

# *Why it's important that Alderney adapts to changes in air transport*

There are several important reasons why the opportunity for full airport rehabilitation should be grasped at this moment, not just for Alderney but for the Bailiwick as a whole. It is the most important Alderney infrastructure project to be considered since the Breakwater in the 19th Century, and the eventual outcome will have a material effect on how Alderney develops in the decades ahead in terms of its level and rate of economic recovery.

### ***Economic Growth***

It has been estimated that Option C+ and the subsequent use by larger aircraft would lead to an additional 20,000 passenger seats per annum in and out of Alderney, and the opportunity to attract larger private aircraft. There is no other scenario that enables such traffic growth at relatively modest increases in operating costs. This would be a significant economic enabler for Alderney's fragile economy and enhance growth in fiscal revenues for the Bailiwick through business expansion.

### ***Meeting 21st Century regulations***

Air services to Alderney currently operate under several derogations and variations, which are determined outside the Islands by regulators, and over which we have very little or no control. If these are withdrawn or changed, which could occur at any time, Alderney would be left without satisfactory air services. Option C+ would make such derogations obsolete at Alderney Airport. The increased runway length and width, together with improved security systems, will thus future-proof Alderney's air services.

### ***PSO Options***

In the unlikely event that Aurigny could not, for whatever reason, provide air services, a longer runway would enable stronger competition for any future Public Service Obligation contract that may be required. Limited dimensions of the existing airport were the reasons given by established airlines in not tendering for the current PSO, effectively restricting the choice of aircraft to very limited design-types. The Outline Business Case indicates an annual recurring saving of around £800,000 on the PSO subsidy which is a critically important part of making Alderney's lifeline air routes sustainable in the long term. It is very unlikely that any future PSO subsidies would be agreed at the current levels of £2m per annum, hence the importance of significantly reducing the annual subsidy through the adoption of Option C+.

### ***Medevac Services***

The increased runway length would permit aircraft such as the Kingair to operate into Alderney Airport, and therefore enable the Island to be included in the Committee for Health and Social Care Committee's overall Medevac Contract for Guernsey. Hitherto, this has not been possible because of Alderney's restricted runway length. In addition to upgrading the island's medical service from an air taxi to an air ambulance, the provision of a medevac service will also reduce the costly disruptions to Aurigny and its scheduled passengers.