

Council of Ministers

(4th Meeting)

12th March 2024

Part A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy E.M. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Treasury and Resources, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister
 Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families
 Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Minister for Infrastructure
 Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development
 Deputy S.G. Luce of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for the Environment
 Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Sustainable Economic Development
 Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs
 Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (for part of item B2 and items B3-B4 only)
 Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for External Relations (not present for part of item B2)
 Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing
 Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, Minister for Social Security
 Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services

In attendance -

Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier, Assistant Chief Minister
 Deputy M.R. Scott of St. Brelade, Assistant Chief Minister
 Deputy R.E. Binet of Grouville and St. Martin, Assistant Chief Minister
 Deputy B. Ward of St. Clement, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services
 M.H. Temple, K.C., H.M. Attorney General
 L.-M. Hart, Greffier of the States
 Dr. A. McLaughlin, Interim Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey
 T. Holvey, Chief Economic Adviser, Office of the Chief Executive (for items A4 and B3 only)
 P. Wylie, Group Director of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department
 G. Chidlow, Director - Finance Hub, Treasury and Exchequer (for items A3 and B1 only)
 Dr. L. Magris, Director of Housing, Environment and Placemaking (for items A4 and B3 only)
 S. Skelton, Director of Strategy and Innovation, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A4 and B3 wind only)
 F. Walker, Head of Governance and Communities Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for item B2 only)
 B. Harvey, Head of Operations, Infrastructure and Environment (for items A3 and B1 only)

B. Markwell-Sales, Business and Governance Officer to the Council of Ministers, Cabinet Office
T. Mourant, Private Secretary to the Chief Minister
K.L. Slack, Senior Secretariat Officer, States Greffe
C. Fearn, Assistant Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

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

- Minutes. A1. The Minutes of the electronic mail meeting of 22nd February 2024 (Part A only), having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
- Declarations of interest. A2. No declarations of interest were received in connexion with any item that was due for discussion at the current meeting.
- Forthcoming business. A3. The Council discussed the following items of public business, which were scheduled to be debated by the States Assembly at the meeting on 19th March 2024 –
- Appointment of Non-Executive Directors and new Chair to the States of Jersey Development Company (P.95/2023)
Lodged by the Minister for Treasury and Resources. It was agreed that this Proposition should be deferred to the next meeting of the States Assembly on 17th April 2024;
- Cash payment at Government Sports facilities (P.10/2024)
With respect to this Proposition, which had been lodged ‘*au Greffe*’ by Deputy L.K.F. Stephenson of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, the Council was informed that a Comment was being prepared, which clarified that work was underway to facilitate the public being able to pay in cash at the Government-run sports facilities where this had previously been possible, namely Fort Regent, Springfield and Les Quennevais. It would also indicate, however, that certain payments that were made to the Government, such as income tax, could not be taken in cash. The Council noted that the Comment would be presented by Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Minister for Infrastructure; and
- Update of Higher Education Student Funding (P.12/2024)
Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, informed the Council that he had worked on an Amendment to this Proposition, the contents of which were noted. The Minister commended officers for their assistance in compiling the Amendment at speed.
- Offshore Wind. A4. The Council, with reference to Minute No. B2 of the meeting of 10th October 2023 of the Council, as previously constituted, welcomed Dr. L. Magris, Director of Housing, Environment and Placemaking, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department and received and noted a report, dated 12th March 2024, entitled ‘Offshore Wind’ and a related PowerPoint presentation prepared by her.
- It was recalled that the proposition entitled ‘Offshore Wind’ (P.82/2023) had been lodged by the Council, as previously constituted, to facilitate the in-principle consideration of an export scale development of offshore wind energy generation in the south west of Jersey’s territorial waters. Within the corresponding policy rationale, 2 intentions were to be confirmed, namely the location of the development (already established as an area of interest in 2 Bridging Island Plans), and the scale of the development up to approximately 1,000 megawatts. Outstanding policy issues would be fully explored and debated in subsequent phases of the project.

The Council recalled that a public consultation on offshore wind had run for 16 weeks from 10th November 2023 to 29th February 2024. Dr. Magris apprised the Council that a full thematic analysis of its results would shortly be completed and a subsequent report produced, and it was noted that 988 respondents had completed the 10 question survey. Throughout the consultation process, public meetings and drop-in sessions had been extended to every Parish and feedback had been received from key stakeholders including children and young people. Findings from an initial analysis of the consultation responses were presented and it was revealed that of the 959 respondents who had expressed their current opinion of the project, 71.8 per cent conveyed a positive sentiment, whilst 23.5 per cent exhibited a negative attitude and 4.7 per cent remained neutral.

Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Sustainable Economic Development, highlighted that similar results had arisen from public consultations on the same subject undertaken by the French Government. It was noted that the age demographics and the Parish of residence of the survey respondents aligned with the census population. Dr. Magris indicated that the top 3 causes of concern had been the impact on wildlife and the environment, the cost of the project and lack of trust in Government. She undertook to circulate the consultation report to States Members upon completion and recommended that the report be finalised and published by the Minister for the Environment in consultation with the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development. The Council agreed that the report should be published following a briefing for States Members in this connexion on 15th March 2024.

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