

FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT



The Islands Plan 2004-2007

Our progress

The Islands Plan 2004-2007

Our progress

The Islands Plan for 2004 –2007 contained 9 key policies:

1. In Partnership with the United Kingdom, we will ensure our right to self-determination and British Sovereignty.
2. We will manage the economy wisely so that all sectors of society can prosper.
3. We will ensure that all residents have the opportunity to develop their abilities and skills through education and training. This must be done in a way that suits them and the needs of our society.
4. We will work to develop infrastructure, particularly transport and communications, to meet the economic and social development needs of Falkland Islanders.
5. We will work towards a healthy and fit society.
6. We will improve efficiency of Government Services to the Community and ensure that Government Financial Reserves are held at sensible levels.
7. Camp will remain viable as a well-populated and economically and socially sustainable community.
8. The unspoiled nature of our environment will be treasured and protected through environmentally sustainable development.
9. We will ensure a well-housed, well-served safe community.

Substantial progress has been made in all areas, though inevitably there are some areas where we would like to have done better and not all our aspirations have yet been achieved.

Major achievements include:

- **Right to Self Determination**

There have been continued successful Parliamentary visits. The Falklands international profile was raised through attendance at C24, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and EU fora. A successful PR campaign supporting the 25th Anniversary events elicited substantial positive publicity in several countries.

- **Increasing small business profitability**

The average profitability of businesses with less than 10 employees had increased by 155% in real terms in 2006 compared to 2001. (Data from Taxation Office)

- **Increasing tourism numbers**

Between the tourist seasons 2003/04 and 2006/07 there was an increase of 39% in the number of long stay tourists

The number of cruise ship passenger visits increased by 35% between 2001 and 2007. (Figures from FITB)

- **Retaining low unemployment**

In 2006 3.7% of the adult population were recorded as 'not working', compared to an OECD average of 6% (2006 Census data)

- **Improving the number of people with higher education**

The number of people with or undertaking a tertiary qualification increased by 8% by 2007 compared to 2001 (2006 Census data)

- **Reducing skills shortages**

By June 2007 training was provided in 81% of the skills gaps identified in the 2005 Training Needs Analysis.

- **Improving communications**

By 2007 all of our mainland population lived within 30 minutes drive of an all weather road with the exception of one farm, (according to Public Works Department). This means 99.9% of the population (using the 2006 Census data) have access to roads within 30 minutes.

The introduction of broadband internet access and mobile telephones to Stanley, MPA and surrounding areas demonstrate significant communication advances.

- **Enhancing our health**

In 2006 the Health Census recorded that 76% of respondents considered their health to be good or very good and that less than 5% were kept from doing their normal daily activities as a result of a health problem.

- **Prudent management of government**

The Government Consolidated fund has been maintained at more than 2.5 times annual Government operating expenditure (in June 2007 it was 2.9 times annual operating expenditure).

- **Camp**

In 2005 77% of Camp businesses recorded a profit.

Areas where we would like to have done better include:

- **Secondary education**

Our target of all children achieving their predicted potential when they join the Community School has not been achieved (during the period 2004/05-2006/07, an average of 56.6% of students achieved or exceeded their predicted potential at GCSE level)

Action: following the inspection of the School in November 2007, the new Head Teacher has produced with staff an improvement plan and Government will make available additional resources.

- **Economic growth**

Our target of 3% real grow in GDP has not been achieved, largely because income from the Fishery has been overall lower than expected.

Actions:

The new ITQ system in the fishery will result in a more stable environment and greater incentives to invest in the industry, leading to stronger economic growth

New major projects such as the proposed Port will increase economic activity and export levels.

Government will produce in consultation with businesses a comprehensive economic strategy for the Islands which will target additional growth areas for investment.

- **Reduction in government expenditure as proportion of GDP**

A target of 5% reduction by 2007 compared to 2001 has not been achieved (by 2004, government expenditure had fallen from 44% to 42% since 2004 GDP figures have not been produced.)

Action: Government has adopted a Medium Term Financial Plan which will reduce expenditure by £0.5m and increase revenue by £0.5m per year over each of the next four years.

Both these successes and areas where more progress is needed have formed the building blocks of the new Islands Plan for 2008 – 12. We have also learned that government needs to improve its ability to set specific targets and chart progress over time, taking remedial action where things are not on track. The new Islands Plan 2008 – 12 has a focus on outcomes and milestones which will allow progress to be monitored. It will be revised each year starting in November 2008, and the next version will include further methods to measure progress and report performance.

Cllr Mike Summers
Portfolio Holder
Policy

Dr Tim Thorogood
Chief Executive
Falkland Islands Government

MARCH 2008