



Experience, Continuity & Change

GSLP Liberal Manifesto 2023

Get the **job done**

Keep Gibraltar **safe**

Keep Gibraltar **safe**

The GSLP Liberal Manifesto for the 2023 General Election is a comprehensive list of the progress made over the last four years and, importantly, the list of GSLP Liberal commitments for the next four.

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At this election, our programme for the next parliament is set out in a different way to our earlier manifestos. This manifesto is set out in four key parts. These four parts reflect the four components of the proposition we are presenting to the people of Gibraltar at this election.

PART I - GIBRALTAR IN THE WORLD

In Part I, we cover the reflection and representation of Gibraltar away from our shores. This includes the UK/EU Treaty, relations with Spain, the UK, external action, the US and the UN. The work of the GSLP Liberals in representing and defending Gibraltar's interests, and much of our success, relies on the work we do internationally. A comprehensive treatment of our work in those areas can be found here.

PART II - GIBRALTAR'S ECONOMY

In Part II, on Gibraltar's economy, we set out policy and achievements in all those areas of life and activity in Gibraltar that are related to our economic output. We deal with central elements of the economy, the business sectors that thrive in Gibraltar and also matters of the Civil Service and wider sector because, without that, Gibraltar's businesses cannot operate, let alone thrive.

PART III - QUALITY OF LIFE

In Part III, we focus on what we consider is a central theme for the next few years for the GSLP Liberals, and one that we will focus much of our energy on, going forward, improving even further the quality of life in Gibraltar. The defence and representation of Gibraltar in the world, the running of the economy and ensuring we're hitting our targets for revenue, expenditure etc, are all of vital importance, but without a great quality of life we can all perceive in our day-to-day,

our job is not done. We all, increasingly, identify with the importance of a better quality of life. Everyone is especially and acutely aware of whenever there is an extraneous impact on their quality of life by any one of a number of issues. In this section we will be including all matters of the environment, of course, and sport, leisure, outdoor activity, and a focus on wellness. We will cover the facilities that we have provided and the ones we will provide. We will talk about civic pride as a component of quality of life. We all have to pull in the same direction, we all play a role. Keeping Gibraltar Safe is vital. Keeping Gibraltar clean and tidy is also important and entirely within our reach. It is something that everyone can and should join in with. We will deal with the new Development Plan but also, e.g., the Considerate Constructor Scheme that will help reduce the impact of all development. We will talk about the incredible investment we have made in Education and how that has impacted and can impact on our quality of life. Housing, our treatment of the elderly, and the young; and everything else besides that adds to how we live our lives is addressed in this part.

PART IV - HEALTH, CARE, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY

Part IV is the section that covers Health, Care, Justice and Equality. Health and the GHA are a significant focus in the community, and rightly so. Our interactions with the health services that we need when all is not well in our lives or in the lives of loved ones are the most important. It is when we are vulnerable, unwell, or simply unsure, that the best quality treatment (and a lot of kindness and diligence) is what we value the most. Dealing with Health and the Quality of Life separately is only a function of the separate focus the GSLP Liberals believe there should be on wellness versus disease management.

Throughout the text, you will meet the members of the team too, and learn a little more about our new candidates. We do hope you'll find this manifesto helpful and interesting. We hope you will give us the opportunity to continue to get the job done, and **Keep Gibraltar Safe**.

**“I give Gibraltar
everything, every
day, every time.
Without fail.”**



Fabian Picardo KC

Fabian Picardo is a father of two handsome young boys, Sebastian and Oliver and a beautiful little girl, Valentina. He has served you as Chief Minister of Gibraltar since 9 December 2011. His responsibilities have included the economy and finance, the Civil Service, HM Customs and industrial relations & the drugs service. He has represented Gibraltar around the world including at the United Nations in New York and the EU in Brussels and he has led the Gibraltar Brexit negotiating team.

He is a King's Counsel by profession who qualified from Oxford University and is called to the Bar in Gibraltar and the BVI. He was recently made a bencher of the Middle Temple. He is the leader of the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party.

My dear fellow Gibraltarians,

We have reached a crossroads in our history.

You have to decide, on the 12th October 2023, whether to vote to continue to take Gibraltar forwards with the GSLP Liberals, or risk taking Gibraltar backwards with the GSD.

That is the stark reality of the choices facing you.

ASAFE AND SECURE UK/EU TREATY, GUARANTEED

Gibraltar faces a defining moment.

We are on the cusp of something very special and are very close indeed to delivering a safe and secure deal with the EU that does NOT cross ANY of the GSLP Liberal red lines on sovereignty, jurisdiction and control.

I guarantee you I will bring back a treaty that is safe and secure. I will NOT bring back a treaty that is not safe and secure.

We have been working tirelessly alongside the United Kingdom, negotiating with Spain and the EU to secure a future that protects our economy, our people, and our way of life.

These negotiations have been complex, often challenging, but they have been absolutely necessary.

As a result, we have been unable to deal with other matters. I know you understand that.

In the negotiations we have shown the world that Gibraltar stands united, resolute, and well-prepared in the face of uncertainty.

We have engaged in careful and strategic planning for a "no-deal" scenario to ensure that, regardless of the outcome of the negotiations, we are ready to navigate the challenges that will come our way.

The stakes could not be higher.

In this critical moment, in the final months of the most difficult negotiation in our history, it is not the time to change your Government.

Continuity and experience really matter now, more than ever.

Joseph and I have been at the forefront of these negotiations, representing the interests of Gibraltar with dedication and steadfast commitment.

Our team has demonstrated a deep understanding of the complexities involved and has worked tirelessly to secure the best possible outcome for Gibraltar.

The fact is that changing the Government at this juncture could seriously disrupt the progress we have made and put at risk the gains we have achieved through hard-fought negotiations.

That would not be good for Gibraltar.

We are on the brink of a positive new chapter in our history, and the decisions we make now will shape the future of Gibraltar for generations to come.

More than ever, we need experienced leadership, a steady hand, and a proven track record to navigate these uncertain waters successfully.

We have proven time and again that we are up to the task.

Our opponents have flip-flopped on the key issues in this negotiation.

The GSD's and Mr Azopardi's lack of consistency on the key issues (including on whether an Andorra style solution would amount to 'joint sovereignty') means that a GSD government would be run over by the other side if they are ever sat at the negotiating table to represent Gibraltar.

That is not a risk you can afford to take with the future of our children and our children's children.

BETTER HOUSING

In fact, you will want to ensure that you also do not risk the great progress we have made in domestic political issues.

On affordable housing, we have demonstrated once again that we build the best quality.

Phase 1 of Hassan Centenary Terraces is a brilliant example of the quality of homes we are delivering for our people.

We will finalise the construction of Phase 2 of HCT, as well as Chatham Views and Bob Peliza Mews and we will also deliver more affordable homes and more rental homes.

That is a commitment you know we will deliver on, as we have done before, despite the delay that COVID caused us.

As Chief Minister of Gibraltar I have delivered 1,345 affordable homes and 142 rental homes already. Additionally, 1085 new homes are already contracted for.

In the GSD, Mr Azopardi's record of construction of property

is literally ZERO.

In the time he was Deputy Chief Minister the GSD developed literally ZERO affordable homes.

Now we are further committing to new projects for the sale of affordable homes for young people and pensioners, as well as new rental home projects.

We will also introduce a new concept of 'First Home Ownership' which will be designed to be super-affordable – at a cost of £99,000 and with monthly cost of less than £100 per month.

This is a further new concept introduced by us to help young people get on the property ladder.

My Governments have delivered more housing than the GSD ever promised to build.

We understand the pressing demand for housing, and we are dedicated to addressing it comprehensively.

In this manifesto, our contract with you, you will see our ambitious plans for housing will lead to everyone on the Housing Waiting List being housed.

With the above, we believe we have found a formula that will deliver this.

BETTER HEALTHCARE

And in the GHA we have made massive progress also.

The GHA is now totally independent.

More disciplines are provided for in Gibraltar than ever before.

MRI and CAT scanning facilities are already available without

patients having to travel.

Waiting times for treatments have been slashed and are better than in the UK and most other European countries.

Yet we still have work to do in this area.

That is why, if you return us to Government, I will appoint one of Gibraltar's top professionals, Gemma Arias-Vasquez to be Minister for Health after the election.

COVID-19

The GHA found its finest hour when it had to save us all from the worst potential consequences of COVID-19.

The pandemic was an unprecedented challenge that tested the strength of nations and communities across the globe.

Gibraltar was no exception.

In the early days of the pandemic, we faced grim projections, with initial advice suggesting that we could lose around 300 Gibraltarians every week. The fear and uncertainty was palpable, but we could not falter.

As a Government, we acted swiftly and decisively.

We implemented a series of measures to protect our community.

We had to put in place a strict lockdown, widespread testing, contact tracing, and an aggressive vaccination campaign.

It was a difficult and painful journey, but we stood united and resolute in our commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of our people.

I am proud to say that our collective efforts paid off.



We managed to control the spread of the virus, protect our vulnerable citizens, and avoid the catastrophic loss of life that was initially predicted.

We did, however, lose over 100 of our people to the pandemic.

These were some of our darkest days.

I pay tribute to all those we lost in the fight against this deadly disease as well as to all those who helped us defeat it.

You all know who you are. Thank you.

AN EDUCATION REVOLUTION

In education we have also delivered more in 12 years than the GSD even promised to do in 16.

The fact is that education is the cornerstone of any prosperous society, and we have made it a top priority.

We had no other choice but to make this a top priority given the serious neglect in this area by the GSD.

In their 16 years in office, the GSD built ZERO new schools.

In the past 12 years, and despite a global pandemic, we have built 10 new schools.

This achievement is not just about bricks and mortar.

It represents our unwavering commitment to providing the best possible education for our children.

These new schools are more than just buildings; they are centres of learning and innovation.

They are places where our children can dream, grow, and prepare for the challenges of the future.

With modern facilities, well-trained, committed teachers, and cutting-edge technology, we are ensuring that our future generations receive a world-class education.

But our work in education doesn't stop at construction.

We have also invested in curriculum development, teacher and LSA resources, and continued to increase our financing for university grants.

Every school now has a Learning Support Facility.

There was only one LSF, in one school, when we were elected.

Children in these facilities enjoy a pupil/teacher/SNLSA ratio of almost 1 to 1.

Because our goal is not only to provide more schools but also to ensure that the quality of education in Gibraltar is second to none.

When you vote for us, you are voting for a government that deeply values the future of our children.

OVER A DECADE OF PROGRESS

You know that, although we do not pretend to be perfect, over the past decade, we have worked tirelessly to build a brighter future for Gibraltar.

I am immensely proud of what we have achieved.

As you read through this ambitious 2023 manifesto, you will see what we are proposing to do next to keep Gibraltar advancing.

We will refer throughout also to our record over the past 12 years, as this will be how you can judge us objectively and is your guarantee that we will deliver, once more, on our commitments to you.

FINALLY...

Yet in the end, in the final analysis, one thing is key to keep Gibraltar safe for the next four years.

I cannot repeat enough how much the current moment demands stability and consistency.

We cannot afford to take risks with our future, especially when we are so close to achieving a safe and secure future relationship agreement with the EU.

I ask you to consider the progress we have made together as a community.

The GSLP Liberals have shown that we are committed to investing in our education, health and housing, in protecting our people in times of crisis, and providing for the most vulnerable in our society.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your support, and your belief in our vision for Gibraltar.

Our journey has not been without challenges.

Together, we have overcome them.

Now, as we look to the future, I ask you for your trust one more time.

Your vote in the upcoming election is not just a vote for a political party.

It's a vote for the future of Gibraltar.

For the better education of our children.

For our resilience in the face of adversity.

And a vote for the promise of a better tomorrow for us all.

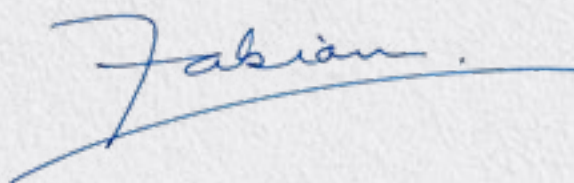
Let us continue to work together, united by our shared vision.

Let us ensure that Gibraltar remains a place of prosperity and opportunity, progress and equality as well as hope for all.

Do what you think is right for your family.

Please vote all 10 GSLP Liberal candidates on the 12th of October.

Thank you!



Fabian

**“Now is not the
time for change.
Experience and
continuity matters”**



Dr Joseph Garcia

Joseph Garcia is the Leader of the Liberal Party since 1992 and Deputy Chief Minister of Gibraltar since 2011. He is a historian and the author of a doctoral thesis on the modern political and constitutional development of Gibraltar. This was later published as the book "Gibraltar: The Making of a People". Joseph has been in active politics for 32 years and served as a Member of Parliament for 24 of them. This makes him the second longest serving Member in Parliament, after Sir Joe Bossano. He was a Member of the Select Committee that drew up the Constitution and formed a part of the Gibraltar team in the subsequent negotiations with the United Kingdom. Joseph has been heavily involved in all aspects of the Brexit negotiations, including those on the future relationship. He has led on contingency planning in order to keep Gibraltar as safe as possible in the event of no treaty being agreed.

Joseph has had responsibility for coordinating the external action of Gibraltar in London, Brussels, New York and Washington. In 2021 he was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George for his services to Gibraltar by the late Queen Elizabeth II. He is married to Penny and has a son and daughter aged 19 and 16.

Now is not the time for change. Experience matters.

We find ourselves at a critical juncture.

Little did we know when we went to the polls in 2019 the dramatic four years that lay in store. The challenges brought about by the pandemic and the intricacies of Brexit have really tested the patience and the resilience of us all.

Yet we have remained steadfast in our commitment to advance Gibraltar in many areas, thereby paving the way for a brighter tomorrow.

Given that we stand at a pivotal crossroads, these elections must be about who you want to navigate Gibraltar towards a treaty with the European Union going forward.

The outcome of these negotiations will profoundly impact our economy, trade relationships, and the well-being of our people.

STEADY, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

In these uncertain times, steady and experienced leadership is paramount. Experience does matter when dealing with highly complex negotiations like those underway with the EU.

Fabian and I have been tirelessly engaged in these negotiations, and our track record speaks for itself.

In a first phase of negotiations with the United Kingdom, we secured UK market access for Gibraltar's financial services and online gaming firms. We also saved millions of pounds by securing UK fees for our students and free elective treatment for our patients.

In phase two, we saved Gibraltar from crashing out of the EU before the United Kingdom through our inclusion in the Withdrawal Agreement through a package of measures.

In the third phase, Gibraltar was included in the transition out of the EU after we concluded the Political Framework for a new treaty at the end of December 2020.

We have consistently demonstrated our commitment to finding solutions that benefit our community, and with your support, we will continue our efforts to conclude negotiations with the UK, EU, and Spain regarding a future relationship treaty with the EU.

All this takes time. It has meant that in our determination to resolve this bigger picture we have not had the hours in a day to attend to other matters. I can only apologise for this reality.

In times of uncertainty, responsibility must be a priority.

We have consistently shown that the well-being of our community is precisely our top priority. We have managed Gibraltar's affairs responsibly, particularly during the challenging periods of the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit.

Our actions have saved lives.

Our decisions have saved Gibraltar.

Continuity is therefore equally essential. We are best positioned to conclude the treaty negotiations because we have been immersed in the detail throughout. It does not make sense to change the Government at this stage.

Neither should we forget that the EU was not ready to start talking until October 2021.

Domestically, also, the progress we have achieved in education, housing, and internationally should not be put at risk by a sudden change in leadership.

CONTINUITY

Continuity ensures that the positive momentum we have built in the negotiations will continue and that the personal relationships we have developed with our counterparts will be put to good effect.

A change in leadership at this critical juncture will disrupt the delicate stage of negotiations with the EU and Spain – there is no doubt about that.

As well as negotiating a future relationship agreement with the EU, we have been also planning for the reasonable worst-case scenario – a 'no deal' or No Negotiated Outcome (NNO). Those plans cannot possibly mitigate every issue that will arise, that is impossible, and we would certainly feel the full impact of life outside the European Union.

WE ARE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT

We are on the brink of something special. We are close to an

agreement, but complex issues still remain.

Like every other country in the world, we have also had to deal with the many issues that arose from the pandemic. The first duty of any government is to save lives, and this was our priority throughout.

A field hospital was set up at Europa Point, a Covid testing laboratory at the University and a test centre at the Mid Town coach park. In government, we invested heavily in PPE, in equipment and in medical supplies. Gibraltar became a world leader in testing and in vaccination, with the support of the United Kingdom.

This was a terrible time, and it is easy to forget what we all went through. The lockdowns and restrictions we all had to endure kept Gibraltar safe.

We also set out to save jobs, to save businesses and to save the economy too, and agreed the details of the scheme with the GSD in opposition. The cost of Covid ran to well over £400 million and we agreed to this expenditure together.

KEEP GIBRALTAR SAFE

Keeping Gibraltar safe has been, and continues to be, at the centre of everything we have done.

When you go to cast your vote on 12 October, I would urge you to bear in mind the serious international issues that the GSLP Liberal government has had to deal with over the last four years.

But I would also point you to our record in office.

We have delivered ten new schools with an investment in education that is without precedent in the history of Gibraltar. We have provided a small boats marina, a University of Gibraltar and a Gibraltar International Bank.

There are now first-class sporting facilities at Europa Point and Lathbury including a new swimming pool. Gibraltar Special Olympics have been provided with impressive facilities as well. As have the pistol and rifle shooting clubs and the clay pigeon shooting club.

In addition to this we have over two thousand homes

completed or under construction. A new Primary Care Centre and a new Children's Primary Care Centre are also in place.

This is a track record to be proud of. It is proof enough that the GSLP Liberals get the job done.

Now, more than ever, changing the team that has the plan to deliver a treaty with the EU would not be a wise decision.

We also have the plan to see Gibraltar through the consequences of no treaty.

For those who want change, we have provided change from within. Five colleagues have stepped down from Parliament and five new brilliant candidates have stepped into the team. The GSLP Liberals now provide a unique blend of vital experience, continuity and fresh faces.

FINISH WHAT WE STARTED

This is the time to finish what we started.

Covid disrupted our programme of government from 2020.

However, we will be able to conclude the negotiations with the European Union if you give us the opportunity to do so.

A treaty that is safe, secure and beneficial to Gibraltar.

On 12th October, when you hold your ballot, please consider the progress we have made and the stability we offer as we navigate those uncertain waters.

Together, we can secure a prosperous and promising future for our Gibraltar.

Together, we can deliver on what we promised.

Together, we will Keep Gibraltar Safe and Get the Job Done.

Vote for all ten GSLP Liberal candidates to secure a GSLP/ Liberal Government.





1. Fabian Picardo and Joseph Garcia with Liz Truss and James Cleverly.
2. Fabian and Joseph going into Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister.
3. Fabian and Joseph with Prime Minister Johnson.
4. Treaty discussions with UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly.
5. At the UN in New York with US Representative David Liston.
6. A meeting of the UK-GIB Joint Ministerial Council.
7. Then Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab in Gibraltar.
8. Fabian and Joseph brief Labour Leader Sir Keir Starmer.
9. Fabian and Joseph with former Foreign Secretary now Chancellor Jeremy Hunt.
10. Meeting of UK-GIB Joint Ministerial Council with three UK Ministers in the room.

PART I

GIBRALTAR IN THE WORLD

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

These elections are about the team and the people that you want to lead the ongoing negotiations with Spain and the European Union in respect of a Gibraltar treaty. This single issue has dominated our politics since the Brexit referendum of 2016, and it will continue to do so after this general election. The leader of the GSLP Fabian Picardo and the leader of the Liberal Party Joseph Garcia are the best people, with the experience and the contacts, to continue the negotiations and take them forward to a positive conclusion.

A SAFE AND SECURE TREATY

A GSLP Liberal Government would remain fully committed to the negotiation of a safe, secure and beneficial treaty which regulates the future relationship of Gibraltar with the European Union. This is a complex legal, technical and political process which Mr Picardo and Dr Garcia know inside out, having lived and breathed every detail ever since it commenced.

There is nobody else standing for election who can bring this experience to bear for the benefit of Gibraltar as a whole.

It is important to bear in mind that even local officials have not been present in every meeting, where commitments have been given and positions have been taken by the European Union and by Spain. That contact, at a senior political level, has been for Mr Picardo and Dr Garcia alone.

In Government, as our Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, they have spent thousands of hours in hundreds of meetings designed to safeguard and protect Gibraltar and its people from the obvious challenge that our departure from the EU has brought with it. They have established the very necessary personal relationships with the protagonists on the other side of the table.

Those relationships, and the experience of having lived through the entire negotiating process, will be invaluable to Gibraltar going forward.

All this means that now is not the time to change the Government.

Indeed, it is precisely the time devoted to those negotiations, which has consumed all the GSLP Liberal administration, which may well mean that our Ministers have not been able to devote more attention to other areas. There are some things we could have done differently and other things we could have done better with more time on our hands. However, the momentous importance of navigating our departure from the European Union and getting right our future relationship with it has understandably been the priority.

The influence and law of the European Union stretched into every area of our lives in the period of time that we were members of it. This needs to be untangled with experience, sensitivity, and care. We are the only ones with the necessary experience to do this.

EU EXIT PACKAGE

The first success of the GSLP Liberal Government was the negotiation of a package of measures with the United Kingdom. This included access for Gibraltar companies into the UK market in financial services and online gaming, home fees for Gibraltar students at UK Universities, and a healthcare agreement. This action protected our trading relationship with the United Kingdom and saved the taxpayer millions of pounds.

The package came as a prelude to our successful departure from the European Union with a series of positive measures that saved Gibraltar from crashing out of the EU two years before the United Kingdom itself. That scenario would have represented an unmitigated disaster both economically and politically.

The package of measures which cushioned our EU exit saw the inclusion of Gibraltar in the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement and the conclusion of a Tax Treaty and four Memoranda of Understanding with Spain. Most importantly, Gibraltar was able to enjoy a transition period which ran parallel to, and ended at the same time, as that for the UK itself.

The experience gained from this work will be put to good use as we continue to tie up the future relationship treaty as well.

2020 POLITICAL FRAMEWORK

The basis for the new treaty was concluded on New Year's Eve 2020 between Gibraltar, the United Kingdom and Spain. This Political Framework once again saved Gibraltar from a hard Brexit for the second time.

That Framework makes it clear that Gibraltar's main interest lies in a mobility agreement for the fluid movement of persons across the border. That would remain the central objective of a GSLP Liberal Government in the event that we are returned to office.

The Framework also looked at the movement of goods because of the impact that this could have on the movement of persons. In other words, despite the absence of immigration control, border queues could still be created using customs controls.

The object of the treaty is to remove the historic ability to generate border delays, through the removal of controls, and in this way improve the quality of life of all citizens.

AREA OF SHARED PROSPERITY

In Government, the GSLP Liberals will continue to work towards an area of shared prosperity provided that a treaty about Gibraltar can be agreed between the United Kingdom and the European Union. The economic prosperity created by Gibraltar is already shared with the neighbouring region of Spain. There are, for example, some 15,000 people who live in Spain and work in Gibraltar, the majority of whom are Spanish nationals.

In addition to this, Gibraltarians are estimated to spend some £150 million a year on second homes and leisure

activities across the border. The last figures published by Spain's commerce ministry showed that Gibraltar companies purchase 1.5 billion euros annually from Spanish suppliers and studies have shown that Gibraltar PLC was the second largest employer for the entire region of Andalucia.

The removal of border controls between Gibraltar and the European Union would increase the prosperity of Gibraltar further still, which remains our main priority, and this would have a positive knock-on effect on the surrounding region.

OPPOSITION CONTRADICTORY AND INDECISIVE

In Opposition, the GSD have already shown themselves to be contradictory, weak and indecisive in relation to the challenges posed by our departure from the European Union.

They have dithered and wavered, saying different things at different times, on the single most important decision that our country has faced. Those comments have ranged from the need for a Protocol like Northern Ireland, at a time when it was engulfed in controversy, the need to be a part of the United Kingdom deal, which was a free trade agreement not a mobility deal, and the need for a bespoke agreement for Gibraltar.

In contrast, the GSLP Liberals have been clear, direct and unequivocal from day one. It is evident that the GSD would be incapable and unable to provide the leadership that Gibraltar needs to take matters to a satisfactory conclusion.

The GSD idea that there should be a joint Government-Opposition negotiating team is testament to both their weakness and their lack of experience. It also betrays a singular lack of confidence in themselves and in their own abilities.

The GSD have been critical of every single step that the GSLP Liberal Government have taken in respect of Brexit. They were against the inclusion of Gibraltar in the Withdrawal Treaty in the way it happened, they opposed the Tax Treaty which has settled such matters with Spain, and they were critical of the MoUs concluded at that time.

However, the height of political hypocrisy has been GSD criticism of the 2020 Political Framework. This is the very foundation on which the proposed new treaty with the EU is being built. It is a flat contradiction to rubbish that framework on the one hand, as the GSD have done, and then to call for a joint negotiating team under it on the other!

The GSD have been nebulous and contradictory on Brexit when the times call for leadership and clarity.

It is not possible to have a joint negotiating team when our policies are so different and when the GSD have criticised every step we have taken so far.

NO TREATY WITH THE EU

A considerable amount of work has been done in Government to mitigate for a No Negotiated Outcome (NNO) to the treaty negotiations. It is important to understand that Gibraltar can only prepare up to a point because many issues are out of our

hands and depend on the goodwill of third parties like Spain and the European Union.

The situation has nonetheless improved in many areas. A new ferry ramp at the port and the works to the container berth have increased the resilience of Gibraltar in respect of imports by sea. This means that there is now the storage capacity to connect more refrigerated containers than ever before.

A baler, shredder, wrapper and compactor has already been used to reduce the volume of our waste prior to storage, during a period when its exportation to Spain has not been possible.

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to mitigate for the impact of no treaty, as far as is possible, while remaining fully committed to securing a safe, secure, and beneficial future relationship with the EU.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM

In Government, the GSLP Liberals have taken relations with the United Kingdom to a new level. Indeed, the relationship with Whitehall and Westminster has never been as positive and constructive as it is now.

This is despite the obvious ideological differences between the parties in Government in Gibraltar and that in the UK, particularly in relation to Brexit and the European Union. The strength of that relationship has led the UK to agree to negotiate a treaty for Gibraltar with the European Union which is very different to what it secured for itself, but which is essential for Gibraltar.

This has seen Gibraltar's leaders received in 10 Downing Street by different Prime Ministers with access as required directly to the Foreign Secretary and other senior UK Ministers.

That closeness was also reflected during the pandemic when the UK made available vaccines to Gibraltar to allow us to become the first fully vaccinated territory in the world. The Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, then the Chancellor, also agreed to a £500 million loan guarantee scheme for Gibraltar in order to reduce the interest and spread out the cost of the pandemic.

The GSLP Liberals have built a series of personal relationships with UK Ministers and officials that it would not be viable or sensible to replace at this delicate moment in time with a treaty in the balance.

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to work closely in lockstep with the United Kingdom on the issues that matter to Gibraltar. We have a proven track record already.

RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to seek better relations with Spain and to engage in a friendly and constructive manner in order to resolve the day-to-day issues that may arise between us.

However, as we have demonstrated already, we will have no hesitation in standing up for the best interests of Gibraltar



and its people at the same time.

It is important to remember that Gibraltar left the European Union, together with the UK, on 31 January 2020. However, the GSLP Liberal Government, together with London, negotiated a series of bridging measures with Madrid in order to mitigate the full impact of our departure.

Those bridging measures covered a wide range of areas, including the non-stamping of the passports of resident red identity card holders. This alone represented a considerable achievement and reflected the determination of all sides not to allow the new situation to disrupt the lives of ordinary citizens. Despite the best efforts of both the UK and Gibraltar to secure the continuation of the same exemption for the holders of blue civilian registration cards, this has not been possible to date.

Some of the other bridging measures have since lapsed with time.

The key policy of a GSLP Liberal Government at the border is the principle of reciprocity, which will be implemented in a sensitive and intelligent manner when required.

NO TALKS ON SOVEREIGNTY

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue with the cardinal policy that the sovereignty of Gibraltar is not a matter for negotiation with Spain.

We will not enter into any negotiations on the sovereignty of Gibraltar because we have no intention of surrendering our sovereign rights.

NO TO ANDORRA SOLUTION

The GSLP Liberals therefore reject the notion that an Andorra-style solution is acceptable, suitable, or desirable for Gibraltar.

Andorra has shared Heads of State from France and Spain, in a system that may suit their own historical and political evolution from feudal times. The equivalent here would be shared Heads of State from the UK and Spain. We reject this outright.

Indeed, this is simply a variation of the shared sovereignty concept that the people of Gibraltar already overwhelmingly rejected in the 2002 referendum.

Spain has watched the debate on this point very closely. It has exposed a serious weakness in the GSD because its leader has argued, in an academic paper, that Andorra is not joint sovereignty.

A GSLP Liberal Government would never agree to such an Andorra-style joint sovereignty arrangement for Gibraltar.

AIRPORT

The position defended by the GSLP Liberals, throughout our time in office and before, is that Gibraltar is British from the lighthouse to the frontier fence, including the isthmus, the territorial waters and the airspace above it all. This means that we cannot and will not concede one iota of our sovereignty and jurisdiction.

We are nonetheless prepared to explore practical and technical solutions, without sovereignty implications, to facilitate flights between Gibraltar airport and airports in the European Union.

SELF-DETERMINATION

The GSLP Liberals will always uphold the principle that the future of Gibraltar can only be freely and democratically decided by the people of Gibraltar in exercise of the right to self-determination.

This means that we will continue to work with the United Kingdom and the United Nations in order to secure the decolonisation of Gibraltar and its removal from the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Gibraltar will not cease to be a Non-Self-Governing Territory in the eyes of the international community until it has been removed from the UN list.

Given that the views of the people of the Territories must be paramount in their decolonisation, a GSLP Liberal Government will explore working together with other territories on the UN list, particularly those where the United Kingdom is the Administering Power.

DECOLONISATION

We do not agree with the view expressed by the GSD that Gibraltar has been decolonised and that there is no need to appear before the Committee of 24. Therefore, we will continue to engage with the United Nations, both formally and informally, and remain fully committed to appear before both the UN Committee of 24 and the UN Fourth Committee on an annual basis.

In Government, the GSLP Liberals will work on new strategies and tactics at the United Nations and elsewhere in order to progress the decolonisation and delisting of Gibraltar.

There needs to be an informed debate on the four options open to Gibraltar in terms of its decolonisation, in particular the tailor-made solution which was adopted by all parties present at the time when the 2006 Constitution was drawn up.

NATIONAL DAY

Gibraltar National Day plays a key role in the assertion by the people of Gibraltar of the right to determine their own future. It is important to continue to invite cross-party political figures from the United Kingdom and elsewhere to experience for themselves the strength of feeling on this subject.

The GSLP Liberals shall, in office, continue to support the SDGG in relation to the organisation of the political rally and other events around National Day.

We will oppose any attempts to dilute the political content and message of National Day as happened when the GSD was last in power.

EXTERNAL ACTION

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to vest responsibility for the external action of Gibraltar in the Office of the Deputy Chief Minister. In this way, we will continue to coordinate policy, in particular, in relation to the United Nations, the European Union, the Commonwealth and other organisations. Gibraltar House in London and Brussels will report here on their political work. We will continue to work on political lobbying including any specific campaigns.

POLITICAL LOBBYING WORK

In Government, the GSLP Liberals will continue to promote, protect, and defend the interests of Gibraltar and the wishes of its people. This means that we will carry on with the existing work in London, Brussels, Washington and New York and we will expand this further as and when necessary.

GIBRALTAR HOUSE LONDON

We will continue to develop Gibraltar House in London as the hub of the activity of a GSLP Liberal Government in the United Kingdom. This will involve a flexible approach to the needs of Gibraltar at a given moment in time which could be political, economic or tourist orientated.

In order to provide continuity and invaluable experience to young Gibraltarians, a Junior Political Officer was recruited during this last term of office.

GIBRALTAR HOUSE BRUSSELS

A GSLP Liberal Government will maintain the existing presence of Gibraltar in Brussels through Gibraltar House whether or not there is a treaty on our future relationship with the European Union.

In the event of a treaty, a huge volume of work will be generated and much of that will involve interaction with the EU and its institutions. If it is not possible to conclude a treaty, it will become even more important to fly the flag in Brussels.

We will encourage greater cooperation with UK institutions and organisations based in Brussels through Gibraltar House.

The appointment of a Junior Political Officer in Brussels was put on hold pending the treaty outcome. In Government, we will review this decision once the direction of travel is clear.

UK PARTY CONFERENCES

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to attend the conferences of the main political parties in the United Kingdom. This work has allowed both Fabian Picardo as Chief Minister and Joseph Garcia as Deputy Chief Minister to expand their personal network of contacts among the different UK parties.

Gibraltar has, over the years, been represented in different ways at the conferences of the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Scottish National Party and Ulster Unionists.



The connection of the GSLP with the UK Labour Party and of the Liberal Party of Gibraltar with the UK Liberal Democrats, and the wider Liberal political family internationally, will continue to be developed for the wider benefit of Gibraltar as a whole. Those personal contacts proved to be very useful when the Liberal Democrats formed part of a UK coalition government from 2010 until 2015 and held the post of Deputy Prime Minister.

Nonetheless, in Government we have been keen to expand the cross-party nature of Gibraltar's support which has seen Mr Picardo and Dr Garcia meet with all the relevant leadership personalities during their time in office. Another example of those personal relationships is that Mr Picardo has known Labour Leader Keir Starmer for many years, from their time together at the Bar in London.

There is nobody better connected into the UK political system than the GSLP Liberal leadership team. That is why relations between Gibraltar and London are better than ever.

ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

We will continue to work closely with the APPG in the Westminster Parliament in order to promote and protect the best interests of Gibraltar. This will include providing regular briefings and information to MPs and Peers through Gibraltar House in London, as well as directly through Ministers. We will continue to organise fact-finding visits to

Gibraltar as part of this process.

GIBRALTAR DAY

The GSLP Liberals have in Government transformed Gibraltar Day in London into a more targeted commercial and political event compared to that which we inherited. There are now focused business meetings which are financed by those who attend. In addition to this, there is also a reception for Ambassadors, High Commissioners, diplomats, UK politicians, military and senior officials.

These events are normally attended by a UK Government Minister which is a very useful symbol, in the presence of the London business and diplomatic community, of the closeness of the relationship between Gibraltar and the UK.

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue with the new slimmed down version of Gibraltar Day in London.

DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS

The level of contact with the Devolved Administrations has increased since the referendum on whether to leave or remain in the European Union. There has been direct contact with the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in that time.

This is a positive development which the GSLP Liberals will continue to encourage in Government because we have

much to learn from each other as part of the British family of nations.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Gibraltar hosted a meeting of the UK Overseas Territories around National Day 2023. This provided a platform to prepare for the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council with the UK in November. In addition to this, there was an opportunity to exchange views on constitutional development and reform, with particular emphasis given to the challenges faced by the different Territories.

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to work with the different Overseas Territories in order to understand the situation of each of them and better inform the way forward. It is important to cooperate, where we are able to do so, given that the others are also on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

SMALL STATES

We will continue the work with small countries and territories in Europe in order to learn how they manage their relationships with the world around them, with their neighbours and with the European Union in particular. This work has already proved very useful as we seek to conclude a treaty with the EU which draws upon the experience of other small countries.

LOBBYING IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to put across the views of Gibraltar to decision makers and influential opinion in the United States of America. This work has opened very useful channels of communication in Washington throughout the process of our departure from the European Union.

A bi-partisan Resolution adopted in the Congress which recognises the long and historic relationship between Gibraltar and the United States, which dates back to 1801. It also asserts our right to remain British as a UK Overseas Territory.

An important group of Members of the US Congress visited Gibraltar at the end of July 2023. We will continue to support Congressional visits to Gibraltar.

In Government, we pledge to work with our friends in Congress and elsewhere in order to make sure that our position and opinion is better understood.

The overarching policy of a GSLP Liberal Government will be to work for a closer relationship between Gibraltar and the United States.

GIBRALTAR – AMERICAN COUNCIL

In Government we will continue to support the work of the Gibraltar-American Council. This group includes Gibraltarians who have made their lives in the United States of America as well as prominent US citizens who value their friendship with Gibraltar. It is important to keep the group

fully abreast of developments on the Rock.

GIBRALTAR US REPRESENTATIVE

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to appoint a Representative in the United States of America. This has proved to be a very useful role in both Washington and in New York since we first created it.

INTERNSHIPS IN WASHINGTON

The Covid-19 pandemic with the travel restrictions and economic impact that ensued interrupted the valuable internship programme in Washington which was offered to our young people. In Government we will examine how this could be restructured differently and resumed in the future. Over 100 young people have already taken advantage of this opportunity in the years when it was made available.

THE COMMONWEALTH

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue with the work for a closer engagement with the organs and institutions of the Commonwealth. Gibraltar is rightly proud of our association with the Commonwealth family of nations and its different organisations. In some of these, our membership is through that of the United Kingdom, and in others Gibraltar and other Overseas Territories are members in their own right.

We will continue to support the work of the Gibraltar Parliament in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, of our Commonwealth Youth Association in the Commonwealth Youth Forum and Commonwealth Youth Parliament, and of our sporting fraternity in the Commonwealth Games. Those relationships are all the more important following our departure from the European Union.

It was the GSLP Liberals who started the process of engagement for our young people with Commonwealth bodies in a meeting of the Commonwealth Youth Parliament that took place in Jersey during 2018. This participation continued virtually during the pandemic, then in person in Delhi, India and in Trinidad and Tobago. At the same time, young Gibraltarians have been able to attend meetings of the Commonwealth Youth Forum which are organised around Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings. The last one took place in Rwanda last year and the next meeting is expected to be in Samoa in October 2024.

We will continue with these opportunities for our young people.

A GSLP Liberal Government will work for a closer relationship with the Member States of the Commonwealth and will continue to facilitate visits to Gibraltar on the part of their High Commissioners, trade representatives and others. A number of Commonwealth countries have already visited Gibraltar and we expect more to do so going forward.

We will continue to support the work of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Union, the Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth Local Government Association and the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council. There

are a number of interesting commercial opportunities for Gibraltar which can emerge as a result of this activity.

The annual visit by a group of schoolchildren to Commonwealth institutions in London, which replaced the visit to the EU after our exit, will be resumed.

MOROCCO

In Government the GSLP Liberals will support the continued development of commercial, social, sporting and cultural links between Gibraltar and Morocco, including the work of the Gibraltar Morocco Business Association. It is important to recall that when General Franco closed the land border with Spain, it was workers and goods from Morocco that kept Gibraltar ticking. Indeed, Moroccan Gibraltarians now form an integral part of the Gibraltarian identity and of our proud multicultural heritage.

We will continue to engage with commercial operators interested in developing maritime or air connections between Gibraltar and Morocco.

We will designate a Minister with Responsibility for the development and enhancement of Gibraltar's business and institutional relationship with the Kingdom of Morocco

ARABIC SPEAKING STAFF AT E-GOVERNMENT HUB

We will endeavour to ensure that an Arabic speaking employee is on hand to assist our Arabic speaking citizens at the e-Government hub.

DEFENCE

The United Kingdom is responsible for the defence of Gibraltar under the 2006 Constitution, so this is not the responsibility of the Government of Gibraltar. However, we will fully support the expanded use of the military facilities here on the part of the UK Armed Forces, and those of our Allies, the United States in particular.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON TOPICAL ISSUES

We pledge to continue our tradition of hosting annual seminars addressing current political issues while in office. This initiative commenced in 2013 with a symposium commemorating the 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Utrecht. Subsequent events have explored themes such as self-determination, referenda, and borders. These seminars have attracted distinguished scholars from around the globe who present papers on topics pertinent to our community. Through these seminars, we aim to bolster Gibraltar's standing as a hub for education, profound research, and scholarly discussions.

INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL SERVICES

We will work to continue the recognition of Gibraltar in digital services internationally. This is increasingly important as most services are delivered to individuals by corporations

outside of Gibraltar.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL TRADE: OUR COMMITMENT TO TRADE DELEGATIONS

The GSLP Liberals are committed to expanding Gibraltar's commercial horizons.

We are committed to actively identify commercial opportunities and conduct trade delegation visits to promising markets worldwide, in particular those covered by UK bilateral trade agreements. By fostering international partnerships and seizing economic potential, we aim to bolster Gibraltar's trade and bring new opportunities to our community. Our commitment is to harness global connections for the benefit of our citizens and businesses, ensuring a prosperous future for all. Together, we will navigate the global marketplace and secure Gibraltar's place on the world stage.



PART II

GIBRALTAR'S ECONOMY

THE CIVIL SERVICE AND PUBLIC SECTOR

GIBRALTAR'S CIVIL SERVICE - DRIVING THE CHANGE TO BE THE BEST THAT IT CAN BE

The GSLP Liberals are committed to the conduct of the public affairs of Gibraltar through an independent, efficient, well-trained, and effective Civil Service and the Public Sector as a whole. These include the members of the Gibraltar Development Corporation (or GDC), the Agencies, Authorities, and companies.

WE WILL ALWAYS CONSULT WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE

We will always, as we always have, consult closely with Civil Servants, other Public Servants and their Unions on all matters that are relevant to them. We now have a track record of doing so.

THE CIVIL SERVICE IS NOT BLOATED

We confirm that we do not agree with the GSD that the Civil Service is bloated. We will maintain the commitment we have to preserve the size of the civil service as it was in 2011, and to ensure that it is properly resourced so that it delivers the results that are required in order to fulfil our manifesto commitments. We have never needed to be reminded about our longstanding commitment on maintaining numbers – we have, in fact, since 2011, grown the Civil Service to enhance the volume and quality of the public services it provides.

FINALISING AA RECRUITMENT

We will, as we have reconfirmed during the Budget session earlier this year, finalise the current, ongoing, AA recruitment process.

PROPER SUCCESSION IN SENIOR POSTS

We will continue to work to ensure proper succession in all senior posts – our commitment to this is evident in the successful replacement of Albert Mena CBE as Financial Secretary from within the ranks of the Civil Service.

HONOURING OUR COMMITMENTS

We repeat all of our commitments to the Civil Service and the Public Sector from our earlier manifestos, including those from 2019 that we may have been unable to deliver on in the context of the pandemic.

PUBLIC SECTOR PAYRISE NEGOTIATIONS

We will continue to work with public sector unions in annual public sector payrise negotiations, as we have successfully, this year, on the cost of living relief payment of £1,200 tax free.

INVESTMENT & TRAINING

A future GSLP Liberal Government is dedicated to ushering in a new era of professionalism in government. We recognise that, as an administratively independent nation in everything but defence and external relations, we must further develop and structure our government systems. The linchpin of this transformation lies within the Civil Service.

We understand that to thrive, our Civil Service requires further investment and improved training. We must embrace collaboration and training from our UK, Overseas Territories and Commonwealth counterparts, adopting, where relevant, innovative practices and technology.

In this context, we will work to further empower our civil servants, equipping them to confidently say “no” when necessary. Our vision is to create a government in Gibraltar that functions seamlessly, guided by modern practices and international collaboration. We acknowledge that is not where we are, but we know this is where we all want Gibraltar to be.

NEW OFFICES FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE

Our Civil and Public Services underpin all activities in Gibraltar. They sometimes go unrecognised, as the invaluable activities they perform are done with little fanfare. Nevertheless, they are a critical component of the present and future Gibraltar. The Government has already embarked on a major reform project, in partnership with all the relevant unions, modernising these services and setting the scene for a flexible and diverse economy. Having said that, a reform of the Civil and Public Services cannot succeed if its very core, the office environment, is not addressed. We often fall victims to viewing an office building as a set of walls and equipment. We often fall into the trap of trying to create a more efficient workplace by placing more workstations or squeezing that extra office in what once was a corridor. We are not robots or prisoners; our office should be the place we want to show up every day. An effective office is not about a building, it is about people. How we address our working environment will determine our productivity. It is with this philosophy that we embarked years ago and invested in key buildings such as The Gibraltar International Bank. This project delivered the outcome that employees and clients deserved within a historic setting. It an example of investment not just in bricks and mortar but also in people. We have also invested in the Gibraltar Parliament and No.6 Convent Place as well as taking leases of modern facilities at Lease Place and World Trade Centre and the new development on Dockyard Road. The GSD has repeatedly criticized our investment in new office facilities for public servants.

A STRATEGIC UNIT – THE RIGHT INVESTMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

The Government strongly believes in this policy – despite repeated criticism from the GSD about investing in the official facilities of public servants - and will create a strategic unit to identify and oversee investment in key office hubs within the old town to create the type of office

environment that our clients and employees deserve. From open plan rooms to quiet private spaces that will respect client confidentiality. We shall not only be investing in the latest technology and provide access to those with limited mobility, but we shall be looking after the wellbeing of those hard-working Government officers who are tasked with the privilege of serving our community.

HEALTH & SAFETY REVIEW OF CIVIL SERVICE OFFICES

We will conduct a health & safety review of all civil service offices and commit to carrying out such remedial changes/improvements as may be identified as necessary. This review will give rise to a plan of works and improvements which the GSLP Liberals commit will be completed, to the extent that practical considerations may militate against it, within two years of taking office.

EXTENDED SICK LEAVE AND CRITICAL ILLNESS PROCEDURES

The GSLP Liberals, as part of its ongoing commitment to the well-being of those in the employ of the Government and the wider public sector, had originally pledged in 2019 to introduce a policy to assist employees facing Critical Illness. The onset of the pandemic unfortunately put these plans on hold. We are, however, committed to delivering on this commitment. It is our intention that the draft policy, which is in an advanced draft, will supersede the provisions of Section 2 of General Orders on sick leave. In appropriate cases, extended sick leave under the Critical Illness Procedure may be considered, with extended sick pay, if awarded, set at the rate of full pay. Each case will be reviewed individually, taking into account the employee's sick leave allowances, overall annual fixed earnings, and personal circumstances. We have already worked with the Government's Human Resources Department to draft a comprehensive policy to address this, in short order.

ENHANCED CITIZEN-CENTRIC SERVICES

The main objective of our work in enhancing the way our administration works will be designed to produce better services, at the point of delivery, for all our citizens, especially the most vulnerable. We are as concerned about those who use and rely on our services as much as we care for terms and conditions of employment of those who work for government in providing those services.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

We committed in 2019 to making interactions with your Government as efficient as possible and by using your ID card number. The onset of the pandemic meant that we were compelled as a community to drive progress very quickly to ensure the lockdown interrupted as little as possible. Very quickly, a significant number of eServices were released for a variety of Government departments. This included the creation of virtual counters and online payment gateways. As the effects of the pandemic wore down, work resumed on the initial roll out of eServices. The development of these

services continues, and we are committed to building on our work in eServices and eGovernment

ENHANCING GOVERNMENT SERVICES THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

We are leveraging AI to transform your interactions with government. We will explore more intelligent, efficient, and user-friendly engagements, simplifying services for your ease. The GSLP Liberals are dedicated to unlocking AI's capabilities for an easy and less taxing government-citizen interaction.

UP TO DATE WITH LIABILITIES - IN EITHER DIRECTION

The arrears strategy for a GSLP Liberal Government will continue to be that we must be to be up to date in repaying what we owe taxpayers or any others and that this should apply in both directions, that is to say that those who owe monies to Government must also be up to date. You must be up to date with the tax office; but the tax office must also be up to date with you! For that reason, we have already spent more money than any other Government on repaying tax refunds.

SMART CITY

As we continue the roll out of our e-government initiatives, we will also work to turn Gibraltar increasingly into a 'Smart City.' This will include your ID Card doing even more than just giving you access to free buses and free parking (although that is already more than it does in many other cities in the world!).

HIS MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS: A LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY

His Majesty's Customs marked its 270th anniversary in May 2020 and the GSLP Liberal Government was proud to join in the commemoration of this excellent milestone. The GSLP Liberals have continued to support HM Customs, as the law enforcement body it is, something the GSD in government failed to recognise, with further recruitment and investment. As part of this investment, we were proud to see HM Customs welcome its new interceptor vessel, the HMC Sentinel in March 2022. The GSLP Liberals remain committed to ensuring the service is adequately resourced and pledges to continue to support it with the investment required. With the reconfiguration and investment in brand new facilities at the border as we have recently announced, as well as the work that we will do in any relation to any deal or non-negotiated outcome from our talks with the EU/Spain, we are confident that HM Customs will continue to deliver on its track record on land and at sea.

CONTINUING TO WORK WITH THE COLLECTOR AND SMT

We look forward to continuing to work with the Collector and his Senior Management Team, as well as with the Unions that represent officers, in order to ensure that the brave men

and women of this department remain fully and properly resourced to carry out their vitally important role.

BORDERS & COASTGUARD

Since the election in 2019, not long before which we had finalised an agreement with Unite in relation to the Borders & Coastguard Agency, we have been proud to call upon this agency as gatekeepers in some of the darkest days this community has ever experienced. During the height of the lockdown and global spread of the pandemic, we relied upon the BCA to keep our border open to the extent that we could, to minimise the disruption we endured at the hands of the Covid-19 virus and the consequences that flowed from it.

In June 2020, the BCA added a number of recruits and will, going forward, see through the significant changes that either our deal or non-negotiated outcome from negotiations with the EU/Spain bring. Regardless of the outcome, BCA will benefit from the investment in the new border facility the GSLP Liberals are committed to providing.

If returned to office, the GSLP Liberals now further commit to entering into discussions with the Borders & Coastguard agency in relation to the issue of split shifts and other conditions.

AQUAGIB & GIBTELECOM – EXPLORING EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP

We are committed to exploring a shared Government/employee ownership model for two of our Government-owned companies, Aquagib and Gibtelecom. Inspired by the successful John Lewis employee ownership structure, we aim to empower employees by offering them the opportunity to collectively to a percentage of these companies. Through this innovative approach, we seek to enhance employee engagement, foster a sense of shared responsibility, and ensure that the most important stakeholders, our dedicated workers, have a stake in the success of these key organisations.

TRANSPARENCY & DEMOCRACY

We remain committed, as we have always been, to real and absolute transparency. No amount of pretending by our opponents changes the reality that we are the party that, in Government, has acted in the most transparent manner of any Government before it.

TRANSPARENCY

DIRECT DEMOCRACY UNPRECEDENTED, ACCOUNTABILITY

It was a GSLP Liberal Government that introduced the concept of direct democracy, 12 years ago, whereby the Chief Minister of Gibraltar answers questions directly from the general public on television or radio once a quarter. No other leader has submitted him or herself so regularly and so directly, to the examination of the public at large. We said in 2019 that others talk about transparency, and that we do it. The proof is in the fact that since the New Dawn of 2011, the GSLP Liberal Chief Minister of Gibraltar has appeared on 46 Direct Democracy programmes, missing two only because of the imperatives of the Government's response to the pandemic. We will always maintain this quarterly appointment with the people, whenever the GSLP Liberals are in office.

GIBRALTAR CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

We have created the Gibraltar Consultative Council to operate in the manner of the UK's Privy Council. The GSD initially refused to cooperate with the Council and refused to attend meetings of it. For that reason, the Council had not met. During Covid it has been impossible to convene the Council. We shall seek to establish cross-party consensus for the operation of the Council. In appointing the additional members, we will seek to ensure that the new members are representative of our wider community. The Council will meet before the end of 2023.

LIVE-STREAMING OF IMPORTANT PRESS CONFERENCES

We also introduced the live streaming of important press conferences and other matters of public interest, including the meetings of the Development and Planning Commission ('DPC'). During Covid, we did these daily at 4pm. We are committed to continuing with this process in order to make sure that the Government remains as transparent and as answerable to the people as it is today. Additionally, we will introduce BSL or subtitles for all Government press conferences which are transmitted live.

ONLINE PUBLIC INFORMATION

As we have done from the moment we were elected to Government in 2011, we will continue to publish Government statistics and information automatically on-line. This is a vast improvement on the system that existed before 2011 when this information was not made automatically available.

Opposition parties today have access to an unprecedented amount of information on which to base their work. Any failure by the Official Opposition to hold Government to account stems only from their lack of commitment to the work that they are handsomely paid to do. The GSD makes a meal of matters of value for money, yet the average cost to you, the taxpayer, of every question the GSD asks is £250 per question. Some have asked so few questions that the cost of questions by them rises to over £500!

DIGITAL TRANSPARENCY – ENHANCING THE VALUE OF OUR DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

In addition to a Freedom of Information Act, we introduced a twenty-year rule for the release of documents to researchers or to the general public. A considerable amount of information has already been made available electronically in a further exercise of transparency. The aim of a GSLP Liberal Government remains to continue to make as much information as possible freely available on the website of the Gibraltar National Archives. In fact, building on our successful work on the digitisation of public archives, we are committed to making Gibraltar's rich heritage even more accessible. We will invest in advanced archiving technologies, expand the online repository, and improve searchability. Citizens and researchers will enjoy easier access to our history, promoting education and preserving our legacy for future generations.

ENHANCED POWERS OF PRINCIPAL AUDITOR

We are committed to protecting our independent Civil Servants and Public Sector employees from political interrogations by the Opposition. We also fully support the Principal Auditor, who operates independently under the Constitution of Gibraltar. In this regard, if elected we will bring legislation to Parliament to enhance the powers of the Principal Auditor on terms we have already consulted on with the Auditor and his team.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

In the past four years, Gibraltar has witnessed several significant developments in its government project tendering process, all aimed at enhancing efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency. These initiatives include implementing an online tendering system for easier bid submission and tracking, establishing a Tender Evaluation Committee to assess and recommend bid acceptances, and introducing a complaints procedure for challenging unfair processes. Specific changes, like fast-tracking minor projects and simplifying complex project tenders, have further improved the system. The government remains committed to ongoing enhancements to the e-procurement system and integrating more social value and National Economic Plan criteria into evaluations, ultimately benefiting businesses seeking government contracts. Additionally, we will conduct a full review into the workings of the tender system in Gibraltar with the objective of identifying whether any changes need to be made to improve the accountability and transparency of the system, and to ensure value for money. Tender Notices will continue to be published, as will the details of successful

tenderers and the prices bid, in order to ensure the maximum transparency is achieved.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

Further to our commitment on protecting whistleblowers in our 2019 manifesto, the GSLP Liberal Government has been delivering on its pledge. However controversial, the GSLP Liberals have not hesitated to act, properly and within the law, to protect whistleblowers, despite criticism from the GSD in that context. We renew our commitment to protect those who require this protection, regardless of the political gain others might seek to make from our determination in this regard. The GSLP Liberal Government was the first in Gibraltar to pass legislation to establish this valuable protection and will not hesitate to act to protect whistleblowers.

PUBLIC GHG MEETINGS

The Board of the Gibraltar Health Authority first met in public when the GSLP Liberals formed Government in 2011. We will continue to hold meetings in public as we think that public scrutiny is the best way to ensure growing confidence in the Health Authority. We renew our ongoing commitment to holding these meetings in public. A GSLP Liberal Government will always maintain this commitment to the people.

FREE SPEECH

The GSLP Liberals have consistently championed and will continue to champion the fundamental right to freedom of speech as enshrined in Gibraltar's Constitution. We are unwavering advocates for citizens' freedom to express themselves without fear of reprisal from the Government or its agencies. We have taken significant steps, including removing restrictions on certain grades of civil servants, allowing them to voice their opinions publicly about the Government, except in matters directly related to their employment, marking a departure from past practices, especially under the GSD.

ONLINE PUBLICATION OF COMPANY ACCOUNTS

If you want to see all the accounts of the Government-owned companies, stick with us. We will put all Government-owned company accounts online on the Gibraltar Government website. Within 12 months, the accounts of all Gibraltar Government owned companies will be published. The criticism by the GSD of the GSLP Liberal Government's use of companies is hypocrisy of the highest order – it will be recalled that the GSD did not even comply with the laws that they themselves passed requiring companies to file accounts. After their first year in office, the GSD never published any company accounts. We have been reconstructing accounts for many years now and they will soon be published.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS – IMPROVING LIVES

We understand that the pandemic has placed significant

burdens on the civil service, and as a result, our goal of acknowledging government letters within 14 working days and providing substantive replies within 21 working days has not always been met. However, we remain committed to achieving these targets. While some GSLP Liberal Ministers and Departments have responded promptly, even within minutes on occasion, others require more time for complex matters. We are dedicated to enhancing communication between citizens and official entities through the adoption of innovative technologies to facilitate further improvements.

MANIFESTO COMMITMENTS

In the past, GSD Governments have explicitly said that they considered their manifesto as nothing more than a mere wish list. The GSLP Liberals changed this thinking when we were first elected in 2011. After 2020, because of Covid, we were unable to deliver all of our commitments in the 2019 manifesto. Now, we go back to seeing our manifesto as binding. This manifesto is once again our commitment with the electorate. It will become our programme for Government in the event that we are returned to office. GSLP Liberal Ministers will continue to place the commitments that we make in this manifesto at the centre of their work-streams as they have done in the past. The implementation of the manifesto on the part of different departments and Ministers will continue to be monitored separately from No 6 Convent Place. A GSLP/ Liberal Government will therefore continue to appoint a Minister with specific responsibility to oversee the delivery of our election manifesto.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

As we committed to in 2019 but were unable to focus on in the pandemic Parliament, we renew our commitment to conducting a review of the fundamental rights and freedoms section of the Constitution, in the light of developing international law and practice and the soon to be settled question of our future relationship with the EU and, thereby, with Spain too. The objective would be to determine whether there are parts of our Constitution which need to be brought up to date and, if considered desirable, to take all necessary steps to update the fundamental rights in our Constitution even before convening a Constitutional Conference.

VOTING AGE CONSULTATION

In the context of our commitment to democracy, we are committed to consulting the people of Gibraltar on lowering the voting age to 16. This proposal aligns us with numerous progressive democracies around the world, where young people aged 16 and above have been granted the right to vote. Lowering the voting age recognises the maturity and political engagement of our youth. It empowers them to actively participate in shaping the future of our nation, ensuring that their voices are heard, and their concerns addressed. By fostering early civic engagement, we aim to create a more inclusive and dynamic democracy, where all generations contribute to our collective decision-making process.

THE GIBRALTAR BROADCASTING CORPORATION ('GBC')

GBC belongs to all of us. It is a precious resource that most communities of 32,000 do not enjoy. A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to maintain and promote the independence of GBC. We are committed to the continuation of GBC as a public national broadcaster. During this term, we have seen the inauguration of GBC's new premises at South Jumper's Bastion, a long overdue and massively positive development for this community. Already we are seeing more and more output under current CEO, James Neish. We are committed to continuing to invest in GBC and, importantly, to encouraging it to pursue commercial opportunities which will only broaden the appeal of the work and excellent programmes they produce.

ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITY

The Anti-Corruption Authority (ACA) was established in Gibraltar in January 2023 under the Anti-Corruption Authority Act 2022. The ACA is an independent body responsible for investigating and preventing corruption in Gibraltar. It has the power to investigate any person or organisation suspected of corruption, including public officials, private companies, and individuals. It marks delivery on a commitment of the GSLP Liberals which the GSD itself said wasn't necessary. The Anti-Corruption Authority is a vital new institution in the fight against corruption in Gibraltar. It is an independent body with the powers and resources to investigate and prosecute corruption at all levels of society. We will provide it with the resources and staff to carry out its functions. Its operating framework, powers and method of operation is not set in stone and will be subject to further improvement going forward. The establishment of the ACA is a clear signal that we are serious about tackling corruption in Gibraltar. We will not tolerate corruption in any form, and we will hold those who engage in corruption accountable. That is the GSLP Liberals commitment - delivered. We now await the appointment of the Chair and Members by the independent Specified Appoints Commission.

DEMOCRATIC REFORM

The GSLP Liberals intend to enhance and reform the political, parliamentary and constitutional processes in Gibraltar. The objective remains to open up the system further to citizens so that they are closer to the actual decision-making in areas that affect them. Although plenty has been achieved already in this area, there is more to be done. This has not happened earlier because of the intensity of the work in relation to a treaty with the European Union and the understandable impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

CABINET GOVERNMENT

We remain committed to a system of Cabinet government where all Ministers will meet together at least once a week, normally on Mondays, in order to take decisions and govern collectively. This is very different to the presidential system that evolved when the GSD was last in office.

REFERENDUM

It was a GSLP Liberal Government that introduced a Referendum Act in 2015. We will make greater use of this binding mechanism in order to determine and implement the views of the public on matters of great interest. This system of direct democracy would give the public the final say on such matters.

In the event that a treaty is concluded with the EU, for example, and if at the end of the four-year review period Spain and Gibraltar cannot agree on the way forward, a GSLP Liberal Government would hold a referendum to determine whether or not the treaty should be terminated.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

In spite of pledges by the GSD, election after election, to promulgate freedom of information legislation, they failed to do so during their time in office. The first Freedom of Information Act that Gibraltar has ever known was taken to the Gibraltar Parliament by a GSLP Liberal Government. That legislation has been commenced and is in force covering a pilot number of departments as originally recommended. Its scope will be widened further, and its functioning will be reviewed on the recommendation and advice of the Information Commissioner, with a view to making any necessary improvements.

GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

In Government the GSLP Liberals have improved the workings of the Gibraltar Parliament considerably from the system that we inherited in 2011. We have enhanced and opened up the processes that we found in order to make meetings of Parliament more transparent and Members more directly accountable for their words and actions. However, there is still more work to be done.

PARLIAMENT

MORE MEETINGS

The GSD held 12 meetings of Parliament during their last term of office from 2007 until 2011. They still hold the record for the least number of meetings in a year, which was the single meeting that took place in 2003. In sharp contrast, the GSLP Liberals held 33 meetings in our first term of office from 2011 to 2015, and even with the pressure of the EU exit negotiations convened 16 meetings of Parliament in our second term from 2015 until 2019. Indeed, even though there was a pandemic and a lockdown during this third term of office, and the negotiations with the EU started in 2021, there were still 18 meetings of the Gibraltar Parliament.

We committed to ensuring that Parliament met more frequently, and we have delivered on that pledge despite an unprecedented international agenda and a number of crises at home. The expectation would be that the number of meetings increases further still as that agenda quietens down.

The GSLP Liberals are fully committed to resume meetings of the Gibraltar Parliament on a monthly basis, with the

standard breaks in between.

We will continue with a Chief Minister's Question Time slot on Thursday's at 3pm when Parliament is in session for questions.

We will also continue with the publication of a Parliamentary timetable which will allow Members on both sides of the House to plan their work more effectively whenever Parliament is meeting.

MORE TRANSPARENCY - WEBSITE

In 2011 on our election into office, the Gibraltar Parliament did not even have a proper website. A GSLP Liberal Government provided the resources for the new website and has actively encouraged its development into the research and online archive that it has become today.

MORE TRANSPARENCY - HANSARD

The Hansard, which is the official written record of meetings, is now freely available online for all meetings of the Gibraltar Parliament and the previous House of Assembly, all the way back to the first House of Assembly in 1969. This is in itself a very valuable resource both historically and politically for Opposition Members of Parliament, the media, and the general public. It did not exist before the GSLP Liberals came into office.

Indeed, it was also the GSLP Liberals who facilitated the faster production of Hansard. There was a time when it would take many months for the transcript of meetings to be approved and then made available to Members. This obviously impacted on the accuracy of political debate, particularly when the issue often centred around who said what to whom and when they said it. The arrangement with the Isle of Man has led to the more timely production of Hansard and facilitated much more rapid access to information. The audio of meetings is made available and posted online even quicker.

This timelier access to information has boosted the quality of our democracy and made life much easier for any Opposition.

MORE TRANSPARENCY - LIVE-STREAMING

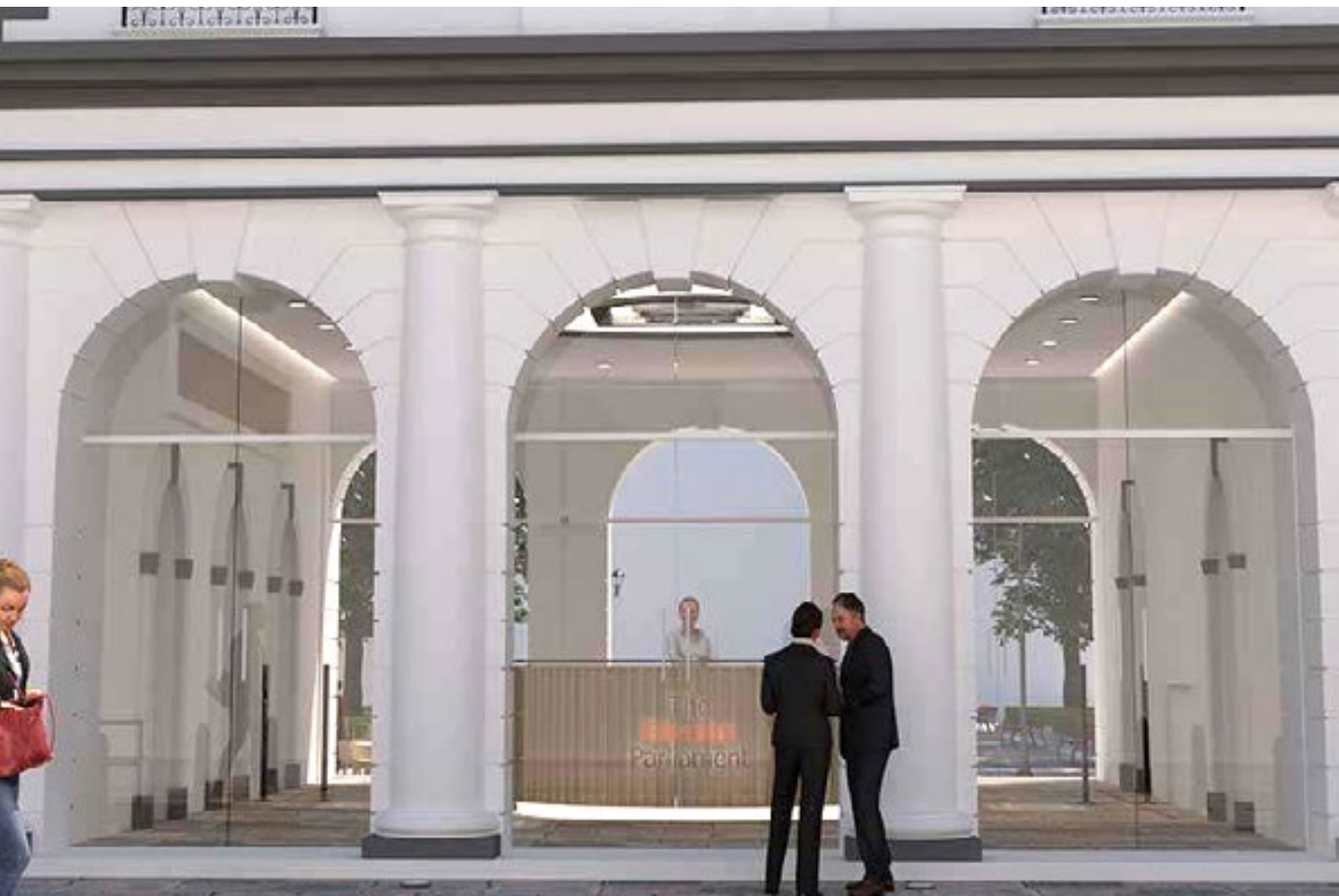
Meetings of the Gibraltar Parliament are now more open and transparent than at any time in our history. The decision to live-stream the proceedings means that anyone can watch from anywhere in the world. This has made Members of Parliament more accountable for their behaviour because the electorate can watch and judge their every move.

PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS

The period 2019 until 2023 has seen the further enhancement of Parliament through the Chief Minister delivering important statements in the chamber first instead of through the media. A number of timely updates on the UK-EU treaty negotiations, the Covid pandemic and other current affairs have also been given to the Parliament first as is right and proper. This will continue.



Artist impressions of the refurbishment of the Gibraltar Parliament



ROLLING REGISTER OF ELECTORS

It was a travesty of democracy that citizens sometimes found themselves unable to vote because they had forgotten to include themselves in the Register of Electors. There used to be a canvass carried out, a new document compiled, and the Register then closed sometimes weeks or even months before a general election. Those who were not included in the time that the window was open were unable to vote.

The new system, introduced by the GSLP Liberals, keeps the Register open until six days before polling day. This is a huge enhancement of the democratic process which goes to the very heart of the political system – the right to vote.

Further improvements implemented during our time in office include the establishment of voting by proxy, as used to happen in European elections, and voting by post while physically present in Gibraltar. In the past it was only possible to vote by post if the ballot paper was sent to a forwarding address outside our frontiers. This meant that ballot papers sometimes did not arrive on time at their destination and were not returned on time either.

All this work is a real, practical enhancement of the democratic process, which contrasts sharply with the abstract and vague promises made by other parties.

Indeed, the many reforms already in place, initiated by the GSLP Liberals, have already made life easier for the Opposition and more difficult for the Government itself! We were not so lucky when the GSD was in office from 1996 until 2011.

USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

A GSLP Liberal Government will ask the Clerk of the Parliament to continue to investigate the use of new technology for parliamentary and electoral purposes and agree its use on a cross-party basis.

REFURBISHMENT OF PARLIAMENT BUILDING

The GSLP Liberals will continue the refurbishment work to the Gibraltar Parliament so that persons with mobility issues can have access to the Chamber through the installation of a new lift. This will include the creation of offices for use by the Leader of the Opposition and all Members as well as multi-functional Select Committee rooms. The concept designs have been approved by the Development and Planning Commission and were discussed with other political parties beforehand.

MINISTERIAL CODE AND PARLIAMENTARY CODE

A Code of Conduct for Ministers of HM Government of Gibraltar and a separate Code of Conduct for all Members of the Gibraltar Parliament are now in place. This is the first time in the history of Gibraltar that the activities of Ministers and MPs are regulated in this way.

Given that there is always room for improvement, the two Codes provide for annual review and updating where necessary.

PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEES

The work of parliamentary Select Committees has suffered during this past term of office for reasons which are well known. Government Ministers and public servants have logically given priority to saving lives during the pandemic, to negotiating a safe future relationship with the European Union and to putting contingencies in place for life without a treaty.

SELECT COMMITTEES ON THE ENVIRONMENT & DISABILITIES

The Select Committees on the Environment and on Disabilities will be reconvened and meet before the end of 2023

In the event that the people of Gibraltar do us the honour of returning us to office after the general election, that continuity in the negotiating team will allow us to conclude a safe treaty quickly. This will free up bandwidth to be able to deal with other matters.

We will ask the Gibraltar Parliament to reinstate Select Committees on Parliamentary Reform, Constitutional Reform and on the Future Relationship with the EU, as well as others in specific areas like Climate Change and the Environment, and Disability.

ROOTS AND BRANCH REVIEW OF DEMOCRACY

There will be a root and branch review of every aspect of the workings of the Gibraltar Parliament and of democracy in Gibraltar. The objective of this will be to examine and enhance further the parliamentary and democratic checks and balances in place to hold any elected government to account.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY REFORM

In line with the views expressed at the time by former Chief Minister Sir Peter Caruana, this will be tasked to a Select Committee on Parliamentary Reform and conducted on a cross-party basis with the opportunity for the public, civil society, groups and associations to make written or oral submissions.

The review will look at the reform of all the procedures and rules of the Gibraltar Parliament, including the Standing Orders, Election Rules and the Parliament Act.

In this context, and although the expansion of the Gibraltar Parliament has never been the policy of the GSLP Liberals, we are prepared to work with and listen to the arguments put forward by other parties, including the GSD, who support this expansion.

We will agree to seriously examine the trial of such a system, at no cost to the taxpayer, in discussion with other political parties, and to implement such a pilot project within twelve months.

The matter is already on the agenda of the Select Committee on Parliamentary Reform because it was put there by the

GSD, but there will be no permanent expansion without a further, detailed public consultation process.

There will be a close examination of the systems in place in the other UK Overseas Territories, in the territories of countries other than the United Kingdom, as well as of the processes and procedures in the Crown Dependencies and small states in Europe and elsewhere.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The GSLP Liberals pledge to reform and update the constitution of Gibraltar, working closely with stakeholders, including the Opposition, and in close partnership with the United Kingdom. This will be spearheaded by a Select Committee on the Constitution.

We envisage a two-phase approach. The first will be in Gibraltar through the work of the Select Committee, which will also invite the views of the general public, of associations and individuals in order to contribute to the final Report. That Report will be presented to the Gibraltar Parliament and on approval will become the negotiating position of Gibraltar as a whole.

'PEACE, ORDER & GOOD GOVERNMENT

We will continue to discuss with the United Kingdom the removal of the term "peace, order and good government" from the Constitution of Gibraltar. This presently permits London to legislate over the head of the Gibraltar Parliament. It is important to note that such a term is absent from the Constitution of Bermuda, also a UK Overseas Territory, since 1968.

DEPUTY SPEAKER

We will propose that the Gibraltar Constitution should be amended to provide for the post of Deputy Speaker who will be selected by the Gibraltar Parliament in the same way as the Speaker.

We pledge to examine together in the Select Committee the Constitutions of the other UK Overseas Territories, the Commonwealth Realms, the Crown Dependencies and the concepts of Associated Statehood and Dominion Status as part of that process.

There are other areas like the references to the European Union in the Constitution of Gibraltar which need to be amended or removed going forward. In addition to this, responsibility for the international representation and external action of Gibraltar on the part of its Government, in its areas of competence as already happens in practice, would need to be formally recognised.

DECOLONISATION

The policy aim of the GSLP Liberals is that any new Constitution must decolonise Gibraltar and initiate the process for our removal from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories following its acceptance by the people of Gibraltar in a referendum in an act of self-determination.

The GSLP Liberals will propose to the Select Committee that Gibraltar should remain permanently in a constitutional and political relationship with our Sovereign King Charles III and his successors, the United Kingdom, the British family of nations and the Commonwealth.

In Government, we have engaged with the Procedure Committee, the European Scrutiny Committee and the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the House of Commons on these matters.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON OUR FUTURE EU RELATIONSHIP

A GSLP Liberal Government will establish a Select Committee to monitor our future relationship with the European Union. In the event that a treaty is concluded, it is expected to generate a considerable amount of legal, technical, and political work. We will proceed in a collegiate manner with other political parties and stakeholders in order to measure the impact of any treaty and produce the necessary recommendations going forward.

There have been some forty private meetings and briefings with the GSD since the Brexit process started.

PUBLIC BILLS COMMITTEE

A GSLP Liberal Government will seek to agree in the Select Committee on Parliamentary Reform the possibility that more lengthy or complex Bills of great public interest, or of great impact on the community, should be referred to a Public Bills Committee which would allow for greater study and scrutiny.

TRANSPARENT TOWN PLANNING

In Government, the GSLP Liberals have opened up the Town Planning process like we promised to do. When the GSD was in office meetings of the Development and Planning Commission (DPC) were held in secret behind closed doors, the minutes were not published and the public was shut out of the system.

The deliberations and votes of the DPC are now live-streamed for everyone to see and hear. Objectors now have a right to be heard and many proposed developments have been amended as a result of that public input.

Indeed, the Government's own projects are now submitted for approval and scrutiny by the DPC as well. This did not happen when the GSD was in power and they resisted the reforms that we implemented after 2011. The minutes of meetings are also published online and we have provided more resources to the department.

This open and transparent process is a far cry from the system that we inherited.

We intend to fully review the workings of the DPC and the entire planning process in order to establish whether any further changes are necessary and appropriate. In addition to the live-streaming of meetings, we will consult the DPC as to whether the meetings can be recorded and archived so that anyone who misses a meeting can watch it later.

REPRESENTATION IN UK PARLIAMENT

Fabian Picardo as Chief Minister and Joseph Garcia as Deputy Chief Minister both signed a petition supporting the representation of the people of Gibraltar in the UK Parliament. This could be in the House of Commons or in the House of Lords.

The support for this representation is on the basis that the degree of self-government that Gibraltar enjoys at present, or will enjoy under a new Constitution, is not eroded in any way as a result.

In Government, the GSLP Liberals have now put this view in writing to a number of Parliamentary committees of the House of Commons and to the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN POLITICS: SUPPORTING PARENTS IN PARLIAMENT

To promote gender equality in politics, we are committed to creating a supportive environment for women who aspire to political roles, especially those with children. We will implement a comprehensive system that includes dedicated childcare facilities and remote working options within Parliament. This initiative aims to remove barriers, enabling more women to actively participate in political life while balancing their responsibilities as parents, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and diverse political landscape.



Meet the team Joe Bossano

Joe Bossano has served you as Minister for Economic Development with responsibility for the savings bank as well as Minister for Efficiencies. He is an economist and the father of Community Care trust. He is also the author of the only economic plan for a post-Brexit Gibraltar, the National Economic Plan. He holds degrees from the universities of London, Birmingham, Northumbria and the Open University. He was first elected to the then House of Assembly in 1972 with the Integration With Britain Party. He has served as Chief Minister from 1988 to 1996 and as Leader of the Opposition from 1984 to 1988 and from 1996 to April 2011. Joe was Branch Officer of the TGWU until he became Chief Minister and his roots in the trade union movement go back to when he first left Gibraltar in the merchant navy. Joe is also fluent in Italian. He is married to Rose; they are grandparents and between them they have 7 children.

FINANCE

INTRODUCTION

Our party exists above all else to ensure that our country never, ever falls under the sovereignty of Spain.

It is to ensure that this would never happen that I took the decision in 1964 at the age of 25 to enter the political arena, to campaign for our right to self-determination.

This was then being discussed for the first time at the United Nations Committee of 24 and there Spain soon got the upper hand by being given a say over our future.

The first UN consensus decision called on the UK and Spain to meet to discuss their disagreement or dispute over Gibraltar.

This eventually was converted by Spain into a UN doctrine which deprives us of our right to self-determination.

After the death of the Spanish dictator Generalissimo Franco, in 1975, it became clear that the UK was prepared to hold talks with Spain over our future in spite of the fact that our 1967 referendum had massively rejected Spanish sovereignty.

Our party was born in the Transport and General Workers Union, TGWU, and just as we had fought and won the parity battle as trade unionist, so we set out to win the battle for the international recognition of our human rights as a people with a distinct and separate identity, as a political objective.

I was first elected to Parliament, then known as the House of Assembly, in 1972 at the age of 33 and this year at 84 it will be my 14th Election.

For many years, the GSLP has fought as a party against the holding of talks with Spain on our sovereignty.

In the Parliament, in Government and in Opposition.

We rejected the Strasbourg Talks, the Lisbon Declaration and the Brussels Agreement.

We will make sure that Gibraltarians will never ever be under Spanish rule.

Moreover at the start of the above mentioned attempted sell-out, the talks with Spain, the GSLP had only me as the sole voice in parliament against the then Government and the Opposition, both of which at the time, were willing to participate in talks which included discussing sovereignty with Spain.

We have one policy on dealing with Spain, which we have always defended from day one and will always continue to defend now and in the future.

Not one inch, not one grain of sand of our beaches, none of our airspace or our territorial waters are we prepared to give away, dilute or barter.

We will fight to the death in the defence of our country and preserve it for future generations of Gibraltarians.

To be able to do this, we must have the will power to do it and

the support of our people, but that alone is not enough.

We have to have the ability and the knowledge to protect our economy and make sure that we increase our self-sufficiency delivering increased sustainability and resilience.

No-one else will do it.

No-one else can do it.

No-one else knows how to do it.

The following pages gives details of the National Economic Plan to restore financial stability and achieve our goals on sustainability and resilience.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

This is goal number one. Without financial stability there is no real security and no long term future for our country and its people. So what does it mean?

It means we only spend as much as we receive for the day to day expenses in providing the public services for our people.

It is the 'golden rule' on public expenditure introduced by me as Chief Minister in 1988 and which has been adhered to between 2011 and 2018.

In 2019 when we were re-elected, we started the implementation of the Post Brexit National Economic Plan but by March 2020 our economy was shut down by Covid, as was much of the rest of the world, and the recurrent revenue of the Government collapsed,

In 2018/19 our revenue was at the time the highest ever in Gibraltar's history at £708.2m.

It suddenly fell to £630.2m for 2019/20 and stayed at the same level for 2020/21.

A drop in income of £78m a year and a two-year running total loss of revenue of £156m.

Compared to this loss of income of £156m, in the years before the pre Covid, the 2018/19 financial year had grown in revenue to £708.2 from £638.1 in 2017/18.

An increase in one year of £70m.

In other words, whereas before Covid we went up by £70m in one year in the Government finances with Covid went down by £78m in one year.

Of course during this time when revenue went down the operating costs of the public services had not stopped or gone down, on the contrary they had gone up with higher expenditure in areas like education, health and care.

BREXIT TRADE SUCCESS

Our trading relationship with UK has boomed since Brexit in line with the National Economic Plan to strengthen our ties with the UK economy and reduce our dependence on supplies from Spain and the EU.

There are still more initiatives we are pursuing as part of Gibraltar's economic transformation which requires agreement with the UK government and if achieved will

drive our trading relationship even higher.

As it is, our trade is for example twice the level of Morocco.

GIBRALTAR

“Total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the UK and Gibraltar was £6.7 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2023, an increase of 5.3% or £336 million in current prices from the four quarters to the end of Q1 2022. Of this £6.7 billion:

- **Total UK exports to Gibraltar amounted to £4.6 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2023 (an increase of 4.8% or £213 million in current prices, compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2022);**
- **Total UK imports from Gibraltar amounted to £2.0 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2023 (an increase of 6.5% or £123 million in current prices, compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2022).**

Gibraltar was the UK’s 41st largest trading partner in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2023 accounting for 0.4% of total UK trade.”

Morocco

“Total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the UK and Morocco was £3.2 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2023, an increase of 30.8% or £745 million in current prices from the four quarters to the end of Q1 2022. Of this £3.2 billion:

- **Total UK exports to Morocco amounted to £1.2 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2023 (an increase of 11.0% or £118 million in current prices, compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2022);**
- **Total UK imports from Morocco amounted to £2.0 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2023 (an increase of 46.7% or £627 million in current prices, compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2022).**

Morocco was the UK’s 57th largest trading partner in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2023 accounting for 0.2% of total UK trade.”

On an annual basis by calendar year to December, the growth has been spectacular.

In 2016, total trade with UK was up £2.8 billion having been around this figure for several years.

After Brexit, our trade exploded with the figures going up as follows:

	£ billion					
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Trade	3.7	4.5	5.0	4.1	6.3	6.6

The 2020 drop shows the impact of Covid but the recovery the following year was over 50%.

Out of some 160 countries with whom UK trades, we have

a two way trade value that puts us as the No 41 trading partner of the UK and as buyers of UK exports an even more incredible placing of their 29th largest export market.

Compared with Morocco, their placing as the 57th largest trading partner of UK, thereby accounting for 0.2% of UK trade, whereas Gibraltar at the 41st position, accounting for 0.4% of UK trade is twice as big as Morocco.

THE ECONOMY

The post Brexit National Economic Plan published for the 2019 general election explained how the emphasis in our economic policy had to change to adapt to a changed economic environment which we would face as a result of Brexit and Spain’s inevitable attempt to take advantage of this to put pressure on us.

As we predicted that is what happened when the withdrawal negotiations with Spain began, and they were given a veto by the EU on anything relating to Gibraltar.

In one simple sentence the policy changed involved moving away from targeting higher economic growth that is an ever increasing to GDP, delivered by an ever-increasing workforce, with an ever-higher percentage of frontier workers, and instead moving to a stable GDP delivered by a smaller, more productive and higher paid workforce.

The figures following the pandemic show our labour market still growing but far slower than before and the productivity of the workforce increasing.

Looking at some of the more important sectors of the economy, the on-line betting industry employed 3800 in 2018, the base year which produced the higher level of Government revenue, and 3799 in 2022.

The Finance Centre Industry in the same period from 4060 to 4150 a small 90 employee increase.

Hotel and restaurants went down from 2122 to 2099.

In spite of this the average earnings went up from £30.496 to £34.105.

These are the indicators that show the economy is gradually moving to a lower employment level and higher earnings.

When the new economic policy has been explained in parliament at budget time, the opposition has given no indication that they oppose this or that they have an alternative to it.

SAVINGS BANK

The Gibraltar Savings Bank has continued to grow in the last four years with the support of our community, especially pensioners.

Non-government deposits are now over £1.5 billion, and we expect the reserves to be at an all-time high of £70 million by March 24.

It is the People’s Bank, and by investing in Gibraltar, it generates economic activity and employment and earns income to pay the interest rates of the deposits

in its debentures.

The support from the GSB for the investment projects in the development plan will be keeping with the GSB priority of reinvesting deposits to promote Gibraltar's economic growth that is its role as a development bank. In keeping with the priorities of the GSB Act, investing in the Gibraltar economy will also mean additional growth in areas of employment generating Government revenue.

The Savings Bank Act requires that in reinvesting the deposits "preference shall be given to investments that will maximise the social and economic development of the community in furtherance of the objectives provided for in Section 4;

"4. The Savings Bank shall be under the management and control of the Director who may, subject to the provisions of this Act and any rules or regulations made thereunder, take such steps as may be desirable for the encouragement of thrift, for the proper management of the Savings Bank, and otherwise for the promotion of the social and economic development of the community."

It is a vital part of the economic infrastructure in its role as our Development Bank.

The GSD opposition has campaigned against the Savings Bank providing funding for investing in our economy.

Its policy in government was to run it down and spend its reserves and they have continued to defend this policy from the opposition.

In the financial year 2010/11, the last full year of the GSD administration, the Savings Bank deposits were £330,119,928. However, the bulk of these deposits were the Government's money, a total of £255,193,433. Therefore, deposits from members of the public were just £74,926,495, up some £41 million in 15 years from the level before 1996/97 at which GLSP Government left them at £33,962,447, and reserves of £1444.5, after the withdrawal from the reserves of £686,968 and transfer to the Government, compared to reserves in 96/97 of £20,253,166.

In the first three months from January to March 2012, when I again took over responsibility for the Savings Bank, the deposits from the public went up to £99,063,286. An increase of just over £24 million over the level we had inherited.

The cash reserve shot up from £1,444 at March 2011 to £726,961 as at March 2012.

Since the 31st of March 2012 and up to the 31st of March 2022, in 10 years, the Savings Bank deposits have grown by £1,514,889,833.

This increase at the same time reflected a reduction in Government deposits of £94,426,182 from £189,783,101 to a level of £95,311,919 and an increase of non-government deposits of £1,320,514,625 from £99,063,286 to £1,419,577,913.

An average annual increase in deposits from non-government sources of over £130 million a total of £1.3 billion in the 10 years.

Our targets are that it will continue to grow in deposits and reserves to reach £2 billion by 2027/28 in deposits and £100 million in reserves.

It is the policy of the GLSP that delivered growth in 1988 to 1996 and has done the same since 2011.

It is clear that the GSD, if they ever get back, will once again run the GSB to the ground.

They will change the law to stop investment in our economy, take out all the reserves and keep the deposits in cash. This means no more Pensioner debentures will be available under a GSD government.

The Savings Bank which is the people's Development Bank was converted into a cash money box and the GSD policy is to do so again. This will have huge negative consequences for our economy and the services we provide our people.

FUTURE PROJECTS

There is a whole range of projects in the current four year National Economic Plan which will assist in maintaining Economic activity and also delivering sustainability and resilience.

The Ministry for Economic Development has therefore invited expression of interest for projects that would lead to greater self-sufficiency and increase our economic resilience. Such projects would become sponsored projects under the National Economic Plan and the Gibraltar Savings Bank will be providing support where needed at rates of interest that are competitive, but will still contribute to the profits and reserves of the Savings Bank.

The invitations of expression of interest has been for projects in the areas of Transport, Logistics, Storage and Cold Storage, Recreation and Leisure and Accommodation.

These are the broad areas which would cover a multitude of individual projects all geared to future proof our economy against difficulties with frontier fluidity.

This has had a very welcome response from local entrepreneurs and proposals have been submitted in the areas envisaged by the expression of interest.

These include the following:

- **Resilience in the transport sector can be increased by each of the following:**
- **Hangar for aircraft to be based at Gibraltar airport.**
- **Increasing the size and hence availability of docking areas at the port.**
- **Increasing berthing space available for visiting vessels.**
- **Encouraging additional hotels, so border delays could be ameliorated for some, by staying overnight in Gibraltar.**
- **Weekend ferry, and if popular ferries, to Morocco, that leaves on Friday evening and returns on Sunday evening.**

Resilience in the Logistics and Storage sector can be increased by:

Building over the sea (not reclaiming the sea but building over it) over the length of the sea that adjoins the industrial area of Mons Calpe Road. So that the new storage area aligns with the sea reclaim made for the new power station.

This area to include logistics and storage and cold storage facilities.

To include emergency lay down space if needed by the Government.

Resilience in the Recreational & Leisure sector can be increased by:

Constructing an Aqua Park above an area of parking on reclaimed land. The reclamation area would provide a location to take rubble that is produced as a waste product by construction within Gibraltar.

Additional saltwater swimming pools, as an adjunct to the Aqua Park, with large sun lounging areas and restaurants.

Construction of a large car park, allowing Gibraltarians, to park their car and walk across the border, if there were border queues of cars.

Encouragement of the East Side development, that will provide a further place for Gibraltarians to visit, enjoy and dine.

Resilience in the accommodation sector can be rapidly scaled up by:

The planned addition of the environmentally sensitive wave breaker at the mouth of the entrance to Marina Bay & Ocean Village Marinas, will due to the calmer waves, allow the addition of floating homes,.

Conversion of the 8 new berths intended for Superyachts at Ocean Village and also at Mid Harbour, into accommodation for high quality smaller cruise liners, providing a mix of over 1,000 separate one person, two persons and family cabins. These being made available for short or long term accommodation.

In addition we have had a number of important initiatives which are sponsored as part of a National Economic Plan and for which initial funding is provided by the savings bank.

As was made clear in the 2019 manifesto the role of the GSB is to support the delivery of the National Economic Plan.

Our 2019 manifesto had already identified the increased provision of facilities for the Elderly as one of the areas that needed to be addressed, without increasing the cost to the Government.

Homes for the elderly that are not able to look after themselves is a need for a future where this part of our population would be growing as it is in many other countries.

NEW ROOKE RESIDENTIAL HOME

The new residential home at the Rooke site will be completed next year and start taking residents.

Currently we have interest in running the home from a UK company that won the best care award in 2022 who are running some 30 homes across the country.

NEW ADDITIONAL JEWISH HOME CAPACITY

Following the very successful restoration of the historic Jewish Elderly Residential Home, the demand from the community has been such that it has soon reached full capacity in occupation.

The Home, like the others for Catholics and Anglicans were the result of John Mackintosh's generosity. He was Gibraltar's greatest benefactor who provided the original Homes.

He was also responsible for the existence of scholarships for university studies before the GSLP in 1988 took the steps of abolishing the points system and the parental contribution and created the opportunity of scholarships for all that continues to this day and has transformed the lives of thousands of young Gibraltarians.

The upgraded Jewish Home was a sponsored project under the National Economic Plan 2019.

The expansion of the facilities will create another 17 beds and a new floor to the building is now at the planning stage and forms part of the National Economic Plan 2023/27

Our policies on the new Economic Plan 2023/2027 will be promoting and sponsoring facilities for the elderly and opportunities for the young.

The Jewish Home will provide for both elderly persons who are entitled to government funding and those who are not so entitled and are in a position to provide for themselves.

The current level of cost inclusive of the cost of providing for the property is being delivered at the level estimated in 2020 when the idea was first explored and below the average cost for persons in the then existing facilities.

For the elderly home owners who are self-sufficient we are providing a new product.

NEW PENSIONER HOME OWNERSHIP APARTMENTS

The National Economic Plan will concentrate in providing infrastructure in areas that are needed and promoting developments that increases our self-sufficiency and resilience.

Already announced and soon to be developed is the special pensioner home ownership project with the first units being provided by the Laguna Estate and further units being developed in other areas to meet the demand.

Already the number of pensioners interested in the home ownership project exceed the initial number of units.

The project is designed for existing home owners who are not eligible for government owned rented pensioner homes because they are home owners.

It has been created to meet this specific need and to do this the 1 bedroom apartments will be offered at below market price.

This will provide an opportunity for pensioner home owners

with accommodation larger than they need. They will be able to place their current home on the market and down size to a smaller and less expensive property and in the process cashing in the value of their property from the surplus between the two.

The developer is not engaging in making profits in this operation, just covering costs, so there are restrictions on future resale, which will only be permitted back to the developer to be offered to future pensioners creating an ever-increasing pool of properties in the wider market.

To ensure that pensioners retain the real value of their investment in their new home they are guaranteed the future resale at the lower of the original price plus inflation or the future market value discounted to the similar degree as the original purchase.

This ensures new homes for pensioner home owners in Gibraltar and not outside our borders.

At the other end of the age spectrum are those starting to look for independent living from their family home and are not able to buy or rent at current market prices. To help them at this stage of their lives, we have a new product.

FIRST HOME OWNERSHIP

The Ministry for Economic Development and the Gibraltar Savings Bank will sponsor and provide funding for a new affordable home ownership scheme to meet the gap that currently exists for starter home ownership.

This will be undertaken by the not for profit entity First Home Ownership which, is part of the group of registered charities under the umbrella of Gibraltar Community Initiatives.

The scheme is designed to provide up to 1000 homes in the next four years. The homes will be studio/1 bed apartments with an estimated market value of £252,000, at current prices.

They will be offered for sale at a discount of 20% namely £202,000.

However, in order to provide opportunities for potential homeowners on lower incomes, the scheme will also be available for sale on a 49/51 shared ownership, providing a new opportunity where the owner/tenant can purchase a 49% share at a cost of £99,000, and the not-for-profit developer will retain 51% of the property, which it will rent to the co-owner at a nominal 1% of the value. This 1% will translate into a rent of £1030 per annum.

These homes are for persons of limited means in need of a home, and not for persons, wanting to make an investment in property to make capital gains.

Therefore, the owner/tenant can only sell the 49% property share, back to the development company.

The same conditions would apply to someone who has purchased 100%.

However, to ensure that the co-owner will retain the value of the investment, the buyback price will be the original price plus the lower of, inflation or the future market value

discounted by 20% as was the case when the home was originally purchased.

The mechanism to deliver this has already been put in place and a start is being made on preparing the first housing project.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In terms of social infrastructure, we will be providing in this term a much larger new Giraldis Home for persons with disabilities that need looking after and new dementia facilities. Work at both of these projects could start as soon as the next financial year.

Our success as a Trading Nation is the key to our future economic security giving us self-sufficiency and resilience.

To date we have been increasing our bilateral trade with UK.

Even though we are one of the UK's largest trading partners, when adjusted for the size of our economy and population, there is much more that can be done.

ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

In economic initiatives, we have the welcome development with Bassadone Motors increasing car exports and the Gibdock repair yard doubling its turnover with a very welcome increase in Royal Navy ships. The company is also launching a new product which has a huge potential.

NEARSHORE ACCOMMODATION PLATFORM

The Accommodation Platform is the initiative of Gibdock to our request of new initiatives that will provide enhanced self-sufficiency and resilience. It has a manufacturing period of 18 months and provides the following advantages:

- *Zero use of valuable land onshore*
- *Cost effective and rapidly available*
- *Can remain on site unaffected by weather*
- *266 high quality rooms with suites types*
- *Total Occupational capacity 400 people*
- *440 person restaurant/offices & all services*
- *Optional vehicle deck with parking*
- *Built locally for Gibraltar in Gibdock*

It is self-sufficient in producing its own desalination, electricity and waste disposal and it will be manufactured in Gibraltar.

The international dimension of the National Economic Plan is therefore the establishment of companies with products that can be created by subsidiaries of the Gibraltar headquarters.

PUBLIC DEBT POLICY

The policy on government borrowing is that we only borrow to finance capital products.

A person who buys a house or a business that buys equipment normally does not do it with recurrent income, but by borrowing a capital investment.

This is the normal potential use of borrowing and the “golden rule” introduced in 1988 by the then GSLP government.

The party and the government continue to be fully committed to this policy.

The closedown of the economy during the Covid pandemic resulted in a huge drop in government revenue, as was the case in almost every other nation in the world.

We had to obtain special funding and breach our policy by spending borrowed money to cover recurrent costs, until this year when we expect to make a very small surplus.

This borrowing of £500 million was obtained with the support of the UK government and parliament with a UK guarantee, which the UK Treasury considered to be low risk. That is, UK is confident that we can repay this loan to the lending bank and that their guarantee will not be needed.

We will of course need some time to be able to repay all of this money.

Before the Covid loan, our manifesto 2019 target was a level of net debt of £300 million.

This is still our target.

When the GSD was in Government, they never considered the borrowing by Government companies to be part of the public debt, which is the borrowing by government.

They introduced the criteria on net debt and that is now how they explained it at the time in Parliament:

“As the House is aware from legislation that it has recently passed, the level of public debt permissible by statute has changed from a formula based on gross debt, to the same formula but based on the net debt. In other words, what the Government can borrow is not limited to a particular figure, but rather limited by a maximum permissible difference between what it borrows and what it has in cash reserves in its own piggy banks. Moving to this more normal and economically more relevant measure of public debt and its limitation, whether by law, as in our case, or by policy, as is the case in most other countries, has enabled the Government to do three things without significantly degrading its fiscal position or any aspect of public finances.”

Currently our normal borrowing, excluding the £500 million full, is below the 300 million balls and stands up at £266 million. This means that we have £34 million available as part of the repayment of the £500 million.

Over the next four years, we shall apply the methodology to build up the general sinking fund for the £500 million repayment.

Although the GSD in opposition claims the amount provided in the sinking fund is not enough, the reality is that GSLP in

1996, left a sinking fund for the repayment of debt which the GSD closed down, used up the money for current spending and made no provision debt repayment in 15 years and we re-introduced it after 2011.

In addition to the debt of the government, there are debts of government companies, which are not part of the public as defined in our laws, such loans are normally secured on the company’s assets.

There will be no new company borrowing in the next four years.

The government will introduce a plan for the gradual reduction of the existing level of company debt.

Credit Finance is a money lending company owned by the Gibraltar Development Corporation and it will continue to lend money and to obtain the money it needs to raise by issuing loan notes to the Savings Bank.

The Savings Bank is benefiting from this arrangement by receiving the interest payments from the loans Credit Finance makes to third parties.

The company will continue to make loans to retired civil servants who pay those loans by transferring their pension payments to the company.

The GSD has criticised these activities in lending money to civil servants and others since 2012.

This will adversely affect the revenue and profit of the Savings Bank and also deprive the civil servants on final salary pensions of the opportunity of obtaining a capital sum for their pensions.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The policy of the GSLP Liberals on the establishment of a Public Accounts Committee in the Gibraltar Parliament remains unchanged. In the past such a Committee existed for only one term because it became clear that it was not suited to the size of our democracy and to the way that our Parliament works.

The Gibraltar Parliament already enjoys the power to examine expenditure in detail both during the budget debate and outside it. It is important to stress that the GSD do not make full use of the tools available to them at the moment in this respect.

The establishment of a Public Accounts Committee, chaired by an Opposition MP, would lead to Controlling Officers and other civil servants being grilled in public by the Opposition. We believe that Ministers should be answerable to the electorate in Parliament for the performance of their departments and that civil servants should not be on the front line. We want to shield public servants from this unnecessary and unpleasant cross-examination.

SOCIAL INSURANCE

The Social Insurance system that we have is the one that was introduced by the AACR in 1955.

As is the case in most other countries the system works by

the present workforce paying insurance contributions which are used to pay the pensions of those who have retired.

This system can only work if there are no drastic changes in the composition of the population.

However, like every other advanced economy Gibraltar has an aging population. That is people live longer which is a good thing, but pensions are now being paid for many more years in retirement than was the case when it started in 1955.

The double impact on cost of longer life expectancy and increased number of pensioners in the population means that the system is no longer in balance and it is now only operating because of recent large increases in the size of the workforce that provide the contributions. Under the new post Brexit economy, we are planning for no growth beyond 32,000 in the size of the workforce so this will have an impact on the future revenue but will be more than compensated in the long run by slowing the increase in non-resident pensioners which is currently growing faster than the residence.

There has been since 2011 a 56% increase in non-residence pensioners compared to a 39% increase for resident pensioners.

Other countries with similar problems have attempted to limit costs by raising the age for the payment of statutory pensions from 60 years for women and 65 years for men to 67 years for both, would be with further deferment on pension payment in the pipeline with a view to a future date of entitlement at the age of 71 years.

We continue committed to setting at age 60 pension availability for men and women but making it a system, as exist in some other jurisdiction, which is voluntary as to the selection of the age of receiving the pension.

That is from age 60 an individual could choose to collect the pension or on the other hand delay it and get a higher one at a later stage.

This allows each person to make a decision based on his or her personal circumstances including factors such as health, finances or other considerations.

The ground for this system is now prepared and the implementation will be within the next four years if there is no EU liability involved.

Alternately, it will be after the termination of the four year Schengen Access Agreement if such an agreement is finalized and reached after the elections.

EMPLOYMENT

TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

The Training for Employment programme initiated in 2012 is now more important than ever as we seek to have a smaller, more skilled and more productive workforce, predominantly resident in Gibraltar.

The health and care sector will continue to require trained persons to deliver professional services.

In Nursing, we've delivered training as Nursing Assistants, Enrolled Nurses, Staff Nurse and Practice Nurse levels. That is at every level.

Recently 17 registered Nurses completed studies at the University and took up employment and at the end of July Nursing Assistants we had successfully trained 31 persons.

We also have had a 20 Carers trained this year with further groups the pipeline.

The increase in the Elderly Care facilities and other areas will keep up the demand for training and employment in this profession.

In Gibdock we will be replacing the existing training center with more adequate premises in this year and the company is keen to take on apprentices in training and offer employment on completion with a minimum of 10 a year.

In the construction sector we continue to provide for multi-skills craftsman with maintenance skills that are going to be required.

Clearly the more buildings being created in Gibraltar the greater the demand for more maintenance workers in the future.

The policy of the GSLP approved at a general meeting is that we continue to provide apprenticeships and training to get all people into employment that is why the government's policy is Training for Employment. If there is no potential demand for the skills what is the apprentice supposed to do with the qualifications?

The standard courses in construction and electromechanical trades continue as they were under the GSD and as they started under the GSLP when the training centre was open by a UK minister. There are the apprenticeships in electrical and mechanical skills in Gibdock and the craft apprenticeships in craft Maintenance Skills in the Construction Training Centre.

Outside these traditional areas we have provided training in the following;

HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT COURSES

- *Healthcare Assistant Course (Coordinated by Med Doc Ltd.)*
- *Healthcare Assistant Course (Coordinated by GHA)*
- *Healthcare Assistant Course (Coordinated by ERS)*
- *Trainee Care Worker (Coordinated by the Care Agency)*

INSURANCE COURSE

- *Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) – Foundation Insurance Course*
- *(CII) – Certificate in Insurance – Level 3*
- *(CII) – Support & Assistance with Levels 4 & 6 Diploma Qualifications*

SHIPPING AGENTS ACCESS COURSE

Driving Licence Training Programme

- *Forklift*
- *Lorry*
- *Bus*

We are always looking at new areas compatible with the changes in the structure of the economy and the impact such changes will have on the labour market, always with the view to seeking self-sufficiency.

SUPPORT FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

When we presented our Future Job Strategy in 2011, it was much criticized by our political opponents. They said it would create dead-end jobs which nobody would want to take up. But in fact, the reality has been that the FJS has proven to be enormously successful. In the years since we started the FJS, the GSLP Liberal administration has succeeded in placing thousands of Gibraltarians in quality jobs. Unemployment rates in Gibraltar have plummeted. As a result, many individuals have been able to turn their lives around because they have a job. We remain fully committed to building on the exceptional efforts already underway to assist individuals seeking employment. Those facing unemployment, returning to Gibraltar following overseas studies or residence, or those seeking career transitions will enjoy our unwavering dedication on this front. Our promise to prioritise employment remains unaltered since 2011, and we resolutely uphold it. Until every resident of Gibraltar secures gainful employment, we will persist in our endeavours. Our mission is to support and empower the members of our community in their pursuit of fulfilling career opportunities, ensuring that no one is left without a path to prosperity.

LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT EVER

The number of Gibraltarians unemployed in the third quarter of 2011 – the last figures available when we came into office – was 502. By the third quarter of 2015 – when we ended our first term of office – the number had come down to 207. This is less than half of the unemployment we found when we were first elected. At the end of the second quarter of 2019 the number of unemployed Gibraltarians was 37 – a record low figure of unemployment since records began. In fact, that was the eighth consecutive quarter where the unemployment figure has been less than 100. Now, at the end of the second quarter of 2023, the number of unemployed Gibraltarians is 26, WHICH IS A NEW

RECORD! Additionally, in 2022, the yearly average of unemployed Gibraltarians has been reduced by 93.55% since 2011! This shows the GSLP Liberals are UNDOUBTEDLY the best option of the full employment in Gibraltar, which only we have delivered in our history.

MORE JOBS THAN EVER

The total number of jobs in Gibraltar has risen to unprecedented levels. Presently, employment numbers have exceeded 31,000, a notable rise from the approximately 21,000 when we assumed office.

The GSLP Liberal Government has played a pivotal role in generating over one-third of the jobs currently bolstering our economy, demonstrating our commitment to fostering robust employment opportunities and economic growth.

INCREASE IN AVERAGE EARNINGS

During our administration, we've been the catalyst for substantial growth in average earnings, soaring from £25,831 in October 2011 to an impressive £34,105 by October 2022, marking a remarkable surge of nearly 25%. Our goal remains steadfast: to foster continuous wage growth, enabling more individuals to attain salaries at or above this elevated benchmark.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Through our consistent pursuit of a fairer and more equitable society, we have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to annual increments in the Minimum Wage—a landmark initiative introduced by the GSLP back in 1988. It is essential to contrast our approach with that of the GSD, which, during its tenure, allowed the Minimum Wage to stagnate for prolonged periods, leaving it unchanged for five years on two occasions—between 1996 and 2001 and again from 2004 to 2009. It's worth noting that in the 16 years they held power, the GSD raised the Minimum Wage merely five times!

We proudly remind the electorate that we've significantly raised the Minimum Wage from its initial £5.00 rate (equivalent to £10,950 annually) to an impressive £8.60 – £17,440 per annum, effective 1st August 2023. This extraordinary increase underscores our genuine commitment to improving the lives of our citizens – raising it by over 60% over our time in office. We have raised the minimum wage EVERY YEAR since 2011.

We remain committed to the principle that the Minimum Wage must continue to rise to reflect the true cost of living. While we pledge not to increase it beyond inflation without consulting key stakeholders such as unions, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses (GFSB), we recognise the pressing need to keep pace with economic realities. Our vision does not include a Minimum Wage-based economy; instead, we aspire to nurture a developed, value-added economy capable of sustaining a Living Wage standard. However, we must also acknowledge that the challenges posed by Brexit and its repercussions may influence the pace and magnitude of our Minimum Wage adjustments. Our goal remains clear: to provide a

prosperous future for future Gibraltarian generations - our children.

PURSuing A LIVING WAGE

We will take proactive steps by establishing a Living Wage Commission, to be comprised of representatives from the Unions, the Chamber of Commerce, the GFSB, and the Gibraltar Betting & Gambling Association.

This commission will assess the feasibility and timing of introducing a Living Wage in Gibraltar. The potential impact of Brexit and its associated ramifications will also be a crucial factor in our deliberations on this matter.

ENHANCING PRIVATE SECTOR PENSIONS

We take great pride in already having complied with our commitment to successfully enact the Private Sector Pensions Act, even in the face of unwarranted resistance from the GSD, which unjustifiably delayed its introduction. Our commitment to enhancing the benefits of this Act for private sector workers remains true.

We will work closely with Unite the Union to ensure its effective implementation and seek input from other labour unions and employer organisations to further improve on the advantages it offers to working individuals within the private sector.

ENHANCING THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

A GSLP Liberal administration remains committed to allocating the necessary resources to the Employment Service. This commitment ensures that Employment Officials can effectively:

- *Engage in regular dialogue with business and industry representatives to gain insight into the present and future employment needs of the business community.*
- *Offer guidance, information, and assistance to individuals who are either unemployed or actively seeking alternative employment.*
- *Collaborate with Employment Coordinators to evaluate individual requirements and circumstances, aligning skills, qualifications, and experience with available job opportunities while identifying potential career paths.*
- *Foster stronger partnerships with various government departments and agencies, including the Department of Education and the Youth Service. This cooperation extends to providing support in areas such as interview skills, CV writing, and crafting cover letters to enhance employability prospects.*

DIGITAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

As an integral component of our e-Gov initiative, a GSLP Liberal Government is dedicated to introducing a comprehensive digital platform for the Department

of Employment. This innovative system will facilitate administrative interactions and seamless processing for both businesses and individuals. The evolution of these digital services represents a pioneering step, enabling citizens and enterprises to engage with government systems in unprecedented ways within Gibraltar. These enhanced digital capabilities will encompass various employment services, including vacancy registration, notification of terms of engagement, work permit applications, renewals, and associated payments, all accessible via an online platform.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FEES

We agreed with the GFSB that we would review the fees introduced by the Employment Service for the registration of a vacancy.

As agreed with the GFSB, Employment Service Fees for the registration of a vacancy have been reduced from £18.50 to £8.60, with small businesses engaging 10 employees or less exempted from paying this registration fee.

Furthermore, employers who are unable to genuinely abide by the 10-day vacancy period with good reason may apply to the Director of Employment to waive the £15 penalty fee.

WORKERS RIGHTS

AGENCY WORKERS' RIGHTS

We have collaborated closely with Unite to reinstate the twelve-week qualifying period for equal treatment under the Agency Workers Regulations, a commitment we are faithfully upholding. Furthermore, we are dedicated to ensuring that agency workers and those on fixed-term contracts are engaged within the Public Sector only when a genuine need for short-term coverage exists. Temporary workers, whether directly employed or not, will not be used to fill permanent vacancies, aligning with our promise made in Parliament on this matter. In a demonstration of leadership, our GSLP Liberal Government has set the standard by providing parity for agency workers within the Public Sector from the onset of their engagement when genuine temporary roles are required.

Additionally, we will continue working with Unite on the particulars of an Agency Worker collective agreement whilst on deployment to the Public Sector. This agreement will incorporate mandatory reviews of agency workers' roles after a defined period to evaluate whether their positions should be converted to permanent, where applicable. This review process will involve ongoing consultations with unions, with a specific focus on instances where temporary workers are not transitioning to permanent roles.

ENDING THE 'SWEDISH DEROGATION' PRACTICE

We are committed to repealing the 'Swedish Derogation' practice, which allows temporary work agencies to employ agency workers directly and subsequently assign them to hirers, circumventing the wage parity requirement after the qualifying period. A future GSLP Liberal Government will align Gibraltar's regulations with the Agency Workers

(Amendment) Regulations 2019 and the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses (Amendment) Regulations 2019, which were enacted in the United Kingdom in April of the same year. These regulations were specifically designed to address the challenges associated with the 'Swedish Derogation,' and we aim to adopt similar measures to ensure fair treatment for agency workers in Gibraltar.

SERVICE ACCUMULATION WITHOUT GAPS

We intend to engage in discussions with Unite and employer organisations to revise the Fixed Term & Part Time Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations. Our goal is to include provisions for a specified non-engagement period within fixed-term contracts, ensuring that such gaps do not break the continuity of four years of employment needed to seek a declaration of permanent employment. This will prevent employers from exploiting short breaks in service to avoid the obligations faced by employers.

FAIR TREATMENT IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

To promote fairness in the labour market, we will make it a prerequisite within government tenders that bidders commit to treating agency and fixed-term contract workers fairly.

EXPANDING SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

Supported Employment Schemes are pivotal in assisting individuals facing disadvantages or disabilities in securing employment. We will review these schemes to widen their reach and leverage them to provide support and opportunities to those who might otherwise struggle in the competitive job market. Our aim is not only to help these individuals secure employment but also to provide them with the necessary tools, training, and opportunities to thrive in their careers, fostering a more equitable and inclusive workforce in our community.

GUIDANCE FOR WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS

We aim to develop and distribute a joint guidance note, in collaboration with Unite, to educate employers and workers about their rights and responsibilities under employment legislation.

ENDING ABUSES OF ZERO-HOUR CONTRACTS

We are committed to consulting on the elimination of zero-hour contract abuse across all sectors. There may be a need for zero-hour contracts in certain sectors or circumstances, but these will be raised with the unions to ensure their legitimacy. When employers and employees agree on set hours, those hours must be clearly stated in employment agreements. A Zero Hour Contract Consultation Group, inclusive of union representatives, the Chamber, the Federation, and the Ministry of Employment, will address this issue.

PROTECTING WORKERS IN TRANSFERS OF UNDERTAKINGS

To ensure worker protection during transfers, we remain committed to observance of the provisions of Section 3 (1) (b) of the UK Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

TRADE UNION RECOGNITION

We are very proud to have implemented the Trade Union Recognition Act and will continue collaborating with unions, the Chamber of Commerce, and GFSB on matters concerning trade union recognition.

PROMOTING WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

We have re-introduced the Health and Safety Advisory Council, comprised of Public, Private, Union and Third-Sector partners. The council meets quarterly and discusses a whole range of matters that cut across the fabric of public and private sector work.

In 2022, we re-instituted the hugely successful Health and Safety Week Seminar, discussing issues of relevance to that year's respective theme. We have committed to continuing the seminar yearly, to continue pushing the Health and Safety agenda to the benefit of all.

EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP TRUSTS

Despite not having been able to do so to date, we are committed to implementing legislation that supports the establishment of Employee Ownership Trust structures, mirroring the proven success of the UK's John Lewis Partnership model. By doing so, we aim to encourage the development of cooperative business models in Gibraltar. These structures empower employees to become stakeholders in their organisations, fostering a sense of ownership, engagement, and shared success while promoting economic sustainability and equitable distribution of benefits within the workforce.

HONOURING WORKERS AND LEARNING FROM TRAGEDY

We are committed to celebrating Workers Day on May 1st and creating a bank holiday on the nearest weekend to April 28th, dedicated to honouring those who have lost their lives at work and learning lessons to prevent workplace illnesses, injuries, or fatalities.

This is important for Socialists around the world, and we will ensure Gibraltar continues to lead by example in this field.

EXPLORING THE 4-DAY WORKING WEEK – A PILOT SCHEME

As a forward thinking, socialist political alliance, the GSLP Liberals are committed to exploring innovative approaches to improve the well-being and work-life balance of our citizens. One such idea we are eager to explore is the implementation of a pilot scheme for a four-day working week. The concept of a four-day work week has gained momentum globally, and

its potential benefits cannot be overlooked. Advocates argue that it can lead to increased productivity, reduced stress levels, and greater job satisfaction among employees.

To assess the viability and potential advantages of this approach, we plan to launch a consultation potentially leading to a carefully designed pilot scheme. During this pilot phase, we will closely monitor its impact on productivity, employee well-being, and overall work satisfaction. Depending on the results and feedback gathered from this trial, we will consider the possibility of further developing and expanding the four-day working week model.

Our commitment to exploring this initiative reflects our dedication to creating a work environment that aligns with the evolving needs and aspirations of our workforce. We believe that innovative solutions like the four-day working week can contribute to a happier, healthier, and more productive workforce, ultimately benefiting both individuals and our society as a whole.



Meet the team Vijay Daryanani

Vijay Daryanani has served as Minister for Business and Tourism since October 2019. He was also Minister for Transport from October 2019 to June 2021. Vijay then became Minister for the Port and Commercial Aviation in August 2020. Before becoming a Minister, he was a Businessman running his family business on Main Street. Vijay is the first member of the Indian Community to be elected as an MP and Minister.

He is also a founder member of the GFSB and has served as Chairman of the Business Licensing Authority for seven years.

BUSINESS & COMMERCE

CASEMATES

We will engage with all stakeholders in Casemates Square to discuss a facelift. This is the entrance to our town centre, and we are committed to giving it the importance it deserves. This engagement will take place within a month of being returned to office.

CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD BEAUTIFICATION

Chatham Counterguard will be beautified after consultation with the businesses. This will take place within a month of being returned to office. The beautification will entail paving repairs, improved lighting, more greenery and furniture standardization.

CASEMATES HOUSE REFURBISHMENT

We will review plans for and start work on refurbishing Casemates House. The refurbishment of this building, along with the refurbishment of Casemates, will bring to the area a much-needed refresh. As one of the focal points for leisure in Gibraltar, a complete overhaul will be well worth the time, investment, and inconvenience of the building process.

MAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME

We will, if elected to Office, deliver a beautification programme for Main Street. This will involve paving repairs, new street furniture, landscaping and improved lighting. The installation of WIFI hotspots is also being considered. As the hub of this community's shopping and other leisure activities, we are striving to create a better environment for our visitors and shoppers, to maximise the time spent there and, in so doing and for the benefit of our traders, perhaps maximise the opportunity for a higher level of spend by customers. We will be carrying out a brief consultation with stakeholders before commencement of works to canvass their views on what needs to be done, to better understand the vision of those who know Main Street best.

CITY CENTRE SIDE STREETS BEAUTIFICATION

We will engage with stakeholders in the City Centre to discuss and develop a programme of beautification for side streets in the area. With the beautification of Main Street and Casemates, we will review options for a programme of improvements in other areas.

GIBRALTAR ENTERPRISE SCHEME

Once the initial part of the scheme has been concluded we will look at how to extend it further. We are committed to our entrepreneurs who want to start a new business or want to expand. We will also consult with the Chamber and

Commerce and GFSB to explore incentives for these new businesses.

MAIN STREET CONSULTATIVE GROUP

We will constitute the Main Street Consultative Group. This will allow us to consult with the stake holders on everything related to our high street. We are totally committed to Main Street. This will happen within a month of being returned to office.

START UP HUB

We will open a Start Up Hub. This will be centrally located where individuals can go to seek advice and use the location as a place to work from for a nominal rent. We will allocate civil servants to support the hub. This will open within twelve months of being returned into office.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

When we support our local businesses, we support the workers, families and communities that rely on them. Supporting businesses and their workers is at the heart of our plan to create jobs, strengthens and grows the economy. We proved this during the pandemic, and we will continue to do this.

CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITY OF SPANISH COMPANIES

For a long time, local businesses have legitimately raised concerns around commercial activity of Spanish entities selling into and operating in Gibraltar in the provision of goods and services. Not only is this a matter of legitimate concern for local traders who rightly point out that such companies do not contribute to the local finances in any way, it is a concern from the perspective of the proper policing and control of these entities which are operating, in effect, without a licence. In the complex context of cross-border trade, fluidity of goods and services across it and the ongoing negotiations with the EU and Spain, it is important to make clear that there is no simple or straightforward solution with immediate impact that will not have consequences in other respects. The GSLP Liberals are committed to carrying out a thorough exercise of reviewing the current issues, the extent to which said suppliers (or class of suppliers) are active here and the extent to which controlling or fiscal measures are feasible or desirable. A GSLP Liberal Government will ALWAYS do what it considers is in the best interests of Gibraltar's people AND its businesses, even if it may not always appear to be so to those who raise these legitimate concerns. The GSLP Liberals have been getting the job done of keeping Gibraltar safe for the last 12 years, not by means of knee jerk reactions with no consideration for the wider and long-term implications of the measures we take. We are delighted to have received these relevant representations and commit to giving them the time and energy they merit.



Beautification of Chatham Counterguard







Artist's impressions of the beautification of Casemates







Artist's impressions of the beautification of Main Street



FAIR TRADING ACT 2023 COMMENCEMENT

The Fair Trading Act 2023 has been commenced on 1st October 2023. The Act will simplify the process of establishing new businesses in Gibraltar by streamlining the business licensing process and by absorbing some of the licences currently issued under the Licensing and Fees Act, including brokers. The process of applying for a business licence shall be simpler and significantly faster with a substantial reduction in the steps and time required to be licensed. New licence applications shall be made with one consolidated application form submitted directly to the OFT, no longer requiring applicants to publish adverts in the Gazette and a newspaper. New licence applications can also be submitted online on HM Government of Gibraltar's eServices platform. Once submitted, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) shall give notice of the application for objection on the OFT's website by publishing details within five working days of receipt. We will continue to look into ways we can make doing business in Gibraltar easier and more efficient, removing where possible any barriers to entrepreneurial spirit, grit and determination - we believe that such spirit should be helped out, not held back.

REVIEWING AND UPDATING HAWKERS' LICENSES - A NEW MODEL FOR MICRO- BUSINESSES

We will review and update our policy on the issue of so-called hawkers' licenses. We cannot ignore the reality in many modern cities around the world, where vendors of quality products, whether in catering or cottage industries, are given the opportunity, at lower cost than that of renting premises, to sell their wares. We also believe that whilst this is a necessity, it must be done with a principal focus on the quality of the product, the presentation of the business and a single-minded determination to ensure that only the best quality businesses are granted such licences. We also fully believe that these businesses must be kept under review to ensure strict compliance with the rules and conditions of quality, cleanliness and presentability that may be attached

to a licence issued. We will commence the process of reviewing any current applications as soon as a new regime for the regulation of these licenses is settled. We would aim to be able to issue the first of these licences, on a pilot basis, just ahead of Spring next year.

EMBRACING DIGITAL TRADE SOLUTIONS

We commit to exploring digital trade solutions along the lines of the initiative that led to the Electronic Trade Documents Act in the UK. We already moved to digital in the context of conveyancing transactions, so we are ready to explore opportunities in enhancing efficiency, reducing paperwork, and improving document security in other areas too. Our government will continue to work to align with global standards, provide business support, and maintain transparent regulation for a modern, thriving trade environment. Gibraltar's future in international trade is digital and dynamic.

AIRCRAFT REGISTRY

We will establish an aircraft registry in Gibraltar during this term of office. All of the initial work has already been completed and we expect that the registry will be operational within the first 24 months of our term.

PRIVATE AIRCRAFT HANGAR

We will work to provide a hangar for private aircraft at Gibraltar Airport. This will not be funded with taxpayers' money but will add a strand of business to the services provided from our airport.

LOCATION SHOOTING

We will continue our work to have Gibraltar chosen as the location for a major UK television series. Already we have interest from two separate, major streaming companies to film drama series in Gibraltar. This can be hugely important for us in terms of the promotion of Gibraltar as a tourist destination.



Meet the team Nigel Feetham KC

Nigel has been a leading figure in the Gibraltar financial sector over many years. The sector (including gaming) accounts for a significant part of Gibraltar's GDP, thousands of jobs, and many tens of millions of pounds of Government revenues. Nigel has also dedicated part of his career to the advancement of knowledge and education, and has been a Visiting Professor in a U.K. University. He has authored several law books, was appointed a QC (now KC) and his work has been recognised through numerous prestigious international awards. Nigel has been heavily involved in the restructure of the financial sector following the huge challenges created by Brexit and since last year has been advising the Government of Gibraltar at no expense to the taxpayer on a number of policy initiatives that have already delivered tangible results.

Over the years Nigel has helped, professionally, to set up many businesses in Gibraltar. These have created hundreds of local jobs and some of the businesses he helped to set up are today among the largest contributors to the Gibraltar economy. Nigel is passionate about continuing to create educational, training and employment opportunities in the local financial sector, especially for our young people, and fostering a culture of collaboration among key stakeholders.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2019/2020

FINANCIAL SERVICES: MODERNIZING LEGISLATION FOR A THRIVING SECTOR

In 2019, Gibraltar's financial services sector saw significant progress, marked by the introduction of the Financial Services Bill. This Bill aimed to modernize and consolidate existing legislation, providing a robust legal framework for financial institutions. These efforts were pivotal in strengthening Gibraltar's position as a leading international financial centre.

ACCESS TO THE UK MARKET: SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS FOR POST-BREXIT ACCESS

Amid Brexit uncertainties, Gibraltar achieved a major milestone by Fabian Picardo and Albert Isola leading teams to successfully negotiating with HM Treasury for us to have continued access to the UK market beyond December 2020. Both the UK and Gibraltar enacted legislation to facilitate reciprocal single market access in financial services, ensuring the smooth flow of business and trade.

PRODUCT & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: FOSTERING INNOVATION AND GROWTH

Collaboration with the private sector remained a cornerstone of Gibraltar's strategy in 2019. This partnership aimed to enhance product offerings and foster innovation in financial services. Successful marketing initiatives targeted key jurisdictions, resulting in a notable increase in business activities within Gibraltar. Additionally, Gibraltar made significant strides in the Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) sector, positioning itself as a global innovator.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND EDUCATION: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

2019 marked the establishment of the New Technologies in Education Key Advisory Group (NTiE), formed in collaboration with the University of Gibraltar. This initiative aimed to revolutionise education through technology. Gibraltar delivered educational courses and introduced the Professional Certificate of Competence in Blockchain and Smart Contracts, preparing the workforce for the digital age. Furthermore, the creation of the Gibraltar Association for New Technologies (GANT) facilitated international collaboration and the exchange of innovative ideas.

INSURANCE SECTOR: REMARKABLE GROWTH AND ATTRACTION

The insurance sector witnessed impressive growth in 2019, with several companies writing significant premiums from Gibraltar. Efforts focused on developing a flexible Managing General Agency (MGA) offering to attract new MGAs and Insurtech businesses. Gibraltar positioned itself as an attractive hub for insurance innovation and growth.

GIBRALTAR INTERNATIONAL BANK: A SUCCESSFUL TURNAROUND

Gibraltar International Bank achieved a remarkable turnaround, surpassing expectations to achieve profitability ahead of schedule. This achievement was a testament to effective management and strategic planning, bolstering Gibraltar's financial stability. This is one of our greatest success stories. The professional team that run the bank and the people who work within it have done Gibraltar proud and we are very pleased to have been the political team with the guts to start this bank.

MONEYVAL EVALUATION AND COMPLIANCE: STRENGTHENING REGULATORY STANDARDS

In preparation for the 2019 Moneyval Evaluation, Gibraltar took substantial steps to improve compliance and enhance its reputation. As a jurisdiction we worked diligently to meet international standards, demonstrating our commitment to robust anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures.

GAMBLING SECTOR: SUSTAINED CONTRIBUTION AND MARKET ACCESS

The gambling sector continued to make significant contributions to Gibraltar's economy in 2019. Efforts were directed toward ensuring continued access to EU markets post-Brexit. Gibraltar issued new licenses and attracted additional gambling businesses, solidifying its position as a thriving gambling destination.

OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING: REGULATORY EFFICIENCY AND COMPLIANCE

In 2019, the Office of Fair Trading focused on its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing responsibilities in preparation for the Moneyval evaluation. Concurrently, it embarked on an ongoing review and update of the Fair Trading Act, aimed at creating a more efficient and business-friendly regulatory framework. These initiatives aimed to maintain Gibraltar's reputation as a compliant and attractive business destination.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2020/21

RESILIENCE AMID CHALLENGES: NAVIGATING TURBULENT WATERS WITH SUCCESS

The years 2020 and 2021 presented unprecedented challenges, with Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting global economies. Despite these hurdles, Gibraltar's Gaming and Financial Services sectors exhibited remarkable resilience and adaptability. Both industries weathered the storms, emerging stronger and more resilient than ever.

GAMING SECTOR RESILIENCE: SUSTAINING GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

Gibraltar's Gaming sector stood tall amidst adversity, preserving over 3,400 jobs and maintaining its operations

despite the loss of European business. The sector continued to attract new applications and sustain employment levels, showcasing its ability to adapt and thrive in a changing landscape.

FINANCIAL SERVICES INNOVATION: PIONEERING NEW PATHWAYS

Despite the challenges posed by Brexit, Gibraltar secured passporting rights to the United Kingdom, underscoring its innovation and agility. The sector experienced a surge in applications and witnessed record levels of Cat 2's and HEPSS, reflecting confidence in Gibraltar's regulatory and legal systems.

INNOVATION AND GROWTH: DLT AND EMONEY SECTOR FLOURISHES

Gibraltar's Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) and eMoney sector experienced exceptional growth and earned global recognition. Local companies achieved significant valuation milestones and raised substantial funds, solidifying Gibraltar's position as a hub for technological innovation and financial progress.

INSURANCE SECTOR SUCCESS: DRIVING INNOVATION AND EXPANSION

The insurance sector in Gibraltar thrived, marked by robust growth and groundbreaking innovation. Gibraltar's motor insurers made significant inroads, potentially securing a 30% market share in the UK. This success underscores the sector's resilience and competitive edge.

LEGISLATIVE ADVANCEMENTS: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF FINANCE

Gibraltar took strides in forward-thinking legislation, defining market integrity standards and exploring emerging trends like decentralized finance (DeFi) and non-fungible tokens (NFTs). Overhauling the Limited Partnership Act and introducing the Protected Cell Limited Partnerships Bill created a competitive legislative framework.

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS: FOSTERING GROWTH THROUGH UNITY

Gibraltar forged collaborations with esteemed associations and organizations, such as the Gibraltar Association for New Technologies (GANT) and Gibraltar Funds Association (GFIA). These partnerships enhanced product development and created new avenues for business growth.

FINANCIAL CENTRE COUNCIL AND GIBRALTAR INTERNATIONAL BANK: STEADFAST LEADERSHIP

The Finance Centre Council provided resolute leadership during a transformative period for the sector. Gibraltar International Bank exhibited resilience, witnessed growth in deposits, and effectively responded to cyber threats, ensuring the stability of the financial landscape.

GIBRALTAR AUTHORISATION REGIME (GAR): STRENGTHENING UK RELATIONS

Progress was made in securing permanent passporting arrangements through the Gibraltar Authorisation Regime (GAR), reinforcing Gibraltar's relationship with the UK and fortifying the financial services sector.

GIBRALTAR FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION (GFSC) AND GIBRALTAR FINANCE: PILLARS OF REGULATORY EXCELLENCE

Under the guidance of GFSC, Gibraltar maintained regulatory standards and fostered collaborations, particularly in driving the GAR project. Gibraltar Finance played a proactive role in promoting the jurisdiction, spearheading policy development, and engaging with global firms.

GAMBLING SECTOR SUSTAINABILITY: A COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBILITY

The remote gambling sector sustained operations while prioritizing social responsibility. It stood beside businesses during the pandemic, epitomizing a steadfast commitment to responsible gambling practices. Initiatives like the Gambling Care Foundation and the Centre of Excellence for Responsible Gambling underscored this dedication.

LIAISON UNIT SUPPORT: NAVIGATING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

The Liaison Department played a pivotal role in assisting sectors navigate government processes, particularly during technological advancements in the public sector. Their unwavering support ensured the seamless integration of gaming and finance sectors with evolving government systems.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2021/22

FINANCIAL SERVICES GROWTH: PIONEERING PROGRESS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Gibraltar's financial services sector experienced consistent growth, becoming a beacon of employment opportunities in both financial services and gaming. This achievement highlighted the sector's vitality and its significant contribution to Gibraltar's economic landscape.

INSURANCE MARKET GROWTH: FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Gibraltar's remarkable ascent in the UK motor insurance market, from 12% to approximately 30% in nine years, was a testament to its resilience. Despite formidable challenges like Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic, over 40 insurance companies wrote new business, collectively amassing gross premiums exceeding £5 billion.

DLT/BLOCKCHAIN INNOVATION: FOSTERING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

Gibraltar's DLT/Blockchain sector thrived, with a robust

pipeline of new applicants and numerous permissions granted. This sector made substantial contributions to fees, employment, taxation, and GDP, reaffirming its pivotal role in driving Gibraltar's economic progress.

FUNDS/ASSET MANAGEMENT: SHAPING AN INDUSTRY

Collaborative efforts with the Gibraltar Funds Association (GFIA) and the sector resulted in the enactment of significant legislation and industry advancements. These developments strengthened Gibraltar's position in the global landscape of funds and asset management.

GAR REGIME IMPLEMENTATION: SECURING MARKET ACCESS

Progress in the implementation of the Gibraltar Authorisation Regime (GAR) in coordination with HM Treasury was a critical milestone. This advancement was essential in maintaining Gibraltar's market access to the UK Financial Services market, securing its foothold in a competitive arena.

LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE ENHANCEMENTS: SETTING GLOBAL STANDARDS

Gibraltar set new global standards by implementing regulations that established market integrity norms in the virtual asset space. The integration of blockchain technology into eGovernment systems enhanced functionality and improved efficiency. Additionally, legislation enabling a dual funds regime for Experienced Investor Funds bolstered Gibraltar's global market presence.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION: A SYNERGISTIC PARTNERSHIP

Collaboration between Gibraltar Finance Centre Council and member associations fostered a robust public/private sector partnership. This collaborative synergy propelled Gibraltar's financial services sector towards new heights of innovation and success.

GIBRALTAR INTERNATIONAL BANK SUCCESS: STABILITY AND PROFITABILITY

Gibraltar International Bank smoothly transitioned to normalcy post-Covid, maintaining a stable deposit base and forecasting a profit of £3.2 million for the year ending March 2022. This accomplishment underscored the bank's resilience and effectiveness in navigating challenging times.

GAMBLING SECTOR RESILIENCE: THRIVING AND EXPANDING

The gambling sector remained vibrant, boasting stable employee numbers and showcasing active interest in international operations. Ongoing licensing activities highlighted the sector's resilience and commitment to sustained growth.

CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESPONSIBLE GAMING: A HUB OF KNOWLEDGE

The establishment of the Centre for Excellence in Responsible Gaming contributed significantly to research and international understanding of responsible gambling. This initiative reflected Gibraltar's dedication to fostering a responsible and ethical gambling environment.

EFFICIENT LIAISON UNIT: SUPPORTING BUSINESSES AND VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS

The Liaison Department's remarkable efficiency in providing business support to the gaming and finance sectors played a pivotal role in ensuring vulnerable individuals' access to government services. This department's dedication contributed significantly to Gibraltar's overall welfare and prosperity.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2022/23

GIBRALTAR INSURANCE SECTOR: ACHIEVING HISTORIC MILESTONES

Gibraltar's insurance sector achieved remarkable growth, with gross premium income surging to approximately £7 billion in 2022. This historic milestone marked the sector's prominence in the global insurance landscape. Gibraltar's motor insurers collectively exceeded a 30% share of the UK motor insurance market in 2022, a groundbreaking achievement. The proactive promotion of Gibraltar as a hub for new insurance opportunities and diverse business classes underscored its commitment to continuous growth and innovation.

INSURANCE SUB-SECTORS: DIVERSE SUCCESS STORIES

Within the insurance sector, Gibraltar demonstrated its prowess across various sub-sectors. Gibraltar insurers, specializing in pet insurance, captured a substantial 20% of the UK pet insurance market. Furthermore, Gibraltar's insurance intermediaries excelled in travel insurance, processing nearly 30% of all travel intermediation policies sold in the UK. These accomplishments showcased Gibraltar's versatility and expertise in catering to diverse insurance needs.

INSURANCE INSOLVENCY FUND: PROTECTING POLICYHOLDERS

Progress towards establishing an insurance insolvency fund, aimed at providing financial protection to insured individuals in case of motor insurer insolvency, reached an advanced legislative stage. This initiative reflected Gibraltar's commitment to safeguarding policyholders and ensuring the resilience of its insurance sector.

GIBRALTAR AUTHORISATION REGIME (GAR): STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

In preparation for the Gibraltar Authorisation Regime

(GAR), Gibraltar actively engaged in preparatory work and collaborated with HM Treasury and UK regulators for sectoral assessments in insurance, insurance distribution, and investment services. Efforts were dedicated to aligning Gibraltar's legislation with the UK's, ensuring a seamless transition to the GAR regime.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN FINANCIAL SERVICES: PRO-INNOVATION APPROACH

Gibraltar explored the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in financial services, with plans to establish a taskforce of regulatory experts. Embracing a pro-innovation approach similar to the DLT regime, Gibraltar aimed to leverage AI for the benefit of the financial sector, fostering technological advancements and efficiencies.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE STRATEGY: COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Gibraltar, in partnership with the Ministry for Environment and Sustainability, embarked on developing a comprehensive sustainable finance strategy. This strategy focused on sustainability accreditation, voluntary sustainability funds, knowledge coordination, and industry associations. It underscored Gibraltar's dedication to environmental responsibility within its financial services sector.

CAT2 WORKING GROUP: ENHANCING THE CAT2 REGIME

Active participation in the Cat2 Working Group allowed Gibraltar to present proposals and recommendations for revamping and enhancing the Cat2 regime. Simplifying character reference letters and aligning them with POCA requirements aimed to streamline the process, making it more efficient and effective.

QUALIFYING NON-UK RECOGNISED PENSION SCHEME: ADDRESSING PENSION NEEDS

Collaboration with the industry led to amendments in the Qualifying Non-UK Recognised Pension Scheme, making it more appealing to those approaching their pension lifetime allowance. This initiative demonstrated Gibraltar's commitment to addressing the evolving needs of its citizens.

SUPPORT FOR START-UP GRIND GIBRALTAR: FOSTERING INNOVATION

Continued sponsorship for Start-Up Grind Gibraltar provided a platform for fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within financial services. Events and discussions centred around financial services aimed to inspire and support emerging startups and visionary entrepreneurs.

DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY (DLT): GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Gibraltar solidified its position as a global leader in DLT, boasting significant achievements and a robust pipeline of new applicants and permissioned firms. Its forward-thinking approach to DLT regulation positioned Gibraltar at the

forefront of this transformative technology.

GIBRALTAR RECOVERED ASSETS FUND: AIDING LAW ENFORCEMENT

The establishment of the Gibraltar Recovered Assets Fund represented a pivotal step in collecting assets recovered under economic crime legislation. These assets would support investigations by law enforcement agencies, reinforcing Gibraltar's commitment to combatting economic crimes.

GAMBLING DIVISION: REGULATORY VIGILANCE

Gibraltar's Gambling Division demonstrated robust regulation and oversight of the gambling sector. With a focus on anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) measures, as well as sports integrity and policy development, Gibraltar maintained its reputation as a responsible and vigilant regulator in the gambling industry.

COMMITMENTS GOING FORWARD

GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING THE FINANCE SECTOR

Gibraltar's financial sector, including gaming, is a cornerstone of its economy, contributing significantly to GDP, employment, and government revenues. The primary objective of the GSLP Liberals in Government will be to nurture the growth of Gibraltar's financial sector while simultaneously diversifying it. This approach seeks to enhance competitiveness and foster employment opportunities, particularly for the youth.

CAPTIVE REGIME FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Post-Brexit, an opportunity has arisen for Gibraltar to establish a captive regime for international business, an initiative which was unattainable within the EU. If elected, the GSLP Liberals commit to passing legislation enabling a captive regime for international (non-UK and non-EU passported) business. This significant move would enhance Gibraltar's insurance sector, offering unprecedented opportunities.

DIVERSIFICATION WITHIN SECTORS

The GSLP Liberals believe that it is important for the Gibraltar Financial Services industry to reduce its dependency on the UK market, thereby mitigating concentration risk in specific insurance sectors. Gibraltar aims to diversify its offerings by exploring novel avenues within the insurance sector, such as bulk annuity and pensions solutions for the UK corporate/institutional market. This diversification strategy aims to broaden Gibraltar's economic base.

ENHANCING THE PRODUCT OFFERING

The GSLP Liberals understand that Gibraltar needs to expand its financial sector's product portfolio. The GSLP Liberals will

continue to collaborate with industry stakeholders to enrich its financial sector's product offerings, ensuring it remains competitive and thriving.

TRACK RECORD IN REGULATORY STRATEGIES

Gibraltar's success in facilitating the relocation of insurance businesses from Malta to meet UK market access requirements underscores its ability to implement effective strategies. The GSLP Liberals are committed to attracting high-value businesses. An efficient licensing process, developed in collaboration with industry and regulators, will expedite their establishment in Gibraltar.

TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Fostering skills development and creating better job prospects, especially for youth, is crucial for Gibraltar's financial sector. If returned to office, the GSLP Liberals will continue promoting skills development and collaboration within the financial sector. Initiatives like the Digital Skills Academy and partnerships with the University of Gibraltar are instrumental in preparing the workforce for the future.

SHOWCASING FINANCIAL SECTOR EXPERTISE

We recognise Gibraltar's wealth of talent. We are committed to unlocking its potential through support and encouragement. An incoming GSLP-Liberal Government will organise events showcasing the skills and experiences of finance sector professionals. These forums will address crucial topics and inspire the next generation.

GOVERNMENT-OWNED CAPTIVE INSURER

Gibraltar International Bank's establishment demonstrates Gibraltar's innovative thinking. Building on that determination to innovate, the GSLP Liberals will explore the feasibility of a Government-owned captive insurance company. This initiative has been conceived with a view to secure competitive insurance for the Government, address public interest insurance needs, and bolster the talent pool.

DIGITAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL

As a centre of excellence in innovation itself, Gibraltar should continue to seek acceleration in the adoption of technology and innovation in financial services. A GSLP Liberal Government will create a Digital Economic Council to harness local talent, promote access to technology, and inspire innovation among aspiring entrepreneurs, including school-leavers.

CREDIT CARDS AND DIGITAL BANKING

Gibraltar's track record in understanding global industry needs is well documented. The GSLP Liberals are committed to targeting issues with the availability of credit card providers in Gibraltar and aims to streamline the regulatory process for digital banks. Gibraltar will explore credit card solutions, collaborate with professionals, and streamline regulations to enhance competitiveness in attracting digital banks, bolstering its financial ecosystem.

One of the key focuses of the review will be the abolition of annual tax returns for citizens where these are not, in the context of technology available and data stored by the tax office, deemed necessary.

REVAMPING TAXATION: ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP FOR EFFICIENCY

We will establish a working group to review and report on taxation in Gibraltar, with a view to streamlining yet further the process and burden of tax administration for our taxpayers. One of the key focuses of the review will be the abolition of annual tax returns for citizens where these are not, in the context of technology available and data stored by the tax office, deemed necessary. We will also, as one of our first initiatives if re-elected, bring the operation of the Income Tax Office within the remit of the Ministry of Financial Services. The current treatment of the Income Tax Office under Number 6 results in a disjointed approach between those in Government working at the coalface of financial services and technology on the one hand, and the management of taxes on the other. The GSLP Liberals consider, following discussions with stakeholders, that this review is long overdue and is committed to making the right changes to the operation of the tax regime, to the proper resourcing of the relevant departments, to enabling the professional development of the many excellent civil servants in that department, thereby improving Gibraltar's competitiveness in an important regard beyond just the headline figures.

BALANCING BREXIT IMPACT: CONSULTING ON TAX REVENUES & COMMUNITY COSTS

Some of the consequences of Brexit in the context of our relationship with the UK, as they interact with our current tax rules and the appeal of moving to and living in Gibraltar, gives rise to a potential for a future imbalance between tax revenues versus the costs to the community of welcoming large numbers of UK citizens coming to make Gibraltar their home. A GSLP Liberal Government will enter into a consultation process with all relevant stakeholders on this issue, to conclude within 6 months of being returned to office, with a view to avoiding any future difficulties that this may give rise to.

PROTECTING GIBRALTAR'S FINANCIAL SERVICES: NON-PARTISAN COMMITMENT

Contrary to the huge political mistake made by some in Parliament in politicising the Gibraltar financial services industry and calling for it to be dismantled, we will not make the provision of financial services from Gibraltar a partisan issue. We will strongly defend the Gibraltar financial services industry that is the source of our prosperity. The sector has

come under repeated, belligerent attack, despite the risk that creates for thousands of jobs in the private sector and our ability to fund our public services.

GBDP - A GIBRALTAR DIGITAL POUND

We will explore, in association with the Bank of England, the creation and deployment of a safe and digital Gibraltar Pound, a digital currency distinct from cryptocurrency, yet offering easy, intermediary free access to a digital asset.

SELF-SOVEREIGN ID

We will continue and complete our work on SSID.

TOURISM

CRUISE INDUSTRY

We are committed to growing the cruise business in Gibraltar. It has been a difficult few years for the industry but we have recovered very well and stand ready for growth. The year 2024 is showing a 5.5% increase and 2025 7% over 2024. That is 12.5 % over two years. We will market Gibraltar continuously at all the important cruise conferences in the world so that our prestigious brand stays at the forefront of all itinerary planners.

A NEW CRUISE LINER TERMINAL

We will build a new state-of-the-art cruise liner terminal which will replace the current one, comprising of two floors and a roof top. Sustainability aspects will form a central feature of the new terminal. The Ground floor will be the main passenger area. The first floor will allow for events and conferences, with the possibility of shopping units being included in the design. If returned to Government, a final decision on this will be taken in consultation with the industry and stakeholders.

The present terminal is looking tired, and this magnificent facility will be something Gibraltar will be proud of. Gibraltar has the potential to become the most important cruise destination in the Western Mediterranean. The competition is immense, and we have to improve and strive to be the best. This new facility will provide a luxurious passenger experience, in a world class environment, including improvements in the surrounding area. Gibraltar is highly respected in the cruise industry, but a GSLP Liberal Government will strive for more for this community. Our ambition is to set the benchmark in the industry.

GIBRALTAR CRUISE AND MARITIME TOURISM OFFICER

As part of consideration that we will give to creating new posts within the Gibraltar Tourist Board to meet demand for the development of the various strands of Gibraltar's tourism offering, we will consider recruiting for a new role within the GTB with a specific remit to focus on and develop Gibraltar's reach in the cruise industry. As a significant element of the tourism market in Gibraltar, we are persuaded that such a role may indeed be warranted. We would anticipate that such a role would require a specific focus on developing existing relationships within the industry and representing Gibraltar at all major cruise industry events.

AIRPORT AND AIR CONNECTIVITY

Gibraltar International Airport has seen a quick recovery after the events of the last few years. Passenger numbers are on the increase in the first half of the year and this growth will certainly continue till the end of the year. We will commence works on certain improvements on the airport terminal to keep it to the standard it deserves and that every Gibraltarian can be proud of. We will keep on working with the airlines to increase capacity and open up new routes.



Artist's impression of the new Cruise Liner Terminal



We will also continue our engagement with new airlines to open up services to Gibraltar. Private Aircraft business has seen significant increase over the last few years, and we will engage to seek opportunities with operators to have permanent private aircraft available from Gibraltar Airport. We will upgrade our security equipment to the latest standards, bringing us in line with UK airports. Passengers will enjoy a better experience through security as they will be able to carry liquids and the whole process will make traveling even more secure.

A RELIABLE AIRPORT - A GOOD SERVICE IS CRITICAL

It is unacceptable that Gibraltar's commercial air terminal should not be able to function because of a lack of investment by the MOD contractor in human resources issues. We will continue to pursue the improvement in performance by NATS in respect of air control services at Gibraltar Airport and seek introduction of such further technological solutions as may assist in resolving the issues that have arisen.

NICHE TOURISM

There are many niche opportunities in Gibraltar, and we will work with all stakeholders concerned to market these abroad so that people can see what there is on offer in Gibraltar. Scuba diving, birdwatching experience, weddings, yachting and others.

EVENT LED TOURISM AND SPORTS TOURISM

We will proceed to look for new events to attract tourists to Gibraltar. The Literary Festival has been a huge success and we will continue working to improve on the product annually. We will work with local stakeholders to develop music events, International and local alike. Our local musicians need support, and we will certainly provide them with it. At the same time, we will also promote Sports Tourism, including football training camps, Backgammon, swimming, triathlons, chess, Netball, Rugby 7's and others. We will also hold a running event by the world-renowned LONDON MARATHON. This type of event is big business, and we will push to bring them to Gibraltar.

MOROCCO

The GSLP Liberals are fully committed to establishing sea and air links with Morocco. We will provide all the support possible to entities who are interested in offering these services. Our work will continue to attract interested parties.

LIAISON SERVICE FOR MOROCCAN NATIONALS

We will further resource the facilities to assist business and personal travellers from Morocco.

MOROCCO TRAVEL LINKS - TOURISM

We will continue to pursue the establishment of air links with Morocco and the establishment of access to a more

regular ferry service to Morocco. We will provide all the support possible to entities who are interested in offering these services. Our work will continue to attract interested parties.

UK GIBRALTAR TOURISM ASSOCIATION ('UKGTA')

The UKGTA will meet within 60 days of a GSLP Liberal Government being returned to office.

FRONTIER BEAUTIFICATION

We will carry out a major refurbishment of the pedestrian and vehicular entrances to Gibraltar at the land border with Spain. This will improve the experience of the millions of visitors to Gibraltar. It will be an entrance for all of us to be proud of.

NEW HOTELS

Our work on this has already commenced. If we really want to attract more overnight tourism, conferences and events we need more hotel beds. This has to be done in a calibrated manner and with a choice of hotels of different standards. We will continue our engagement with world renowned brands to attract them to Gibraltar.

MEETINGS, INCENTIVES, CONFERENCES & EXHIBITIONS

The Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions industry would bring more welcome business to Gibraltar. GSLP Liberals will work with organizers and individuals in Europe to attract these events."

TRANSPORT

We will work with the Taxi Association and all transport stakeholders to find a long-lasting and equally beneficial arrangement. This work has already started. We are committed to making this work and, therefore, this group will meet regularly to find the best solution possible for Gibraltar.

INVESTMENT IN TOURIST SITES

We will continue investing in our tourist sites. Having already invested in the creation of the Skywalk and the Windsor Suspension Bridge, we are already exploring new options of the World War II tunnels and other areas. Apart from that, we will also welcome private sector investment on new tourism products. Tax incentives will be made available for this.

GTB SUPPORT

The Gibraltar Tourist Board will receive full backing to carry out its projects.



Artist's impression of the beautification of the pedestrian and vehicle entrances at the land border





Artist's impression of the beautification of the pedestrian and vehicle entrances at the land border



VALUE FOR MONEY MARKETING

Marketing has changed. Adverts have become very expensive and, therefore, we need to look at providing value for money. We will engage directly with people, be it at conferences or in their offices. There is nothing better than face to face contact. We will exhibit at conferences where we feel Gibraltar's presence is required. Bloggers, influencers, and digital marketing will continue. We will host an International level cruise conference where all top executives and itinerary planners from the main cruise lines will come to Gibraltar. This will bring unprecedented exposure as a destination.

LANDPORT TUNNEL

This project has been approved by the Development and Planning Commission and tenders have been received. The works will commence at the start of the new year. The whole area from Corral Road, leading to Landport Tunnel and through to Casemates will be beautified. This will include repaving, greenery, new street furniture and lighting. This will be a vast improvement to the entrance to our city centre for tourists and our people."

NEW SIGNAGE FOR TOWN CENTER

We will introduce new signage for the town centre, showing walking time on all signs. It will start at the frontier, cruise liner terminal and coach park. This will extend to all main touristic areas.

A GREAT SHOW IN THE GREAT SIEGE TUNNELS

We will commission the creation of a new light show in the Great Siege Tunnels, recreating for tourists and Gibraltarians alike the experience of life under fire in the amazing tunnels built to resist the unwitting and ultimately unsuccessful attackers.

AN ODE TO NELSON AT TRAFALGAR

We will explore the creation of a tourist attraction recalling and recreating the importance of the role played by HMS Victory in the Battle of Trafalgar and, of course, the bravery and naval prowess of Lord Nelson and his men.

NEW THRILLS

We will continue our work on the provision of a zip line attraction in Gibraltar. With the scenery and the topography, we have in Gibraltar, an attraction of this kind would provide a thrill for locals and tourists alike, appealing to those looking something exciting, maybe even iconic!

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS – NEW DISCIPLINES

We will explore opportunities, with relevant stakeholders, to organise high-profile events in a variety of disciplines not yet explored in Gibraltar. The vision is the organisation of events in association with international brands, in disciplines such as free running, longboarding, enduro, mountain running and mountain enduro, amongst others. These events attract athletes and enthusiasts from around the world and there can be few more iconic places than the Rock of Gibraltar as a setting for events of this kind. The international profile of these events would add a further benefit to the economic impact of having hundreds of participants and spectators come to Gibraltar for the, imagine it, "Downhill on the Rock" event.

RESTORING UPPER ROCK ACCESS: CHARLES V WALL PROJECT

As part of the continuing work to improve facilities in the Upper Rock and encourage visitors, especially by opening it up further to residents of Gibraltar, if a GSLP Liberal Government is returned to office, we propose to restore the final stretch of Charles V Wall steps, connecting the Devil's Gap 'Footpath to Town' to the Town Centre. These works will expand further the existing paths and trails in and around the Upper Rock, and the new route will be incorporated in the Gibraltar National Trails. As part of the project, Devil's Gap Battery will be restored, and the area converted into an interpretation centre and cafeteria.



(Above) Restoration of Charles V Wall steps, connecting the Devil's Gap 'Footpath to Town' to the Town Centre
(Below) Devil's Gap Battery will be restored and the area converted into an interpretation centre and cafeteria.



THE PORT

FULL E-GOV ROLL OUT TO PORT SERVICES

The “Red book” system will become fully automated, with no need to attend GPA offices. We will still accommodate the elderly who are not comfortable using electronic portals. The Port Operator framework will also go electronic to manage all renewals, applications and publicly accessible database listings. There will also be a further enhancement of the GPA billing system, to incorporate split billing and greater tracking and visibility of vessel activities once in Gibraltar. We will also revamp GPA website to incorporate new advertising revenue generation.

INVESTMENT

We will continue investing in the Port. The maritime sector is important to our economy. The presence of a busy port necessitates ongoing infrastructure development which, in turn, generates jobs and business. A thriving port supports economic diversification by encouraging the growth of various industries and services, including shipping agencies, warehousing and logistic companies. This diversification will make our economy more resilient. We will work with all our stakeholders to make this a success.

MARKETING

We will continue marketing the port energetically. This work is crucial to all the stakeholders. Our attendance at the important conferences worldwide is imperative if we want to be taken seriously. We will look at hosting a world-renowned maritime conference in Gibraltar so all the top players in the industry can attend and see for themselves what we have to offer. Maritime Week will continue in its original format and will be held every two years. After the launch of Gibraltar Maritime Day in London earlier this year, we will now take this event to other jurisdictions, the first being in Greece early in the new year. We will work closer than ever with all local stakeholders to make sure that we are on the same marketing hymn sheet.

NEW PORT LAUNCH

We understand that this is important to our staff, and we are now ready to proceed with the purchase of a new port launch. One detail remains as the technology required needs to be determined. We will consider going either fully electric or consider using biofuels. The decision will be taken within 12 months of being returned into office after relevant discussions with experts.

OUR PEOPLE COME FIRST

We will carry out a review of responsibility, work roles and manning complement for the entire Authority so that we are in a position to present a business case for additional posts. Our people need to be taken care of and we will certainly do that.

MONS CALPE LAUNCH

We will carry out works to change the engine and engine system for the Mons Calpe, the small open launch which we were recently provided to the Port.

MESSROOM BUILDING

Maintenance and repair to be carried out to the Messroom Building and adjacent building.

NEW CONDITIONS

We will work to fast track the options for agreement of new terms & conditions and the implementation of the new shift pattern.

DEPUTY CAPTAIN OF THE PORT

The vacancy for the post of Deputy Captain of the Port will be filled.

PORT ESTATE IMPROVEMENTS

We will organize North Mole Road, ensuring parking is available on both sides of road, with delineated parking bays. New greenery and shaded areas/rain shelters for pedestrians will be added. The buildings in north boundary will also be refurbished. We will provide sewage infrastructure so that port operators can have sanitary facilities and toilets for tourists and seafarers.

RESURFACING OF WESTERN ARM ROAD

This resurfacing will improve the area immensely as it will improve cruise liner passenger experience on arrival. It will also help all bus/tour operators as their pickup point. We commit to beautifying all pedestrian routes from the Port into Gibraltar, a first point of access for thousands of tourists every year. We will also consider the implementation of visual route guidance initiatives for tourists arriving in Gibraltar, enabling them to reach key destinations in Gibraltar in the confidence of being guided by clearly laid out signposting where this is not available.

SHORE POWER FACILITIES

This will be our flagship environmental project. The work is ongoing and comparisons to small jurisdictions like ours are being looked at. More and more cruise ships will require shore power and a deadline of set by the cruising industry. We need to be at the forefront of this change and showcase Gibraltar as a sustainable port. A final announcement on commencement of works will be made within twelve months of being returned to office.

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT ARE KEY

We will produce a detailed inventory of the Authority's Green House Gas emissions. This will allow us to create a clear vision to net zero contributing to GREENPORTS status.

The inventory will also include emissions for port operators, particularly those on the port estate so that we are able to plan for port activities in the future. We will also incorporate sustainability mandates in port operator licenses, and this will be done on a sector by sector approach. Finally, all vehicles, when needing replacement, will go electric. Charging points for cars and motorbikes will also be installed in the port estate.

PORT CLEANLINESS

We will redouble our cleaning efforts in the pedestrian access routes from the Port to the city centre and elsewhere, ensuring that Gibraltar puts its best foot forward for the thousands of tourists arriving in Gibraltar.

DETACHED MOLE

We will invest in all mole infrastructure, including, in particular, the Detached Mole, which will remain available for sports fishermen also who will greatly benefit from the investment we will make.

ROYAL GIBRALTAR POST OFFICE

We have transformed Gibraltar's postal services into a modern, efficient, and inclusive system that caters to the demands of the digital age. With over 100,000 parcels processed annually and the Parcel Post operating with a 24-hour processing window, six days a week, coupled with deliveries and mail collections available six days a week, we've made significant strides.

RGPO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

After having successfully transitioned to a fully electric fleet of delivery vehicles, we now move on to the next stage. We will procure further eco - friendly transportation, replacing motorbikes with modern, quality e-bikes for select routes. This underscores our unwavering commitment to environmental responsibility.

SMART LOCKERS

We will roll out smart lockers across strategic locations. These lockers will offer 24/7 accessibility, providing residents the freedom to collect their packages at their convenience, even outside traditional post office hours. Recipients will receive a notification with a pickup code or QR code for easy access to strategically placed lockers throughout Gibraltar.

SUPPORTING THE POST OFFICE WORKFORCE

We support career progression within the workforce. In collaboration with the Human Resources training section, we will provide training in digital skills, customer service, civil aviation awareness rules, international UPU standards, and environmental responsibility.

DIGITAL MAILBOX FOR EVERY CITIZEN

This will be as a significant leap forward. The Digital Mailbox will enable individuals to receive bills, official communications, and other mail items electronically upon request.

NEW STATE OF THE ART MAIL CENTRE

We will construct a new Mail Centre, which will be designed to be modern, environmentally friendly and user-friendly. This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a cornerstone for the next generation of postal services. We will provide the best service possible for our people and the best working conditions for our postmen and postwomen.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

PRIORITISING MENTAL WELLNESS: INTRODUCING THE TRIM POLICY

A new Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) Policy for Gibraltar's Emergency Services and other first responders has recently been implemented by a GSLP Liberal Government. TRiM is a trauma-focussed peer support system to help people who have experienced a traumatic event during the course of their duty. Following the successful roll-out of TRiM training to Managers and Practitioners, His Majesty's Government of Gibraltar has now established a network of qualified TRiM specialists which are embedded in each of the first responding organisations. The TRiM process aims to ensure that the welfare and mental health needs of individuals who have been exposed to a traumatic incident are effectively managed thereby reducing the risk of illness developing in our first responders.

ALLOWANCES IN THE POLICE

If returned to office, the GSLP Liberals will conduct a review of allowances payable to officer of the Royal Gibraltar Police. We will also review other conditions, focusing, amongst other things, explore possible changes to offer day for day leave on those working on a 12 hour rota, an on-call allowance and to address the recognition of firearms officers on the force.

NEW POLICE & FIRE STATIONS

We have been working to deliver new stations for the Gibraltar Fire & Rescue Service as well as for the Royal Gibraltar Police. It is envisaged that both will be at Rooke. The designs for these have now been agreed and signed off. The final execution of the grant of the tender for Rooke will enable these plans to go ahead in coming months.

POLICE RECRUITMENT

In order to assist the Commissioner of Police in always having the number of police officers in complement, we will provide funding for the payment of recruits on an above complement basis. We have already provided the new Central Police Station at Casemates



Artist's impressions of the new Police Station at Rooke





Artist's impressions of the new Fire Station at Rooke



PART III

OUR SOCIETY & QUALITY OF LIFE

OUR SOCIETY

THE COVID PANDEMIC

COVID ENQUIRY

As difficult and as deadly as the pandemic was for Gibraltar, the GSLP Liberals believe that we mustn't miss the sad opportunity of the terrible crisis we endured, to learn such lessons as we might be able to learn about the handling of it. The Covid response brought together all areas of Government. Health, of course, but finance too. All Government departments were impacted – we quickly started to deploy alternative ways of interacting between us and with the Government. The public health response of course is at the centre of the efforts we made to tackle the deadly virus. The GSLP Liberals are committed to ensuring that the enquiry is conducted during the next term of office – if we could have done things better, we have a responsibility to do better. Learning from our Covid response is the first step to being better.

COVID MEMORIAL

In May 2021, Fabian Picardo announced that a Covid Memorial would be created. He said that: “the tragic loss of life to Covid-19 last winter was one of the darkest times in Gibraltar’s history. It is fitting that Gibraltar remembers and pays tribute to all those who we have lost with a memorial in our town centre. This will be a place of respect and remembrance, but also one of hope for the future and a symbol of Gibraltarian resilience.” In June 2022 the winning design of the memorial was announced and work on the memorial will commence early in the New Year.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: EXPLORING FREE CHILDCARE OPTIONS

The GSLP Liberals are dedicated to the well-being of Gibraltar’s families. We commit to exploring the feasibility of providing free childcare services, taking inspiration from the successful UK model. Our aim is to alleviate the financial burden on parents and offer our children the best possible start in life. We believe in investing in our future generations, ensuring that every child in Gibraltar has access to quality early education and care. This commitment reflects our vision for a more inclusive and supportive society, where families thrive, and our community prospers. Together, we will explore the path to accessible and affordable childcare for all.

A NEW ‘JUMP’ PARK FOR GIBRALTAR

We will work with commercial interests to open a new Gibraltar Jump Park in the style of the popular Costa Jump and other similar parks on the Costa del Sol as another option for active fun for children in Gibraltar.

We will maintain our children’s parks to the highest standards, improving the current maintenance levels.

WRAPAROUND CARE

The GSLP Liberals recognise the importance of ‘wraparound care’ for our community. This holistic approach to childcare provides support beyond the school day, ensuring children have a safe and enriching environment during out-of-school hours. We pledge to explore and assess the feasibility of implementing ‘wraparound care’ services in Gibraltar. By doing so, we aim to offer parents comprehensive childcare solutions that meet the needs of both children and working families, fostering a more balanced and supportive society. Together, we’ll investigate ways to enhance the well-being of our children and families.

THE BABY BOX

We are recommitting to our pledge made in 2019, which was unfortunately delayed due to the pandemic, to introduce the ‘Baby Box’ gift for all newborns in Gibraltar. Inspired by Scotland’s successful initiative, we aim to extend a warm welcome to every newborn in Gibraltar by providing them with their own Baby Box. These boxes are designed to assist families in preparing for their baby’s arrival, offering a safe and comfortable sleeping space complete with a mattress and bedding. Additionally, each Baby Box will be stocked with essential clothing, bedding, and other useful items to provide our babies with the best possible start in life, following Scotland’s excellent example.

SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

The abortion debate in our community highlighted the importance of modernising sex education in our school. This needs to deal also with the availability of contraception, morality and values as well as issues relating to consent and abuse. However controversial, we cannot avoid these issues

and we cannot fail our young people by failing to address these matters in the context of their education.

THE ELDERLY AND INFIRM

As a community, we are proud of the strong family connection many enjoy as part of the Gibraltarian way of life. Part of this is how we take care of our own. The GSLP Liberals have, for as long as they have had the privilege of holding office, taken the best care possible of our Elderly. Our commitment to this is absolute and will never change. We have delivered specialist homes built specifically for our elderly citizens at a pace that's unprecedented in our history. Our pensioners enjoy some of the best benefits of any old age community anywhere in the world, and the GSLP Liberals are determined to always improve the quality of their lives. Below, we set out some of the work we have done and all those things that we will do to help our elderly citizens live as long as possible, in the best health and in the best conditions of elderly people anywhere in the world!

MOBILITY SCOOTERS

We aim to install topping up points for mobility scooters in town. Our aim is to make these free for residents and coin operated for tourists.

TACKLING LONELINESS

Loneliness has such far-reaching consequences that the health impact is comparable to smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day, according to one study published in the journal PLOS Medicine. The GSLP Liberals will consider supporting GibSilver, an initiative designed to address loneliness and provide support for elderly individuals in Gibraltar by establishing a helpline and support system.

Inspired by the success of helplines like Childline and GibSams, GibSilver aims to eliminate the stigma associated with loneliness among older people. The project encompasses four key functions:

1. **A Confidential Helpline:** GibSilver will offer a confidential helpline service for older individuals, providing them with a platform to seek assistance and companionship.
2. **Signposting:** It will also provide a signposting service to connect elderly individuals with various community support services available to them.
3. **Empowerment:** The helpline will empower those facing abuse or neglect by directing them to specialized services when necessary.
4. **Befriending:** To combat loneliness, GibSilver will offer a befriending service, providing companionship and emotional support.

Loneliness among older people can have detrimental effects on their physical and mental health, leading to increased demand for social and healthcare services. By promoting community support, GibSilver aims to reduce this demand and empower individuals to lead more fulfilling lives. The project's plan involves assembling a volunteer team, securing

funding, recruiting and training volunteers, creating policies, conducting marketing activities, and collaborating with service providers. If elected, the GSLP-Liberals will enter into discussions with GibSilver to agree a strategy for public support in this initiative.

PENSIONER AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We have an exciting plan for a new concept in affordable housing for pensioners – you can read about it in our Finance section in this manifesto, under Future Projects.

DEAF & BLIND AWARENESS

We will provide hearing induction loops in all new Government building projects. We will continue to provide deaf and blind awareness training in the public and private sector.

PENSIONER FREE PARKING

Zone parking permits and pay and display parking will, if the GSLP Liberals are returned to office, be free for pensioners.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

DIGITAL EDUCATION

In an increasingly interconnected world, where democracies face ever more complex challenges from the rise of technologies like artificial intelligence, the use of deepfakes and abuse of social media, the GSLP Liberals will allocate resources to an educational initiative in digital citizenship encompassing both children and adults. This program is designed to equip our community with the necessary skills to navigate the complexities of the modern, interconnected world. With a primary emphasis on cultivating exemplary digital citizenship, we will provide comprehensive training on the internet's potential threats and advantages. Our educational curriculum will focus on digital citizenship, addressing the myriad emerging issues that arise in the context of our progressively digital lifestyles – an initiative we first set out in 2019, we will deliver this in the coming term of office.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT – FINANCE EDUCATION

In Government, we made a commitment to enhance transparency, another job we got done. We've increased the volume of accessible data significantly. Building upon this foundation, we will continue to develop comprehensive information strategies. These strategies aim to empower our citizens with a better insight into Government operations, particularly in terms of budget allocation and public service enhancements. The advancement of e-Government will be instrumental in achieving this goal. We are devoted to fostering community engagement, as we believe your input is invaluable in our pursuit of greater achievements and progress.

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

We will never interfere with the freedom of the press – this is a commitment with gladly and proudly make at every election. It is a policy by which we operate on a day to day basis and will continue indefinitely to do so.

CITIZENSHIP & ID CARDS

ID CARDS FOR RESIDENTS LIVING ON VESSELS

We will issue Gibraltar ID cards to those qualifying applicants who live on vessels, honouring the GSLP Liberal Government's decision to reverse aspects of a policy which made it impossible for long-term and qualifying residents from obtaining the relevant ID cards.

FIGHTING FOR BLUE ID CARD HOLDERS

We have sought to have the same favourable treatment for blue ID card holders as red ID card holders presently enjoy when crossing the frontier into Spain. We will also continue to fight for blue ID card holders to enjoy the same rights to fluidity across the frontier into Spain as may be agreed for red ID card holders in any UK/EU Treaty. We will also, further, continue to seek to persuade Spain to apply the same concession to blue ID card holders for non-stamping as they apply to red ID card holders.

GIBRALTAR RESIDENCE PERMIT

To enhance Gibraltar's security, we will introduce legislation requiring rigorous screening for new residence permit applicants. The new process will include comprehensive background checks, a history of prior residencies and employment, and an evaluation, by an independent board, of any criminal convictions to assess their impact on our community's safety.

ROYAL GIBRALTAR REGIMENT/THE MOD

ROYAL GIBRALTAR REGIMENT

In Government the GSLP Liberals will continue to support the men and women of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment. The Regiment is one of the most valued national institutions of Gibraltar and it is good to see our soldiers performing well in assessments in the United Kingdom and when on training and other missions overseas.

We will continue to back and support the further strengthening of the Regiment.

REGIMENT RETIREES

We have seen the huge value that Gibraltarians retiring from the regiment with full service can bring to the public sector and we will work to ensure that we attract high calibre individuals who retire with unblemished records and relevant skill sets.

THE MILITARY COVENANT

We will also seek to entrench support for the Military Covenant in Gibraltar across the public and private sectors. This is part of valuing and respecting our veterans.

THE MOD SAFETY NET

We will maintain our commitment to provide a public sector safety net for any individuals made subject to compulsory redundancy from employment in the MOD.

COLA CLAIMS

We will continue to back claims by Locally Employed Civilian staff in the MOD (and those employed by the service provider, currently MITIE) for the payment of the UK Cost of Living Allowance. We consider these should be considered a part of compliance with the 'parity principle' by the MOD.

GRAND BATTERY

We will work in partnership with the Regiment to deliver the installation of air conditioning for Grand Battery House.

THE GDP

We have been unable to comply with our desire to transfer the GDP to the Government of Gibraltar. We tried to persuade the MOD to adopt various models for the transfer. This continues to be our preferred option. However it is true that 'it takes two to tango' and we are unable to see through this commitment until such time as the MOD agree to the transfer. The MOD have communicated to us that they wish to invest in the GDP and maintain it as an MOD asset. We will remain prepared to consider a transfer if the MOD once again changes its position. Additionally we will deliver on our commitment (which Covid made it impossible for us to deliver on in the last term) to provide tax advantages to GDP officers to compensate for their lower earnings in comparison to their RGP colleagues.

REGIMENT ACCOMMODATION

We will continue to work with the CBF's team to try to identify solutions to the housing issues facing the Regiment. This is despite the fact that the GSD's Land's Deal deprived the Regiment of housing.

FIGHTING HATE

Gibraltar is a tolerant society where people from all walks of life, all religions, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender live in peaceful co-existence. Gibraltar is the place where a 'cultural melting pot' could not be more accurately illustrated. From our Christmas celebrations, the celebration of Ramadan, Eid and other Muslim events and rituals, to seeing the gleeful running around Main Street of Jewish children and their parents in fancy dress one day a year, marking Purim, Gibraltar is the place communities around the world should seek to emulate. To understand Gibraltar is to understand that, whilst nothing is perfect, Gibraltar is as close to an illustration of what a peace-loving and respectful

global community should aspire to be. The world is not like that. Gibraltar is. It always was. We aspire to ensuring that it will always be so.

It is impossible however, to ignore the rise in anti-semitism the world has witnessed in recent years. It is remarkable to us all that there should be any kind of resurgence in the sentiment, much less the language, of hate that we have seen propagating across otherwise peace loving countries in the world, including the UK. For the GSLP Liberals, it had not been a matter we considered necessary, much less urgent, to have to take the step of formally adopting the definition of anti-semitism as established by International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ('IHRA'). We had not considered it an issue that merited our attention, precisely because of the nature of our community and the strength of unity within it.

ADOPTION OF IHRA DEFINITION ON ANTI-SEMITISM

More recently, events have led us to revisit our position in this regard. The GSLP Liberals, as political entities, now formally adopt the IHRA's working definition of anti-semitism and its associated guidelines. We will formally adopt these definitions and guidelines as the Government of Gibraltar if re-elected into Government.

The definition states: "Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

The IHRA guidelines highlight a variety of manifestations of anti-semitism, included amongst which is: "Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis."

Further, the GSLP Liberal Government will, if returned to office, move a motion in the Gibraltar Parliament calling on the Parliament itself and all its members to formally adopt the IHRA definition and guidelines, and to strongly condemn, outright, this and any other form of dangerous racism.

CHARITIES

We cannot take for granted the brilliant work done by our responsible charities: Clubhouse, GADS, GibSams, Possibilities, GHITA, Childline, EV Foundation, Women in Need, Action on Poverty and so many others. We will continue to work with these and other charities to ensure they can continue to deliver the great service they provide and, where possible enhance it.

ANIMAL WELFARE

CARING FOR CANINE COMPANIONS: COLLABORATING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

We will work with Animals in Need and other stakeholders to tackle issues arising from current levels of dog ownership in Gibraltar, focusing in particular on the issue of the homing

of shelter dogs from abroad in Gibraltar.

ENHANCING ANIMAL WELFARE: IMPROVING PUBLIC INFORMATION

We will develop the sources of publicly available information for those concerned with specific matters of animal welfare, to maximise the opportunities for intervention by the public when necessary and appropriate. We will also update public information on the relevant responsibilities of Government departments.

PROTECTING OUR PETS: REVIEWING PET THEFT LEGISLATION

We will give consideration to updating legislation to deal with the theft of pets, in line with UK developments in this regard and local concerns expressed to the GSLP Liberals about this issue.

COMPASSIONATE LEGAL PROCESS: RELEASING ANIMALS INTO CARE

We will consider options for the release of animals required to be used as evidence in court, into the care of appropriate organisations and its people. No dog or other companion should be kept unnecessarily in kennels while a legal process is underway.

DANGEROUS DOGS ACT REVIEW

We will conduct a review of the Dangerous Dogs act in consultation with relevant stakeholders to bring the legislation up to date with other jurisdictions and the changing dog ownership landscape.

REGULATING DOG BREEDERS

We will consider the introduction of a dog breeder licensing regime.

CONVENIENT PAYMENT METHODS

We will update payment methods for dog licensing, making it easier for owners to pay licensing fees.

SUPPORTING DOG RESCUE CHARITIES: EXEMPTIONS IN LICENSING

We will consider an amendment to dog licensing provisions to allow exemptions for charities working towards permanent rehoming of dogs.



Meet the team Christian Santos

Christian read a BA(Hons) in Contemporary Arts at Nottingham Trent University, specialising in Music and Performance. Later training at the prestigious Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London, he obtained a PG Dip in Acting and Musical Theatre in 1999. His performance experience is varied and notable, with a highlight being working for Disney Entertainment around the world between 2000 and 2007.

On returning to Gibraltar in 2007, Christian founded Santos Productions which fast became one of Gibraltar's leading production companies and later expanded into Santos Productions Academy which boasts of an award-winning choir being named Double European Champions in Pop and Gospel categories at the European Choir Games in Austria in 2013.

Christian Founded the Gibraltar Academy of Music and Performing Arts in 2015 which has grown from strength to strength with over 450 students, offering opportunities for young people to excel within the arts. GAMPA also works together with the department of education to offer two vocational courses in Music Performance and Acting equivalent to A Levels

Christian was awarded the Gibraltar Medallion of Distinction for his services to popular culture. In 2021 he took the office as Mayor of Gibraltar and used his platform to unite and celebrate our community with the "We are one" campaign making himself and City Hall accessible to all. He proudly represented the community in a civic capacity championing diversity, inclusivity, and above all, the uniqueness of the Gibraltarian identity.

CULTURE

Over the past few years Gibraltarian Culture, which is the heart of our identity has been nourished and promoted like never before. It helped us through the dark days of the pandemic and has seen a *renaissance* ever since. There has been a surge in publications to add to the growth of Gibraltarian Literature. We have seen countless exhibitions of Art, many performances of Dance, Drama, and Music, with thousands of people, young and not so young, vibrantly active in our very large, very strong and thriving artistic community.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS - BIGGER EVERY YEAR

The festival of lights will be held at Casemates to ensure more people can enjoy it.

PROMOTING THE ARTS

We have promoted the Arts in Gibraltar, with workshops, festivals and competitions, and we have exported our Culture. We have had exhibitions of the visual arts in Tangier and London, readings of poetry and prose and performance of music and drama in the heart of London and elsewhere in Britain. We have for the first time had plays competing in UK drama festivals and winning awards.

PROMOTING CULTURE HERE AND ABROAD

We are totally committed to continuing to support this surge in cultural activity and in promoting our Cultural identity within and outside Gibraltar. If elected, in the coming Term of Office, when Gibraltarian Culture will take an even higher priority. We will thrive as artists and performers, and the world will get to see just what and who we are.

NO ONE WILL WORK HARDER

We will work harder than ever to promote and support Writing, Music, Dance, Drama, and the visual Arts, including Photography and Sculpture, in every way possible including continuing to organise and support performances, exhibitions, workshops, competitions and festivals, in Gibraltar and abroad. No other Government has worked as hard for Culture as the GSLP Liberal Government.

LEGAL RECOGNITION OF OUR CULTURE

We will give Gibraltarian Culture the backing of law by passing an Act of Parliament guaranteeing cultural development.

ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

As part of the legislation putting Gibraltarian Culture on a legal footing, we will set up an Arts Advisory Council.

GIBRALTAR NATIONAL BOOK COUNCIL

We will also establish the Gibraltar National Book Council in law.

THE GIBRALTAR NATIONAL THEATRE AND CULTURAL HUB

Working with the John Mackintosh Educational Trust, we will support the National Theatre Foundation in its well-developed plans for the exciting new venue which will provide two theatres, one with 1000 seats and another with 250, with the latest facilities and equipment for use by our many talented performers, while at the same time allowing top international shows and concerts to come to Gibraltar. The revamped John Mackintosh Hall will include a new exhibition centre funded by the Parasol Foundation, as well as meeting rooms, a restaurant, and bars, and will be equipped for e-sports and live links to TV.

Beyond providing for the Arts, a cause that justifies this initiative on its own, building a new National Theatre to the same exacting standards as we apply in other facilities, means that the new venue will also be a new generator of wealth to the economy. Studies have shown real financial benefits to communities that invest in the Arts and that have the ability – as we will have – to regularly provide performances of international standing. The Theatre's Business Plan shows that it will be a generator of revenue and of tremendous benefit to the community as a whole.

In addition, workshops led by top performers will work to raise local standards even further.

We will ensure that this project is completed during the coming Term of Office.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to create cultural projects through courses, workshops, lectures, residencies, exhibitions, and other platforms to ensure Gibraltar's cultural growth. This will include cultural exchanges in Morocco, Spain, United Kingdom and other nations and territories, including Malta and Madeira, searching for more and more opportunities to export our Art abroad.

CULTURAL FACILITIES

We will continue with the refurbishment programme to all cultural facilities.

FUNDING FOR 'ELITE' ARTISTS

We will introduce an 'elite funding' programme to support talented young people to pursue professional careers in their respective art, at international vocational schools.

CULTURAL TRAINING

We will introduce a scheme to get more young people involved in the cultural sector. These will include technical occupations, voluntary schemes and a skills programme for curation, librarianships, and other areas of cultural heritage.



Artist's impressions of the planned National Theatre



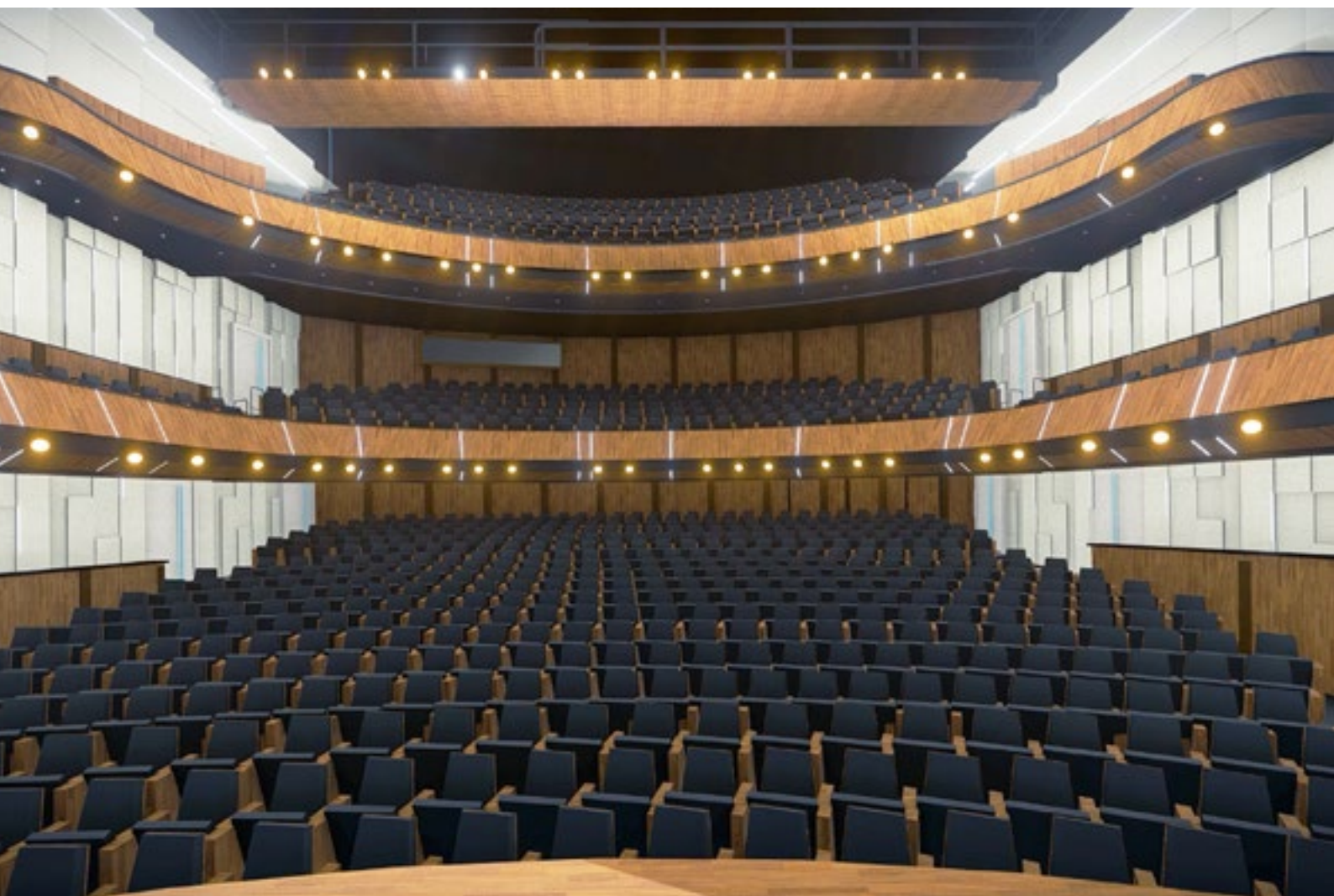


Two new theatres (1,000 & 250 seat capacity), the latest facilities, all this will be available in the new National Theatre





Artist's impressions of the exhibition centre and main theatre of the new National Theatre



PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY

We will work with the University to create Faculty of Performing Arts to coincide with the opening of the National Theatre. This will provide opportunities for performers locally and also raise the profile of the Performing Arts in Gibraltar even further.

CULTURAL GIFT AID

We will introduce a cultural gift aid where donations to Culture will result in tax relief. All funds will go towards supporting cultural apprenticeships and projects.

CENTRAL HALL GARDENS

We have transformed the Central Hall and restored much of its Heritage value while improving its facilities. We will now continue this work and provide an outside garden area equipped for functions ranging from birthday parties, Communion celebrations and weddings, so that there will be a new outdoor venue, *in Gibraltar*, for quality family and social events.

ARTISANS' MARKET

We will support a well-regulated Artisans market and will encourage the development, production and marketing of hand crafts.

SEQUENCE DANCE COLLECTIVES

We will continue to provide facilities for the use of the DSA and CCC Dance collectives and work with the developers of the Queen's site to ensure that the new dance spaces, replacing the well-loved tradition of the 'Assembly Rooms' are suitable and allocated to their use.

CULTURAL GRANTS

We will increase the funds made available to cultural groups to assist in their excellent work to at least pre-Covid levels.

LITERATURE

The GSLP Liberal Government was the first to formally recognise Gibraltar Literature and to work hard in its support with initiatives such as Gibraltar Literature Week, aimed at Gibraltar writers. Cultural events in London and Morocco have included Literature, writing and illustration workshops. We will continue our work to develop a well-recognised Literary base by encouraging all book-related activity.

BOOK COUNCIL

We will continue to support the Gibraltar National Book Council and will make it a statutory body, with the aim of encouraging Gibraltar Literature in Gibraltar and abroad. The Book Council will lead in Gibraltar's participation in international Book Fairs and in providing incentives to new and established writers.

BOOK GRANTS

We will significantly increase the funds made available for Book Grants, in order to encourage writing, illustrating and publishing books in Gibraltar.

LIBRARIES

JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL LIBRARY

As part of the National Theatre Project, the Public Library at the John Mackintosh Hall will be expanded and improved with the latest technology. Book readings and writing workshops will be regular activities at the Library.

GARRISON LIBRARY

Works to restore the Garrison Library will continue apace, and it will continue to be opened up to the public and to researchers, and as a venue for appropriate events, meetings and conferences.

OUR LANGUAGES

All the main languages spoken in Gibraltar are an integral part of our Culture and identity. English, Hebrew, Hindi, Moroccan Arabic, Spanish, and of course Yanito or Llanito are all Gibraltarian languages which enrich our community. In particular we will continue the work that we have already started to research into and recognise Llanito/Yanito as a language, to encourage its use in both the spoken and written work, and to ensure that it is not lost and remains central in our community. We will do this by working with academics, with our educators in our schools, with writers and with cultural groups. *We will not let Llanito/Yanito die!*

LLANITO/YANITO

The GSLP Liberal Government is the only Government ever to have committed to work hard to ensure that Llanito as a language and mode of expression does not die, and it is in danger. We will take strong and decisive top-down action to ensure the survival of Llanito, with Educational policies designed to ensure that preschool and primary-school children are able to speak Gibraltar's unique national variety of Spanish as well as English. If children do not speak Llanito to each other, they cannot pass it on to their children. The GSLP Liberals will ensure the survival of our unique language.

ARABIC IN SCHOOLS

In the comprehensive schools, we will offer formal tuition in Arabic for students who wish to study that language. Muslim students will be able to take the subject in lieu of tuition on religious education.

ENTERTAINMENT

We will continue to engage with all sectors involved in Entertainment to progress to an equitable regime that allows music and the hospitality industry to thrive. No changes will be brought about without the full involvement of all stakeholders.



Central Hall Gardens will be an outside garden area equipped for functions ranging from birthday parties, Communion celebrations and weddings for quality family and social events.





Further artists impressions of Central Hall Gardens



We will encourage and support live music and other events, around Gibraltar, at all scales, featuring both local and international acts. The new National Theatre fully equipped and with 1000 seats will provide an ideal venue for many of these.

STREET ART

We will continue with our programmes of sensitive street art, selected by the stakeholders in the Street Art Committee, to continue to bring colour and vibrancy into our urban spaces, always consistent with our rich and valuable Heritage.

STUDIO SPACES

We will provide studio spaces for artists and other creatives at a site adjacent to the old prison below the Tower of Homage, with a design approved by Heritage stakeholders. This will bring new life and activity to the Moorish Castle and will be dovetailed with interpretation and niche tourism activities, linking with the renewal of Road to the Lines and the Northern Defences.

PREMISES

We will provide new premises for clubs, societies and cultural groups at Chilton Court and the former squash courts in the South District and will require all new major developments to provide cultural space for use by the community. We will invest in refurbishing and restoring existing premises in order to better cater for the needs of clubs and associations.

FILM FESTIVAL

We will establish a Gibraltar International Film Festival to attract major players in the film industry and will encourage Gibraltar as a location for movies.

And so...

In short, voting for the GSLP Liberals will be a vote for a team that supports Culture and all the thousands of Gibraltarians who love and cherish the arts, our literature, and our languages.

MORE CULTURAL EVENTS

We will work with local producers more closely to promote and support local events and make them a part of our cultural calendar. We look forward to continuing with our regular community events for the whole of Gibraltar to enjoy and invest in making Gibraltar wide events like Summer Nights and Calentita bigger and better than ever.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

We were unable to bring Cirque du Soleil to Gibraltar because the company filed for bankruptcy after COVID. We continue in contact with them and expect to see some presence from them in Gibraltar in coming years.

GMF

The Gibraltar Music Festival will return at no cost to the

taxpayer. We are committed to continuing to attract top talent to perform in Gibraltar. We will work with the private sector for sponsorship and organisation of such events.

YOUTH

The youth service would be working together with other agencies, departments and ministries who work with young people to support and develop programmes or initiatives for young people who might need extra support. With a cohesive plan for early intervention between all stakeholders we can help young people develop into successful adults.

Working together with the care agency and the department of education we would develop a programme for young people "not in education employment or training" (NEET) by introducing Level 1 courses in Teamwork, Citizenship, Personal Skill and Public Services.

We firmly believe that every individual, regardless of their background, should have an equal chance at success. We recognise that our young people are the lifeblood of our nation. A commitment to our young people has been evident throughout our current 12 year tenure and will always be a priority for the GSLP/Libs.

The community of Gibraltar has a thriving youth and we can already see the evidence and results of our hard work & new policies of this in our society. But we will never stop, our youth are constantly developing and growing, and with GSLP/Libs, Gibraltar will grow with them.

The youth service would empower the young people of Gibraltar throughout all departments and ministries. This would include the creation and development of initiatives by and for Gibraltar's next generations. With a cohesive plan for early intervention between all stakeholders we can help young people develop into successful adults.

Having a holistic approach will enable the bridging of gaps between aspirations and achievements. A chance we ALL deserve.

Investing in our youth means investing in Gibraltar & our community's future.

YOUTH STRATEGY

We will work to empower young people to engage in our community and promote their contribution to the advancement of our economy, our society and appreciation of our culture. We will work to develop a holistic plan within all ministries working with the youth to cater for all young people, to promote equity, equality and diversity. This strategy will focus on promoting social inclusion and active citizenship with a strong focus on mental health and well-being. We need to promote greater knowledge of the labour market with the inclusion of a career's advice programme. We aim to expand the existing "Voice of young people" programme into a young Person's symposium for youth from a cross section of our community to express their grievances and have an active working group to make change.



Studio spaces for artists and other creatives will bring new life and activity to the Moorish Castle and will be dovetailed with interpretation and niche tourism activities, linking with the renewal of Road to the Lines and the Northern Defences.





Further artist's impressions of Studio Spaces



HERITAGE & URBAN RENEWAL

HERITAGE

No Government in Gibraltar has ever done as much as the GSLP Liberals to protect and promote Gibraltar's Heritage. We have achieved the global honour of attaining and retaining World Heritage Status for our Neanderthal landscapes at the Gorham's Cave Complex. We have restored sites that were long abandoned, such as Wellington Front, Nuns' Well, the Almond Tower at the Moorish Castle, and the Lime Kiln on the Upper Rock. We have passed the Heritage and Antiquities Act, created the Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council, and listed many historic building and monuments as well as protecting sites like the Alameda Gardens. We have published and committed to the Government's Heritage Vision document and are already working on a Heritage Management Plan to put the exciting Vision into effect. We are not about to abandon that midstream.

Protection of our Heritage will be one of our core principles and we will ensure that all projects, private or public, go through a strict and thorough heritage filter.

WHAT HERITAGE IS AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

The quality of life of the citizen is a paramount concern and we recognise that every citizen should have the opportunity to know and enjoy our Heritage. Social, cultural and spiritual acceptance characterise the Gibraltarians and Gibraltar's heritage includes the heritage of all of us. Sharing cultural assets can also help strengthen identity of the whole community by developing new connections and new interests and experiences.

To support this approach, we will adopt the 2011 Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Villages, in order to then develop its own Gibraltar-relevant conservation principles. High quality design will be integral to this policy.

We are building on a solid base of legislation and practice. All projects that may impact on heritage are assessed and considered by the Heritage and Antiquities Council.

PROJECTS

The development of new heritage attractions will be a priority. Partnerships, for example between the hospitality sector and heritage sector that seek to develop sustainable heritage tourism, particularly innovative approaches, will be encouraged.

Vocational and voluntary sector training for projects related to heritage will be given a high priority; public sector involvement and private sector investment will be encouraged. The development of information technology skills related to heritage will be prioritised.

NEW COASTAL CLIFF-TOP WALK

We will create a World Heritage Interpretation Centre at Europa Point displaying the archaeology and history of the caves and the Europa Point area. The centre will form part of a new walking route whose main feature will be a stunningly scenic cliff-top coastal path that will take you along Europa Advance Road to the two Gorham's cave viewing platforms.

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE: THE GORHAM'S CAVE COMPLEX MONUMENT UNVEILED

Under the leadership of Professor John Cortes, we proudly unveiled a striking monument dedicated to the Gorham's Cave Complex UNESCO World Heritage Site on 31st August. Situated along Europa Advance Battery, opposite Dobinson Way, this monument serves as a captivating addition to our heritage landscape. This achievement aligns with our government's mission to spotlight our most treasured heritage sites and advance our cliff walk project.

Crafted through the collaborative efforts of the Gorham's Cave Complex UNESCO World Heritage Office and Cano Monumental Masons, this landmark beckons visitors and passers-by to explore the wonders of the World Heritage Site. Not only does it showcase the natural beauty of Gibraltar's sea cliffs, but it also educates through informative panels that delve into the site's rich natural history and the fascinating presence of Neanderthals who once inhabited this area.

Moreover, this monument finds its home in an observation platform, offering a vantage point for witnessing the mesmerising migrations of birds and marine mammals against the backdrop of our iconic cliffs and the North African coast. We take immense pride in this achievement, which reflects our unwavering commitment to preserving and celebrating Gibraltar's unique heritage.

TOWER OF HOMAGE/OLD PRISON/NORTHERN DEFENCES/CASEMATES

We will give new life to the area of the old prison, consistent with the Heritage value of the Moorish Castle, and linked to the Northern Defences and Casemates. We will commence the restoration of the castle and its Keep in earnest with an onsite restoration initiative.

HERITAGE RESTORATION SCHOOL

We will set up a specialist Heritage Restoration School, with the involvement of the National Museum and the Gibraltar College, to offer training and qualifications for young people in heritage restoration skills. They will work on restoring the Moorish Castle area initially but be available for projects elsewhere. The provision of conservation management and similar courses will increase local expertise and capacity. We aim, in the medium-term, to produce an internationally recognised centre for integrated cultural and natural heritage management. This will bring local benefit in developing capacity and additional income.

ENHANCING GIBRALTAR'S WWII TUNNELS: UNVEILING UNTOLD STORIES

Gibraltar's World War II tunnels, a testament to the Rock's strategic significance during the conflict, are undergoing a remarkable transformation to offer an immersive and enlightening experience for visitors. With private investments in the millions, these tunnels are being revitalized to include a new gift shop, a working bar, new exhibits, and a conference centre with catering facilities. The project has also collaborated with esteemed institutions, including the Ian Fleming Foundation, the Royal Canadian Engineers, and the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, to unveil previously untold narratives of Gibraltar's role in the war. Beyond that access to the Imperial War Museum archives provides never-before-seen footage and photos, making the site a must-visit destination for both international and local visitors.

1. **New Gift Shop:** Visitors will explore a well-curated gift shop that offers a range of memorabilia and souvenirs related to Gibraltar's WWII history. It serves as a place for patrons to take home a piece of the Rock's wartime heritage.

2. **1940's inspired Bar:** The addition of a fully functional bar provides a unique opportunity for guests to savour wartime-inspired cocktails while discussing the historical significance of the tunnels. The bar's ambiance is designed to transport visitors back in time. It will also adjoin a rest area that will allow visitors to restore themselves with water and food before continuing through the Upper Rock Nature Reserve.

3. **Brand New Exhibits:** Exhibits will be carefully crafted to showcase the untold stories of Gibraltar's role in WWII. These exhibits provide a comprehensive understanding of the historical events that unfolded in the tunnels as well as this theatre of war. Protecting our heritage and telling the Gibraltarian story and humanising the sacrifices made will be a key feature – from the Gibraltarian evacuation to service men and women who made their homes here on the rock.

4. **Conference Centre:** A newly created conference centre will cater to both international and local events. Equipped with modern amenities, it will serve as a versatile space for seminars, lectures, and gatherings related to history, culture, and international affairs. Catering facilities are available to enhance the conference experience.

5. **Marketing:** New marketing material and relationships will be leveraged to reach new customers around the world. Promoting not only the WWII Tunnels but Gibraltar as a whole.

The enhancement of Gibraltar's WWII tunnels, made possible through significant private investment and collaboration with esteemed institutions, will transform the site into a world-class destination for history enthusiasts and tourists alike. With its new gift shop, working bar, engaging exhibits, and conference facilities, this historical site not only preserves the past but also ensures a dynamic and engaging experience for present and future generations. Whether from abroad or at home, visitors can now delve into the untold stories of Gibraltar and its vital role during one of humanity's darkest hours.

THE GATEHOUSE - 1300 YEARS OF CONNECTION WITH MOROCCO

The Gatehouse at Moorish Castle will be restored and opened as a centre to display of the close relationship between Gibraltar and Morocco from 711 to the present. It will be a recognition of our historical links and a tribute to the members of our community of Moroccan descent.

GRAND BATTERY ARTILLERY PARK

Working with the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and the Gibraltar Heritage Trust we will create an artillery park displaying the military architecture of Gibraltar from medieval times to the British Period. This will be linked to the Northern Defences and provide a walking trail.

STATUES OR MEMORIALS TO PROMINENT GIBRALTARIANS

All around Gibraltar we have, quite rightly, statues and memorials to Nelson, Rooke, Boyd and English Kings and Queens – all prominent English heroes who deserve recognition. But other than the evacuation memorial, there is no celebration of ourselves. We have prominent Gibraltarians in all our periods, from the Islamic and Spanish to the present day, and we will commence a programme of giving them the recognition and prominence they deserve.

RESTORING THE 9.2. INCH GUN AND THE UPPER ROCK

The 9.2-inch gun that has lain abandoned for years will be restored, and every effort made to place it once more at its original location at Levant battery on the Upper Rock, making it a new attraction.

We will restore the many batteries and historic structures on the Upper Rock, enhancing their heritage value and providing educational opportunities.

CASEMATES AND MAIN STREET

We will reveal and expose the historic infrastructure in the City, covering them with glass so that their current use can continue unaltered, but bringing our past into the present. This will go hand in hand with other beautification projects.

ROSIA BAY DEVELOPMENT

We will develop Rosia Bay ourselves with public money and not allow developers to become involved.

ORANGE BASTION – NOW COMPLETE

The Orange Bastion tender was granted last year. Works have already commenced on delivering a new leisure area at this very central site. We will support the work to bring that Bastion to life in a modern, tasteful and integrated way.



The Gatehouse at Moorish Castle will be restored and opened as a centre to display of the close relationship between Gibraltar and Morocco from 711 to the present.





Artist's impressions of the proposed multi-use Rooke development



PROTECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURE

We will add to the list of monuments, buildings and structures protected under the Heritage and Antiquities Act, always working together with stakeholders and proprietors.

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

We will continue our discussions with the American Battle Monuments Commission with a view to the restoration of the US War Memorial and the creation of an open public area around it. This was already envisioned as the first phase of our Walk the Wall project.

NORTHERN DEFENCES

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue with the restoration of the Northern Defences in order to develop a leisure and open area which celebrates its heritage and history. We will continue to implement the Master Plan which has already been approved by the Development and Planning Commission.

The objective remains, through a phased approach, to slowly develop a first-class tourist site and leisure area at the Northern Defences. We will support the ongoing clearance and infrastructure works and the continued use of the site for educational purposes.

ROOKE

A GSLP Liberal Government we will continue to support a largely low-rise development for part of the Rooke site with a number of public gains around it. This must include a large, open public area on the roof-space of the building.

We will maintain that the No 4 Dock must be exposed and form part of any development project on the site.

We will keep to our commitment to ensure that No 4 Dock is exposed and becomes a public open space as part of the Rooke development.

THE MOUNT

We will continue to work gradually at The Mount in order to develop it into a Commonwealth Park of the south. This prime plot of land, roughly the size of the Alameda Gardens, will be retained as an open leisure and educational area for the general public to enjoy.

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to work with the Parasol Foundation in order to enhance educational and other opportunities at The Mount. We will celebrate its historic tradition and investigate different ways of bringing the area to life for the benefit of everyone who lives in Gibraltar, in line with the Master Plan which has already been approved by the Development and Planning Commission.

We will continue to develop the Porter's Lodge at The Mount to serve as a registry office for weddings. This will work in tandem with the hall, which we will refurbish and allow the use for weddings and other ceremonies.

CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

We will commission a report into the condition and maintenance of our cemeteries and commit to act upon the findings of that report to improve these facilities to the best extent possible.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Culture and traditions are the basis of a people's identity. The loss of traditions, including skills, crafts, ideas and language, in the modern world is cause for concern. We will support projects that ensure that knowledge and understanding of traditions, customs or skills are not lost but are passed on to future generations.

We are committed to promoting the maximum heritage education within the school curriculum and to providing the necessary resources for this purpose. Whilst the wider international context is important, we will facilitate the development of courses about local heritage and distinctiveness, including language, at all levels.

HISTORICAL ANNIVERSARIES

In Government, the GSLP Liberals took a policy decision to commemorate important historical anniversaries. In 2015, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the evacuation of the civilian population of Gibraltar during the Second World War. This included an exhibition, a memorial service in Casemates and a wartime-themed concert at the Victoria Stadium. In 2017 we honoured the referendum generation. Those who confronted the Spanish dictator General Franco and voted overwhelmingly to remain British in 1967. In 2019, we marked 50 years of the closure of the frontier by Franco's Spain. This was a watershed in the political history of Gibraltar and a vital component in cementing the identity of the People of Gibraltar. This year we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of our first appearance at the Committee of 24 and the 4th Committee in New York. A GSLP Liberal Government will continue to promote the history and identity of the Gibraltarians. We believe that knowledge of the past is the key to the future. This is particularly important in relation to the younger generation. The GSLP Liberals' commitment to the commemoration of historical anniversaries is one we are proud of and one which we renew to the People of Gibraltar in 2023. We will continue to highlight and commemorate all relevant historic anniversaries.

GIBRALTARIAN IDENTITY CENTRE

We will establish a combined archive/museum of Gibraltarian identity with permanent exhibitions. This will enable us to create the centre for the promotion of the Gibraltarian identity we have been committed to for a long time. It will be the home for all those valuable items of historical record that have been displayed over the years and become the place where we go to nourish the very heart of the Gibraltarian. Work on this initiative will be done in conjunction with the Gibraltar National Archives, which has already organised exhibitions on the Gibraltar's role in



(Top) Further artist's impressions of the proposed multi-use Rooke development

(Below) Artist's impression of new affordable housing project



World War One, on the evacuation of the civilian population during World War Two, on the 1967 referendum and on the closure of the border. We will continue discussions with a private sector entity interested in financing the creation of a permanent educational exhibition space for the GNA at Duke of Kent House. We renew our commitment - in Government, the GSLP Liberals will create the permanent home these exhibitions deserve, and that our Gibraltarian identity needs.

MILITARY MUSEUM

Although we committed to this in 2019, we were unable to proceed due to the pandemic. However, a GSLP Liberal Government is now recommitting to establishing a museum that commemorates Gibraltar's enduring and rich historical ties with the United Kingdom's armed forces. This connection, dating back to the Royal Marines' capture of Gibraltar in 1704, has remained strong through the ages. Gibraltar takes immense pride in these historic links, and we intend to collaborate with local experts and UK military and heritage organizations on this project. The old Fortress Headquarters, commanding a view of Rosia Bay, remains a potential location for this meaningful museum.

THE GIBRALTAR GARRISON LIBRARY

There has been some significant focus on our built heritage over these past twelve years, a commitment that remains firm. But we will now place additional emphasis on our written historical record and increase support for the Gibraltar Garrison Library, which this year commemorates its 230th Anniversary.

As Gibraltar's oldest library, established on the back of the Great Siege, this institution has since 1793 come to represent the permanence of a British Gibraltar, and since 2011 is an institution that belongs to the People of Gibraltar.

We will continue to support the restoration of the library building and gardens, and to establish a conservation programme for their books, newsprint collections, their archives and artefacts. The Gibraltar Garrison Library has already embarked on a major digitisation project and is moving from the analogue to the digital age. In support of this initiative and given the historic connection of the Gibraltar Chronicle to the Library, we are committed to the establishment of a Gibraltar Print Culture Interpretation Centre within the Garrison Library precinct. This will be curated with analogue print equipment and historic print samples which form part of the Print Culture Archive held at the Garrison Library.

The aim is to offer an interactive space for all, but importantly, also for educational outreach. The Gibraltar Garrison Library will take its place in the community and welcome researchers and public alike.

And so...Heritage will continue to be central to our plans in restoration and new development and in improving our surroundings for residents and visitors. Heritage is in safe hands with the GSLP Liberals.

GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

We will continue to work closely with and support the Gibraltar Heritage Trust in all matters relating to heritage. We greatly value their expertise and commitment, and the work done, most often by volunteers, and will continue to support projects on which they lead, such as the restoration of Witham's Cemetery.

URBAN RENEWAL

Urban renewal is at the heart of the improvement of the quality of life of the citizens, especially those living in the historic quarter. We will encourage and provide incentives for the repair and re-use and restoration of abandoned and neglected buildings, favouring this over demolition. Sustainable, environmentally sensitive development projects involving heritage that make a substantial contribution to the quality of life of the citizen, will be encouraged.

Urban renewal has been evident in the old Town, including the former Police Barracks, St Bernard's School, and Town Range, with the very recent completion of St Mary's School. Indeed, all the new schools have contributed to improvements in the urban landscape in their area. We will continue to encourage urban renewal, which will include working with landlords and NGOs to improve conditions in the Upper Town.

We propose to further regenerate the upper Town so that the entire area becomes attractive to live in and to retailers and restaurateurs. We will encourage cafes, restaurants, and artisanal shops, open as visitors walk around.

We will continue to add to the list of scheduled buildings, monuments and artefacts, in consultation with all stakeholders.

UPPER TOWN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Part of the stock of properties in the upper town will no longer go out to public tender unless the refurbishment is beyond economical repair. All housing stock will be refurbished and will be sold to registered Gibraltarians, under the Housing Waiting List, at below market value prices. These lease for these properties will prevent them from being sold in open market. The government will have the obligation to re-purchase the property at the price it was originally sold or with the RPI increase, whichever is higher. The former government property will then re-sold, on the same terms, to the next person in line. This will not only increase the housing stock available to locals but also will permit the Upper Town to continue having its charm.

REGENERATION OF ROAD TO THE LINES

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue with the project for the regeneration of Road to the Lines in order to create more homes.



Artist's impressions of the Youth Community and Resource Centre



NEW MOORISH CASTLE ESTATE YOUTH CLUB

A GSLP Liberal Government is committed to empowering our youth. We pledge to establish a new Youth Club in the Moorish Castle Estate, utilising the Plater building as its dedicated home. We will collaborate with residents and youth organisations to create an inclusive Youth Club reflecting local needs. The Plater building will be repurposed as a hub for youth activities, offering educational support, sports, arts, and community engagement. This initiative will empower our youth, nurture talent, and build a stronger Moorish Castle Estate community.

NEW LAGUNA ESTATE YOUTH CLUB

We will build a new Laguna Youth Club to replace the youth club which had been moved to Glacis pending works. The new youth club will be located below the new Pensioner Affordable Housing block.

YOUTH ROOKE CENTRE

We will resource a new Youth Centre which will be provided by the developer of the Rooke Development. This will serve all of Gibraltar's youth, especially those who live in Mid harbour and Edinburgh Estates.



Meet the team Patricia Orfila

Pat Orfila is a mother to Cathy, a retired teacher, and a dedicated public servant. In 2009 she was encouraged by her mother (and best friend) to take the plunge into political activism and joined the GSLP. She was elected to the executive in 2011. Having found her political home, she committed to public service, and has been helping others since.

Pat and her two brothers were raised by her mother. When Pat was 11 and her brothers were 9 and 2, her father abandoned the family. Pat quickly learned about the value of honest hard work in the face of adversity from her mother's commitment and strength, raising the family on her own. It is this experience that instilled in Pat the values she lives her life by today. Pat pursued her education, becoming a schoolteacher, cherishing the profession that enabled her to make a difference in her students' lives. She advanced to Senior Teacher, where she introduced initiatives like the Careers Fair, PSHE education, and Bullying Awareness.

Her heart breaks that her mother cannot be here to proudly watch her take this step but is excited and determined to do her proud by caring for her constituents with her no-nonsense approach to getting the job done of helping people who need it.

HOUSING

The GSLP Liberals are committed to making Housing work for the people that need it the most, and when they need it the most.

It is important that we focus on making the right improvements, understanding that there are certain realities of interacting with Government which are far from optimised. We will therefore, if re-elected, revert to counters being open every day of the week and we will seek to implement additional phone lines and a call management system.

We will work to ensure that it is as easy as it can be, without the need for visiting the offices, of addressing either practical or unfair barriers to progress on the waiting lists.

Housing needs to work for the people. We need to make changes to ensure this continues to happen and in most effective way possible. We are determined that Housing works for the people that need it and, importantly, is responsive when it needs to be. For that reason, we will revert to the system of opening the counters every day and implement a call handling system that ensures people's queries do not go unanswered. It should not have to be necessary to visit the Housing department for the handling of simple queries.

We will also have a mechanism to help those on the housing waiting list to check and clear any unnecessary or unfair holdups that may be preventing them from moving up the list as quickly as they should.

We will introduce a system for low income earners to buy very affordable homes. We will build more homes for rental as well as affordable homes for first time home buyers and pensioners.

The issue of housing has always been problematic in Gibraltar because of our size. It is a fundamental policy of our party that we want every Gibraltarian to be able to live comfortably in their own home. We are, of course, committed to a policy of making it possible for all our people to have a home in Gibraltar at affordable prices. This is a policy that we developed in the period in Government of the GSLP in 1988. We are also committed to providing rental accommodation for those who are genuinely unable to afford a home.

We have a proven track record reduction of the housing waiting lists when we have been in Government.

Already, as we announced in 2019, the way that housing is provided has already fundamentally changed. The Housing Department has been restricted and operational policies changed for the benefit of everyone who is on the waiting lists. By 2019 we had eradicated every single person who applied for housing before December 2011 with the exception of the 1rkb list on which less than 100 remain. That is a record to be proud of.

The housing rental stock is now turned around faster than ever before and this results in many more allocations of homes sooner. This means that our waiting lists now move

much quicker. But we want to improve matters even more.

We have also now completed a review of the Housing Act and we will bring a Bill to implement a modernised Act to Parliament in the first year of the new Government to ensure that this legislation is relevant and progressive to meet the needs and demands of our community.

PRIVATE LANDLORDS

We are mindful of problems encountered by private landlords particularly in rent-controlled properties. As we committed to do in 2019 and have not been able to deliver, we will undertake a thorough review of the regime of the rental housing market, also bearing in mind the needs of tenants, and in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Having constructed Beach View Terraces and Mons Calpe Mews in our first term of office. We have already delivered 380 new homes at Hassan Centenary Terraces Phase 1. Phase 2 and Bob Peliza Mews and Chatham Views will be completed in the next term of office. All will be completed in the next 18 to 36 months maximum.

We will deliver an additional one thousand five hundred to two thousand units to ensure that we are able to keep up with the demand by Gibraltarians for affordable homes.

WAITING LISTS DOWN

By having focused the priority of allocation of the affordable housing to those who will give up a Government tenancy and to those on the housing waiting list, it means that the demand on the waiting list is reduced and also that more rental homes are left vacant.

RENTAL HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

We believe that developing housing for rental for the elderly is a hugely important part of how we can move government tenants who hold large homes they no longer need into smaller flats. This makes those larger homes available for younger tenants with large or growing families. We therefore commit to continue to build housing for rental for the elderly, as this releases post-war governmental rental housing for growing families.

We have already constructed excellent, high quality and well-designed purpose-built homes for the elderly which means that our elderly community can have a better standard of living and remain independent for longer. In addition to assisting our elderly community, most of whom are tenants of the rental housing stock, we will release further housing

stock.

We have already announced that we will construct further accommodation for the elderly at Bob Peliza Mews and at Chatham Views.

PENSIONER AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We are excited to have announced the building of the affordable housing project at Laguna Estate, a project which is already over-subscribed. For all the details, turn to the Finance section of this manifesto, under Future Projects.

REFURBISHMENT OF ESTATES

Although we are delayed in starting our complete plans, we have already commenced the External Refurbishments on site at:

St John's Court;
Knights Court.

EXTERNAL REFURBISHMENTS CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED WITH GJBS ARE

Varyl Begg Estate
Tankerville House
Macmillan House

EXTERNAL REFURBISHMENTS WILL ALSO BE DONE AT:

Edinburgh Estate
Willis' House
Arengo's Block
Stanley Buildings
Coelho House
Churchill House
Upper Witham's House
Lower Witham's House
Heathfield House
Kent House
Harrington Building
Rosia House
Vineyard House
Penney House
St Joseph's Estate
St Jago's
Schomberg

TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS

We have cemented our established, excellent working relationships with Tenants' Associations that represent all estates. We will continue our close working relationship

with them. We will always consult with them on matters related to their respective estates.

HOUSING WORKS AGENCY

In the Housing Works Agency, despite having been unable to do so since 2019, we will agree a minimum manning level with the union and we will seek to bring the skills of the young people we train into this area.

WILLIS'S ROAD PARK

As we set out in 2019, we shall redevelop the area to the north of Macfarlane House into a children's play zone, given there is no such facility in that vicinity.

MID HARBOURS ESTATE PARK

We have already delivered on our commitment with the Mid Harbour Estate Tenants' Association to provide a new play park in the estate.

THE WALKS & OTHER EX-MOD ESTATES

As we set out in 2019, we have ensured that purchasers at the Walks, Trafalgar Heights, Naval Hospital Hill and other ex-MOD have had works carried out by the GSLP Liberal Government respect of infrastructure (sewage etc.) Additionally, we have donate all the common areas in the area of The Walks to the Management Company (made up of the purchasers) to enable them to provide these to the tenants for a fee to be agreed between them and to form the basis of a sinking fund for the maintenance of the estate.

AFFORDABLE ESTATES

We have and will continue to support the existing affordable housing estates where remedial works are necessary arising from faulty workmanship at the development stage. We will also continue our commitment to assist all estates in Gibraltar to become accessible as an important part of the continued work we are doing on equality and accessibility.

LEASE RESTRICTIONS RELAXED AT AFFORDABLE ESTATES

We have relaxed and will continue, as chronologically relevant, to relax the resale restrictions in the underleases of affordable estates over 30 years old should in instances where the seller has owned the property for at least 10 years before the sale is effected.

MONTAGU GARDENS, CRESCENT & HARBOUR VIEWS

Having complied with our specific, previous commitments in respect of these estates, we will continue to work with the management companies of each to ensure that the interests of tenants and the Government are protected.

SIR WILLIAM JACKSON GROVE

We will continue working with the management company of the estate to resolve historic issues requiring works as well as on other areas of Government's responsibility. We will work on road resurfacing within the estate as well as anti-social behaviour by tenants of Government flats in this estate.

BEACH VIEW TERRACES & MONS CALPE MEWS

We are justly proud of these estates which the GSLP Liberal Government was responsible for delivering. We will work with the management companies of both estates to ensure that any latent defects or remedial works which remain unresolved are properly dealt with. That will include all matters previously identified and not yet dealt with.

VINEYARDS & MERLOT

Working with the management companies we have already resolved issues relating to water ingress arising from works carried out some years ago. We will nonetheless continue to work closely with the management committee of the estate on all issues where the Government has responsibility.

CUMBERLAND, NELSONS & BAYVIEW

Since we were elected we have been dealing with AND WILL CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH the many remedial issues that arise in these estates which had to be taken over by GJBS after the liquidation of OEM (to whom the GSD lost a loan of taxpayers' money). We will continue to assist the management companies of those estates until we have put right all the issues that arise as latent defects from the problems with the design and construction of these estates under the GSD. That includes dealing with serious problems affecting the lifts in these estates which arise from defective workmanship an installation.

WATERPORT TERRACES

We will continue to work with the management committee of this estate to ensure that matters affecting the quality of life of the tenants are addressed when they related to areas of Government's responsibility.

EUROPA PASS BATTERY

We have honoured the arrangements entered into with owners at Europa Pass Battery for the acquisition of the access road to their estate.

BRYMPTON BRIDGES

We have assisted the management company of Brympton with the repairs necessary to their bridges. We are already working with the management company on assisting them in other respects.

BUENA VISTA ESTATE

We will continue and finalise the works agreed with tenants at Buena Vista Estate which arise from failures of infrastructure and in the fabric of their properties. This includes finalising resurfacing work and continuing urgent work on sewers infrastructure. A lot of work has already been completed, having a positive material effect on the quality of life of the purchasers in this estate.

ELLIOTT'S BATTERY

We have assisted the management company to refurbish the estate and will continue to work with them in upgrading Government infrastructure in the area. The estate now looks much more modern and attractive than it used to, and this will have added great value to the properties in this area. We will continue to work with the management company to ensure that infrastructure in the area is properly maintained.

CCTV IN ESTATES

The instances of isolated but pernicious anti-social behaviour is on the rise in some estates in Gibraltar. We have already deployed security guards to some estates to control this whilst a long term, CCTV option is provided for.

ACTION FOR HOUSING

We appreciate the comprehensive wish list presented by Action for Housing, which outlines key areas for reform in our housing system. Among the priorities outlined, we are particularly interested in exploring measures related to the construction of rental homes, legal assistance for tenants facing eviction, and the regulation of rents to ensure security of tenure and protect property investment. We are also open to the idea of introducing tax disincentives against multiple homeownership to promote a fairer distribution of residential property.

Furthermore, we support the call for improved regulation and maintenance of government-funded NGOs and agencies providing temporary accommodation. Ensuring that these resources are readily available to applicants on government housing waiting lists is a vital step in addressing housing challenges.

Additionally, we believe that transparency is crucial in addressing these issues, and we are open to the idea of allowing an Action for Housing member to attend Housing Allocation Committee meetings in an observer's capacity.

We are committed to exploring these proposals further, working in close consultation with Action for Housing, and considering their implementation as part of our ongoing efforts to improve housing accessibility and affordability for all residents of Gibraltar. Our aim is to create a fairer and more inclusive housing system that meets the needs of our community and ensures that everyone has access to safe and affordable housing. Together with Action for Housing, we will strive to make meaningful progress on these important issues.

GENERAL RENTAL STOCK

The GSLP Liberals would, if returned to office, build additional general rental stock in housing. The reason for this is as simple as it is considered. It is our policy that we should effectively eradicate housing waiting lists. By virtue of all the work we have done in BOTH the 1988-1996 Government and, more recently, in Government since 2011, we estimate that building affordable housing stock at an approximate rate of 200 units per year will be enough to achieve our target of clearing the waiting list. Nonetheless, as the population grows, the balance of rental homes will need to be increased. That adjustment will produce the net effect of eradicating the waiting list as a result of all the investment in housing that this community has made and will make under our stewardship, in affordable homes, rental homes and homes for the elderly (both for rent and affordable purchase). A fourth term GSLP Liberals is therefore confident that it will be able to clear the housing waiting list by the end of this next term.

ENSURING CHILD SAFETY IN HOUSING: EMPOWERING COURTS TO ADDRESS ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

In our commitment to safeguard the wellbeing of children and address issues of antisocial behaviour within our communities, we pledge to empower the courts with the authority to issue eviction notices to parents or guardians when deemed necessary by the Care Agency and Courts service. This policy will come into play when the Care Agency and Courts service determine that children are at risk due to such behaviour.

Under this policy, parents or guardians receiving an eviction notice must vacate the household immediately. The household where the children reside, will be transferred to the Care Agency, ensuring a seamless transition for the children, minimising undue disruption. This measure prioritises the child's wellbeing, with the appropriate care and support being provided by the Care Agency while the child remains in the environment they are comfortable in.

PRIVATE HOUSING INCENTIVE

We will provide tax incentives and aid to developers that include affordable homes within any of their projects. This will include new starter homes for our youth up to pensioner flats.

LEASE EXTENSIONS - REASONABLE COSTS

We will offer to grant lease extensions at attractive rates to management companies and individual leaseholders.

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

PLANNING & IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROCESS

We have transformed the planning process in Gibraltar since we took office in 2011. Under the GSD meetings of the Development and Planning Commission (DPC) were held in private and minutes were kept confidential. This GSD secrecy, over which Mr Azopardi presided when he was a Minister in the GSD Government, was vanquished by the GSLP Liberals in the face of stiff opposition from the GSD who insisted that the meetings of the DPC should remain secret. DPC meetings were made open to the press and to the public by the GSLP Liberals. Applications are discussed openly, and decisions are taken in that same public forum. It will be recalled that these meetings were previously secretive and held behind closed doors. The agenda and the minutes were not published like they are today. There is now a right for objectors to be able to make their case heard and the entire planning process is available on-line. This is an example of openness and transparency in action.

In the last four years, the Development and Planning Commission (DPC) in Gibraltar has undertaken significant changes and improvements in the planning process. These include the introduction of an online planning portal in 2020, simplifying the submission and tracking of planning applications. In 2021, a new public consultation process for major planning applications was launched to enhance community participation. As we committed to do, the DPC is now able to meet virtually, and most meetings do not require a physical presence. Furthermore, a fast-track planning process for minor developments was introduced in 2022. The DPC has also published a Sustainable Development Strategy, Heritage Strategy, and Planning Policy Statement on Housing.

These initiatives aim to make the planning process more efficient, transparent, and responsive to the needs of Gibraltar's growing community. We remain committed to openness and transparency in this, as all other contexts, and renew our ongoing commitment to ensuring all Government projects continue to go to the DPC for its opinion and guidance. The new Town Planning Act requires the Government to obtain the approval of the DPC for its own projects. This contrasts sharply with the position under the GSD, where Government projects ended up not being presented at all and must call into question any claims made by the GSD now to be 'transparent' in any respect.

STRIKING A BALANCE: PROSPERITY & SUSTAINABILITY

We want to see Gibraltar develop sensitively and in a manner that enhances the quality of life of citizens. We do NOT want a concrete jungle. We want to develop homes for our people and offices for new jobs and new businesses to drive economic growth. But we want to ensure that we also – and at the same time – make Gibraltar a better place in which

to live and that we do not spoil the great things about our nation by falling for over development.

NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN

We are reaffirming our commitment, made in 2019, but delayed due to the pandemic, to strike a balance between responsible development while preserving Gibraltar's natural appeal, it's environmental wellbeing and a high quality of life for its citizens, residents, and tourists alike. Our aim is to ensure sustainable growth AND economic development. To achieve this, we have initiated the process of formulating a New Development Plan.

CONTROLLED DEVELOPMENT

In this term of office, we have held back the development of a number of plots of land, where the Government was in control, so that there was less building and less construction happening at the same time. We prioritised affordable housing for our people and new schools for our children. Private sector sites are obviously more difficult to control in the same way.

GREEN FOCUS

In line with our commitment to environmental preservation and improved quality of life, we halted or delayed development in certain developments and are dedicated to establishing new green spaces and parks in strategic locations across Gibraltar. Projects such as Victoria Keys will play a pivotal role in safeguarding green zones within urban areas. Additionally, all new developments will have to be green and lush.

DEVELOPMENTS

THE EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT

The Eastside development deal with TNG was finally signed with the Government of Gibraltar on April 4, 2023, and is a very positive step forward in the delivery of a great project on the Eastside. The development will be for the benefit of the whole of the community and the GSLP Liberals are excited about the opportunities that this represents. TNG made the payment of £90m to the Government of Gibraltar on completion – but £90m is only a small part of the benefit

to the Government and the people of Gibraltar. The project will be worth over a BILLION pounds in development.

Another clear advantage secured by negotiating this deal will be avoiding the cost of £60m to move the mountain of rubble on the site which has been in the process of removal since then. Importantly, an area that has been derelict for some years and an eyesore will be transformed by the commencement of works and development into a residential and leisure area without comparison, turning a negative into a positive for all the people of Gibraltar, just like the derelict Police Barracks became The Arches.

TNG have now almost completed the two new schools at Europort Avenue and will very soon file plans for the development of the old Bayside plot. TNG's Founder is also the ultimate owner of Trusted Novus Bank. The GSLP Liberals look forward to the commencement of the development of the Eastside and to the economic and wider benefit for the whole of our community.

VICTORIA KEYS

The Green City by the Sea which we have announced for the Victoria Keys development is already in progress. A large part of the reclamation is complete. Due to MoD requirements, the final shape of the reclamation will change but the developable area will be the same or more. Importantly, this project will also create large public parking areas in the town area, which will allow us to move parking from Romney Huts Car Park etc in order to create the new parks on Queensway to which we remain committed. The greening effect of Victoria Keys therefore extends beyond just the area of the development itself. The Government's portion of the Victoria Keys development will also include provision for Government housing developments and for fishing along the outer wall as we once again open up the waterfront even more for our people.

ROOKE

Details of this exciting project can be found on the Heritage and Urban Renewal pages of this manifesto. This low rise development will add green areas in the centre of town, civic amenities and new parking and shopping opportunities.



A signature commitment from 2019, the GSLP Liberals are committed to creating the green lung on Queensway!







Meet the team Dr John Cortes

John Cortes has served you as a Minister since 9 December 2011. Initially as Minister for Health and Environment and additionally as Minister for Energy, Climate Change, Utilities and Elderly Residential Services since December 2013. In 2016 he left Health and became minister for Education, Heritage and Public health. After the 2019 General Election he was additionally given responsibility for Culture.

John qualified in ecology in London University and gained his doctorate at Oxford. As a student he founded the Gibraltar Union of Students. He was Director of the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens for 20 years from 1991 and general secretary of GONHS between 1976 and 2011. John was also the general manager of the old St Bernard's hospital between 1988 - 1991 and was a member of the board of the GHA between 1992 and 2007. He has regularly represented Gibraltar internationally and has held posts in several international organisations in the UK and in Spain. He has led research projects in Gibraltar and Morocco. A magistrate for 17 years, he was also active in youth work in his earlier years. John is well experienced in the Performing Arts and has taken leading singing and acting as well as dancing roles.

His achievements in Government include Ocean Views Mental Health Facility, the Chemotherapy and Day Surgery Units at St Bernard's Hospital, Commonwealth Park, and eight new schools, as well new Mental Health, Education and Environmental legislation and the promotion of the Arts and Gibraltarian Literature in Gibraltar and abroad.

He is married to Valerie, and they have two children, Zoe and Mark, and two grandchildren, Ryan and Lea.

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Gibraltar has changed unrecognisably since the GSLP Liberals come into office at the end of 2011. And the positive change when it comes to the Environment is clearly evident. No more diesel power generators next to residential areas, no dirty power station in the nature reserve, great improvements in air quality and in water quality, more trees and more, quite fantastic, green areas, and so much else.

In 2011 you could only send paper and cardboard to recycle. The Barbary macaques were everywhere in estates and in Town, and the population of seagulls was huge and also impacted heavily in residential areas. The Nature Reserve was nearly 40% smaller than it is now, and our unique Barbary partridge was on the verge of extinction.

There was no talk of energy efficiency or renewable energy. Sustainability was a dirty work and there was absolutely no concern, or interest in official circles and certainly not in the GSD Government, of Climate Change or its effects.

Gibraltar was an environmental horror show with the Government doing nothing and with the NGOs being the ones who led and set the standard.

Then the GSLP Liberals were elected, and things changed. Power is now produced by much cleaner LNG, with up to 10% already from solar power. Bathing waters have improved, the nature reserve has grown, the macaques and seagulls are much less impacting, and the whole community is rallying behind the environmental imperatives.

There is a lot more to do, and we are the only ones to do it.

A 25-YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN

Once elected, we will, by the end of 2023, publish a 25 Year Environmental Plan which will chart our aims and intentions for the next quarter of a century. This, together with the Climate Change Strategy that we produced, and backed by legislation such as the Climate Change Act, will be the backbone of the next Government's Environmental programme.

25-YEAR GOALS

Our 25-Year Goals are:

- ***To develop a strong and resilient environmental governance framework***
- ***To protect, conserve and enhance Gibraltar's natural capital.***
- ***To turn Gibraltar into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy***
- ***To safeguard Gibraltar's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being so that they can***

live and prosper sustainably.

- ***To secure investment for environment and climate policy***
- ***To participate in international initiatives that are of mutual benefit.***
- ***To create a green and efficient transport network***
- ***To ensure economic growth is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Climate Emergency***
- ***To combat climate change and adapt to its impacts.***

Our policies will focus on the six environmental themes and encompass all areas of environmental management, from ensuring clean air and water and a thriving natural environment, to creating a smart and sustainable city.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Sound environmental governance is critical to delivering our environmental ambitions. We have already enacted the Environmental Governance Act which obliges future Governments to act in accordance with the highest of environmental standards.

Gibraltar will seek to promote the principle of environmental justice through greater environmental education, making it a key component of the curriculum and embedding environmental learning into a child's educational experience, as already enacted by us in the revised Education and Training Act. This has already begun with the provision of sustainably designed working environments in the form of the new schools and will develop through the work of educational professionals to establish activities, projects, events and opportunities to enhance pupils' knowledge of contemporary environmental issues. The continuation of the ClimACT Schools project will support the foundation of this work.

Gibraltar will adopt a No Boundaries Approach to environmental protection by creating partnerships with Morocco and across the Mediterranean as well as with the UK, the UK Overseas Territories and other small territories.

HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Building a healthy city is a multifaceted challenge which requires work across multiple disciplines. Sensitive and sustainable urban renewal is a key component of this work and Government will seek to generate continuing investment into parts of the Old Town of Gibraltar that have gone untended. This will include engaging with private landlords of rented or vacant accommodation.

We will set standards for development with the introduction of BREEAM certification and the development of a Net Zero Building standard. New developments will need to contribute Biodiversity Net Gain and should also seek to demonstrate environmental benefits in a wider context e.g., energy, pollution, waste etc. We will also seek ways to encourage energy efficient renovation in the private sector and encourage this sector of the economy. We are already working with the sector which is now leading in its innovative approach to modern construction, as was clearly evident in

the recent Aspire Conference.

We will continue to work towards a Green Gibraltar through the creation of new green spaces in the north and south and connecting green ways along Queensway. We will work to increase tree planting in urban areas and explore possibilities for vertical gardens. All this additional planting will increase our urban biodiversity and also help to eliminate pollutants from our environment.

Recognising the impact that access to the natural world can have on both physical and mental well being, we will work with the GHA to develop an “ecotherapy” approach within healthcare with green prescribing forming a core part of solutions and interventions offered by health providers.

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Action on Climate Change is Urgent, and it will be tackled via three principal strands:

- *the decarbonisation of the energy sector by boosting renewable energy generation capacity, principally via the roll out of rooftop solar PV but also exploring viable marine renewable options and connecting to the Moroccan grid.*
- *an agreement with the MOD will shortly be implemented and a joint Gibraltar Government/MOD tender notice will be issued or the provision of solar panels of an area of some 17,000M2 on the Ministry of Defence estate. It is anticipated that the project will provide capacity of some 2 Megawatts, in addition to the 3 Megawatts we already generate in Gibraltar. With an average consumption of 32 Megawatts per day, the 5 Megawatts which will be delivered using solar power will amount to some 15% of Gibraltar's daily consumption. This is one more great step in the work we are doing to our climate objectives.*
- *the decarbonisation of the building stock by working with the industry to achieve this through energy efficiency and the introduction of net zero energy building standards.*
- *the decarbonisation of the transport sector via a move towards vehicle fleet electrification as well as strategies to encourage modal shift to more sustainable transport forms such as walking, cycling and public transport.*

Energy efficiency will continue to form a key cornerstone of carbon reduction efforts and direct engagement with high energy users should yield significant improvements in this respect.

Further details on all these measures can be found in the [2021 Climate Change Strategy](#), which remains core to the GSLP Liberals' environmental policy.

Government will also focus on horizontal measures such as encouraging more plant-based diets and on nature-based solutions such as increasing planted areas and reintroducing effective carbon sinks such as seagrasses.

REDUCING POLLUTION & WASTE

Pollution and waste have a significant impact on people's health & quality of life. Efforts to reduce air pollution will focus primarily on the transport sector – moving towards electric vehicles but also, critically, getting people out of their private vehicles altogether and walking, cycling and using public transport. This will result in greater improvements to public health and well-being as lower pollution levels are accompanied by increased levels of activity and engagement with others in the community. Government will seek to facilitate this transition through incentives in order to generate the biggest changes in the shortest amount of time.

In respect of waste, efforts will focus on greater education and awareness in order to create the cultural changes necessary to eliminate this long-standing problem in Gibraltar. Again, measures will be mainly incentivising – such as deposit return schemes and the provision of better facilities, but we will have to consider increasing fines further, and there will be increased enforcement efforts. We will continue to work to reduce other environmental pollutants and nuisances such as noise, dog fouling and bad smells.

DEVELOPING THE GREEN ECONOMY

A SUSTAINABLE FINANCE STRATEGY

We will develop a comprehensive Sustainable Finance Strategy that seeks to capitalise on Gibraltar's strong finance sector credentials as well as the growing international movement towards green finance. It will also promote Gibraltar's green economy by helping to green the market through the provision of positive incentives and the removal of negative subsidies; greening government spending and decision making and providing strong and clear leadership on the environment and sustainability, promoting policies that support sustainable choices across society.

ENSURING HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

PROTECT NATURAL BIODIVERSITY

We will focus on restoring and protecting the natural biodiversity on our land and in our waters through conservation measures, rewilding programmes and ongoing surveillance and monitoring. The Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and the Convention on Biodiversity will form the legal backbone of Gibraltar's work in this respect. Existing programmes will be expanded, and new measures introduced, working with citizens and NGOs to develop a deeper understanding of our natural world and how we can best protect it.

REWILDING PROJECTS

On land, efforts will focus on rewilding projects in the Gibraltar Nature Reserve as well as ongoing management of invasive species and measures to control negative human interference with nature.

Key measures in the marine environment will be the wastewater treatment plant, a marine litter management programme, the expansion of the marine protected areas network, and targeted initiatives to encourage the growth

in population and of key marine species such as oyster and grouper.

CLIMATE CHANGE

We are committed to the reduction of Gibraltar's Carbon footprint, even though it is small at global level, because we believe in acting locally and in being an example to other countries, especially small territories where carbon neutrality can be achieved.

COMMITTED TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

We will keep all the objectives and commitments of the Climate Change Strategy and the requirements of the Climate Change Act.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

We will activate the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Environment to strive for cross-party support for Climate Action.

CLIMATE ACTION FUND

We will proceed with setting up the Climate Action Fund and will increase the funding available both by direct funding and other initiatives to a minimum of £2.5million a year. These funds will be directed to projects that are sustainable, generate power and increase energy efficiency. This will in itself reduce the overall costs of power production well as generate new economic activity.

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

We will continue to follow the guidance and advice of the independent Climate Change Committee which the GSLP Liberal Government set up under the Climate Change Act.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESOURCES

Importantly, to be able to put all this into effect, we will resource the team working on Climate Change to the sure that they have the time and expertise to carry out this vital work.

GIBRALTAR NATIONAL PARK AND NATIONAL TRAILS

BOOSTING THE PROFILE

We will move quickly to boost the profile of the recently created Gibraltar National Park and the National Trails both locally and internationally.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONALLY

The Gibraltar National Park, with all its constituent sites, will be promoted internationally and enhance the image of Gibraltar as a place to visit for its rich natural, historical and cultural heritage.

SIGNPOSTING AND INTERPRETATION

The National Trails will be maintained and signposted, with interpretation on the ground and online, to encourage the enjoyment of walking and the outdoors.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

We will seek international recognition of our National Park and membership of international organisations which will raise our profile further and attract investment.

GIBRALTAR NATURE RESERVE

MANAGING HABITATS

We will manage habitats in order to maximise biodiversity. We will maintain and extend the firebreaks, which will benefit both biodiversity and safety.

IMPROVE QUALITY

We will continue to improve the quality of our visitor facilities and will restore the many old structures of Heritage importance. We will prioritise further improvements to Mediterranean Steps and the fortifications at the top of the Rock. We will continue to maintain the paths that form part of the Gibraltar National Trails and will add discreet interpretation and signposting.

OUR BARBARY MACAQUES

The population of Barbary macaques will continue to be looked after and its numbers managed humanely through birth control. We will keep the resources needed to be able to respond quickly to any incursions into built up areas, as we have been able to do successfully in recent years. We will continue in our efforts to show visitors to the macaques that touching and feeding them is not necessary, interferes with their natural behaviour, and can encourage them to bite, always with the potential of human diseases being passed on to them. We will work closely with operators to reduce this.

GULLS

The yellow-legged gull population has decreased steadily over recent years and, while they can still be a nuisance, this is thankfully at a level below what it has been in the past. Work to keep the gull population down will therefore continue.

FIRE AND EVACUATION PLAN

We will develop and consolidate the Upper Rock Fire and Evacuation Plan.

LEGISLATE FOR NEST SITES

We will continue to ensure that our much-loved swifts continue to nest in our buildings by keeping the requirement that all new build must provide nest sites for them, and for other city birds, as well as roosting spaces for bats.



We will create a new walking route, the main feature of which will be a stunningly scenic cliff-top coastal path that will take you along Europa Advance Road to the two Gorham's cave viewing platforms.



INCREASE WILDLIFE WARDENS

In order to assist in this work and to properly protect our wildlife, we will increase the provision of Wildlife Wardens.

NEW HABITATS IN EUROPA POINT AND THE EAST SIDE

We will create new natural habitat in areas such as Europa Point and the east side.

BONELLI'S EAGLE AND LESSER KESTREL

We will continue to support efforts by GONHS to reintroduce the Bonelli's Eagle and Lesser Kestrel to Gibraltar and work with them to study the viability of boosting the Little Owl population and of re-introducing other species such as the Osprey, Black Wheatear, Ocellated Lizard, Genet and Roe Deer. In this way, and by protecting the existing populations of species such as the Barbary Partridge, the European Rabbit and the Red Fox, we will have a thriving natural community in the Nature Reserve.

SMART LIGHTING

We will provide smart and sensitive lighting in all areas that are used by bats and nocturnal birds and remove unnecessary lighting.

SUPPORTING GONHS

We will continue to support the work of the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS) in research (such as bird ringing) and conservation.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION LOCATIONS

We will provide outdoor locations for Education, like as the very successful Tovey Cottage Educational Centre, elsewhere on the Upper Rock and at Europa Point.

SCOUTS GLO PLANS – BACK ON

We will assist the Scout Association in completing their plans for Governor's Lookout (GLO), sadly delayed by Covid, developing as a centre not just for Scouting activities, but to encourage the enjoyment of the outdoors by the young members of our wider community.

A NEW COASTAL WALK

We will create a clifftop coastal walk along the east side, north from Europa Point and another in the area of Blackstrap Cove, making access better and safer along these scenic routes.

GREEN LANE

We reconfirm that we will seek to undertake the necessary works to stabilise the cliffs above Green Lane and re-open that access route to the Upper Rock.

GREEN CITY

Our Green City plans took a hit due to Covid, but they remain as relevant today as they were in 2019. We will proceed with these plans as per the 2019 Green Gibraltar Manifesto.

PROTECT URBAN GREEN AREAS

We will create an inventory of urban Green areas and give them legal protection.

PLANTING MORE TREES

We will continue to plant trees, which reduce pollution and air temperatures in the summer, and will ensure that any trees that die or have to be removed are transplanted or replaced, so that the number of trees in Gibraltar continues to grow, with all the benefits that they bring to health and wellbeing, including mental health. Trees reduce air pollution and air temperature.

WASTE

SEWAGE TREATMENT

We will proceed immediately with plans for a wastewater (sewage) treatment plant at the site of the brewery crusher following the recent allocation of the tender. We will ensure that the design blends in with the landscapes of this scenic part of the Rock.

SEWAGE & THE SEWERAGE NETWORK

This is one of the areas of policy that is unattractive but is essential. Only the GSLP Liberals have invested in this in the recent history of Gibraltar. Since first elected in December 2011, the GSLP / Liberal Government has increased investment in the upkeep, maintenance and improvement of the Sewerage Network transforming what was inherited back then, which was reactive based into a more proactive maintenance scheme. The GSLP / Liberal Government has always recognised the importance of maintaining this critical part of our infrastructure, often forgotten until a problem arises.

There has been investment into the rehabilitation and desilting of existing sewers including substantial flood alleviation works together with the provision of new infrastructure. This will continue apace if re-elected into Government until the network is fully rehabilitated. A programme of relaying and relining foul and storm water sewers is now in place and the tools have been provided to keep improving the aging network. The Main Sewer, which is over 130 years old, has been relined with a structural liner, along Line Wall Road, from the junction with John Mackintosh Square up to the College of Further education.

Since being elected the GSLP/ Liberals have relined some 570m of our Main sewer which equates to some 60% of the Main sewer within the City Walls. If re-elected into Government, relining will continue which will see the whole

run of the Main Sewer relined with structural liners therefore minimising the potential risk of collapses. The GSLP / Liberal Government has been coordinating with developers and indeed as part of our continued investment in affordable homes, schools, and other major Government building projects to ensure that the sewer network can continue to serve us well into the future especially as demand grows. Sewer records are presently being digitised by way of the GIS System and together with digital management system will allow for a more efficient management of the maintenance and upkeep of the network into the future.

RAINFALL DATA LOGGER

If re-elected, Rainfall Data Loggers will be funded and installed to help improve the reaction time to potential flooding issues and provide real time information of how rainfall acts in certain parts of Gibraltar, which will help in a variety of fields, from flooding prevention to future planning of drainage systems.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

If re-elected, a GSLP / Liberal Government will work with the sewers section to consider the rationalisation and integration of the management of bring the whole sewerage network under the responsibility of Government, so that there is only one entity involved therefore helping to improve efficiency.

SOLID WASTE

We will continue to encourage recycling and will increase the capacity to deal with recyclates. We will proceed with the setting up of a waste separation plant to process our waste prior to exportation, allowing the possibility of developing new revenue streams and decreasing dependence on cross-frontier waste movements. We will continue to explore environmentally friendly methods of waste treatment.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The private sector is key in taking Gibraltar forward in its environmental journey and we will work with their representative bodies and with businesses to encourage and incentivise them in this direction.

CONSTRUCTION

We will work with developers and the construction industry to ensure the sustainability of all new and refurbished buildings. We will ensure that they feature green roofs, green walls, solar panels and/or solar glass and all the best available technology to reduce their carbon footprint to near zero.

THE BUNKERING INDUSTRY

We will encourage and support the Industry in its continuing and ambitious efforts to decrease emissions both locally and around the world. We will continue to refine and improve bunkering operations to minimise the risk of pollution to

near zero, rather than push it across the Bay where we will be unable to implement or control our environmental policies.

NO BUNKERING ON THE EASTSIDE

If re-elected, you can rely on the GSLP Liberal Government to never allow bunkering on the East Side of Gibraltar. The GSLP Liberals have acted decisively and consistently in the protection of the marine environment, in the context of the very busy commercial and bunkering port activities we rely on for a component of our economic output. The incidents of the last year, namely the wreck of the OS35 on the Eastside and the oil spill more recently this year, have served to confirm that the GSLP Liberal Government has been right to insist on not opening the Eastside up to bunkering and in our coordinating and deploying strategies to minimise the risk of these incidents occurring in our waters. One thing we are clear and have always been clear about is that bunkering on the East Side represents an unacceptably high level of risk to our community and we will simply not allow it, unlike the GSD before us who were ready to permit this.

COMMITTED TO A CONSIDERATE CONTRACTOR SCHEME

The GSLP Liberals are dedicated to fostering a more considerate and community-conscious construction industry in Gibraltar. We pledge to establish a Considerate Contractor Scheme, ensuring that all construction projects adhere to the highest standards of professionalism, safety, and environmental responsibility. This scheme will encourage contractors to engage in practices that minimise disruption to residents, protect our natural environment, and uphold the well-being of our community. By promoting responsible construction, we aim to create a harmonious environment where development coexists with the needs and expectations of our citizens.



QUALITY OF LIFE – A NEW FOCUS

Protecting the health of the community requires an effort from everyone in the community. This is especially so in the context of our catering and leisure establishments. Maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness, the best food handling practices and pest control should be a given. Customers should have the peace of mind that consuming in any of our local bars, cafes and restaurants is safe and we will look at updating the local legislative framework to introduce, where necessary, the right controls and the adequate powers for those tasked with enforcing food standards.

WELLNESS

We will concentrate the next four years on the pursuit of wellness, as distinct from healthcare or disease management. We want to prevent our community from the need to be cured of ailments by promoting a healthy life, and a pleasant environment for us to live and work in.

PROACTIVE HEALTH – ENHANCED SCREENING

We will ensure proactive health screening for all possible detectable conditions so that our health problems can be tackled at an early stage.

DIET & EXERCISE CAMPAIGNS IN SCHOOL

We will encourage exercise and a healthy diet, through campaigns and in our schools. We want our people to live a long and happy life. To enjoy living and feel fulfilled. In this way our mental, as well as our physical health will be boosted - and we will have fun!

SUPPORTING WELLNESS ORGANISATIONS

We will encourage and support organisations that provide sporting and cultural activities and continue to support Culture and Sport as key to our wellbeing - as we say as exercise and online local cultural offers helped us all through the dark days of Covid.

IMPROVING APPEAL OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

We will do more to encourage the enjoyment of Nature and the Outdoors by improving trails and adding new ones, by improving the Upper Rock experience further, both in the sites themselves and by protecting and adding to the wildlife community there.

PEST CONTROL STRATEGY

We will work with the relevant agencies to ensure that Gibraltar has fit for purpose National Pest Control Strategy. It is a matter of critical importance as we strive to deliver the highest levels of quality of life. We will provide the resources to step up action to drastically reduce the incidence of all types of pests in our urban areas, including cockroaches, rodents and pigeons.

MORE GREEN AREAS

We will clearly notice the benefits too as air quality continue to improve as we encourage alternative forms of moving around our city and increase the capacity for electric cars. Air quality, and a sense of wellness will also increase as we roll out more trees and new green areas. And we will require all new large developments to provide sizeable green areas, as well as contribute cultural space for exhibitions and performances.

And, as we also encourage and promote music, writing and literature, we will be able to sit on a bench in a park, in the shade of a lush plane tree, listening to live music and reading the latest novel set in Gibraltar.

We have a vision. We have set the foundations. We are the ones to make it a reality.

We will maintain our children's parks to the highest standards, improving the current maintenance levels.

NEW QUEENSWAY PARKS

We plan to create new parks along Queensway, to complement Commonwealth and Campion Parks and the new Walk along the Walls, as well as the proposed green areas at the Rooke development and No 4 Dock which will be exposed.

ROMNEY HUTS CAR PARK

We will relocate Romney Huts parking area and The Sails parking and replace with green areas, as we previously committed to doing.

NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR URBAN FARMING

In association with the University of Gibraltar, we will work to deliver a national school of excellence in the context of urban and small scale farming, including the exploration of the latest techniques for the growth of crops in an urban setting, such as hydroponics, where space is at a premium. The growth in such contexts of produce is gathering pace and underpins the economic transformation of cities and communities around the world that had once relied on heavier industries for their economic well-being.

We will explore the idea of making available public land and property for the development of relevant projects, as well as offer strong financial incentives for international businesses and entrepreneurs making Gibraltar the home for their small, and not so small-scale urban farming projects. The GSLP Liberals believe that investment in this field is perfectly suited to our local environment and needs and is confident that we might one day be able to rely to a certain significant extent, on these projects and this investment for the purposes of an element of our own food security.

INVESTING IN THE BEACHES

We will invest in our beaches too, adding facilities and landscaping, and encouraging activities at sea.

ACCESSIBLE BEACHES

We will ensure that our beaches are as usable by those with disabilities as all the rest of the users who enjoy spending time at the beach.

BEACH BEAUTIFICATION

We will invest in our beaches. Now that works around the immediate area of Eastern Beach are nearing completion, we will beautify the area further, as will be done at Catalan Bay and Sandy Bay.

EASTERN BEACH CAR PARK

We will complete works on the additional floor of parking at the Eastern Beach multistorey carpark and implement a maintenance programme for it.

IMPROVING LIFEGUARD SERVICES

We have already improved the amount of time the lifeguard service is available during the year. We will look into whether this can be extended any further

LITTLE BAY IMPROVEMENTS

Recent improvements in Camp Bay have proved very successful, and we are planning further work to increase the space available to bathers. At Little Bay we will be improving access to the sea and renovating the terraces.

ROSIA BAY

We will develop Rosia Bay ourselves with public money and not allow developers to become involved.

EUROPA POOL

When the GSLP Liberals first came into office, we were faced with plans by a GSD administration to directly award the Europa pool site for the construction of a hotel complex. We put a stop to this scheme and ended up leaving it as an open, public area for the people of Gibraltar to use and enjoy.

AIR QUALITY

Gibraltar's Air Quality has improved significantly over the past twelve years. The removal of the diesel power stations both in the north and south districts of Gibraltar has had the desired effect. Gibraltar's monitored air quality is now within the levels required by the European Union, and recorded pollutant levels are at the lowest they have been since records began. Recent changes in the management of Gibdock, with strict conditions imposed, have resulted in a considerable reduction in its contribution to pollution.

Traffic and shipping are now the main contributors to air pollution, and these will continue to be tackled.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF TRANSPORT

We will continue to encourage alternative means of transport, such as walking and cycling.

STICKING TO PUBLISHED TARGETS

We will keep to our published objectives to phase out non-electric private vehicles by rolling out electric vehicle charging points, and for the electrification of the Taxi fleet.

ELECTRIC BUSES

We will continue in our efforts to identify electric buses that will work in Gibraltar's bus routes.

ANTI-IDLING LEGISLATION

Within three months of the election, we will introduce legislation to control idling of vehicles, especially near schools and other public buildings.

AN AIR QUALITY COMMISSION

We will renew our objective to set up an Air Quality Commission of stakeholders to advise and lead on continuing the improvement of our air quality.

COLD-IRONING PLANS ACCELERATING

We will continue and accelerate our plans for 'cold ironing' of ships to ensure that when berthed they run on mains power and do not have their engines running close to residential areas.

SOLAR ENERGY

We will continue with the programme to increase solar energy production, aiming to achieve a minimum of 35% power from renewables in the coming Term of Office and 50% by 2030.

ROOFTOP SOLAR INCENTIVES

We will support and incentivise landlords and the private sector in developing solar rooftop power generation.

GREENHOUSE GASES

We will continue to keep a greenhouse gas inventory.

MARINE NATURAL RESOURCES

We remain resolute in our position regarding the need for our nature protection laws to be respected, both on land and at sea.

EPRU

We will resource the Environmental Protection and Research Unit, created by the GSLP Liberal Government, in order to allow them to carry out their duties.

IMPROVING MARINE HABITAT

We will continue with the work to improve marine habitat, always in consultation with experts, by way of reef creation, installing artificial rockpools and the re-introduction of sea grasses.

ACCESS FOR RECREATIONAL ANGLERS

By improving marine habitat and enforcing our laws, we will achieve enrichment of our marine life so that we can continue to support our recreational anglers. We will provide proper facilities for them at the South Mole and the Detached Mole and guarantee access to the North Mole. We will ensure that new developments on the coast, should they occur, will have a combination of protected areas with rocky habitat and sites for recreational fishermen, as has been done most successfully in the Small Boats Marina.

BLUEFIN TUNA

We will continue to act responsibly in setting annual quotas for catching Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, which will be reviewed in accordance with changes in the ICCAT catch allowances.

This GSLP Liberal Government enacted regulations to establish a sustainable regime for the fishing of bluefin tuna within BGTW. This was done at a time where bluefin tuna as a species was endangered and in need of protection. Since then, much has changed, and we have repeatedly legislated to increase the quota in line with ICCAT's global increases. Much progress has also been made in response to feedback from the ever-growing number of local tuna fishermen, such as by providing daily updates on the quota to the Gibraltar Tuna Fishing Club throughout the open season, implementing a fully subscribed tag and release programme and removing the two fish per week rule following consultation with the Fishing Working Group. The progress made in this area however cannot stop there. We understand that an improved weighing station and the creation of a cleaning station are much needed, and we commit to implementing these as soon as possible within our next term in government. In addition, we also commit to establishing a Tuna Working Group where matters specifically related to the fishing of bluefin tuna can be discussed. We appreciate the fact that bluefin tuna are no longer endangered and that there is therefore the need to reevaluate the existing quota system and restrictions on the processing of tuna, always whilst ensuring that all local bluefin tuna fishing is entirely sustainable. These are all important matters which we will visit in more detail, together with the relevant clubs and interested persons, with a view to protecting sustainable fishing in BGTW and also further improving the lives of our fishermen.

TUNA FACILITIES

We will provide quayside facilities for the cleaning and preparation of Tuna that have been legally caught.

ENHANCING CORMORANT BOAT OWNERS CLUB AND SMALL BOATS MARINA

A GSLP Liberal Government is committed to bolstering the recreational boating experience in Gibraltar by focusing on two significant areas: enhancing the facilities at the Cormorant Boat Owners Club and improving the Small Boats Marina. We will work with the committees of both marinas to assist them in carrying out such enhancements.

MORE NEW BERTHS

We have already managed to obtain a commitment for more, new berths to be delivered for the Port Authority waiting list as part of the Eastside Project. If we are returned to office, we will continue to seek to develop even more new berths so more families can enjoy boating around Gibraltar.

WATER QUALITY

The water quality at our beaches has improved over the last twelve years, so that all water quality now achieves the rating of 'Excellent', except for Western Beach, which is impacted by outflow from La Linea, but which nevertheless now achieves the level of 'Good'.

IMPROVEMENTS WITH SEWAGE TREATMENT

The sewage treatment plant which will be completed in the coming Term will improve water quality further away from the beaches.

DOGS AND DOG PARKS

NEW DOG PARK ON QUEENSWAY

Following the completion of the new dog park at Eastern Beach, we will continue with the plans to provide one at Queensway and look into other potential sites in other areas.

DOG FOULING

We will step up further the enforcement of legislation against dog fouling, considering that irresponsible dog owners can give an undeserved bad name to the vast majority, who are responsible owners.

LITTER AND LITTERING

CONTINUING ENFORCEMENT

We will continue to increase the enforcement of laws against littering and depositing of refuse, rubble and other waste inappropriately.

MORE RECYCLING CUBICLES

We will increase the capacity of refuse and recycling cubicles and replace and refurbish existing ones as necessary and consider further increases to the frequency of refuse collection once we have assessed the results of the recent increases. We aim to resolve the problem of litter and refuse on the streets once and for all.

EASIER RECYCLING OPTIONS

Modelled on the availability of bins for the recycling of clothes and toys, we will consider options for offering clothes and toy recycling points. The issue of fast fashion is a significant concern and a GSLP Liberal government will review latest best practice elsewhere as well as options for the better disposal of clothes and toys. We will also consider the introduction of an 'everything else' recycling bin, as in other jurisdictions.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

NGOs in Gibraltar have a tremendous part to play in all fields, not least in the Environment. The three environmental NGOs, in order of their foundation, GONHS, ESG and the Nautilus Project, all continue to work in lobbying for improvements, but they do not just talk. They most definitely act and work hard in furthering their aims in favour of the Environment.

We will continue to engage closely with all the NGOs, who are important stakeholders, and will listen to their views and advice, and we will support their work and initiatives.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF GIBDOCK

We will ensure Gibdock operations remain respectful of the surrounding area, as they have been as we renegotiated the lease with the new operator.

EDUCATION

NOWHERE, NO ONE, NEVER

The GSLP Liberal Government set out to revolutionise teaching and learning in Gibraltar and achieved the Education Revolution. We have built ten, yes **TEN** new schools, investing £160 million in school buildings and facilities, the equivalent of £13.3 million per year. This is **UNEQUALLED** in our history, and in proportion to our population, probably the highest investment in primary and secondary Education worldwide.

MORE THAN BUILDINGS

And it is not just the buildings, or the scientific, sporting and cultural facilities that the new schools have. It is also the way our teachers teach, focused on each child's specific needs and abilities, guiding them through their school journey in a safe, secure and welcoming environment.

A HUMAN ENDEAVOUR – OUR TEACHERS

Our teachers are magnificent professionals who we have listened to and have supported all the way. We have ensured that they play the leading role in the design of the new schools. We have raised their well-deserved salaries, increased their number, and added further support by recruiting more Special Needs Learning Support Assistants (SNLSAs) to assist with any child who needs it. Because we can never invest too much in the welfare and education of our children, our next generation.

UNIMAGINABLE IMPROVEMENT – OUR REALITY

We can say with pride that our school Education – by way of facilities and teaching standards – is among the best in the world. This was simply not the case when we came into Office in 2011. In twelve years, we have transformed the school environment beyond recognition.

EDUCATION ACT

We have totally reviewed and enacted Legislation to update the Education Act, making vast improvements to how we administer Education, from Special Needs to dealing with behaviour issues, always in support of the pupils and their families. And we will continue to modernise our Education Legislation.

CO-EDUCATION IN ALL SCHOOLS

We have for the first time ever provided a co-education environment in all our schools and equalised the educational offer for boys and girls.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS – INCREASING DEMAND

Many challenges of course remain, not least understanding



Artist's impressions of the Gibraltar College at the site of the Cross of Sacrifice





Artist's impression aerial view of the Gibraltar College at the site of the Cross of Sacrifice

and responding to the notable increase in the need to provide for Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). We have introduced Learning Support Facilities (LSFs) into almost all the schools and provided teaching and support staff to meet the children's needs. And we will do more. We will work to establish an LSF in St Paul's, St Joseph's and Governor's Meadow first schools by September next year.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

We will continue to invest in Education for all. Above all we will continue to listen and work with the professionals.

MORE NEW AND REFURBISHED SCHOOLS

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL

St Paul's School at Varyl Begg has been largely redesigned and refurbished to the standard of the new schools and provided with a green wooded area. We will complete this programme of refurbishment so that all the facilities are upgraded.

HEBREW PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Hebrew Primary School will be re-provided in a re-designed school at the site of the former St Mary's School in Town Range, expected also to be opened in September 2025. Its organisational structure will be remodelled in order to improve the educational experience of the pupils and provide a seamless educational experience.

THE GIBRALTAR COLLEGE

The plans for the new Gibraltar College now have Outline Planning Permission and will be submitted for Full Planning permission within weeks. Works will start shortly after, with the College scheduled to open no later than September 2025. We have met our scheduled opening times for all our new schools so far. The new College will provide for expansion of the curriculum and the introduction for more vocational opportunities. We will also conduct a much-needed review of its TLR structure. With these developments the College will at last be able to achieve its exciting full potential.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Lower Primary and Upper Primary schools will remain in the same location but will also be completely refurbished, so that they will feel like brand new schools. Apart from the full refurbishment, which will include air conditioning, a new ground floor block will be created in the inner playground. This will house new classroom and specialist rooms, while the new playground will be on its roof, in this way resolving the long-existing inconvenience of a sloping playground.

We will ensure that *all* schools are covered by a maintenance programme that is pre-emptive, efficient, and effective.

SEND

UNDERSTANDING SEND

We will continue and complete the recently announced review of Special Needs, looking into the possible causes of the increase in the number of children who need SEND support. Understanding the causes will help us to develop a strategy to better support the children and their families.

SENCOS

The SENCOs (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) do an incredible job in co-ordinating and supervising SEND provision. Their work has grown in complexity and workload over the past few years. We will review their remuneration and ensure that it reflects the level of responsibility and the number of staff and children for whom they are responsible.

LSFS

We will continuously review the facilities and resources in LSFs at all levels, including the Gibraltar College, to ensure that we meet the needs of the children and young people.

SNLSAS

We recognise the importance of the support given by SNLSAs in the classroom and how much they need to be relied upon by teachers and children. We are committed to acknowledging this by carrying out a review of their role, pay and structure.

ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL

The GSLP Liberal Government built a very much needed new St Martin's School, when the GSD said that it would not. The doubling of the annual intake and growth in the number of children needing this facility could not have been foreseen. However, because of the foresight in planning the Wessex Campus, in which St Martin's, Governor's Meadow Lower Primary and Bishop Fitzgerald Upper Primary are interconnected has allowed the flexibility of accommodating all the children on Campus. This co-location also greatly assists outreach.

In addition to this, we will construct an extension to St Martin's that will make a further ten classrooms available should the school continue to grow. We will also be commissioning work to determine likely future growth of the numbers reliant on this school and its brilliant work.

A NEW ST BERNADETTE'S

The GSLP Liberals is committed to providing services that match the needs of the community. One area in which the demand is growing at a significant rate is in the context of persons with disability or special educational needs. We recognise and welcome the public comments made by SNAG in this context and are delighted to be able to announce that we will be building a new style St Bernadette's centre designed to meet the growing demands for its services – a larger, new and up to date centre will be built to accommodate the growing number of service users.



*(Above) St. Joseph's School will be refurbished with new classroom and specialist rooms, with a new roof playground
(Below) St. Martin's School extension*





Artist's impressions of new St Bernadettes disability or special educational needs



SNLSA NUMBERS

We will continue to provide the number of teachers and SNLSAs that may be required and will provide in-school therapists to ensure that a full team is available on site at all times.

TLR REVIEW

In view of the growth of the school we will complete the review of TLRs and create a robust and effective staff structure.

MENTAL HEALTH

LOCALLY TRAINED COUNSELLORS – A SOLID SUPPORT NETWORK

The mental health of children was greatly affected during the Pandemic, and it is important that they should have a solid support network within and outside schools. We will support the local training of counsellors at the Gibraltar College in order to increase the professional support available to young and old.

MORE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IN EDUCATION

We will increase support for mental health, and social and emotional wellbeing in education, for teachers and parents as well as for learners.

NEW DEMANDS, NEW ROLES

We will consult with the teaching profession with a view to introducing new roles such as that of School Social Worker, Welfare Support Worker and School Nurses. We will also enhance pastoral support teams in the schools, in particular the secondary schools and the College.

POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

We will continue and enhance training of teachers on positive mental health.

INTEGRATED PATHWAYS

We will improve collaborative arrangements between the Department of Education and the GHA which will facilitate access to those children and young adults who most need specialist mental health treatment and an integrated care pathway.

PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

We will work across departments and agencies to provide facilities for children and young people who need additional support within a pupil referral unit.

MORE SCHOOL COUNSELLORS

The GSLP Liberal Government introduced school counsellors for the first time in Gibraltar. They do incredible work in support of our children. We will increase the complement of School Counsellors.

MORE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

We will employ two more Educational Psychologists to improve the vital service they provide.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

We will engage a robust dedicated team to support teachers working with socially vulnerable children, and we will provide a pastoral support team and school social workers to assist teachers in this and related areas.

ANTI-STIGMA CAMPAIGN

The GSLP Liberals will work with GibSams and the GHA on developing a mental health anti-stigma campaign. Tackling the stigma surrounding mental health has emerged as a top concern for UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs). This issue was brought to light in prior mental health assessments conducted by Public Health England between 2019 and 2020. These assessments were subsequently reviewed by policymakers in the Territories. Stigma poses significant obstacles to individuals seeking help, achieving recovery, and experiencing full inclusion. Importantly, it is a pervasive issue found in diverse cultures across the world. The GSLP Liberals' commitment to the mental health issues affecting our community is one of our top priorities.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND WELL-BEING

Recognising the pressing issues facing our youth, the GSLP Liberals are dedicated to addressing youth mental health concerns head-on. We will collaborate with the University of Gibraltar to establish a comprehensive research programme, leveraging innovative technology, such as a dedicated app, to ensure the mental well-being of our young people. Our commitment extends beyond research. We will create vibrant spaces and opportunities for youth engagement, fostering creativity and a sense of belonging. From education, sports and arts to entertainment and skill development, we'll invest in a brighter future for Gibraltar's youth. Together, we can overcome challenges and empower our young generation to thrive.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

As we have done during the past term and building on the success of project-based learning, we will continue to evolve our teaching and learning to arrive at the best possible education system for Gibraltar, with an emphasis on motivating children and young people to improve and maximise their abilities rather than compete with their friends and peers.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

We will continue to promote environmental education, as is now required by Law, including climate change education throughout the school.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

We will continue to expand the vocational options at the Secondary schools and the College, providing opportunities for non-academic subjects and alternative vocational routes.

TRAINEESHIPS

We will provide a range of traineeships at Levels 2 and 3, largely based at the Gibraltar College, while engaging with business, industry, and trade unions as partners. We will provide these in a wide range of subjects including hairdressing, entrepreneurship, hostelry and catering, computing, and the more traditional trades.

PROVIDING TEACHING TO DEAF CHILDREN

We will recruit and train a teacher for the deaf.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND EDUCATION

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES NEEDS

Digital technologies continue to expand, and it is important for Gibraltar to have the skills required by the Industry. The Curriculum is constantly being reformed to tackle the skills gaps in industry in line with the GSLP Liberal vision for Gibraltar.

TABLET-BASED LEARNING – PROVIDING THE LATEST EQUIPMENT

We will continue to provide the latest equipment for our learners and will have a rolling arrangement for renewal and updating of equipment. As part of this, we will continue to roll out tablet-based learning to all our learners.

DIGITAL CURRICULUM ROLLING REVIEW

The Digital Curriculum will be constantly reviewed and updated to maximise digital development at all levels.

SUPPORTING OUR CYBER SECURITY SUPERSTARS

We will continue to compliment the excellent work being done by our students in Cyber Security.

NGOS

We will continue to meet with non-governmental organisations with an interest in Education in order to be able to work together to improve what we offer.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The structure of the Department of Education has not kept pace with the exponential growth of the provision and the complexity of the Education Revolution. We will therefore resource the administrative support function of the Department and review its structure with a view to ensuring that the service provided to schools, to children, and students at Primary, Secondary, Further and Higher Education levels

is totally sharp and effective. The review will cover both the administrative and advisory teams and will extend to look at how the important role played by School Secretaries can also be further supported.

RETHINKING TEACHER SELECTION FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

We will review the entirety of the selection process of teachers, with a particular emphasis on the selection of supply teachers. We understand that the current model of zero hours contracts and the repetitive nature of the applications process is disproportionately having a significant negative impact on junior teachers, and we will therefore conduct a wholesale review. As much as we understand that flexibility needs to be built into the system, we also need to be creative in finding better solutions which leverage technology to minimise any undue burden on supply candidates. We will open this review up for consultation with the wider public, as well as with the relevant unions and other stakeholders.

STABLE SUPPLY

We will ensure that supply lists are kept updated in all areas, including teachers, SNLSAs, school secretaries and cleaners where we may need to call on them to maintain manning levels without any adverse effect on the schools.

SCHOOL MEALS

We will continue our work to find a suitable provider or providers for hot school meals. Our new schools are all built in order to facilitate these. We believe offering hot school lunches is as much in the interests of parents as it is of pupils.

GRANTS FOR LOCAL COURSES

We will provide grants for selected local courses in order to encourage training in new skills.

VOCATIONAL COURSES

We have introduced a diversity of vocational courses in our secondary schools and in the Gibraltar College, with courses including Hair and beauty, Music Performance and E-sports, linking up with external providers. We will continue to introduce new courses which will include Construction and Mechanics. We will also expand opportunities in Digital technology.

MOBILE SCHOOL NURSE

We will set up a school nursing service to provide support to children who require their help, such as in taking medication while at school, and so assist their families.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND LIFE AFTER SCHOOL

We will continue to provide mandatory scholarships for first degrees and continuing Masters or equivalent and will provide a generous budget to support other higher qualifications such as PhDs as discretionary awards.

The new website developed in collaboration with GibSams,

is already proving a useful resource to students who are studying away from Gibraltar, and we will improve the ability to offer Careers advice to school leavers.

KEEPING STUDENTS AT SCHOOL BEYOND THE AGE OF 16

Our children and young people will have more opportunities within schools than ever before. This increase and diversification of options is expected to increase the number of students who remain at school after the age of 16.

CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE

In order to assist these, both those young people who want to pursue higher education and those who will seek employment, we will set up a schools based careers advisory service. This will be extended to providing advice to Gibraltar students studying abroad.

RENTAL GUARANTOR SCHEME

The GSLP Liberals, if returned to Government, will renew its consideration of opportunities for supporting our students in the UK through a Rental Guarantor Scheme

THE UNIVERSITY OF GIBRALTAR

The GSLP Liberal Government created the University of Gibraltar and continues to support it, recognising always that it is an independent statutory body, and welcoming the fact that, as was originally planned it is increasingly self-sufficient in its sources of funds.

We recognise the benefits to the Gibraltar economy of increasing the number of international students. We will assist the University in its efforts to attract a wider net of international students and which would increase the current £5.7 million/year benefit of international students on the Gibraltar economy to approximately £12 million/year.

This will be achieved by:

INFRASTRUCTURE/CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SUPPORT

1. Refurbishment of the North Wing (old St Christopher's) to include a Nursing simulation suite, a Maritime bridge simulation suite, and additional teaching spaces.
2. Beautification of the University entrance.
3. A student common room in Europa suites.
4. A student activities bus; and
5. Provision of waterside facilities including office, multi-purpose room classroom, berth and davit for delivery of maritime and marine programmes and a secure location for the Marine & Maritime vessel.

VISA SUPPORT

We will support the University's efforts to streamline the processes for visa-requiring students, and to have UK domiciled students being able to use their UK loans to study in Gibraltar.

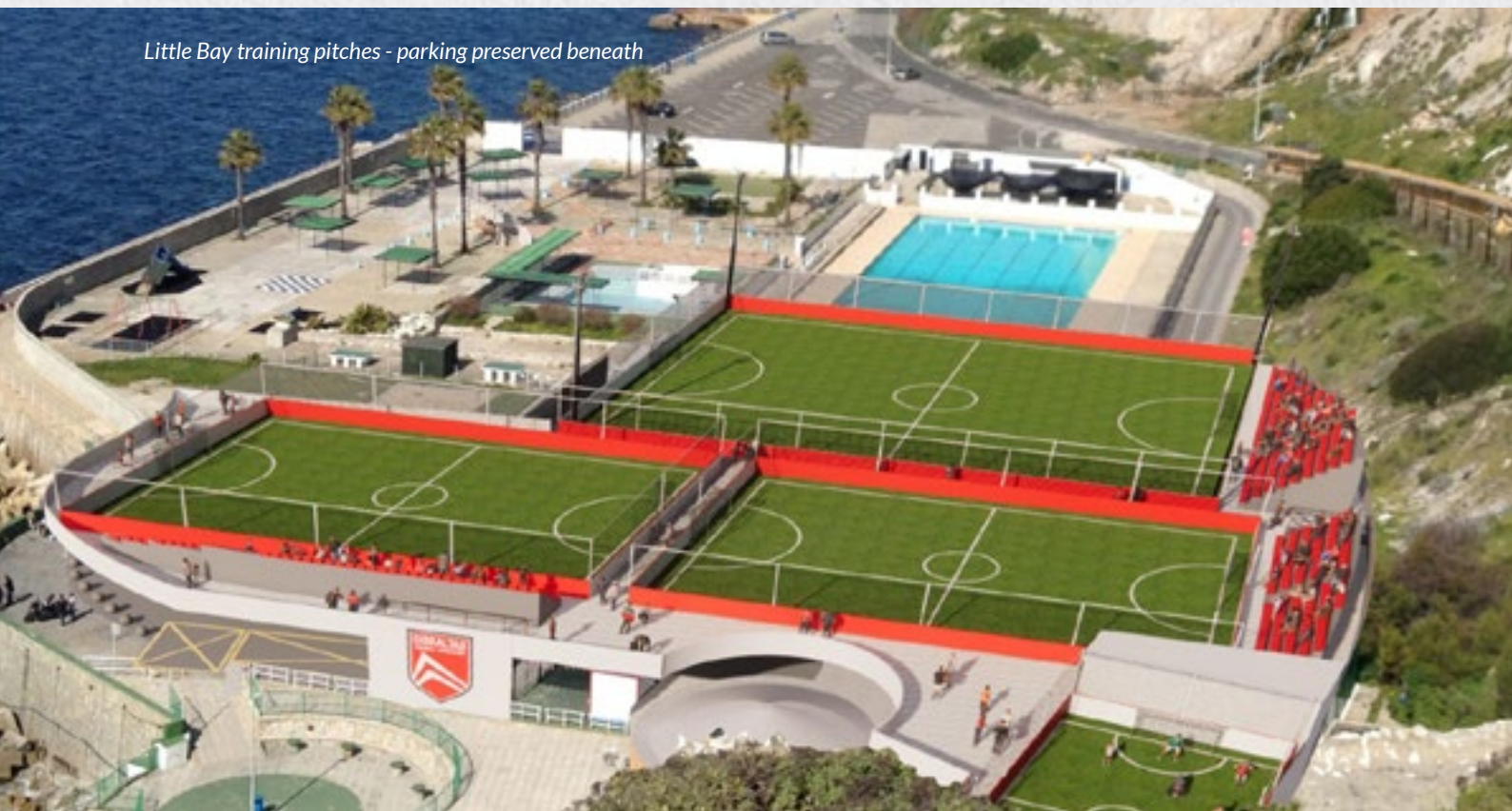
MORE LOCAL STUDENTS

We will also support the University in its aim to increase the number of local students educated or trained and in providing opportunities for public sector staff development.

RESEARCH FUNDING

With the University we will study the possibility of setting up a research and innovation fund as currently due to Brexit, Gibraltar is not eligible to attract either UK or EU funding research.

Little Bay training pitches - parking preserved beneath



SPORTS & LEISURE

A NEW STADIUM FOR THE GFA

The GSLP Liberals would continue to support the development by the GFA of its project to build a stadium which will be funded without the need to use Savings Bank money or taxpayers' money. The GSLP Liberals are very confident that the GFA will continue in its discussions with three locally based commercial banks, in order to be able to build a Cat IV stadium to enable the GFA to play international football matches in Gibraltar. The GSLP Liberals have always been very proud to support the GFA's ambition to bring football home to Gibraltar and allow Gibraltar to host international football matches. With the GSLP Liberals, the GFA and Gibraltar WILL HAVE a new National Football Stadium. With the GSD, the GFA and Gibraltar will NOT have this important facility.

NEW HOCKEY TURF FOR GIBRALTAR

A GSLP Liberal Government is committed to promoting sports and physical activity in Gibraltar. We pledge to install a state-of-the-art hockey turf, providing the best, world-class facilities for our athletes.

MODERN FLOORING FOR TERCENTENARY SPORTS HALL

The GSLP Liberals are committed to improving our sports facilities. Our pledge includes the installation of modern flooring in the Tercentenary Sports Hall, benefitting athletes and the community at large. An important focal point for sports and other events all year round, it is important that we ensure the hall offers a quality sports location for many years to come.

EXPANDING PADEL FACILITIES AT BAYSIDE COMPLEX

In line with our commitment to sports development, the GSLP Liberals pledge to add two new Padel Courts at the Bayside Complex. This expansion will provide more opportunities for Padel enthusiasts and promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

FURTHER EXTENSION TO STAY AND PLAY FACILITY

If re-elected, the GSLP Liberals will review options for extending the popular Stay and Play Facility. We recognise that modern families struggle with work demands in the context of school summer holidays. Any extension of the service will, we hope, provide some further help in keeping our younger ones engaged, active and healthy.

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

We at the GSLP Liberals believe that in order for sports to develop their full potential beyond a certain point, sports

development officers can prove an invaluable asset. A GSLP Liberal Government will, if returned to office, consider options for providing 1 full time development officer for every major sport. Major sports will be categorised by reference to the number of members and other factors to be determined as the policy is developed.

GIBRALTAR PARASPORTS

We will work to fully establish parasports in Gibraltar. This will include cross ministerial work between the Ministries of Sport and Equality.

NEW FOOTBALL TRAINING PITCHES AND IMPROVEMENT OF LITTLE BAY AREA

During the next term of office, a GSLP Liberal Government will provide four new football training pitches in the area of the Little Bay Car Park, while preserving or enhancing parking facilities for use by beachgoers and users of the facilities alike. The pitches will increase the count of facilities available for training for our footballers and players of other sports. Our vision preserves the existing playground and access to the beach and its facilities, while improving the surface at the playground and in that way providing a much better experience for children and grown-ups to enjoy. Parking will be improved and, where possible, extended.

BRINGING BACK THE DARTS

We will seek to once again bring to Gibraltar international darts competitions which can also help to promote Gibraltar as tourist destination.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

We will confirm the assignment of the volleyball facilities at Europa Pool to the Gibraltar Volleyball Association.

BUILD A NEW HOME FOR NETBALL

We will continue to work with Gibraltar Netball in order to ensure that they have the facilities The Champions need to excel.

DETACHED MOLE AS THE VENUE FOR FISHING COMPETITIONS

This is the only fishing venue for club competitions (and has been for over 100 years). We commit to ensuring the Mole is kept clean and tidy by the Port Authority, with spot checks and action been taken by Port to address issues ahead of competitions. We will further direct that Anglers be provided with competition access to the east side of the mole. The GSLP Liberals will ensure that Anglers can fish in the harbour from the Mole, with large fenders being removed before competitions.

SOUTH MOLE

We will build permanent fishing platforms (pegs) on the sea-facing side of the mole. We acknowledge that whilst millions



With the GSLP Liberals, the GFA and Gibraltar WILL HAVE a new National Football Stadium. With the GSD, the GFA and Gibraltar will NOT have this important facility.



of pounds have been spent on all other sports, yet GFSA and competitive sports anglers have been waiting nearly 23 years (since it was first proposed) for this to be done. Gibraltar Sport Anglers and Clubs regularly attend and participate in international competitions, both shore and boat, achieving very good results and being ambassadors for Gibraltar and for this reason we must do everything we can to support them.

FURTHER ENGAGEMENT

We will continue to engage with the GFSA to address as many issues as we are able to, to maximise opportunities for the many anglers to enjoy their sport as much as possible.

PICKLE BALL

The GSLP Liberals will invite tenders for the creation of a Pickle Ball centre in Gibraltar. A sport that has exploded in popularity in the US, Pickle Ball has as one of its key advocates a Gibraltarian tennis star – our very own Lee Whitwell. We will explore opportunities for a new centre for the enjoyment of this fun sport in Gibraltar as soon as possible.

ESPORTS

The GSLP Liberals are committed to fostering the growth of esports in Gibraltar by taking a comprehensive approach. We will begin by nurturing grassroots esports through events and support, creating safe spaces and opportunities for our youth, with a focus on diversity and inclusion. We will encourage educational initiatives in esports and game development. To bolster the esports ecosystem, we will endeavour to provide facilities and financial support for esports events, both online and in person. Furthermore, we will explore innovative measures, such as government support, incentives, and tax breaks, to position Gibraltar as a hub for international economic activities within the video games industry such as game development and esports streaming.

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

We will develop a better facilities for the residents of Chilton Court and Edinburgh House. This will include the combination of parking, storage and other facilities making use of the space available in the northwestern corner of the estate. We will seek to ensure this blends in well with the EuroCity development.



Meet the team Leslie Bruzon

Leslie Bruzon is an employee of the Gibraltar Ambulance Service where he works as an Emergency Medical Technician. He has served as a convenor for Unite the Union and volunteers with a local charity which deals with mental health and well-being issues. He was one of the founding members of AKIN, Childline Gibraltar and is a trustee of Women In Need.

Leslie joined the Liberal Party executive 20 years ago (2003) and was election agent in 2011 and 2015.

Before working for the Gibraltar Health Authority, Leslie spent 20 years working for the family business (Accountancy) as well as covering other areas of business and a few years at the port working with the Peñalver family. Some people may remember him as a young boy, running around City Mill Lane, where his mother and aunts had two shops (Sandy).

Leslie is a keen sportsperson with an interest in running, cycling, and swimming, amongst other things. Leslie has completed a number of events for charity, such as the London to Brighton cycle ride, The Great North Run and has completed the London Marathon twice and is due to participate again in 2024.

Leslie is married and has two children, aged 12 and 14, all of whom are very excited with him standing as a candidate in the 2023 elections.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

As a key contributor to pollution in Gibraltar, the GSLP Liberals have been working hard since their election in 2011 at developing a greener, more eco-friendly traffic and transport infrastructure. We had an ambitious programme planned for the 2019 election but were unable to deliver on a number of initiatives in the context of the Covid. *Where relevant, these items are restated in these pages to record our commitment to the initiatives we believed were for the benefit of this community going forward.*

The GSLP Liberals have, over the last twelve years, made significant inroads in the context of traffic and transport. Our signature initiative, the 2017 Sustainable Traffic, Transport and Parking Plan ("STTPP") marked the first time in Gibraltar's modern history when an empirical, evidence-based plan to tackle the perennial challenges of traffic in Gibraltar was developed. This is the backdrop against which all the real progress we have made in this area has been set. The STTPP has enabled us to frame and deliver upon a vision that captures the various strands of the traffic conundrum as well as the many solutions we are deploying in the context of our drive to create Green Gibraltar and the Child Friendly City. We have taken important strides in the critical areas of traffic management, emissions reduction, the use of alternative and eco-friendly forms of transport as well as a signature approach to parking management. Our achievements are matched only by our ambition to deliver the best Gibraltar we can be.

ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

Building upon Chapters 5 and 6 of the STTPP, the Active Travel Strategy was published earlier this year concentrating on walking and cycling as alternative and meaningful ways of moving in a healthy and sustainable way throughout our "micro-city". If we are to encourage people to walk or cycle, we must make it simple, comfortable, fast and convenient.

The GSLP Liberals understand we must continue to enhance our pedestrian offering, making our walkways truly accessible to all. At the same time, ensuring that those wishing to choose alternative, greener means of moving can also do so, safely, and inclusively. The pioneering new cycle lanes along Bayside Road, Glacis Road and Queensway have been transformational achieving several positive things:

- ***Segregating bicycles and e-scooters from the road making their use safer and the road space less congested. Remember that each bicycle or e-scooter could mean one less car on the road.***
- ***They increase the ability of those that wish to exercise to improve their health, to do so.***
- ***They provide safe and convenient corridors to get to places quicker.***
- ***Provide another sporting and recreational activity for families and children.***

The Active Travel Strategy was drafted to sit within the auspices of Town Planning to provide a guiding document for future developers and urban planners so that adequate street space is allocated for pedestrian footpaths and bicycle lanes to encourage mobility.

The strategy sets out plans which see the roll out of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure throughout Gibraltar. As with most projects of this nature, they are part of a bigger picture and until all parts are not complete, the full benefit cannot be seen.

THE 15 MINUTE CITY

Gibraltar, by virtue of its size, is a de facto "15 Minute City". This is especially so for our Westside District. A 15 Minute city is simply a city where people can access amenities within a 15-minute walk, bicycle ride or public transport journey. This means children getting to school, getting to the local supermarket, or a place of leisure in this time. Less time spent getting to places and more time to enjoy time with friends, family and doing the things we enjoy. With better connections and better public transport, the 15 Minute city begins to sprawl further to the south district. The Eastside is being transformed as our demography changes and more families begin to take ownership of their new homes. Housing developments and estates in this area become anchor points which see amenities settle in, local supermarkets, convenience shops, and catering establishments making the lives of residents even more practical.

LIVING STREETS

When we travel outside of Gibraltar, we often hear people comment and share experiences of their trips abroad, how other cities enjoy better nightlife, a more vibrant social life and how streets light up with happy people, enjoying the cooler evenings in the summer and even the longer winter evenings. Living Streets provide the space for Christmas markets, colourful outdoor markets, mini fairs, cafeterias, and background music providing opportunities and enjoyment for all in response to a vibrant street full of life. These are known these as "Living Streets", streets attractive and safe for children and the elderly alike, and those with differing needs to be able to enjoy inclusively too. Communities respond to these more aesthetic and pleasant surroundings which also attract visitors, tourists, businesses, and economic opportunities.

Europort Avenue and Europort Road is already set to become this, providing amenities for the community to enjoy. We guarantee that our vision will not disappoint, as we take our beautiful city to the next level.

The most remarkable thing about this vision is that it is shared by those that have invested in Gibraltar and who wish to give back to the community so that this does not have a marked cost to the taxpayer.

SAFER ROADS

It is the cornerstone of GSLP Liberal policy to make our streets safer for all. One serious injury, one death is

unacceptable in a community of our size. We have strived and will continue to strive to keep all road users safe.

NEW HIGHWAY CODE

Our new updated Highway Code provides the necessary information for all road users to ensure that we each respect each other when using this shared space. It also falls in line with the changes to the UK Highway Code which sets out a hierarchy of road users based on their distinct vulnerabilities.

URBAN MOBILITY WITHIN TRANSPORT

Today, cities are recognising the distinction between traditional transport and urban mobility. Urban mobility describes the way that people move sustainably within cities including walking cycling and via public transit. Although the private car is well established as a mode of transport in Gibraltar and many prefer cars to get to places, we recognise that cars require more space, they are often difficult to park and have high usage and maintenance costs. For this reason, providing the options to encourage urban mobility and micro mobility, allows for choice. Most importantly, it allows those who are unable or too young to obtain a driving licence to be able to move independently without depending on parents and their cars.

If re-elected, a GSLP Liberal Government will create Gibraltar's first Minister with Responsibility for Urban Mobility giving them responsibility for urban mobility either within Transport or the Environment. We will also ensure that there is representation from this demographic within the DPC, the Traffic Commission and any other committees that are involved with spatial arrangement of these modes in the built environment.

UPDATE TO STTPP

We will conduct a review of the STTPP to consolidate the work done so far and better guide future initiatives based on the updated traffic reality in Gibraltar.

BICYCLE LANES

A returning GSLP Liberal Government will continue to roll out safe bicycle lanes as per the Active Travel Strategy which was unanimously supported by all Political Parties represented in Parliament.

It is critically important when it comes to environmental transport policy that all political beliefs and ideologies are aligned in this respect to guarantee the continuation of such policies.

The bicycle lanes have so far seen a remarkable take-up and by the time you read this we should be close to seeing a quarter of a million (250,000) trips along Bayside Road Bicycle Lane as recorded by our new bicycle and e-scooter counter which provides us with critical user data.

The final stage of Phase 3 of the Active Traffic Strategy includes the beautification and enhancement of the Waterport Fountain and a 2-way vehicular carriage around its circumference which will alleviate traffic congestion in

this area.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

We are very encouraged to see the tremendous amount of interest and support received from the Private Sector within a very short time after the launch of the Active Travel Strategy and the creation of our first section of segregated bicycle lane along Bayside Road. The way we move is important to this sector and their employees, and convenient, quick and safe infrastructure helps to keep the workforce fluid and mobile. The time lost negotiating traffic jams affects the efficiency of the working community and their ability to perform to the best of their abilities.

Fast, effective access corridors, combined especially with active travel result in far better performance and to this end bicycle lane projects funded by the private sector are on course.

NOISY EXHAUSTS

We are also aware of the noise nuisance illegal exhausts create and how inconsiderate driving behaviour can make the lives of residents a misery along certain roads, especially in the silent hours when noise levels are accentuated.

COMCEN EAST WEST TUNNEL BICYCLE LANE AND TOURIST ATTRACTION

The GSLP Liberal government is in advanced discussion with private sector investors for the creation of a new transport link for bicycles which will, we are certain become a bona fide new tourist attraction in Gibraltar. A tunnel under the Rock of Gibraltar, from East to West between the area of the Dockyard and Sandy Bay, what is today known as the ComSen tunnel would connect the east and west sides of Gibraltar in the most direct fashion, enabling a quick ride, away from weather conditions, to access our beaches easily by bicycle.

CYCLING WITHIN THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Following the work being carried out to introduce and encourage new sustainable, alternative modes of transport, the Department of Education in conjunction with the Ministry for Transport are working to include basic cycling as one of its key life skills within the National Curriculum within sports, games and PE and will incorporate cycling proficiency and basic Highway Code education.

Furthermore, the basic concept of the Highway Code and recognition of traffic signs will also form part of this initiative so that children who cycle or even walk may also recognise very important road signs and their meanings.

PEDAL READY

The Pedal Ready Cycling Proficiency courses for children was recently re-introduced after Covid. All cycling proficiency courses will follow the UK National Standards for Cycling Training and will continue to be offered in schools and to certain other sectors of the community to help teach the



(Top) ComCen East-West tunnel bicycle lane and tourist attraction
(Below) New bicycle lanes



basic principles of safe cycling on our roads for those that wish to participate.

ADVANCED STOP LINES

Gibraltar saw the introduction of its first Advanced Stop Lines at the Regal House Junction. This smart technology as part of the Artificial Intelligent Traffic Light Junction System provides a filter system and head start for cyclists at these traffic lights. We will continue to provide ASLs where possible to do so to make cyclist safer and more convenient.

BICYCLE PARKING INFRASTRUCTURE

A GSLP Liberal Government, if re-elected will continue to create more areas to park bicycles, cargo bicycles and e-scooters to encourage the uptake of these sustainable and alternative means of transport. Abundant bicycle parking throughout Gibraltar helps to make this mode of travel fast, effective, and convenient to get to places door to door.

A GSLP Liberal Government will ensure that the DPC make the U-rack, otherwise known as the staple or Sheffield rack, the standard bicycle rack for any new developments. These racks are the best and most comfortable to lock up bicycles to, preventing damage to expensive wheel components.

These are the racks placed within Government projects including the new schools.

CYCLING BUSES

Meaningful cycling networks begin and end at key locations, points of interests or landmarks within cities. These include schools, the Frontier, beaches, housing developments and shopping areas. Creating bicycle infrastructure and linking up these lanes creates routes and networks.

When populated areas are linked to schools safely by the creation of segregated bicycle lanes, it becomes possible to create bicycle buses. As part of the natural progression of the work being carried out, a GSLP Liberal Government will establish cycling buses to empower children to cycle safely to school and back home without having to cycle on busy roads. Bicycle buses will use bicycle lanes exclusively or in combination with quiet roads. This will establish a fun, social and active alternative way to get to school and back.

CYCLING GENERALLY

Cycling is the cornerstone of any modern city's transport infrastructure. It impacts positively on traffic, on health (physical and mental) and is great for the environment. Even commercial operations are looking at the bicycle as an alternative vehicle for deliveries, especially those last-mile deliveries by way of cargo bikes and e-cargo bikes. Indeed, Gibraltar has seen several start-up companies using the bicycle for their businesses for the first time. This is most encouraging to see and reflects the shift to cycling we know is happening in the community. It is undeniable.

Under a GSLP Liberal Government, Gibraltar has seen an increase in the use of bicycles as a form of transport and we are meeting that development with a new commitment

to promoting the increased use of cycling in this way. As the STTPP concluded, cycling is a real option for travel in Gibraltar which we are taking seriously. We aspire to the best Gibraltar and have continued the policy of charging no import duty for bicycles nor bicycle spare parts in Gibraltar and we have also introduced incentives for the purchase of e-bikes, a phenomenon taking Europe by storm - we plan to further incentivise the acquisition and use of these bicycles through a variety of measures. As a key component of tackling the noise and environmental pollution in Gibraltar.

ACCESS TO CYCLISTS

To make cycling effective and truly meaningful direct routes need to be permitted especially to be able to reach bicycle parking within the inner town. By providing access for cyclists along George's Lane and around John Macintosh Square and Cloister Ramp the Town area can be made accessible to bicycles but especially cargo bicycles for deliveries.

CYCLING PROMOTION ASSOCIATION

We will establish a local Cycling Promotion Association, working with stakeholders and centralising all strategy and investment in cycling. The Association will head up and coordinate all marketing, strategic and educational incentives in tandem with all interested parties in active travel together with the many cycling clubs already constituted in Gibraltar.

CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME

We will continue to explore options for the establishment of a Cycle to Work Scheme to enable employers to join the community in encouraging the use of cycling as a mode of transport for their employees. Through a combination of tax advantages and leasing arrangements, together we can have a real impact on the choices our workers make, something which is critical in Gibraltar given the number of cross-border workers we welcome to Gibraltar every day.

CYCLING DELIVERIES

We will also make it possible for businesses to make and receive deliveries up and down the pedestrianised areas of Gibraltar during the whole of the working day if those deliveries are made by bicycle. The explosion in the number and variety of cargo bicycles available today mean that businesses can realistically make the choice to conclude at least part of the daily deliveries by bicycle, enabling businesses to make full use of the business day. Investment in cargo bikes by local businesses will be met with the support of a GSLP Liberal Government, which will incentivise this investment both fiscally and by making access to Main Street available to these vehicles 24/7 within a commercial permit cargo-bike scheme.

BICYCLE PARKING APP

A new GSLP Liberal Government will be setting up an app to assist cyclists to locate the many bicycle parking racks available throughout Gibraltar.

A NEW CONNECTION BETWEEN QUEENSWAY AND ROSIA ROAD

We will also explore options for providing a connection between Queensway (south) and the promenade on Rosia Road, also known as 'La Bateria'. To the extent that such a connection may enable users to avoid Ragged Staff and the Trafalgar Interchange, it is envisaged that a connecting path would be limited to pedestrian/cycle traffic only.

CYCLING INCENTIVES

At the last Budget Session, a cash back incentive was given to purchasers of e-bikes, something which will be built upon in the future to help encourage the further purchase of e-bikes. In a place with the topography of Gibraltar, e-bikes are able to "flatten" our hills making cycling a real and viable alternative for Gibraltar to those who are inclined to do so. Further incentivisation will be considered for the purchase and use of E-Cargo Bikes in Gibraltar to assist those businesses to adopt these modes of delivery and transport.

COMMITMENT TO MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

It is not sufficient to create better and safer infrastructure without the implementation of a robust preventative maintenance program that keeps infrastructure clean, safe and risk free. A GSLP Liberal Government will ensure that the investment made in urban infrastructure be maintained to ensure maximum take up and longevity.

A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN CYCLING FEDERATION'S CRC NETWORK

The Ministry for Transport is an active member of the European Cycling Federation's Cities & Regions for Cyclists Network, a network of cities and regions committed to promoting cycling as a mode of transport and leisure, collectively representing over 50 million citizens across Europe and beyond.

HELMET DEBATE

The GSLP Liberal Government will continue acting on the advice of the world leading cycling bodies with mandatory helmet law, including the most important and well-respected Cycling UK, the ECF (European Cycling Federation) and the World Cycling Alliance. The GSLP Liberals recognise that the benefits of cycling far outweigh the risks and if re-elected will continue to focus on well-established measures to promote cycling and cyclists' well-being.

The result of mandatory helmet laws in the 4 countries that have made cycling helmets mandatory has not been to improve cyclists' safety but to discourage cycling, undermining its health and other benefits.

The position on helmets by these leading bodies is that cyclists live longer and healthier lives; serious head injuries are rare and the evidence in favour of helmet wearing, and mandatory helmet laws are statistically weak.

However, the GSLP Liberals are not against the use of helmets in those that feel safer wearing them and we fully

support and encourage those that wish to wear a helmet to do so but we believe it should be down to personal choice.

WALKING

ENCOURAGE WALKING: WALK THE WALL

We were thrilled to have announced, in our 2019 manifesto, a Gibraltar rendition of the 'Highline' park found in Manhattan, our own 'Walk the Wall' experience which, in addition to being what we are certain will become a major tourist attraction, will also enhance the options for cycling and walking in Gibraltar from a utility perspective too. Unfortunately, this was not possible, but it remains part of our vision to plan to create, to the extent possible, an uninterrupted walking/ cycling route segregated from other vehicular traffic from Orange Bastion on Line Wall Road all the way to Little Bay and potentially beyond. Pulling together initiatives that we hope will lead to the construction of paths and walkways along the city walls, through to Rosia Road (La Bateria) and beyond towards Rosia Bay, we will also be exploring the idea of a path along the cliff face around the outside of Parson's Lodge and beyond to Little Bay. We will then be reviewing connections between Little Bay and Europa Point for pedestrians/ cyclists which will avoid the use of Keightley Way tunnel, if possible.

If this vision can be made a reality, and we are confident that we can deliver this initiative, cyclists and pedestrians, children and even cycling and walking tourism, will benefit from transformational infrastructure.

WALKING MAPS & SIGNAGE

Gibraltar's small size and good weather makes it an ideal place to walk, especially for any trip within the West Side and the centre of Town. The walking environment must be pleasant to encourage people to want to walk instead of driving. Next term, the GSLP Liberals have exciting plans for the continued beautification of the urban environment, all of which will make walking in Gibraltar even more appealing. Walking signs will form part of the urban landscape where visitors will be able to see walking distances and approximate walking times to points of interest with the view of attracting less private car use.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Safe walkways provide the necessary means to help encourage people to walk to places in safety. They also offer safe pedestrian passage to bus-stops for longer trips therefore providing access to alternative modes of transport. Generally, around the more modern areas of Gibraltar, the provision of pavements is adequate. Nevertheless, in many areas of the "older" Gibraltar including the Upper Town and parts of the South District and Europa, providing safe passage for pedestrians is more challenging and could, in some areas, perhaps even be technically impossible without drastic modification of the road itself and its use. The GSLP Liberals will work closely with residents to find meaningful solutions which will enhance the walking experience for pedestrians in areas including, but not limited to Chatham

Counterguard and Europa Road. A review has already begun to assess different options, where possible, of providing segregated footpaths, an example of which was very successfully carried out along Europa Road (south) between Buena Vista Bus-stop entrance and Trafalgar Heights. Further first phase pedestrian improvements were also made at South Barrack Ramp, Europa Road junction with Naval Hospital Hill and Prince Edward's Road together with permanent improvements at Bayside Road outside the WTC and along Glacis Road.

SPEED CALMING MEASURES

The GSLP Liberals were the first to oversee the deployment of speed cameras in various locations in Gibraltar. In addition to other traffic calming measures deployed in that time, we have seen both a positive response to these initiatives and witnessed a significant drop in offending. Keeping our roads safe for all users is a key priority for the GSLP Liberals and we will therefore continue to review options for deployment of further such measures.

RED LIGHT CAMERAS

Another type of behaviour which is becoming increasingly common is vehicles pulling off at pedestrian crossings when traffic lights are still red. This is dangerous and can result in injury and accidents. The installation of red-light cameras will ensure that we eradicate this unsafe driving behaviour.

AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS

However, unfortunately, a minority will choose to ignore the law and put themselves and others in danger through speeding. The introduction of speed cameras some years ago to complement the RGPs speeding campaigns using handheld devices have gone a long way in deterring excessive speed. It has become common to see some individuals drive and ride motorbikes at high speed only to slow down rapidly to prevent getting caught by a speed camera, only to speed off once again as soon as they have driven past the speed camera. This is not only dangerous, but it also produced excessive noise as a result of rapid acceleration and braking. The introduction of average speed cameras will go a long way to help keep our roads safe.

GREEN WAVE

The Ministry of Transport in conjunction with the GEA have been working on introducing a green wave traffic light system that allows a better traffic flow by introducing a synchronised and smart communication within separate crossings allowing vehicles to move on without getting stopped continuously while keeping pedestrian waiting times at all crossings throughout Gibraltar less than 30 seconds as an absolute maximum. Ideally pedestrians should be able to cross quickly once the demand button is pressed. This prevents pedestrians getting frustrated and crossing on a red-light, forcing vehicles to stop needlessly when there is no one waiting to cross. New traffic lights will also have the ability to detect when demand buttons are pressed unnecessarily and are able to cancel the demand allowing

vehicles to move on.

ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

All of our new pedestrian crossings feature and include the latest British Standard accessibility features that allow those with visual impairment and making use of a cane, to locate a crossing by way of sensory blister tiles on the pedestrian approach to the crossing and also sensory devices on the installed equipment itself.

PARKING

SMART CITY - SMART PARKING

We successfully introduced a mechanism for smart parking that now allows road users to locate available Pay and Display parking throughout Gibraltar. The new parking app has made parking meter complaints almost a thing of the past and payment for parking can be made online via the app, topping up can be made remotely once a reminder is received over the phone and even the unpleasant need to pay a fine is made slightly more palatable by being able to pay via the app without having the inconvenience of having to queue up at the Payment Office.

UPPER TOWN PARKING

Parking in the area of the Upper Town is a nightmare! In order to alleviate the problem, we will develop a new car park at Tankerville (over the water tanks) and one at the present site of the Plater Youth club. These will resolve the parking problem for Moorish Castle, Tankerville and all the area around. These park spaces will be for rental.

PARKING PERMIT FEES

We introduced a concession rate for parking permits for pensioners. To avoid abuse, this was only made available where the relevant vehicle is in the name of a pensioner, and they are the only ones insured to drive the vehicle.

PARKING MANAGEMENT RESIDENTIAL PARKING SCHEMES

Gibraltar's size and unique characteristics will always be a challenge when it comes to parking and vehicle ownership. Nevertheless, the slow introduction of the Residential Parking Scheme within Zones 1, 2 and 3 have proved to be a positive step when addressing the immense problem that parking has become over many years. Zone 4 was introduced during this term within the Westside area. No serious attempt has ever been made to tackle the local parking issue, not least because it is not popular to do so, but it is right that it should be done as this will bring about improvements to both the local parking problem and our environment to the best Gibraltar. The GSLP Liberals will continue to rollout other zones throughout Gibraltar including within Government Housing Estates with the aim of completing the whole Residential Parking Scheme as soon as possible to have sufficient time to review and assess the impact of the whole scheme collectively throughout Gibraltar. When the

full scheme is rolled out, visitors to Gibraltar will need to use the many pay public parking facilities throughout Gibraltar leaving zone parking to residents who will be able to use the present free parking areas exclusively for permit holders of all Gibraltar zones allowing for cross pollination between zones within certain hours of the day and night. As we move to consolidate the value of the STTPP, we will continue to monitor and review the zoning of residential parking, tweaking the programme in response to changing demands and a constantly improving our understanding of the use and needs of all stakeholders. We will consider the deployment of Gibraltar wide 'All Zones' parking availability for permit holders of any Zone, allowing drivers to park elsewhere in Gibraltar until 02.00hrs.

REVIEW OF DISABLED PARKING

If returned to Government, the GSLP Liberals will conduct a review into the availability and current use of disabled parking.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND TACKLING CONGESTION SAFETY & PLANNING AUTHORITY

Building on the STTPP, we will explore options for the creation of a new, centralised Road Traffic Safety and Planning Office to oversee and centrally manage traffic planning matters in the community, with a view to better managing all event/construction and other development impacts on traffic. We will further consider the development of policy to ensure that traffic impact assessment becomes a key consideration in relevant areas of community activity, including in respect of Development & Planning, Infrastructure and technical works and other event planning.

BETTER ENFORCEMENT

We will provide resources for better enforcement of our traffic legislation.

ROAD RESURFACING SCHEME

The pandemic and our need to control our spend saw a reduction in the number of roads that we would have liked to have seen refurbished throughout Gibraltar. However, a comprehensive road resurfacing project has recently been completed helping to tackle many roads that had been subjected to substantial abuse from construction traffic over these few years. We will continue to resurface our roads as part of a sustained resurfacing programme we will develop if elected to Government at the next election.

PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

We will continue to be vigilant in a changing world and will continue investing in more permanent/integrated retractable bollards and/or barriers to start replacing the ornate jersey barriers within the city centre.

OLD STREET SIGNS

We will continue with the very popular installation of traditional street signs capturing the names of streets as they are known in our local culture. We have already seen signs placed at "La Calle Comedia", (Castle Street) and "La Cuesta Mr Bourne" (Flat Bastion Road). This goes hand in hand with our wish to keep our spoken heritage and our Llanito language alive.

VEHICLES & LICENSING

DERELICT VEHICLE & BICYCLE CAMPAIGN

As part of the STTPP, a derelict vehicle campaign was commenced. By removing abandoned and derelict vehicles it is possible to free up parking spaces to allow better use of the limited parking stock available. The campaign was recently extended to include derelict bicycles. If re-elected, the GSLP Liberals will step up the pace of this campaign to help to release as much parking stock as possible.

COMPULSORY BASIC TRAINING (CBT)

The CBT continues to provide a much-needed framework to support learner motorbike drivers, teaching them the basic skills necessary to be able to ride safely on the road. This includes teaching both theoretical and practical skills. This has been an extremely popular addition to road safety, especially with parents who can rest assured that their children are able to control a motorbike safely.

MOT TEST CENTRE

If re-elected, the GSLP Liberals will conduct an assessment of the needs of the licensing department with a view to providing the best facility we can. The licensing department is a very busy 'client-facing' department, and an audit of staffing requirements will be carried out to assess the resource requirements of a department which is experiencing sustained high demand from the community.

DRIVING LICENCES

Government has continued working with the DVLA (UK) to ensure that EU Member States apply the same rules on International Driving Permits (IDP) for Gibraltar issued driving licences as those of the UK to guarantee that local drivers may be able to drive within the EU, without the need for an International Driver's Permit. To date, the GSLP Government has successfully managed to have Gibraltar included into the same reciprocal agreements with Member States as the UK. A GSLP Liberal Government will aspire to the best Gibraltar continue to pursue this issue to ensure, as far as reasonably possible, that our drivers may be able to continue to drive throughout the EU with our existing driving licence.

EMISSIONS TESTING

The MOT Test Centre boasts the latest test equipment to check vehicle emissions. This equipment fully complies with

the latest EU emissions legislation. And is constantly being upgraded.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

The Traffic Commission, comprised of both public servants and independent members of the community, now meets on a monthly basis to ensure that all requests made by members of the public can be fully considered and acted upon where necessary. A full review of the Traffic Commission's working procedures will be carried out to help streamline the work of the Commission to provide a better service to the community.

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF TRANSPORT

The GSLP Liberals' approach to alternative forms of transport can be roughly categorised as issues relating to public transport on the one hand and private transport on the other.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FLEETS

If we want to become an environmentally friendly city, we need to encourage and support our businesses to get there. Today import duty for electric vehicles is zero and there are cash-back incentives to encourage the transition to electric. We also offer cash back on electric and hybrid vehicles and e-bicycles bought in Gibraltar.

BUSES

BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

A local bus service is the backbone of any transport plan. Shared mass transport that is comfortable, regular, and reliable is essential if we are to persuade users away from their cars. As bus use increases consideration needs to be given to service schedule improvements especially at peak times.

If a GSLP Liberal Government is returned to Office, we will carry out a root and branch review of our current bus offering. Gibraltar's demography has changed over the past 4 years, and it is expected to continue to change as families start to occupy their new affordable homes. There has recently been a demographic shift towards Europa Road with the purchase of previously MOD flats at Europa and along Devil's Tower Road and the Eastside Reclamation. Furthermore, the opening of the various sports complexes has seen a need for people, especially children to travel there.

It is therefore vital that we audit the new and differing needs and seek stakeholder feedback as to what the user wants to see by way of public service improvements. The following considerations will need to be assessed:

- *The need to increase capacity for school children and within school buses.*
- *New routes*

- *Timetabling and bus frequency*
- *Later services*
- *Data collection via Wayfinder hardware and software*
- *Providing Card Payment facilities*
- *Bus tracker app*

BUS DRIVERS' STRIKE

We recognise the efforts of bus drivers and the important work that they do for the community and this critical public service. If re-elected a GSLP Liberal Government will continue to sit with the Union and the representatives of the Bus Company to seek meaningful improvements to the Gibraltar Bus Service and address the claims of bus drivers in a way that meets the demands of our community for an effective public bus service in a cost-efficient manner. We will agree to discuss all options to seek a mutually beneficial outcome.

ELECTRIC BUSES

Since 2011 the GSLP Liberals have sought to explore the possibilities for deploying electric buses in Gibraltar. Unfortunately, the pandemic forced up to park up the transition to electric buses. It makes sense to purchase buses each year to ensure that we have a constantly upgraded fleet of buses. After much work and research, the right bus for the job has already been identified for the Gibraltar and will consist of smaller Upper Town buses and mid-size buses to slowly substitute our current fleet of efficient and comfortable MAN buses.

NEW BUS ROUTES & BUS MAPS

All of Gibraltar's bus-stops were upgraded with modern flagpole signs providing useful information to users including the buses direction of travel. A GSLP Liberal Government will be conducting a full review of the bus offering with a view of including new bus routes to complement the present routes. This will include but will not be limited to a new route that uses Dudley Ward Tunnel to link Europa and the south district to the beaches on the eastern side. This is especially important during the summer months when car parking is difficult and in short supply.

TIMETABLING AND BUS FREQUENCY

As part of the review into the Gibraltar bus service, bus frequency and service hours will be considered with a view of improving the service provided.

BUS TRACKER APP

The Bus Tracker has been one of the most significant improvements in public transport. Real-time information allows users to work around the bus timetables making long waits for the bus a thing of the past. We will be launching an app for all mobile devices. The improvements will include a route planner and a location function to find your nearest bus-stop.

DIGITAL BUS STOP INFORMATION

Realtime bus information will be introduced at bus stops for those who are unable to use the bus tracker app on mobile devices.

SMART BUSES

If re-elected, the GSLP Liberals will be taking real time smart bus technology into the buses and bus stops themselves providing users with information regarding the next buses approaching and their ETA's.

SCHOOL BUSES

The school bus service will be overhauled to create the most efficient bus service for schools, thereby minimising the need for students to rely on parents for lifts by private vehicle. School bus services already exist but these now need to be reviewed with the change in demography and people moving into their new homes.

TRANSPORT INSPECTORS

Transport Inspectors are critical to ensure that pedestrianised areas are accessed at the right times and via a permit system to control access to areas of importance in terms of public safety such as Main Street and the surrounding areas. They also police the public services including our buses and taxi service and their City Service requirements.

PRIVATE BUSES

A GSLP Liberal Government will work with the local private bus route operator and tourist mini-coach operators to consider how best we may be able to actively encourage and support them to upgrade their fleets to more modern and environmentally friendly vehicles. Diligent planning is required to ensure that we see a greener public transport and tourist offering within Gibraltar.

INTERBUS AGREEMENT

The Government has been working with the Department for Transport in the UK to ensure that the Interbus Agreement is extended to Gibraltar to ensure that our bus drivers may continue to drive throughout the EU.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

We have been rolling out EV charging points throughout Gibraltar and we will continue to roll out this infrastructure to encourage the use of EVs in Gibraltar. We will focus on developing a strategy to make the installation of electricity charging points in the parking areas of residential estates, including private ones, a priority.

ACCESS TO MAIN STREET AND COMMERCIAL AREAS FOR CARGO BIKE DELIVERIES

A GSLP Liberal Government will continue working closely with all interested parties and stakeholders to find solutions that can help make the lives of residents and the business community better while ensuring the safety of all. We have also, as set out above, committed to allowing 24/7 delivery access to restricted areas of Main Street if deliveries are concluded on cargo, or e-cargo bikes.

CREATION OF A SKATE PARK AND SKATE BOWL

A skate bowl will be a great additional feature to the sports facilities in Gibraltar within Romney Huts future park project or as a wooden mobile bowl feature within a sports hall complex.

ROUTES FROM SOUTH TO NORTH VIA BEACHES

We will seek to introduce a route from South to North which will provide a better collection and laydown option for users who need to move between the points in Gibraltar.

TUNNELS

The tunnels we have used for generations now need to be brought up to modern standards. We will add ventilation and CCTV to Keightley Way Tunnel and Dudley Ward Tunnel.

THE WALKS

We will resurface the roads around The Walks, and we will finish all works outstanding in this area. These will be finalised once the private development in this area has been completed.



PART IV

HEALTH, CARE, JUSTICE & EQUALITY



Meet the team Gemma Arias-Vasquez

Gemma Arias-Vasquez has been actively involved in local politics for many years and is passionate about making a difference. She led the Stronger In Campaign in 2016, achieving a high turnout with a result of 96% of Gibraltar voting to stay in the EU. For 6 years before that, she was Chairwoman of the GFSB, sitting on numerous international committees and local boards. Through the GFSB Gemma organised the much-loved TV programme Rock Chef. On leaving the GFSB, Gemma joined the GSLP and has been a member of the executive since 2017. Gemma has worked tirelessly for the party since.

Gemma is a graduate of Oriel College, Oxford University, and a Partner at Hassans. Gemma qualified in Slaughter and May - a law firm in the City of London. But most importantly, Gemma and her husband Alfredo are the parents of two beautiful boys - Louis and Andrew.

HEALTH SERVICES

THE LAST FOUR YEARS OF OUR HEALTH SERVICES

THE COVID PANDEMIC

In the last four years, the GHA has experienced, along with the rest of this community, the toughest healthcare challenges we have ever known. As Gibraltar locked down, the wonderful team at the GHA ramped up to deal with what were, at the time, the as yet unknown and barely understood threats of the Covid pandemic. The effects of the pandemic spread across the whole of the service offering of the GHA and were long-lived.

It is difficult to look back on those most difficult and unprecedented times in our history. As a community, we have sought to move on, and for that reason tend to forget quite how hard and how deep the pandemic hit us all, and the GHA in particular. No one chooses to ponder this for very long. The memory is a deeply painful one.

LEADERS IN THE WORLD – OUR VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Even in these difficult moments, the GHA did Gibraltar proud. We succeeded in deploying the most effective programme of vaccination for Covid 19, anywhere in the world. We became the first community to, in effect, be 100% vaccinated for Covid-19. Under the leadership of Samantha Sacramento, we led the way in the world, with the help of the UK Government which kindly supplied all the vaccines we needed and unlocked ahead of the rest of the world. We will never forget that month in January 2021 when we lost so many of our loved ones – we will always be left with the sadness and the wonder of what might have been if the vaccines had been ready and with us just a couple of weeks earlier.

Despite the pain, the GHA pushed through to successfully complete the vaccination programme and then, building on that success, we also successfully deployed the flu vaccine in tandem with subsequent vaccines, effectively protecting our vulnerable and those who chose further vaccination too.

RESET, RESTART & RECOVER

In November 2021, the GHA announced its Reset, Restart and Recover programme - The Reset, Restart, and Recover programme of represented a significant reform of the GHA and the manner in which it was organised. The programme was designed to tackle the challenges that the GHA was facing at the time, including prolonged waiting times, staff shortages, and financial pressures, many of which stemmed from the challenge of tackling the pandemic.

The programme included several key measures, such as:

- *The reconfiguration of the GHA board to ensure it functioned as a pivotal strategic and oversight body.*
- *The appointment of a new Director General of the GHA to*

provide overall leadership and delivery.

- *The establishment of new accountability arrangements between the GHA and the Minister for Health.*
- *The creation of three formal subcommittees of the GHA Board.*
- *The formation of a new Social Partnership Forum for the GHA, enabling Trades Unions and other staff groups to have increased opportunities for consultation and discussion regarding future plans.*
- *The appointment of a professionally qualified Finance Director to provide financial control and leadership, considering it was the largest spending area of the government.*
- *The selection of five key individuals for a “Reset, Restart, and Recover” team to collaborate across the GHA, with the aim of delivering improvements in quality, efficiency, productivity, innovation, and prevention throughout the GHA, drawing on best practices from around the world.*

The Reset, Restart, and Recover programme was an ambitious initiative, but it was considered essential for the GHA to meet the evolving needs of the people of Gibraltar. The programme was designed to create a more efficient, effective, and patient-responsive healthcare service. It was also anticipated to help with staff recruitment and retention, as well as enhancing the financial sustainability of the GHA.

PROGRESS AT PACE

Since then, we have been working with the GHA to begin implementing radical reforms and improvements to our healthcare system post pandemic, with remarkable results. The GSLP Liberals have, since their election in 2011, invested heavily in the provision of healthcare services, and we now renew that commitment. If returned to office, we will continue to work to ensure that the pace of progress is maintained and that we continue to build upon the success so far.

CLINICAL STAFF AT THE HEAD OF THE GHA

The GSLP Liberals understand that the best strategy for our health services is to put clinical staff and healthcare leadership experts in the driving seat, whilst always answerable to the People.. This has not just enabled rapid recovery post pandemic outperforming many other healthcare systems globally, it has also provided us with a clear framework and template to guide its development going forward.

IMPROVEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS, DELIVERED

THE GHA DEPOLITICISED

The Minister for Health is no longer the Chairman of the GHA Board. We have entered into new accountability

arrangements with the GHA as described in the context of the Reset, Restart and Recover initiative described in these pages. The GSLP Liberals were determined that governance of the GHA was best left to clinical leaders and that the role of Government in this context should be one of setting policy, maintaining accountability and allowing the health service professionals the space to do what, in their expert estimation, is best for the community.

NEW PRIMARY CARE CENTRE & CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTRE

In the past four years, we have taken significant strides in improving the healthcare landscape in Gibraltar. We proudly inaugurated a state-of-the-art Primary Care Centre, equipped with cutting-edge facilities and a team of dedicated healthcare professionals. This establishment has not only modernised our healthcare infrastructure but has also significantly reduced waiting times, ensuring quicker access to essential medical services for our residents.

Furthermore, our commitment to the well-being of the youngest members of our community led us to establish the Children's Health Centre, offering specialised GP services tailored specifically to the unique needs of children. This initiative not only focuses on preventive care but also provides a nurturing and child-friendly environment, ensuring a positive healthcare experience for our little ones.

These advancements in our healthcare system are a testament to our unwavering dedication to enhancing patient care, particularly for children, who deserve the highest quality of healthcare. We will continue to prioritise accessible, efficient, and patient-centred healthcare services for all.

111 SERVICE

We introduced the 111 integrated urgent care and advice hub. This service originated during the Covid pandemic and became the centralised hub through which the GHA directed much of the primary care in the months following the pandemic. It proved an invaluable tool for the GHA as it moved back towards a semblance of normality.

WAITING TIMES REDUCED

We reduced post-pandemic waiting times for key specialties thanks to GHA waiting list initiatives and continue to tackle these in the context of its waiting list management policy going forward. This already includes significant reductions in, orthopaedic, cataracts, endoscopy, radiology and ophthalmology waiting times.

REPATRIATION OF SERVICES

We have been engaged in a successful programme of repatriation of services. We have been committed to making the right investments in the right things, to improve patient care and outcomes, reducing the physical, emotional and financial cost to families and the GHA itself, by bringing the ability to conduct key procedures, home to Gibraltar. A recent example of this is the GHA's first cochlear implant

operation, announced in September 2023. Working with a team of visiting consultant ENT surgeons, the procedure was successfully carried out further to this year's inauguration of the GHA's new ENT and Audiology Suite in February. By having these procedures here, it is possible to remove the need to travel back and forth to the UK which, in the case of these procedures, vastly reduces the timeframe between surgery and switching on of the device to a mere few weeks. The GSLP Liberals will continue to get the job done of investing in this community's health and doing it right. We have also repatriated services in Child Mental Health/ Gibraltar Young Minds (GYM).

MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY



The Gibraltar National Mental Health Strategy 2021-2026 (GHA) sets out a vision for a comprehensive and integrated mental health system that promotes self-care, recovery, and reduces stigma. The strategy is underpinned by several key principles. It places the patient at the core of their care, empowering them to actively participate in decision-making and their care plan. Additionally, it strives for the integration of mental health services with broader healthcare and social services to ensure a coordinated and seamless approach to care. Prevention is a focal point, with efforts aimed at promoting mental wellbeing and resilience to deter mental health problems. Early intervention is prioritised for those at risk or displaying initial signs of mental illness. The strategy also supports the recovery of individuals with mental illness, enabling them to lead fulfilling lives within the community, while simultaneously working to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues and promote greater understanding and acceptance.

The strategy includes a number of specific actions to be taken over the next five years, including:

- *Developing and implementing new mental health services,*

such as a community mental health hub and a crisis support team.

- *Improving access to existing mental health services, by reducing waiting times and making services more accessible to people with those with complex needs.*
- *Increasing collaboration between the GHA and other agencies, such as the Care Agency, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Social Services, to ensure that people with mental illness and their families have access to the support they need.*
- *Raising awareness of mental health issues and reducing stigma, through public awareness campaigns and training for professionals and the general public.*
- *Coupling mental health therapies with sport and exercise as well as healthy living and nutritious diets.*

The GHA is committed to implementing the Mental Health Strategy 2021-2026, and to working with all stakeholders to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the population of Gibraltar. The GHA's mental health strategy is a significant step forward in promoting the mental health and wellbeing of the population of Gibraltar. By focusing on prevention, early intervention, recovery, and reducing stigma, the GHA is working to create a more supportive environment for people with mental illness.

TRANSFORMING DEMENTIA CARE: ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GSLP LIBERALS

Under GSLP Liberal leadership, Gibraltar's dementia care has seen remarkable advancements through our 5-year National Dementia Strategy for 2023-2028. Our strategy promotes early diagnosis, timely support, and tailored services for local dementia patients. We have fostered collaboration with government departments, charities, and the community to address dementia comprehensively.

DEMENTIA COORDINATOR APPOINTED

To ensure effective execution, we have appointed a Dementia Coordinator, who works closely with stakeholders and oversees key objectives. The National Dementia Steering Group, comprising service users and representatives, monitors progress and maintains transparency.

A detailed action plan with financial and workforce considerations sets yearly milestones, allowing for regular assessments. Our goal is a Dementia-Friendly Gibraltar, fostering respect and a high quality of life at all stages.

By emphasising prevention, early intervention, and stigma reduction, our strategy creates a supportive environment for patients and families. The Dementia Coordinator role strengthens implementation alignment with patient and family needs.

DEMENTIA FRIENDS

Fabian Picardo, along with all his cabinet colleagues from the

outgoing Government, last year became dementia friends, as part of their commitment to making Gibraltar a Dementia Friendly city. The GSLP Liberals have significantly enhanced dementia care in Gibraltar. With our commitment and the GHA's dementia strategy's collaborative, supportive, and comprehensive approach, we are hopeful that our work and the work of all the professionals and stakeholder, will be pivotal to transforming dementia care effectively.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ELDERLY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

We have provided enhanced dementia friendly facilities for residents in the Elderly Residential Service.

ADDITIONAL OPERATING CAPACITY AT ST BERNARD'S

We have opened an additional Operating Theatre to facilitate significant additional capacity to tackle waiting lists going forward.

NEW THEATRE STERILE SUPPLY UNIT

In May 2023, the GHA announced the opening of the new Theatre (central) Sterile Supply Unit or "TSSU". This will ensure that service users' needs are exceeded through the timely delivery of sterile surgical instruments and other reusable medical devices, some of which are required at short notice. The GHA estimates that approx. 75 surgeries were cancelled on an annual basis due to defects or equipment failures within the existing TSSU in the current contamination process. The new state-of-the-art TSSU will improve the efficiency of the entire theatre complex and is expected to almost eliminate the cancellation of operations as a result of cross contamination.

INTERIM ONCOLOGY SERVICES

As part of our efforts, we have successfully provided improved interim oncology facilities, ensuring that patients receive the best possible care and support during their treatment journey. This investment reflects our dedication to the well-being of our community.

REPLACEMENT OF TWO AMBULANCES

We are committed to ensuring that our emergency responders have the reliable and best ambulances we can provide. In a time critical situation, we are committed to ensuring that the equipment never lets them down.

DIGNIFIED MORTUARY FACILITIES

Recognising the importance of respectful management and handling of the loss of a loved one, we have established new mortuary facilities equipped with three viewing rooms. This facility ensures that families have the space and privacy needed to say their farewells.

MOBILE HEALTH UNIT - HEART CHECKS ON THE GO

With the new Mobile Health Unit, we plan to roll out, we

will be able to offer a list of checks to citizens, on the go. As part of these services, we will offer mobile heart checks - in tandem with a healthier lifestyle, early diagnosis of conditions through routine scanning results in vastly improved outcomes.

ENHANCED PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY

We have implemented advanced patient safety and clinical governance arrangements, significantly improving the quality of care we provide. These measures speak to our commitment to the well-being of patients in the care of the GHA.

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL RESOURCES

We have recruited additional, Specialist Nurses, Doctors and Paramedics

REDUCED A&E WAIT TIMES

In our pursuit of efficient healthcare, We have achieved a notable reduction in A&E waiting times. This accomplishment is complemented by live waiting time updates and the introduction of a Minor Injuries Service, further enhancing the patient experience.

TRANSPARENCY THROUGH INFORMATION

We believe in providing transparency in respect of the work of the GHA. To this end, we have made key performance information available online, allowing our residents to stay informed about healthcare services and outcomes.

ENHANCED TRAINING FOR INTENSIVE CARE TEAM

Our exceptional intensive care staff now benefit from enhanced training opportunities. This investment ensures that our healthcare professionals remain at the forefront of critical care, providing the best possible support to patients.

PRE-CONCEPTION AND PARENTCRAFT SERVICES

In our commitment to comprehensive care, we have introduced a pre-conception service and dedicated parentcraft services. These offerings support families on their journey to parenthood, ensuring that they receive the guidance and resources they need.

In addition to all the achievement over the past four years, we are committed to and in the initial stages of implementing the following:

ONGOING INITIATIVES AT THE GHA

In addition to everything that has been achieved, the GHA is currently involved in deploying the following measures in its pursuit of ever better services.

ACCESS TO A LOCAL MRI SERVICE

We are committed to enhancing diagnostic capabilities by providing accessible MRI services locally. This not only

reduces the inconvenience of overseas referrals but also ensures faster diagnoses, leading to timely and effective treatment, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

199 AMBULANCE DISPATCH WITH A CLINICAL DESK AND SOPHISTICATED TRACKING, PATIENT MANAGEMENT, AND VEHICLE SOFTWARE

Our initiative to implement an advanced ambulance dispatch system is aimed at improving emergency response times and ensuring efficient patient care. This technology allows for better tracking and management of patients, resulting in quicker access to critical medical services and ultimately saving lives.

NEW CANCER UNIT, ASEPTIC SUITE, AND ENHANCED PALLIATIVE CARE FACILITIES:

We understand the importance of providing state-of-the-art facilities for cancer care, infection control, and palliative services. These enhancements ensure that patients receive comprehensive and specialised care, tailored to their needs, thus improving their overall quality of life and treatment outcomes.

COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Addressing mental health needs is a priority. We have introduced a Mental Health Crisis and Home Treatment Service, alongside enhanced interagency home support for individuals with long-term mental health requirements. This comprehensive approach ensures that mental health care is readily accessible and effective.

UPGRADED DAY INFUSION FACILITIES:

Our commitment to upgrading day infusion facilities ensures that patients receive high-quality treatment in a comfortable and modern environment. This improvement leads to a better patient experience, encouraging regular treatment adherence and overall better health outcomes.

FULL DIGITIZATION OF HEALTH RECORDS - NOW FOR SECONDARY CARE

We are developing an electronic patient record for secondary care along the lines of the primary care system. This initiative streamlines data management and sharing among healthcare providers. Patients benefit from accurate and easily accessible records, enabling healthcare professionals to make well-informed decisions promptly, ultimately improving patient care and safety.

REPROVISION OF COALING ISLAND CMHT SERVICES TO ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL

Relocating Coaling Island CMHT services to St Bernard's Hospital enhances accessibility to mental health care. Patients can receive integrated care within a hospital setting, ensuring timely treatment and support, which contributes to improved mental health outcomes.

CARDIAC CATHETERISATION FACILITY, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL STAFF

Establishing a cardiac catheterisation facility with additional staff enhances heart-related medical services. Timely intervention for cardiac issues leads to better patient outcomes and a reduced burden on the healthcare system.

NEW AND UPDATED RADIOLOGY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING A SECOND SCANNER

Investing in new radiology equipment, including a second scanner, improves diagnostic capabilities. Patients benefit from faster and more accurate diagnoses, leading to timely treatment and better recovery prospects.

GENOMIC SEQUENCING AND EARLY DETECTION OF POTENTIAL CANCERS

Implementing genomic sequencing techniques allows for early detection of potential cancers. Personalized treatment plans based on genetic profiles lead to more effective treatments and improved survival rates.

REPLACEMENT OF KEY DIAGNOSTIC AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, IT INFRASTRUCTURE, AND PRIORITY BACKLOG MAINTENANCE ACROSS THE GHA ESTATE

Ensuring the replacement of essential equipment and maintenance of healthcare facilities is vital for providing safe and effective care. These efforts contribute to a conducive environment for healthcare delivery and patient recovery.

ASD (AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER) DIAGNOSTIC PATHWAY STAFF

Providing specialised staff and services for ASD diagnostic pathways is essential to address the unique needs of individuals on the autism spectrum. This initiative improves access to timely diagnosis and appropriate support, leading to better outcomes and quality of life.

MANAGED EQUIPMENT CONTRACT TO MAINTAIN AND REPLACE KEY DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT

The Managed Equipment Contract ensures the ongoing maintenance and replacement of critical diagnostic equipment. This proactive approach minimizes downtime, ensuring that patients have access to essential tests and treatments, leading to better healthcare outcomes.

MORE AMBULANCES, LOCALLY SUPPLIED

Expanding our ambulance fleet and establishing a maintenance and replacement lease agreement is crucial for swift emergency response. These additions ensure that patients receive timely care, improving survival rates and patient satisfaction.

A NEW AMBULANCE STATION

We remain committed, as we were in 2019, to creating a new and dedicated ambulance station. Whilst Covid may have derailed our plans in this regard, we will enter into planning discussions with the GHA with a view to creating a dedicated ambulance station.

A REVIEW OF PARAMEDIC STAFFING

We are committed to a review of the present complement of ambulance staffing, as well as the skill mix, with a view to increasing the complement of paramedics in accordance with the recommendations of the review.

RESTRUCTURED PROCUREMENT AND STOCK CONTROL SYSTEMS:

An efficient procurement and stock control system ensures the availability of necessary supplies and equipment. This streamlines healthcare operations, reduces waste, and ensures that patients receive timely care and treatment.

ELECTRONIC WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:

Implementing an electronic workforce management system optimises staff scheduling and resource allocation. This improves the efficiency of healthcare services, reducing wait times and ensuring that patients receive care when they need it.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NET-ZERO SUSTAINABILITY PLAN:

Our comprehensive sustainability plan reflects our commitment to environmental responsibility. Reducing our carbon footprint and environmental impact in healthcare operations is not only beneficial for the planet but also contributes to a healthier community.

IMPROVED COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE:

Enhancing the community equipment service ensures that individuals in need receive the necessary support and equipment. This enables patients to live independently and improves their overall quality of life, contributing to better healthcare outcomes.

GOING FORWARD – OUR COMMITMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

We are committed to ensuring that the GHA Board remains accountable to the public. This will be achieved through an annual accountability agreement with the Government, which includes provision for the GHA to provide a three-year strategic plan outlining its vision. This plan will be used to develop an accountability agreement, specifying policy directions, funding, emergency management, and performance criteria. The framework will be made public,

and the GHA will regularly publish information relating to its performance. An annual review of the agreement will be presented to Parliament and the GHA will conduct quarterly open meetings to engage with the community. Annual audits by the Gibraltar Audit Office will ensure proper governance and fiscal management. We will work towards establishing an annual budget for the GHA with delegated authority to manage services effectively while staying within budget and meeting government targets.

FASTER. SOONER. BETTER – MORE SERVICES IN GIBRALTAR

We will fully exploit the work we have done to date under our reset, restart, recover initiative. Given these advances and others underway the GSLP Liberals will continue to support business cases for the repatriation or development of services in Gibraltar that improve clinical safety, provide better clinical outcomes, and are cost effective to the public purse.

In oncology, we will offer additional services locally in a new centre for the purpose, construction of which is shortly to begin. In Cardiology, we will exploit the availability of the new cardiac catheterisation laboratory under development at the hospital to offer more and more services. We will offer specialist endocrinology services for the treatment of conditions and diseases relating to hormones, as well as rheumatology services. Additionally, we will be enhancing the work we do locally in the context of Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

KEY PROCEDURE WAIT TIMES

On the back of our investment in post pandemic waiting time reduction initiatives, we will continue to support the GHA in the implementation of its waiting list policy to reduce waiting times, with the aim of achieving better performance than other public healthcare systems internationally. Initially our priority will be to continue to reduce waiting lists in Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Plastic Surgery and Dental Services.

LONG TERM CONDITIONS – IMPROVING CARE

The GSLP Liberals supports the development and delivery of programmes by the GHA that make our community healthier, ensuring that long term conditions are well managed and that those with disabilities are well supported. Some of the programmes under consideration are as follows.

JOINT STRATEGIC HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

We will improve the health of our population using a target driven approach, supporting Public Health Gibraltar, to deliver programs and shape government policy that addresses the needs of our population as published in the first Joint (cross government) Strategic Health Needs Assessment.

LONG TERM CONDITION REGISTERS

We will ensure those with long term health conditions are

best managed and supported. We will ask the GHA to use its information systems to develop long term condition registers and programs of support that ensure that people with long term conditions are routinely reviewed, and their conditions are managed and supported in line with evidence based best practice. In the first instance this will include: Diabetes, Respiratory Conditions, Severe and Enduring Mental Health Conditions, Dementia and Hypertension.

DISABILITY SUPPORT MONITORING

We will work collaboratively with all public sector agencies and NGOs to ensure that those with disabilities are well supported with integrated systems of support. This will include Education, the Care Agency and Housing. These approaches will be aligned to the Government's equalities agenda.

THE BEST HEALTH FACILITIES – TAKEN CARE OF

We pledge to invest to update our healthcare estate, address replacement equipment, address maintenance issues, make more efficient use of available space and improve patient experience.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PRE-HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

We will continue to build on and implement the successful changes underpinned by National Strategies including the Dementia and Mental Health Strategies and work with the GHA to develop integrated public sector solutions.

This will include:

CAPITALISING ON 111/199

We will build on the 111/199 service we introduced during the last term of office. We will pursue further coordination of emergency services (blue light responses), shared emergency service centre base/facilities and include incorporating coordination of the response from Social Services Supports at times of crisis and out of hours.

A NEW TT

The concept of the Dementia Village provides for comprehensive care and support for individuals living with dementia. This innovative model for dementia care places a strong emphasis on improving the quality of life for residents and recognising their unique capabilities, all while fostering a positive perception of dementia within the local community. This aligns perfectly with the goals outlined in the Gibraltar National Dementia Strategy for 2023-2028, which envisions the Dementia Village as a welcoming and supportive place where individuals with dementia can choose to reside.

The Dementia Village represents a proactive approach to care. It focuses on key components, such as creating an environment that mirrors a small community to ensure residents can move freely and safely. Additionally, it places great importance on personalised care plans, highly trained staff, and the establishment of meaningful daily routines. The Dementia Village also encourages integration with

the broader community, offering essential services and promoting social engagement. Furthermore, it incorporates technology to enhance safety and quality of life for residents and places a strong emphasis on involving families and providing social support. The GSLP Liberals are committed to exploring innovation with impact in the context of dementia, because the GSLP Liberals are working to leave no one behind.

We will work closely with GADS on this and all dementia issues.

A CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR UNIT

Establishment of a 4 bedded challenging behaviour unit at Hillside with support from both GHA older peoples' services and the Mental Health Service.

SPECIALISED SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

Strengthened coordinated and integrated community health and social care services to older people, children, mental health and those with special needs or physical disability.

This will include the integration of therapeutic services to children across education, the care agency and health service. It will include integration of older people's care and facilities between the GHA, Care Agency and Housing. It will further include developing and delivering a range of options for Senior Living and supports that are primarily community based.

LONG TERM MENTAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

It will also include development of a range of individual and small group supported living arrangements for people with long term mental health needs that afford them the same rights as other citizens to live in the community with the support they need calibrated as their condition fluctuates.

These partnerships will capitalise on the assets of our successful and vibrant NGOs as well as making use of private public sector partnerships where these provide best value to the public purse and high quality provision of services.

MODERNISING IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOFTWARE

We will continue to modernise the IT infrastructure and Software across the whole of the GHA. It is of vital importance that the infrastructure and the software that the GHA relies upon to provide safe, effective, and efficient healthcare services is the best that we can afford. It is especially vital now that we are able to leverage the use of data to manage, monitor and support public health requirements. Through the GHA IM&T Strategy we will also continue to capitalise on the benefits that technology enables us to efficiently manage services and appointments, communicate with patients, work towards giving patients access to their records and more and more healthcare advice and information whilst securely managing personal data.

RESILIENCE IN HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES

We will continue to work to develop and ensuring resilience in the future provision of a local health and care workforce. We will work with the GHA and Care Agency to develop workforce plans that consider future requirements, model changes in the demographic profile of current staff and help us to plan for continued resilience and supply of local staff. This will include developing pathways for professional and vocational training for all grades of staff in collaboration with the education department and University of Gibraltar. This will include re-establishing local Registered Mental Health Nurse Training for graduates with a first degree in psychology. We will develop vocational pathways for other technical support requirements such as maintenance and estates staff to maintain a complement of persons suitably qualified to maintain and manage the healthcare estate, its equipment and the development of its capital projects, We will strengthen the supply of locally qualified Allied Health Professionals. By doing this, we will work to leverage the local educated workforce, supporting those who wish to work with us to develop vocational qualifications that meet our needs going forward. The GHA under the GSLP Liberals will strive to maximise recruitment, whenever possible, from the local pool of suitably qualified Gibraltarians.

CANNABIS – ENHANCING PATIENT WELL-BEING

We will continue to pursue the total legalisation of cannabis for medicinal purposes. We will ensure that Gibraltar moves with the times and with attitudes and in keeping with research around the world on this matter. We will work to make cannabis-based medicines available on prescription in Gibraltar for those with chronic conditions in particular. We will build on the recent announcement in respect of the completion of training of medical professionals, thereby enabling them to shortly prescribe these medicinal products for patients with specific conditions.

FAIR DISPENSING FEES: WORKING WITH LOCAL PHARMACIES

We will work with our local pharmacies to adjust the dispensing fee according to inflation and to ensure the claw back element is fairly adjusted. We will ensure fairness for the taxpayer and for pharmacists.

PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING BY MRI

For some time now, the GSLP Liberals has been delighted to observe how local prostate cancer screening programmes have succeeded in their objective of earlier and wider diagnosis. This saves lives. We wish to save more lives, as many as we can, and on that basis, we will drive for the adoption of prostate cancer screening by MRI. Currently, on a positive blood test for relevant markers, patients are referred for a prostate exam. It is anticipated that, following clinical expert lead on this, the screening process may be offered on a 'direct to MRI' basis for all who wish to be screened. The more lives we save, the better.

REGULATORY PROGRESS

The establishment of Regulatory Arrangements for health and care standards including Non GHA private sector healthcare.

INFECTION CONTROL WARD

We will work to deliver a permanent infection control ward without which we would not be able to contain outbreaks of infectious conditions, winter the flu etc or manage patients returning from Spanish centres with associated infections. Closing it would not only shut down any capacity for planned work but undo all the progress on waiting lists but increase lengths of stay in Spanish centres and increase sponsored patient costs.

MOLECULAR LABORATORY SERVICES

We are currently continuing to provide these locally in house given that we mobilised during the pandemic at an additional staff and material cost. We commit to continuing with these services, finding a best value solution.

CANNABIS

We will continue to pursue the total legalisation of cannabis for purely medicinal purposes. We will ensure that Gibraltar moves with the times and with attitudes and in keeping with research around the world on this matter. We will work to make cannabis based medicines available on prescription in Gibraltar for those with chronic conditions in particular.

PUBLIC HEALTH

No Health Service anywhere will ever have enough funding to cope with future population healthcare needs even if it is the most efficient healthcare system in the world.

CAUSES OF ILL HEALTH

Poor personal lifestyle choices drive ill health but so do the impacts of air pollution, environment, housing and employment, which all affect how healthy we are and how long we live. These are the wider determinants of health.

Without action, the numbers of the population living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease will increase.

PREVENTION IS KEY

- *Primary prevention is preventing illnesses from starting in the first place.*
- *Secondary prevention is detecting diseases in the earliest stages (e.g. the GHA delivers 12 screening programmes).*
- *Tertiary prevention is trying to mitigate the impacts of established disease, such as through cardiac rehabilitation.*

MAIN DRIVERS FOR ILL HEALTH

The main drivers for Gibraltar for ill health are smoking and obesity. The drivers of obesity are complex and include poor diet and lack of exercise: but you cannot just exercise your way out of obesity – diet is key. We will work hard to encourage a dramatic upscale in primary prevention so as to tackle the biggest drivers of illness and lengthen and save lives.

This is good for individuals, for the community, and makes economic sense, given the cost of healthcare.

LEADING THE WAY IN QUALITY OF LIFE

Our aspiration is that Gibraltar should lead the way globally in terms of healthy lifestyle, life expectancy and quality of life. Our experience of Covid has shown even more clearly the importance of good health, and of being ready when something similar happens again.

We will:

DRAMATICALLY UP-SCALE AND INVEST IN SMOKING AND VAPING CESSATION SUPPORT BY:

- *Banning single use disposable vapes.*
- *Banning sale of vapes that are targeting children.*
- *Enforcing ID checks for you people purchasing vapes to avoid sales to underaged children.*

TOUGHER ANTI-SMOKING LAWS

The harm smoking causes is a harm that the GSLP Liberals do

not consider an inevitable part of our society. We created the legislation banning smoking indoors and have consistently raised the price of tobacco. If returned to office, we will consider further steps to reduce smoking in the community further.

DEVELOP A WHOLE SYSTEMS APPROACH TO TACKLING OBESITY BY

- *Significant and systematic public awareness campaigns of the links between obesity and risk of developing cancer.*
- *Providing weight reduction drugs and programmes.*
- *Continuing the work on promotion and development to enable active transport.*
- *Continuing to promote physical activity building upon the budget announcements in relation to zero import duty for gym/fitness equipment and tax relief on gym membership.*

PRIORITISE EQUALITY AND FOCUS ON SPECIFIC GROUPS BY

- *Continuing the Ministry for Equality work programme and multi-agency work on topics such as: domestic violence, learning disabilities, child protection and disability access to services.*
- *Increase investment in parenting classes to break generational cycles of behavior and reduce impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).*

ENHANCE IMMUNISATION PROGRAMMES BY

- *Implementing a shingles vaccination programme.*

STEP UP HEALTH CHECKS AND EARLIER DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER BY

- *Screening is the best way to spot cancers early. We will therefore offer a health check MoT every five years to every adult over the age of 40.*
- *Delivering campaigns to increase the uptake of cancer screening programmes and raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer.*
- *Implement a new screening programme using low dose CT scans to identify early lung cancer.*
- *Develop a Public Health Gibraltar app that is the 'go to' resource for all health promotional activity e.g., advice on health eating, physical activity, mental well-being, smoking cessation, sexual health etc.*
- *Develop a non-communicable disease register including a formal cancer register.*
- *Develop a new role for Gibraltar of an epidemiologist.*

CARE

CHILDREN

Family life is what matters most. Every child matters and in Gibraltar we are very proud to see how we have assisted families to have children. The new adoption legislation that was introduced this year completely overhauls the previous system to make the adoption process simpler and better, together with the introduction of the surrogacy law, add to our legacy of already providing IVF and means that we have made it possible for many to have children when these options were previously not available.

CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Children are our treasures, and our children are our future, and it is our duty to protect them. We established a new Child Protection Committee and invested in its training and governance structures, and this has ensured robust mechanisms to guarantee its success in its duty to protect children and promote their welfare. We will continue to support the Child Protection Committee with the resources required to support its work in the delivery of its objectives.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Being vulnerable and requiring protection is not exclusive to children, there are many adults who may require safeguarding because of different circumstances whether on account of a disability, mental ill health, or a medical condition. We will continue to support the Adult Safeguarding Board and place it on a statutory footing.

SAFEGUARDING REGULATION

The safe recruitment of all those who work with vulnerable people is essential and we have introduced numerous policies and training to ensure this. This work will continue to be reviewed so that the policies in place are always the tightest possible and of the highest standard so that those who pose a risk do not slip the net.

QUALITY OF CARE AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

People who are vulnerable may need care, whether this is in the form of support or residential living. It is important that the care that they receive is of the highest standard and that they are safeguarded during this process. We will establish an entity that is independent of all service providers to ensure the quality of care and the protection of all children and all vulnerable people with the responsibility of setting the safeguarding policies.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY

The work that we have undertaken on domestic abuse is unprecedented. Ending domestic abuse is one of the most difficult challenges facing our society today. With the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2023 and the

publication of the National Domestic Abuse Strategy this year, Gibraltar already finds itself in a much better place where victims and their families will feel much safer, and perpetrators are held to account but can find the support that they need to break the cycle. We are fully committed to the National Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023 – 2028 and will support the strategic priorities and action plan contained within it.

MORE TRAINING

The public sector will continue to have the investment in training, and we will continue to work with all interested parties who very much form part of our inclusive approach.

WOMEN IN NEED

We shall strengthen and support Women in Need as we believe that it provides an invaluable role to victims of domestic abuse and will work with them so that they can widen the scope of their support.

CARING FOR LOVED ONES – A NEW TAX ALLOWANCE

The GSLP Liberals are committed to addressing the financial challenges faced by individuals who opt for private care services for their loved ones. We understand the significant financial burden that private care can impose on families, and we believe in creating a supportive environment that encourages such responsible decisions while offering financial relief. To this end, we commit to introducing a new tax allowance that allows individuals to offset the cost of private care for their family members against their income tax. This measure will help alleviate the financial strain that families experience when seeking private care services, ensuring that they can access quality care for their loved ones without incurring additional tax liabilities. Our goal is to make it easier for individuals to contribute to the care of their family members while reducing the financial burden associated with such choices. We believe that this tax allowance will not only benefit families but also contribute to the overall well-being of our community by promoting responsible and compassionate caregiving.

ASSISTED LIVING

We will continue to develop services available to the vulnerable and infirm, with a view to developing services that will maximise opportunities for assisted home living. Many of our citizens can enjoy independence and their own environment with a little help from the services we offer. We are committed to doing more in this regard during the next term.

LONGER OPENING HOURS FOR BELLA VISTA

We will look into the extension of opening hours for the Bella Vista Day Care Centre, including at weekends. As a focal point for so many who rely on the positive impacts of

sharing difficult experiences in the company of others who are enduring similar challenges, it is important that these services are as available as they can be.

NEW FLEET FOR CARE AGENCY

We will invest in renewing the fleet of vehicles for the Care Agency.

ENHANCING CARE FOR ALL

The GSLP Liberal Party pledges to build upon the Care Agency's three-decade legacy of compassionate service to our community. Recent achievements, such as the successful refurbishment of a new Learning Disability services facility with spacious, sensory-rich bedrooms, mark our commitment to improving the well-being of residents.

We vow to continue this journey, with plans underway to create a captivating sensory garden. This outdoor oasis will provide therapeutic experiences, stimulate the senses, and offer relaxation while remaining fully accessible to all.

Our dedication to exceptional care for Persons with Learning Disabilities (PLD) remains unwavering. We will collaborate closely with the Ministry of Equality and uphold international conventions, ensuring that the lives of PLD individuals are continually enriched. Our mission is clear: providing unwavering support and empowerment to all those we serve.

ENSURING QUALITY CARE FOR ALL

We are unwavering in our commitment to provide the highest standards of care for our community. To achieve this, we pledge to establish a dedicated Commission on Quality of Care in Gibraltar that will maintain independence and accountability, focus on patient-centred care, empower and regulate care providers in Gibraltar and, we hope, help to make it possible for citizens to get only the best care in Gibraltar.

CANCER RELIEF HOSPICE OUTREACH

The GSLP Liberals are grateful for the work of organisations in Gibraltar that exist only for the good and benefit of other people. Once such organisation is Cancer Relief. The Hospice outreach is a service this community could not do without. As demand grows, so too does the cost of providing it. If returned to office, the GSLP Liberals will review the funding needs of Cancer Relief vs the demand for their services and support it in their determination to continue to provide this important, human service.

CHAMPIONING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

We will develop a strategic vision for promoting advocacy for the vulnerable, to build in our work on accessibility in the last 12 years. No one will be left behind by a GSLP Liberal Government.

SUPPORTIVE UTILITY BILL DEFERRAL AT BRUCE'S FARM

A GSLP Liberal Government will explore the possibility of providing individuals accessing services at Bruce's Farm with the option to defer payment of their utility bills for the duration of their stay at these facilities. This initiative aims to alleviate the financial burden on those seeking help and support at Bruce's Farm, demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that essential rehabilitation services remain accessible and supportive for all members of our community, particularly those facing challenging circumstances.

MORE RESPITE

We continue to explore alternative respite premises to deliver daytime, overnight and weekend respite separate to the current Children's Residential Service.

GUARDIANSHIP DEBENTURE

The Gibraltar Savings Bank will create a debenture that is specifically tailored to people with learning disabilities with a special interest rate.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

We will seek to deliver social justice in a manner that delivers greater focus on prevention and early intervention. Where problems arise we will concentrate on interventions, recovery and independence. We will seek to tackle the root causes of poverty in Gibraltar and deal with the pockets of anti-social behaviour which are affecting the right of many to peaceful enjoyment of their property.

DRUGS

BRUCE'S FARM REFURBISHMENT

We are fully committed to the continued comprehensive refurbishment of Bruce's Farm, our vital rehabilitation centre for individuals battling drug and substance abuse, located in the serene Upper Rock area. The renovation aims to ensure that this essential facility offers the best possible support and environment for those on their path to recovery, reaffirming our commitment to providing top-quality care and assistance to our community's most vulnerable members.

SUPPORTIVE UTILITY BILL DEFERRAL AT BRUCE'S FARM

A GSLP Liberal Government will explore the possibility of providing individuals accessing services at Bruce's Farm with the option to defer payment of their utility bills for the duration of their stay at these facilities. This initiative aims to alleviate the financial burden on those seeking help and support at Bruce's Farm, demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that essential rehabilitation services remain accessible and supportive for all members of our community, particularly those facing challenging circumstances.

NEW COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMME

We will continue to offer a new modern, community-based programme will offer a new holistic Government initiative where a wide range of services will be available. This includes advice, treatment and support for adults, families and carers. The programme is based on a welcoming environment and will be run by professionals and those who have personal experience of addiction. The programme will also provide a basis on which to prepare for more intensive treatments such as rehabilitation, day treatment, group work and other interventions.

JUSTICE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REVIEW

We will establish a holistic review of all services in the criminal justice system with the objective of reducing offending and supporting offenders in their rehabilitation.

THE MCGRAIL INQUIRY

We will maintain the commitment to fund the McGrail Inquiry to ensure that the public are able to see all the facts emerge in relation to that matter. The facts will show that the GSLP Liberals, and, in particular, Fabian Picardo as Chief Minister, have acted properly at all times and in every respect in relation to the early retirement of Mr McGrail, the Inquiry and all matters related to and arising therefrom.

EXPLORING COMMUNITY COURTS

We are committed to promoting accessible and effective justice within our community. In pursuit of this goal, we pledge to explore the possibility of establishing community courts, taking inspiration from successful models in the UK. Community courts offer a unique approach to resolving local issues, enhancing community engagement, and ensuring that justice is not only served but is also perceived to be served. We believe that by considering the implementation of community courts, we can better address specific community needs, foster local cooperation, and create a justice system that truly reflects the values and concerns of our citizens. This commitment underscores our dedication to continually improving our justice system and making it more responsive to the needs of our community. We will engage with stakeholders, legal experts, and the public to assess the feasibility and potential benefits of introducing community courts in Gibraltar.

STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY OF OUR POLICE FORCE: A REVIEW OF ASSAULT PENALTIES

We will review current penalties imposed for assault on police in the wake of recent incidents and in full support of the work our brave men and women of law enforcement do to keep us safe. We will not countenance a light touch approach to this to assault our officers in the execution of their duty and the enforcement of the rule of law which we could not hold in higher regard.

PROMOTING MODERN AND EFFECTIVE POLICE REFORM

Recognising the changing dynamics of our society and the evolving nature of law enforcement, we commit to a comprehensive and modern review of our police force. The last reform conducted in 2006 has served us well, but it is imperative that we adapt to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

YOUNG OFFENDER REHABILITATION - A YOUNG OFFENDER'S INSTITUTE

We will consider, with relevant professionals in the field, the creation of the Young Offender Institution to create a secure and positive environment for children and young adults during custody and after sentencing.

MAPPA

The public protection work that is undertaken with serious offenders and in particular sex offenders has never been more robust and we will work on establishing a facility where the responsible bodies and agencies can be collocated so that this work can be undertaken even more effectively.

PRISON

We will continue our three year implementation plan to increase the number of prison officers, particularly female officers. In our work on the agreement with Unite, we will work to fairly settle prison officers' claims.

FOURTH JUDGE

We will continue to provide funding for a fourth judge. We consider this is an important part of how Gibraltar remains an agile jurisdiction for dispute resolution for international investors and for residents of Gibraltar alike.

EQUALITY

Our Government's work on equality is unprecedented. We have transformed Gibraltar for the better in order to achieve a fairer and more inclusive Gibraltar as we deserve through our vision and ground breaking legislation and policies.

We are the party for equality.

LGBTQ+

There can be no doubt that we have been the pioneers of LGBTQ+ advancements while we have been in Government and we are truly proud of this. From our first landmark legislation in the form of the Civil Partnership Act in 2014, the subsequent amendment to Civil Marriage in 2016 and the passing of legislation on surrogacy as well as extending protection to members of the transgender community, we have proudly passed legislation as has been required.

EQUALITY LEGISLATION

The passing of legislation to enshrine these rights demonstrates our resolute and steadfast commitment to equal rights for everyone regardless of their sexual orientation or whether they have transitioned gender. Legislation alone is not enough and through our investment in education and awareness campaigns, the message of inclusion reaches further.

WORKING WITH NGOS

Our relationship with stakeholders and NGOs is excellent and will continue to work together to maximise our joint aim.

FIGHTING HOMOPHOBIA

There is no place in Gibraltar for homophobia or transphobia. We also send this message in powerfully visual ways as awareness is key.

PRIDE

We will continue to mark Pride by supporting the Pride march and events and by flying rainbow colours and other strong visual reminders to show that we are all of equal value and worth and because there is no room in Gibraltar for hate.

POLICY NOT PERSONALITY

Quite unlike in the GSD, our views on equality are not limited to one leader or individual. They are the policies of the parties that make up our alliance, whoever is the leader. Under the GSD, protection of equal rights is subject to the identity of the leader of the party, with some prominent voices in the party being well known to be deeply conservative and unsupportive of the progressive policies implemented by the GSLP Liberal Government.

DISABILITY

No party has progressed or advanced the rights of people with disabilities further in the history of Gibraltar than we

have.

Our investment in supporting people with disabilities is unparalleled. Our services have grown and are focused, and person centred.

We see the abilities of people with disabilities and we want to promote their independence, inclusion and wellbeing.

In 2016 we introduced the Disability Act, for the first time rights of people with disabilities were outlined in legislation outlining the responsibilities of the public sector in the provision of services.

LAW REVIEW

We will keep the law under review and also continue to provide training throughout the public sector so that all officials and departments are reminded of duty to be inclusive and promote the rights of people with disabilities in their areas.

DISABILITY CHAMPIONS

We will introduce disability champions throughout the public sector to ensure that departments take ownership of their responsibilities under the Disability Act.

UN CONVENTION EXTENSION SOUGHT

We have **already** sought the extension of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Gibraltar and we will continue to work with the UK while it reviews our existing request for the extension.

UPDATED BUILDING REGS

We have also introduced building regulations to ensure that all buildings that are constructed or modified are accessible. This will be further enhanced with the enactment of sections 13 and 14 of the Disability Act which will apply to all existing buildings. These are two sections of the Act that have not yet been commenced because of the inevitable delay caused by the pandemic but we are, of course committed to making them a reality and will seek to implement them, with all the advice and support required as soon as possible in the next term. The training has already been delivered to the public and private sectors in anticipation and self-assessment audits have already been prepared and this will support individuals greatly in making premises more inclusive.

GIBRALTAR, A FULLY ACCESSIBLE CITY

Our dream is for Gibraltar to be an accessible city and that people with disabilities be first and foremost in planning buildings, roads, streets and pavements. To ensure that this happens, the current arrangements will be enshrined in the Gibraltar Development Plan which will introduce an accessibility filter.

SUPPORTED LIVING

We have expanded the model of supported living in the community, and if re-elected we will take this to the next level with purpose built premises to provide accommodation

and support which will be bespoke to the needs in Gibraltar and entirely accessible.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

We established a supported employment and for the first time provided those who are part of it a proper salary. Recognising different abilities and promoting independence through employment, we want to further improve the supported employment programme with greater assessment of the individual and coordination with the employer and with greater support and input from the Ministry for Equality.

HEALTH SCREENING

We will introduce a health screening programme in the GHA which will be tailor made to Gibraltar but modelled on the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Programme.

DATA & THE DISABILITY REGISTER

Changes to this year's census means that we will have additional data on people who live in Gibraltar with a disability and this will mean that we can be better informed of needs. This will also inform the disability register which will be pivotal in the policy creation and decision making process.

THE DISABILITY INFORMATION CARD

We will continue the use of the Disability Information Card to assist those with a disability to communicate it discreetly and information campaigns on this will continue.

DISABILITY DEBENTURE

The Gibraltar Savings Bank will create a debenture that is specifically tailored to people with learning disabilities with a special interest rate

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

We enjoy fantastic working relationships with charities that provide services that positively make a difference. Special Olympics is a long standing organisation in Gibraltar which we will continue to support and we will also continue our partnership with the new charity Possibilities so that they can continue to work in partnership with the Government and complement existing services.

GHITA & BSL

The GSLP Liberals are committed to continuing to work with GHITA to bring unprecedented positive changes for the benefit of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community as well as the extended Disability family. We are delighted to commit to establishing a working committee dedicated to delivering further progress as suggested by GHITA in their wish list to the political parties. Additionally, we will make hearing aid batteries free of charge on the GHA, as is the case in the NHS in the UK.

ENHANCING POSSIBILITIES

If elected, the GSLP Liberals are committed to working with Possibilities on the expansion of their facilities, including the construction of additional dedicated facilities designed with the specific needs of its users in mind. The demand for facilities of this nature is increasing and we will do all it takes to ensure we provide all of our people with disabilities the support they need to live their best lives.

A PERSON CENTRED APPROACH

The cornerstone of succeeding in improving the lives of people with disabilities is a person centred, coordinated approach which is why continuing with our clear disability strategy is essential in the life planning of people with disabilities.

MORE TO DO

There will always be more work to do to support people with disabilities and we want to do more, we are resolute in our commitment to this.

EVERYONE DIFFERENT BUT EQUAL

We firmly believe in the principle that in Gibraltar everyone is different and everyone is equal.

A NEW ST BERNADETTE'S FACILITY

We will develop a new St Bernadette's facility which will have the capability to deal with increasing demand and will deliver a more modern and better resourced infrastructure for persons with disability after they are of school age.

DYSLEXIA

The GSLP Liberals recognise the Gibraltar Dyslexia Support Group's ('GDSG') dedication and their valuable input into shaping a more inclusive and supportive community. We are committed to continuing our work with GDSG to make meaningful improvements guided by their invaluable work.

MADE BY DYSLEXIA PLEDGE

The GSLP Liberals have endorsed and will continue to implement the 'Made by Dyslexia Pledge' that Fabian Picardo entered into as Chief Minister in September 2019. This pledge underscores our commitment to recognising dyslexia as a unique and valuable way of thinking. We will work diligently to ensure that dyslexics receive the support they need to harness their strengths and flourish.

PROMISE TO EMPOWER DYSLEXIC THINKING

Additionally, we pledge to empower dyslexic thinking by signing up for the Made By Dyslexia 'Promise to Empower Dyslexic Thinking,' which emphasizes the importance of embracing dyslexia as a different but equally valuable approach to problem-solving and learning.

TEACHER AND LSA TRAINING

We are committed to providing substantial support for our

schools, ensuring that all teachers and Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) receive annual dyslexia training. We aim to offer opportunities for advanced training, ultimately having teachers and LSAs trained to BDA Level 4 and SENCOs to Level 5. Furthermore, we have plans to employ additional Educational Psychologists to enhance the educational experience for children with dyslexia.

A NEW INTRODUCTION TO DYSLEXIA PARENTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAMME

We will continue to support Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) to ensure that they have the necessary time and resources to fulfil their roles effectively. In response to the specific needs of children with dyslexia, we will explore the possibility of afternoon classes tailored to their requirements. Additionally, we plan to initiate an 'Introduction to Dyslexia for Parents & Children' programme, offering comprehensive mental, emotional, and physical support.

ENROLLING OUR SCHOOLS WITH THE BDA

We are committed to liaising with the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) to enrol at least two schools each year in the BDA Quality Mark program, with the ultimate goal of accrediting all schools as dyslexia friendly. This initiative will help raise awareness and understanding of dyslexia within our educational institutions.

CONTINUING TO WORK TOGETHER

The GSLP Liberals look forward to incorporating these

initiatives into our party manifesto, reflecting our unwavering commitment to creating a more inclusive, supportive, and dyslexia-friendly Gibraltar. We thank the Gibraltar Dyslexia Support Group for their dedication and welcome their continued guidance in our shared mission. Together, we will make a positive difference in the lives of those with dyslexia in our community.

GENDER EQUALITY

PARENTAL LEAVE

The GSLP Liberals are dedicated to supporting the well-being of Gibraltar's families. We recognise the importance of paternity leave in fostering stronger bonds between fathers and their new born children. In fact, as the world has progressed, in most nations the concept of maternity leave has been widely developed into a concept of parental leave. We will move legislation to allow parental leave to be shared equally between parents of a newborn as they see fit. We will also introduce provisions for parental bereavement leave for the sad circumstances where a parent suffers the loss of a child. Our manifesto pledge reflects our commitment to modernising family support policies, ensuring that all parents have the opportunity to be present during those crucial early moments in their child's life. We believe in creating a more equitable and compassionate society, where family values are at the forefront of our policies. Together, we will empower families and strengthen our community.

Expansion of Possabilities facilities



Getting the job **done**

This manifesto does not contain every commitment we have made in press releases and direct communications with organisations, and to which we remain committed, as space does not allow us to include everything. Wish lists from associations etc. are being answered directly in writing and those responses are binding on the parties also.

All developments illustrated in this Manifesto are Artist's impressions and all will be subject to open and transparent tendering procedures and final geo-technical surveys.

An interactive version of this manifesto is available on the following websites:

www.gslp.gi

www.liberal.gi

www.keepgibraltarsafe.gi

On those websites you will also find the spoken word version of this document for the visually impaired.

Our Electoral Broadcasts are also available there with sub-titles for the hearing impaired.

ALL technical designs and architects drawings (which are not already in the public domain, free from copyright) included in this manifesto are plans in the public domain or already published by the Government (which the GSD could also have adopted as their own) or have been paid for and are the property of the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party and the Liberal Party or are the property of third parties who have specifically authorised us to use them. Unlike the GSD in 2011, we are not including here any designs which are the property of the Government of Gibraltar.

We could not be prouder that this manifesto has been designed and printed in Gibraltar by Gibraltarian talent and printers.

Thank you to all of you who have been involved!

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**VO
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**GSLP
LIBS**

Experience, Continuity
& Change



Vote all 10 candidates

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Fabian Picardo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Joseph Garcia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Joe Bossano | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nigel Feetham | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Gemma Arias-Vasquez | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Vijay Daryanani | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| John Cortes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Patricia Orfila | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Leslie Bruzon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Christian Santos | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Keep
Gibraltar safe**

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