

Council of Ministers

(21st Meeting)

24th January 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 (not present for item B6)
 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 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 A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier (for items A1 and B1 only)
 Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, Representative of the Comité des Connétables (not present for part of items A3 and 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
 Deputy H.L. Jeune of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Assistant Minister for the Environment (for items A3 and B3 only)
 M.H. Temple, K.C., H.M. Attorney General
 S. Wylie, OBE, Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey
 A. Scate, Chief Officer, Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Department (for items B5 and B6 only)
 Professor P. Bradley, Director of Public Health, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for item B6 only)
 G. Norman, Deputy Director of Public Health, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for item B6 only)
 A. Sugden, Chief Executive Officer, Parish of St. Brelade (for items A1 and B1 only)
 S. Duhamel, Director, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A3 and B3 only)
 Dr. M. Mathias, Director of Delivery and Improvement, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A4 and B4 only)

M. Moffat, Policy Principal, Children’s Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for item B5 only)
L. Jones, Senior Policy Officer, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A3 and B3 only)
R. Buchholz, Head of Property Strategy, Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Department (for item B5 only)
T. du Feu, Head of Land Resource Management, Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Department (for item B6 only)
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office
K.L. Slack, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

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

Welcome and perspective from the Parish of St. Helier.

A1. Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier welcomed members of the Council of Ministers to the meeting in Le Capelain Room at the Town Hall and thanked them for attending. He referenced the recent events that had occurred at Haut du Mont and Grands Vaux and expressed his gratitude to the emergency services and agencies for the assistance provided to the Parish in connexion therewith. He acknowledged the role played by the honorary police, volunteers and representatives from Andium Homes.

The Connétable referenced the Town Crier, which was currently included as an insert within the *Jersey Evening Post* and was the only Parish magazine to be published on a monthly basis. Noting that not all Parishioners purchased the newspaper, consideration had been given to producing the Town Crier on a quarterly basis, as a magazine and to have a monthly ‘Our Town’ insert within the *Post*, which the Connétable hoped could increase over time to weekly.

Minutes.

A2. The Minutes of the meetings of 18th October (Parts A and B), 31st October (Parts A and B), 8th November (Parts A and B) and 15th November 2022 (Parts A and B), having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed, subject to the correction of some minor errors.

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 7th February 2023 –

Skills Development Fund (P.116/2022)

The Council noted that this Proposition, which had been lodged by Deputy M.B. Andrews of St. Helier North, sought the creation of a new Skills Development Fund, to invest in the training of Islanders to meet the skills gap and address the need for workers across the economy. It was mooted that this Fund should be administered by Skills Jersey. It further requested the Minister for Social Security to engage with stakeholders and furnish the States Assembly with the funding requirements for the Fund no later than the end of 2023, with the Minister for Treasury and Resources requested to create the same no later than January 2024.

The Council noted that the Minister for Children and Education, Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North, would be lodging an Amendment to the Proposition, for which Deputy Andrews had signalled his support and that Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture, would be lodging a separate Amendment in relation thereto. Ministers were reminded of the one week lodging period for any Amendments to a Proposition brought by a backbench member of the States which had a lodging period of 2, 3 or 4 weeks;

Establishment of a Climate Council (P.117/2022)

This Proposition, which had been lodged by Deputy J. Renouf of St. Brelade, the Minister for the Environment, proposed the establishment of a Climate Emergency Council for Jersey ('CEC'), in line with the Amendment of the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel to the Carbon Neutral Roadmap, which had been approved by the States Assembly on 29th April 2022 (P.74/2022 referred). The role of the CEC would be to report on Jersey's progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the Government of Jersey delivering the Carbon Neutral Roadmap climate change policy initiatives at the end of each term of Government, to provide accountability and continuity of ambition across successive States Assemblies.

The CEC would comprise 5 members, including a Chair, none of which would be Members of the States Assembly and, as a whole, would be required to have expertise in the areas of energy, economic, climate technology and income inequality and just transition issues;

Draft Social Security (Amendment of Law No.17) (Jersey) Regulations 202- (P.110/2022)

It was noted that this Proposition, which had been lodged by Deputy M.E. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Social Security, was directly linked to the Government Plan 2023-2026 (P.97/2022 referred). Subject to approval of the Government Plan, the Minister for Social Security proposed to stop the States' grant from the Consolidated Fund to the Social Security Fund for 2023, in line with the proposals in the Government Plan 2023-2026. These Regulations would give effect to that proposal;

Draft Sea Fisheries (TCA – Licensing of Fishing Boats) (Amendment of Law and Regulations) (No.2) (Jersey) Regulations 202- (P.116/2022)

The Council of Ministers recalled that the principles of these draft Regulations, which had been lodged by the Minister for the Environment, had been debated and approved by the States Assembly on 18th January 2023. They had subsequently been 'called in' by the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel. Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, as a member of that Panel, withdrew from the meeting during discussion of this item. It was noted that the Minister would be meeting with the members of the Scrutiny Panel on 25th January 2023;

Draft Public Holidays and Bank Holidays (Amendment – Coronation) (Jersey) Act (P.1/2023)

The Council of Ministers, with reference to Minute No. A6 of its meeting of 29th November 2022, recalled that it had signalled its support for an additional bank holiday on 8th May 2023 in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III, which would take place on Saturday 6th May. The Council accordingly noted the Proposition, which had been lodged by Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister and which would, if approved, provide for a public holiday on 8th May. This would ensure that the King's coronation was observed in the same manner across the British Isles, mindful that the United Kingdom Government had already announced plans for a bank holiday on the same day.

Cabinet Office
Delivery Unit:
2023 Plan.

A4. The Council of Ministers, with reference to Minute No. B4 of its meeting of 6th December 2022, recalled that a Cabinet Office was being established, which would comprise a Delivery Unit. The latter would function as a dedicated service to help progress the Council of Ministers' agenda and, in certain discrete areas, would work with Departments to 'unlock' change through skilled improvement and innovation employees. The Delivery Unit would also assist the Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey, to introduce a core improvement programme during 2023 to coordinate organisational improvement.

The Council accordingly received and noted 2 reports, both of which were entitled ‘Cabinet Office Delivery Unit 2023 Plan’, prepared by Dr. M. Mathias, Director of Delivery and Improvement, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department and dated 16th and 17th January 2023 respectively. Dr. Mathias was welcomed to the meeting.

It was noted that the cost of the Delivery Unit core team would be met from within the budget of the Cabinet Office and that it would comprise between 4 and 7 people involved in delivery projects at any one time. External expertise would be employed where required, in consultation with the relevant department, to identify the best funding source. Monthly meetings with the Chief Minister would be scheduled to assess progress against the overall Plan. This would help to identify any risks and enable work could be reprioritised as necessary.

The Council of Ministers recalled that work had commenced during Autumn 2022 on a number of projects to drive forward key ministerial priorities and those that were underway were noted to be as follows –

- improvements to the recruitment process, with particular focus on the areas of nursing, teachers and teaching assistants;
- an analysis of the current situation in Children’s Social Care to enable improvement;
- the provision of advice and support to the Future Places Ministerial Group;
- the establishment of a digital board;
- the establishment of a centrally managed service for key worker accommodation; and
- implementation of the Cabinet Office.

Having reviewed the Common Strategic Policy, Ministerial Plans, the Government risk register, received input from consultation with officers both within and without the Office of the Chief Executive and having considered *inter alia* the importance, urgency, capacity and ability to add value, potential areas of work for the Delivery Unit in 2023 had been identified. It was envisaged that the Delivery Unit would be functioning smoothly by the end of the second quarter of 2023.

It was confirmed that Ministers would receive regular updates and that the priorities for the Unit would be set by the Council of Ministers. The Council noted the position and thanked Dr. Mathias for attending.