

Council of Ministers

(17th Meeting)

22nd November 2022Part A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development, Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for Treasury and Resources 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 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 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
 Deputy H.M. Miles of St. Brelade, Minister for Home Affairs
 Deputy J. Renouf of St. Brelade, Minister for the Environment
 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 -

Deputy A.F. Curtis of St. Clement, Assistant Chief Minister
 A. Hacquoil, Group Director, Strategic Finance, Treasury and Exchequer
 P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only and were compiled by the Clerk to the Council of Ministers based on information provided by the Head of Ministerial Office.

Government
 Plan 2023-
 2026.

A1. The Council of Ministers, with reference to Minute No. A2 of its meeting of 18th October 2022, recalled that it had approved the Government Plan 2023-2026 ('the Plan') and had lodged it '*au Greffe*' on 4th October 2022, for debate by the States Assembly during the week commencing 12th December 2022 (P.97/2022 referred).

Ministers discussed a number of Amendments that they wished to make to the Plan and the progress that had been made thereon. It was recalled that the Council had already lodged the 9th and 10th Amendments to the Plan, which related, respectively, to joint working with Guernsey to improve value for money through collaboration and the disaggregation of certain heads of expenditure to improve transparency.

An Amendment to remove the head of expenditure for 'Our Hospital' for 2022 onwards and replace it with 'new healthcare facilities' including the acquisition of Kensington Place and development at the former Les Quennevais School was in preparation and would be circulated to the Ministers for Treasury and Resources,

Infrastructure and Health and Social Services for formal approval before lodging. An Amendment relating to the use of Gas Place for a new primary school and the securing of other sites at the current Springfield School and Le Bas Centre, to be transformed into new community open spaces, had been drafted and had been circulated to the Chief Minister and Ministers for Infrastructure and Children and Education for approval.

Ministers were informed that drafting was underway in relation to the following Amendments –

- a non-legislative exemption from the higher rate of stamp duty on properties that were not the main residence where the dwelling was intended for occupation as a principal residence by a family member in certain circumstances, such as marital breakdown or incapacity;
- the correction of a forecasting error with respect to the likely quantum of revenue that would arise in 2023 from increasing stamp duties on second homes to increase it by *circa* £3 million; and
- the creation of a new ‘rent-a-room’ tax relief for homeowners who let out a furnished room in their home.

The Council discussed whether property developers, who purchased and developed residential property for resale, should be exempted from the higher rate of stamp duty but was divided in its views and ultimately resolved that the decision should be taken by the Minister for Treasury and Resources.