

GIBA Welcomes Approval of Open Skies Policy Letter

In response to the States of Guernsey approval of the Open Skies policy letter, GIBA Chairman David Oxburgh said: 'With transport links having been the biggest election issue two years ago, it is encouraging that there was such a full debate on the Air Transport Licensing Policy letter, with most States members taking an active part in the debate on this critical issue.

'GIBA welcomes the approval of the policy letter. As was said numerous times in the debate it is difficult to just look at air transport licensing in isolation - with the infrastructure review, including options for the runway, also being particularly relevant. We are however delighted that doing nothing was not the final result.

'There will be more interest from operators in the busier summer months and the concern that services will reduce in the winter months was raised many times in the debate. With this in mind, we reiterate our view that a suspension of landing charges should be trialled this winter, reflecting a practice adopted by many far larger airports to encourage demand in the quieter months.

'With both the main local operators having confirmed that any reduction in landing charges would be passed on in full to travellers, we encourage the Committee for Policy & Resources to give the States Trading & Supervisory Board the budgetary flexibility to implement such a trial commencing in October.

'So, whilst the ATL policy letter is only part of a relatively complex jigsaw, we regard today's approval of the policy as a definite step in the right direction.'

ENDS

Media enquiries:

For further information, requests for spokespeople or photography, please call Black Vanilla on 01481 729 229 or email nichole@black-vanilla.gg