not as well supported as might have been hoped, it is still a vital link for London and international colleagues and customers of those working in the finance sector here. The route has had more than its share of problems but despite this passenger numbers have been growing and with better servicing and marketing will continue to build.

Whilst there is much talk of a possible runway extension, in the short term it is essential that we improve our connectivity by air and this is not helped by the loss of this key financial services route.

With roughly half the employment taxes coming from those working in the finance sector this rather smacks of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Hopefully the Committee for Economic Development can see the benefits of supporting an operator on this route under a public service agreement and will be able to act quickly to address this.”

ENDS

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