



Islands Plan Measures Success

Substantial progress was made by the Falkland Islands in meeting the objectives laid out in the Islands Plan 2004 - 2007.

Major achievements included a 155% increase in the average profitability of small businesses in 2006 over 2001; an 8% rise in the number of Islanders undertaking tertiary education; and the continued success of the Islands' fastest growing industry, tourism, which witnessed a 39% increase in the number of long stay visitors between the 2003/04 and 2006/07 seasons.

The Islands Plan - a rolling programme aimed at achieving sustainable economic growth - was introduced by the Falkland Islands Government in 2001.

Diversification of the economy is fundamental to the Plan, which is based on nine themes under which medium term targets for society, the economy and environment are laid out.

A report, "Our Progress 2004 - 2007", highlighting both the successes and areas where more progress is needed, formed the basis of the new Islands Plan 2008 - 2012.

Falkland Islands Government Chief Executive, Dr Tim Thorogood, said: "We are encouraged by the significant developments the Islands have made over the past four years. The new Plan has an even stronger focus on outcomes and milestones, which will enable us to monitor our progress even more closely."

2008 - 2012 Islands Plan key objectives include:

- **Self-Determination** – strengthen internal self-government in a new Constitution.
- **The Economy** – secure 5% growth in GDP over the life of the plan and increase economic development opportunities with new initiatives such as a definitive port strategy.
- **The Private Sector** – encourage entrepreneurs with business start-up facilities delivering £1 million of additional Gross Added Value.
- **Management of Public Services and Finance** – review civil service structure and reduce public sector dominance.
- **Camp** (*Falklands term for the countryside*) – develop a diversified Camp economy and socially vibrant and sustainable Camp population with 90% of all Camp businesses viable by 2009.
- **Education** – achieve the highest standards of educational achievement and develop a virtual classroom for Camp Education by 2010.
- **Health** – promote and maintain a healthy and fit society, including a 10% reduction in the number of smokers by 2012.
- **Environment** – conserve the natural diversity and ecology of the Islands and meet international standards and obligations in respect of the environment.

The Islands Plan 2004 – 2007 Progress Report and Islands Plan 2008 – 2012 can be viewed at www.falklands.gov.fk

High Quality Fishery

The Falklands Fishery enjoyed above average catches of both Loligo and Illex squid in the first part of the year. Initiatives by the Fisheries Department, including the development and implementation of electronic logbooks and daily monitoring of the fishery with up to the minute reports on stock status, have been key to the continued successful management of one of the world's most important resources of squid.

