

Council of Ministers

(16th Meeting)

15th November 2022

Part A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present

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 (for part of items A4 and B1 and items B2-B5 only)
 Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture
 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 (not present for part of item B5)
 Deputy P.F.C. Ozouf of St. Saviour, Minister for External Relations and Financial Services
 Deputy D.J. Warr of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing and Communities (not present for part of item B5)
 Deputy H.M. Miles of St. Brelade, Minister for Home Affairs
 Deputy J. Renouf of St. Brelade, Minister for the Environment
 Deputy M.E. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Social Security
 Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Infrastructure
 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 part of item B5)
 Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Assistant Chief Minister (for items A1-A4 and B1-B4 only)
 Deputy L.K.F. Stephenson of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture
 M.H. Temple, K.C., H.M. Attorney General
 L.-M. Hart, Greffier of the States
 S. Wylie, OBE, Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey
 R. Bell, Treasurer of the States (for part of items A4 and B1 and items B2-B5 only)
 T. Walker, Director General, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department
 I. Burns, Director General, Customer and Local Services Department (for item B2 only)
 R. Summersgill, Comptroller, Treasury and Exchequer
 C. O'Brien, Deputy Comptroller of Revenue Jersey (for item B5 only)
 Dr. M. Mathias, Director of Delivery and Improvement, Delivery Unit, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for item B2 only)
 K. Nutt, Group Director, External Relations Department (for item B3 only)
 A. Hacquoil, Group Director, Strategic Finance, Treasury and Exchequer (for item B4 only)

H. Cunningham, Group Director – Finance Business Partnering and Analytics, Treasury and Exchequer (for item B4 only)
T. Le Feuvre, Director, Global Markets and International Agreements, External Relations Department (for item B5 only)
J. Coder, Deputy Director, International Tax Policy, Treasury and Exchequer (for item B5 only)
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office
J. Spybey, Head of Business Support, Human Resources (for item B2 only)
K.L. Slack, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

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

Minutes. A1. The Council of Ministers noted that there were no Minutes for approval at the current meeting, but the Chief Minister, Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, reiterated that she was content with the inclusion of more information on the Part A Minutes and their being published on the gov.je website once they had been approved by the Council.

Meetings of the Council of Ministers to be held in the Parishes. A2. The Council of Ministers recalled that it had been suggested that it should hold meetings in the Parish Halls, but there had been some technical issues relating to the quality of the sound. It was noted that the Connétable of St. Clement was keen that the first formal meeting should take place in his Parish Hall.

Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, who was welcomed to the meeting as the representative of the Comité des Connétables, informed the Council that the Comité had met on 14th November 2022 and some technical difficulties had been experienced in the Town Hall. As a consequence, it was hoped that the Parishes could work in tandem with officers from the Modernisation and Digital Department to improve the audio output from such meetings.

Declarations of interest. A3. It was noted that there were no declarations of interest made in relation to any items on the Agenda for the current meeting.

Forthcoming business. A4. The Council of Ministers discussed the following items of public business, which were scheduled to be debated by the States Assembly at the meeting that was due to commence on 22nd November 2022 –

Draft Children and Young People (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 202- (P.96/2022)
The Council recalled that it had discussed this Proposition at its meeting on 8th November 2022 and that it had the effect of rectifying a drafting error in the wording of paragraph (4) of Article 5 (arrangements to safeguard the welfare of children and young people) of the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022 and was supported by the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel;

Common Strategic Policy: Amendment (P.98/2022 (Amd.))
The Council recalled that it had discussed this Amendment of Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier at its meeting on 8th November 2022 and had decided to lodge an Amendment thereto, most notably by slightly modifying the wording around safe routes for walkers and cyclists. This Amendment had been sent to the Connétable for his comment;

Common Strategic Policy: Second Amendment (P.98/2022 (Amd.)(2))
It was recalled that this Amendment to the Common Strategic Policy, which had been lodged ‘*au Greffe*’ by Deputy T.A. Coles of St. Helier South, sought to replace the word ‘customer’ on page 8 of the Policy with the word ‘people’, to clarify that

the Government's approach to Islanders should be 'people focused' rather than 'customer focused'. The Council was not supportive of this proposal, on the basis that changes to the values should be consulted upon with staff and a Comment to that effect would be prepared;

Common Strategic Policy: Fourth Amendment (P.98/2022 (Amd.)(4))

It was noted that this Amendment to the Common Strategic Policy, which had been lodged by Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, asked Members to approve the inclusion of additional wording relating to Future Jersey measures. The Council was minded to accept the Amendment and Comments to this effect would be prepared;

Common Strategic Policy: Fifth Amendment (P.98/2022 (Amd.)(5))

The Council signified its intention to lodge an Amendment to the Fifth Amendment, which had been lodged 'au Greffe' by Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, by removing the specific references proposed and instead including a commitment to supporting the Island's financial sector to become a leading sustainable finance centre;

Common Strategic Policy: Sixth Amendment (P.98/2022 (Amd.)(6))

Ministers recalled that they had approved an Amendment to the Sixth Amendment to the Common Strategic Policy, which had been lodged by Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, which replaced all of the Amendment – with the exception of the words 'Jersey has a housing crisis' – with 'We will do this through coordinated and sustained action that [tackled] the cost of living and housing crisis, in line with clear commitments made in the Council of Ministers' Ministerial Plans and responding effectively to the changing economic environment'; and

Common Strategic Policy: Seventh Amendment (P.98/2022 (Amd.)(7))

The Council of Ministers agreed to lodge an Amendment to the Seventh Amendment of Deputy Feltham, which clarified that the Government was already working towards making buildings and facilities that were under its purview more accessible. It was noted that there were wider issues, which extended beyond physical accessibility of buildings and related, as an example, to the ability of people to understand and receive support in a language that they could comprehend. Whilst Government documents were generally published in Polish and Portuguese for example and there were native speakers working in the Customer and Local Services Department, there were 64 different languages spoken in the Island and some people did not feel able to request a translation. On a separate note, Mr. R. Summersgill, Comptroller, Treasury and Exchequer, indicated that there had been some opposition from older taxpayers to the move to increasingly digitalise the tax system. As a consequence, a tax community helpdesk had been piloted, which was very popular as there was real demand for face-to-face discussions and an event had been held at St. Clement's Parish Hall, which had been attended by over 100 individuals