

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

CONSULTANTS' REPORT HELPS CASE FOR ALTERNATIVE

Commenting on the publication of the Halcrow Appraisal of Alternatives for the Penzance Harbour improvement works for the Isles of Scilly Link, the MP for West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Andrew George, declared that it would help those who had to take the decisions.

Mr George has cautioned the Route Partnership that he believes that their favoured proposal – to build on Battery Rocks Beach – is now “politically undeliverable” and has offered to assist in negotiations with the Shipping Minister and the Department for Transport in case the funding timetable needs to be reviewed.

Mr George said, **“It is vitally important that we secure an improved and sustainable ferry and freight link between Penzance and the Isles of Scilly. Although it is frankly unacceptable that Penzance should have been left with important decisions to be taken in a climate of 11th hour brinkmanship, those decisions should still be taken with care and not leave a legacy for future generations to regret at their leisure. Penzance Harbour already has a history of this.**

“The report acknowledges that each of the three options are “workable solutions”. Much of the rest of the report is open to both reasonable interpretation and to calm debate.

“However – and perhaps crucially – the Consultants were not asked to assess the “political deliverability” of each of the options. I have made clear to the Route Partnership that, in my view, recent events have, if anything, inflamed the situation in the Penzance area and has made the Battery Rocks Beach extension a more difficult - if not impossible - project to deliver.

“Alternatives are “workable solutions”, as the report acknowledges. I will, if requested, speak again to Government Ministers in the Department for Transport to make sure that rigid timetabling rules do not scupper the proper resolution of the remaining decisions and statutory approvals which need to be made and secured before the project proceeds to its next phase”.

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