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NEWS RELEASE

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Airport exhibition to tour the island

AN exhibition explaining the proposed essential works to the airport runway is touring the island.

The exhibition is currently at the Royal Court building and will move to the Princess Royal Centre for the Performing Arts on Monday 11 October. The stands will then move on to the Inner Street at the Markets on Monday 15 November.

As well as detailing the proposed scheme, the exhibition highlights the findings of a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA) carried out by Public Services' project consultants RPS in conjunction with local organisations and States bodies.

The EIA looked at the potential effects of the development, which in most cases were negligible, minor or moderate, and also identified possible mitigation measures to reduce these.

The study examined potential impact on the archaeology of the area; traffic and transport; air quality; and noise and vibration. Light pollution; flood risk; the local ecology, environment and landscape; and socio-economic factors were also considered.

The most significant impacts identified were the large number of heavy goods vehicles required during construction, the visual changes to some fields at the western end of the runway, and the loss of a small area of marshy grassland.

Mitigation measures considered include restrictions on the transport routes and size of vehicles to be used, and potential habitat creation or restoration projects elsewhere in the island. The EIA also highlights that the visual impact of the new grassed RESA at the western end had been significantly reduced following the redesign of the scheme last year.

Public Services Minister Deputy Bernard Flouquet said all aspects of the project were being planned in great detail, which included assessing any impacts during the construction phase and longer term.

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‘This is one of the most complex and extensive engineering projects that has ever been seen locally. The proposals approved by the States last September were the culmination of several years of planning and design, and that process has continued in preparation for appointing a contractor,’ he said.

In July, Public Services issued invitations to tender to four construction companies with specific experience of airfield projects. Bids are expected to be returned next month.

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