

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Proposed Education Requête proposed by Deputies Dudley-Owen, Meerveld and Prow**

The plans for the 1 school on 2 sites model have never been presented to the States or the public detailed in totality. There is no one report that has recognised, brought together, and addressed all the issues.

Education is one of the most important services provided by any government. The quality of education influences the development of our community, skills learned by students will underpin future economic productivity and most importantly, a good education enables individuals to achieve their full potential. It is vital that any changes in education are based on strong evidence and are adapted for the needs of a community.

Opposition to the plans have been stated by the majority of teachers, the Douzaines and many in the community. Responses to their serious concerns have been inadequately addressed or ignored.

It was recently announced that a motion in the form of a Requête would be laid before the States for debate by Deputies Dudley-Owen, Meerveld & Prow. This will ask for a moratorium in the awarding of contracts to implement the 1 school on 2 sites until after the General Election.

The Committee will be asked to create a report which evaluates together the already researched and viable methods of delivering education in Guernsey.

Forcing through fundamental changes to our education system and its properties with undue haste before the election is neither prudent nor good practice. This delay will enable further evaluation of the model against the serious concerns raised by Douzaines, teachers, teaching unions, parents, pupils and residents.

Deputy Matt Fallaize's responses to yesterday's Rule 11 questions reinforces the urgent need for this Requête to prevent the hasty implementation of a plan which will materially change Guernsey's education system for the next 50 years.

It is clear from his responses as the current President of the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture that he and his Committee have no intention of making any substantial changes to the planned building footprints or 1 school on 2 sites management structure, regardless of the legitimacy of any objections from Douzaines, teachers, teaching unions, parents, pupils and residents.

During yesterday's States meeting Deputy Fallaize was asked:

**Question:**

*“In light of the results of the surveys released by teaching Unions in November 2019, which found that “over ¾ of teachers do not agree with the current plans for school transformation”, can the Committee for Education Sport and Culture (ESC) provide details of what tangible and substantive changes have been made, if any, to their one school on two sites building designs and also to the Outline Business Case, in response to Union concerns?”*

**Answer:**

*In his response, Deputy Fallaize stated: “The footprint of the buildings is not going to be enlarged beyond the extensions already approved by the States.”*

**Question:**

*“In light of the results of the surveys released by teaching Unions in November 2019, which found that “with more than four out of five disagreeing with one school on two sites”, can the Committee for ESC provide details of what tangible and substantive changes have been made, if any, to their one school on two sites organisational structure, implementation plans and also to the Outline Business Case, in response to Union concerns?”*

**Answer:**

*In his response, Deputy Fallaize stated: “The Outline Business Case cannot deviate from the ‘one school in two 11-18 colleges’ model because that is the model approved by the States in January 2018 and again in September 2019 and therefore that is the model my Committee is introducing as directed by the States.”*

**Question:**

*“Will there be any amendments to physical design and internal layout of the buildings and therefore to the submitted building plans in response to the concerns raised by teaching staff.”*

**Answer:**

*In his response, Deputy Fallaize stated: “changes to how internal space is used are largely a matter of reallocating space from one purpose to another. This does not of itself increase the total space available. The total space available is as agreed initially by my Committee and the Policy & Resources Committee and then by the States and is subject to the budget limits for the project set out in the States’ Resolutions of September 2019.”*

**Question:**

*“In light of the recent volume of robust public challenge raised on social media, by e-mail, by letter, by telephone and face to face contact with States members, will ESC be conducting further public engagement in order to make meaningful and substantive changes to the plans published so far and the Outline Business Case?”*

**Answer:**

*In his response, Deputy Fallaize stated: “Where new ideas come forward, we can adapt, but we must remember that we are now two years into a five-to six-year transition period. We are committed to providing the model of secondary education that this Assembly has voted for – twice.”*

These answers, and others given to supplementary questions, were not only inconsistent but show no willingness by the Committee to substantially change their plans in response to objections from Douzaines, teachers, teaching unions, parents, pupils and residents.

The Deputies developing this Requête are very concerned that a headlong rush to implement these plans before the election will result in issues undermining our education system for the 50-year design life of the new buildings.

The Requête will request a delay in awarding contracts until after the election when the newly elected Education Committee and Assembly, the people who will be responsible for the majority of the implementation, can make their assessment and decide whether to support the plans as proposed.

In the face of such growing public and professional opposition, if Deputy Fallaize and his Committee are confident in the integrity of their plans, they should not object to a reasonable delay in a model which is expected to last Guernsey for at least 50 years and will enable the next Committee and Assembly to review and endorse them.

**Deputy Andrea Dudley-Owen**

**Deputy Carl Meerveld**

**Deputy Rob Prow**