



The Government of Sark

POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Summary of Meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 5pm in the Assembly Room

Present:

Conseillers: Natalie Tighe (NT) – CHAIR, Jimmy Martin (JM)- DEPUTY CHAIR, John Guille (JG) Mike Locke (ML), Dave Curtis (DC), Frank Makepeace (FM), Edric Baker (EB), Helen Plummer (HP), Sam Keyte(SK), Nick Moloney (NM), Karl Rang (KR), Patrick Dewe (PD), Joe Perree (JP)

Civil Service: Rhys Rowlands (RR), Jen Robinson (JLR)

PDG001.26 Apologies

Carol Cragoe (CC), Michael Lanyon (ML2)

PDG002.26 Approval of minutes of 10/12/2025

The minutes were approved.

NT signed off the minutes as correct.

NT welcomed the new members.

PDG003.26 Cross Committee Communication & Transparency

The PDG discussed transparency. It was agreed that minutes should be published on the website.

The Disability audit was due to commence 29th May with the audit funded by a grant from the CPA. The works on La Coupee had finished ahead of schedule and under budget. Information had been requested at the tax surgeries on how funds are used. The amount of reserves and how best to use these for islanders was considered.

Committee/newsletter/public meetings/surgeries /facebook

There was a newsletter that would be distributed in the coming weeks. A Tax surgery had been scheduled for 16th May.

PDG004.26 New legislation

A Bailiwick legislation tracker had been created and was being updated by the office.

PDG005.26 Petition to chief Pleas requesting public consultation – Seigneurs stipend

The need for a public consultation had been agreed unanimously at the PDG in Sept 2025. The consultation document had been updated. There had been a meeting with the Seigneur regarding the consultation. The summary of that meeting had been viewed by PDG. It was again agreed to go ahead with a public consultation.

PDG006.26 SEL/loan facility update/ Bailiwick Commission

The Bailiwick Commission had visited Sark and held a public meeting. The public survey would still be available for another ten days.

Future Sark has been proactive in collecting responses from the public.

There had been a hearing regarding SEL asset valuation yesterday but no decision had been made by the Seneshal due to pending appeals.

PDG007.26 HE letter reference economic development

A letter to HE was being drafted by the Office.

PDG008.26 Regular Teams updates with MOJ

It was agreed that regular teams updates would be useful. There was due to be a visit shortly. The notice period for these visits was considered, more notice was requested.

PDG009.26 Propositions passing in the house but falling by the wayside

There had been meetings with the Law Officers and a legislation tracker had been created. Quarterly meetings with Chairs and Law officers could prioritise requirements.

PDG010.26 Scrutiny Management Committee

The Committee was now in place, There had been an update at the Easter Chief Pleas meeting. There would likely be a meeting next week.

PDG011.26 Publication of individual bios on the CP website

Some Conseillers had already provided information bios. Bios would soon be published on the Chief Pleas website.

PDG012.26 Virtual attendance to be addressed within Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas document

This had been discussed by P & F and brought to PDG. Virtual attendance currently was allowed but did not count for quoracy and there is no maximum. If changed to count towards quoracy it may cause security issues. Heavy use issues may also present challenges for Committees. Repeated non attendance has presented challenges for Committees. There was sometimes a requirement in emergency or time critical situations akin to COVID.

PDG013.26 The Derelict and Vacant property Law

There had been difficulties raised with defining 'Derelict'. Alderney and Guernsey land amenity legislation was considered. Implementing similar in Sark could be very complicated. If administered by a single Committee could cause issues due to subjective nature and size of community. Tax changes to vacant property could be a fairer way forward. It was a topic currently being considered by Taxation Review Committee.

PDG014.26 Future Sark

The postcards had been distributed around the island and many had been submitted. Workshops were due to take place in early June.

PDG015.26 Twinning

There had been a new Mayor elected in Port-Bail-sur-Mer who as in support of the twinning initiative and so it will be progressed.

PDG016.26 Livestreaming of Chief Pleas meetings

This was still under consideration.

PDG017.26 Publication of declarations of interest

These were already a matter of public record and were stored in the Greffier's Office. It was agreed that they should also be published on the website.

PDG018.26 Public Health Committee constitution

There had been several approaches to Committees that were public health related. The Public Health Committee currently fitted into Tourism. Creating a separate Committee to focus on Public health was considered. As other elements already fell under DCC and Ag, En & SF it was suggested that it could move to Medical.

PDG019.26 2026 General Election timetable

New draft timetables had been created with the proposed date for General election being Wednesday 25th November. In the event of a tie that would take place Wednesday 9th December. Elected Conseillers would then take office 12th December and an Extraordinary meeting would take place Monday 21st December to elect P &F chair and repopulate Committees.

This proposed timetable would allow more time for new Conseiller to settle in and prepare themselves ahead on January Committee meetings and Christmas Chief Pleas. Non Chief Pleas members terms of office could be aligned with Conseillers. The proposed timetable would be taken to the next Chief Pleas meeting.

PDG020.26 Introduction & Scoring of potential new policies

This was not covered due to time constraints.

PDG021.26 Next meeting date – TBC

The next meeting date was yet to be set, the hope was to have more regular meetings going forward.

AOB

There had been a letter from a concerned resident just before the meeting to the Tourism Committee. Some of the concerns would be for Douzaine so the letter would be passed on for due consideration. The road maintenance and road usage was already being looked at by the Douzaine.