

Council of Ministers

(38th Meeting)

5th September 2023

**Part A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy P.F.C. Ozouf of St. Saviour, Minister for External Relations, Deputy H.M. Miles of St. Brelade, Minister for Home Affairs and Deputy M.E. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Social Security, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister  
Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development

Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture (for items A3-A5 and B1-B5 only)

Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North, Minister for Children and Education  
Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for Treasury and Resources

Deputy D.J. Warr of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing and Communities (for items A2-A5 and B1-B5 only)

Deputy J. Renouf of St. Brelade, Minister for the Environment (for items A1-A2 and B1 only)

Deputy H.L. Jeune of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Assistant Minister for Home Affairs (in lieu of the Minister)

Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Infrastructure

Deputy M.R. Ferey of St. Saviour, Assistant Minister for Social Security (in lieu of the Minister)

Deputy K.M. Wilson of St. Clement, Minister for Health and Social Services

In attendance -

Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, representative of the Comité des Connétables (not in attendance for item B3)

Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Assistant Chief Minister

Deputy L.K.F. Stephenson of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Assistant Chief Minister

Dr. A. McLaughlin, Interim Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey

W. Millow, Deputy Greffier of the States (for items A3, part of B3 and B4-B5 only)

R. Bell, Treasurer of the States (for items A5 and B3 only)

A. Scate, Chief Officer, Infrastructure and Environment Department (for items A3, B2-B3 and B5 only)

R. Summersgill, Comptroller of Revenue, Treasury and Exchequer (for items A3 and B5 only)

D. Woodside, Senior Legal Adviser, Law Officers' Department

Dr. M. Mathias, MBE, Director of Delivery and Improvement, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items B2-B3 only)

A. Hacquoil, Group Director, Strategic Finance, Treasury and Exchequer (for items A5 and B2-B3 only)

Dr. L. Magris, Group Director, Strategy and Innovation, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A4 and B1 only)  
T. Holvey, Chief Economic Adviser, Department for the Economy (for items A2, A4 and B1 only)  
S. Duhamel, Associate Director of Social Security, Population and Housing Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A3 and B5 only)  
A. Metcalfe, Associate Director, Strategic Planning and Accountability, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A5 and B2-B3 only)  
J. Norris, Policy Principal, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A2, A4 and B1 only)  
N. Wallis, Head of Financial Planning, Treasury and Exchequer (for items A5 and B3 only)  
N. Day, Head of Strategic Housing and Regeneration, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A1-A2, A4 and B1 only)  
S. Perez, Head of Office, Office of the Chief Executive (for items A5 and B3 only)  
J. Hardwick, Project Manager, New Healthcare Facilities (for items A5 and B3 only)  
C. Lucas, Team Manager, System Redesign and Commissioning, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department (for item B4 only)  
D. Bratch, Treasury and Exchequer (for items A5 and B3 only)  
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office  
K.L. Slack, Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Parts A and B.

Welcome to the new interim Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey.

A1. The Chief Minister, on behalf of the whole Council of Ministers, welcomed Dr. A. McLaughlin, the new interim Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey, to the meeting of the Council on his first day in post. The Chief Minister referenced his energy, drive and strategic leadership and indicated that the Council looked forward to working with him and accelerating the significant progress that Ministers had already made during their first year in office.

Dr. McLaughlin indicated that he was keen to work with Government and had participated in workshops with the Executive Leadership Team over the summer months, focussing on providing the optimum advice and support to Ministers, prioritising work and harnessing the effectiveness of the team. **He would be producing a 90 day plan and would work with Ministers to identify 5 sizeable achievements for delivery.**

Welcome and perspective from the Parish of St. Brelade.

A2. Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, accompanied by the *Procureurs du Bien Public*, members of the Parish Roads Committee, the parking control officer and administrative staff from the Parish Hall, welcomed the Ministers and thanked them for attending. The Connétable indicated that he was very well supported by the whole team in dealing with all matters that arose in the Parish, for which he was grateful. St. Brelade was a diverse Parish, which incorporated schools, a skate park, harbours and beaches.

Mindful that members of the Justice Select Committee were currently visiting the Island, the Connétable had researched the police register from around the time of World War II, which demonstrated that behaviour had changed a little, but not significantly. He cited a case of an individual, who had been fined for bathing naked at Belcroute Bay, noted that there had been instances of dangerous driving in the

Parish, as was currently also the case, and that furniture had been stolen during the war. He informed the Council that the Police substation was annexed to the Parish Hall and expressed gratitude to the community police officers, on whom the Parish was heavily reliant. The next *visite du branchage* was scheduled for 8th September, which had resulted in many Parishioners busily cutting back overhanging vegetation, as required under the provisions of the *Loi (1914) sur la Voirie*.

The Chief Minister thanked the Connétable and his team for meeting with the Council. She referenced the vital engagement that they had with the community and the important work done to unite Islanders.

Forthcoming  
business.

A3. The Council of Ministers briefly discussed items of public business which were scheduled to be debated at the meeting of the States Assembly that was due to commence on 13th September 2023 and decided to reconvene on 7th September 2023 in order to consider them further.

Assisted Home  
Ownership  
Scheme.

A4. The Council of Ministers, with reference to Minute No. B1 of its meeting of 11th July 2023, recalled that it had been agreed that Deputy D.J. Warr of St. Helier Central, Minister for Housing and Communities, would identify possible options to increase the rate of home ownership through a new scheme backed by an initial investment of £10 million, as had been referenced in his Ministerial Plan.

It was further recalled that the Minister for Housing and Communities had established a Ministerial Steering Group in July 2023 comprising himself and the Ministers for the Environment, Treasury and Resources and Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture, to evaluate a long list of 19 options to invest the aforementioned £10 million, which had been allocated in the Government Plan, to make housing more affordable for Islanders who were unable to purchase homes in the open market without financial assistance.

Having considered the various options, the Steering Group had concluded that the preferred option was an open market shared equity scheme, which could assist between 30 and 60 households by providing between 5 and 40 per cent of the purchase price of the property. This scheme was favoured over others because it would address both the deposit and mortgage repayment cost pressures facing purchasers and the loan would not be repayable until the point of sale. It was hoped to announce the scheme during the week commencing 25th September 2023.

Purchasers would be required to find a deposit of 5 per cent, Government would loan between 5 and 40 per cent and the remaining acquisition monies would be funded through a mortgage. When the property was sold, the Government would take a share of the capital gains or losses.

Ministers were informed that, as returns from the scheme were received, they would be reinvested and it was hoped by the Minister for Housing and Communities that the scheme could continue in perpetuity.

The Council noted and supported the position and thanked officers for the presentation.

Draft  
Government  
Plan 2024-  
2027.

A5. The Council of Ministers was reminded that the 2023 Government Plan had included £51.5 million for the new healthcare facilities ('NHF'), of which £38 million had related to work on the Our Hospital project. The £51.5 million included the acquisition of land at Kensington Place and completion of facilities at Les Quennevais.

Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Infrastructure, reminded the Council

that he had undertaken to keep Islanders apprised of the total cost of the NHF in order to retain their trust and had reached an agreement with officers from Treasury and Exchequer that the Plan would include figures for the relevant period and indicative costs for the whole project (noted to be no more than £710 million).

The Treasurer of the States confirmed that the total anticipated cost of the NHF would be included in the narrative. It was agreed to proceed on this basis.