

Council of Ministers

(32nd Meeting)

16th May 2023**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
 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
 Deputy P.F.C. Ozouf of St. Saviour, Minister for External Relations and Financial Services (for part of item B4 only)
 Deputy D.J. Warr of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing and Communities
 Deputy H.M. Miles of St. Brelade, Minister for Home Affairs (not present for items A1 and A2)
 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 (not present for item A1)

In attendance -

Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Assistant Chief Minister (for items A1, A2, part of A3, B1 and B2 only)
 Connétable R.D. Johnson of St. Mary (for item A1 only)
 Deputy A.F. Curtis of St. Clement, Assistant Chief Minister (for items A1, A2 and B1 only)
 M.H. Temple, K.C., H.M. Attorney General
 S. Wylie, OBE, Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey
 R. Corrigan, Chief Officer, Economy Department (for item B1 only)
 Dr. L. Magris, Acting Group Director Strategy and Innovation, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for item B1 only)
 T. Moretta, Chief Executive Officer, Digital Jersey (for item B1 only)
 A. Taylor, Chief Operating Officer, Digital Jersey (for item B1 only)
 M. Smurtz, Head of Strategy, Digital Jersey (for item B1 only)
 R. Johnson, Associate Director, Health Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A3 and B2 only)
 R. Summersgill, Comptroller, Treasury and Exchequer Department (for item B3 only)
 F. Fraser, Deputy Director, Domestic Tax Policy, Treasury and Exchequer Department (for item B3 only)
 T. Querée, Senior Specialist Tax Officer, Treasury and Exchequer Department (for item B3 only)

A. de Bourcier, Head of Environmental and Consumer Protection, Infrastructure and Environment Department (for item B4 only)
M. White, Head of Strategic Communications, Office of the Chief Executive (for a time)
D. Danino-Forsyth, Director of Communications, Office of the Chief Executive (for a time)
A. Moore, Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister for Treasury and Resources (for a time)
B. Sandeman, Senior Policy Officer, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for a time)
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office (for a time)
L. Plumley, Specialist Secretariat Officer, States Greffe
L. Lister, Specialist Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

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

Welcome and perspective from the Parish of St. Mary.

A1. Connétable R.D. Johnson of St. Mary welcomed members of the Council of Ministers to St. Mary's Parish Hall and thanked them for attending.

He advised that, upon joining the States Assembly, one of his major concerns had been the impact of development on the countryside and he indicated that the focus on prioritising additional housing in St. Helier had allayed this. In advocating for the preservation of Jersey's natural environment, he was mindful of the benefits that the countryside brought to residents of both Town and country Parishes. There was a lack of provision for parishioners to downsize their homes as they became older, which, combined with low population density and the demographics within St. Mary, had led to various challenges, including financial pressures and difficulties in recruiting to honorary and voluntary positions. Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister, noted that the Parish had recently hosted a successful event for the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly ('BIPA'), and BIPA intended to examine the impact of aging populations and how long-term care could be delivered in the future, a topic with which Jersey was well placed to assist.

The Parish Community Centre ('the Centre') was a well-used facility which was intended to be self-financing, however, rising costs as a result of inflation and increasing regulatory requirements had led to the Parish being approached for financial assistance. Deputy Johnson advised that consideration was being given to various options including running the Centre on a more commercial basis. Notwithstanding this, he advised that financial support might be required to ensure its long-term sustainability. Turning to parishioners' concerns, he noted that following the introduction of 20 mile per hour speed limit zones in St. Mary, the situation with regard to speeding had improved and discussions were being held with neighbouring parishes in connexion with extending the zones and proposed new 'Green Lane' applications. A degree of electoral disenfranchisement had been evident during the 2022 elections, following the removal of the Island wide Senatorial mandate and the change to electoral constituencies, which had resulted in St. Mary being merged with the parishes of St. Ouen and St. Peter for electoral purposes. In common with other parishes, a significant increase in the cost of refuse collection had been noted and Ministers commented on the importance of the Comité des Connétables adopting a unified approach in relation to matters such as this, where the potential existed for economies of scale.

The Chief Minister thanked Connétable Johnson for attending and he retired from the meeting.

Declarations of

A2. The following members of the Council of Ministers declared an interest in

interest. their capacity as landlords, in connexion with item B4 –

- Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister
- Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for Treasury and Resources
- 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 T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Infrastructure
- Deputy D.J. Warr of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing and Communities
- Deputy A.F. Curtis of St. Clement, Assistant Chief Minister
- Deputy P.F.C. Ozouf of St. Saviour, Minister for External Relations

Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development also declared an interest to the extent that she was the reversionary owner of a property and fields.

Forthcoming business.

A3. 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 23rd May 2023 –

Health and Community Services Interim Board (P.19/2023)

The Council of Ministers welcomed Ms. R. Johnson, Associate Director, Health Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department, in connexion with this Proposition, which had been lodged by the Minister for Health and Social Services, proposing the establishment of an interim and non-statutory Health and Community Services Board in order to improve oversight and governance of the Health and Community Services Department. Proposed terms of reference were included in accordance with P.170/2010 ('Shadow Boards and Ministerial Boards: approval by the States'). It was recalled that the Minister had signalled her intention to establish such a Board as part of her response to the review undertaken by Professor H. Mascie-Taylor into the clinical governance arrangements in secondary care. The Council noted that consultation with the Privileges and Procedures Committee, Public Accounts Committee and Scrutiny had been undertaken.

The proposed interim Board would comprise an independent Chair, up to 5 independent non-executive directors with the requisite skills and up to 5 executives from the Health and Community Services Department. It would provide strategic leadership to the Department by overseeing, directing and scrutinising it in the areas set out in the accompanying report.

The Council noted that Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central had lodged an Amendment to P.19/2023 to reduce the initial appointment of the interim Board to 18 months in order to reduce the potential risks or costs in the event that the structure of the Board was deemed unfit for purpose or did not achieve its stated aims.

Draft Probate (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 202- (P.16/2023)

The Council noted that this draft Law, which had been lodged by the Chief Minister, would, if adopted, make changes to the Probate (Jersey) Law 1998 and introduce new arrangements with regard to the management of a deceased person's personal property in Jersey under certain conditions and only where the total value thereof did not exceed the sum of £30,000. The draft Law would not remove the general requirement for the person(s) managing the estate of a deceased person to apply for and receive a grant of probate (where a valid will existed) or administration (where there was no will), but would provide exceptions to enable a person holding the personal property – such as banks or care providers – to pass it to another person

who did not have a grant in place. It was noted that the draft Law had been prepared to address concerns over the proportionate and timely handling of relatively low value personal property and would, for example, enable a bank to release the monies of a deceased person to a family member to meet funeral expenses.

The Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel had presented Comments on the Proposition following a briefing, signalling its full support therefor.

The Council of Ministers indicated its support for the draft Law.