

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(84th Meeting)

3rd September 2014**PART A**

All members were present.

Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister
 Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development
 Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs
 Senator F. du H. Le Gresley, M.B.E., Minister for Social Security
 Senator Sir P.M. Bailhache, Minister for External Relations
 Deputy R.C. Duhamel, Minister for Planning and Environment
 Deputy A.E. Pryke, Minister for Health and Social Services
 Deputy K.C. Lewis, Minister for Transport and Technical Services
 Deputy A.K.F. Green, M.B.E, Minister for Housing
 Deputy P.J.D. Ryan, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture

In attendance -

Senator P.F. Routier, M.B.E., Assistant to the Chief Minister
 Deputy E.J. Noel, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources (for a time)
 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier, Assistant Minister for Education, Sport and Culture (for a time)
 Deputy R.G. Bryans, Assistant Minister for Education, Sport and Culture (for a time)
 J.D. Richardson, Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 M.N. de la Haye, O.B.E., Greffier of the States
 T. J. Le Cocq, Q.C., H.M. Attorney General
 R. Bell, Interim Treasurer of the States (for items B1-B3)
 C. Haws, Head of Financial Planning, Treasury and Resources Department (for item B1)
 A. Rogers, Director of Treasury Operations, Treasury and Resources Department (for item B1)
 D. Peedle, Economic Adviser (for item 1)
 G.C. Powell, C.B.E., Adviser – International Affairs, Chief Minister’s Department (for item B4)
 J. Moynahan, Director of Financial Services, Chief Minister’s department (for item B4)
 S. Austin-Vautier, Chief Officer, Home Affairs Department (for items A2 and A3)
 G. Hutchinson, Executive Officer, Community Safety and Criminal Justice, Home Affairs Department for items A2 and A3)
 J. Shilliday, Project Director – “Rediscovering Fort Regent” Project, Treasury and Resources Department (for item B5)
 R. Johnson, Assistant Director – Policy, Chief Minister’s Department
 S. Macnair, Assistant to the Chief Minister (for item A4)
 C. Keir, Communications Manager (for a time)
 S. Le Quesne, Communications Officer (for a time)
 P. Monamy, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

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

Minutes.

A1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2014 (Part A and Part B), having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

“Building a Safer Society” Strategy: Annual Report 2013.

A2. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A6 of 5th September 2013, discussed with the Chief Officer, Home Affairs Department, together with the Executive Officer, Community Safety and Criminal Justice, the “Building a Safer Society” (BaSS) Strategy Annual Report for 2013.

561/1(16)

It was noted that BaSS had 3 strategic priorities, each with its own key objectives, and that the strategy linked with the States Strategic Plan through the priority to: “Promote Family and Community Values.” The 3 strategic priorities were as follows –

- To create a safer environment by reducing crime, public disorder and anti-social behaviour;
- To provide people with opportunities to develop their potential as active and responsible members of society; and
- To reduce the harm caused by drugs, alcohol and solvents.

The Council noted the declining trend in recorded crime and the high level of “Perceptions of Safety in Neighbourhood” which had been ascertained through the Jersey Annual Social Survey 2012 (no questions about safety having been asked in the 2013 Survey). Other aspects of the BaSS Annual Report were noted and the Council agreed that the long-term investment into initiatives based on evidence of what worked together with effective partnerships with charities, communities and faith-based organisations had seen positive results.

The Council, having accordingly congratulated all those involved in the BaSS Strategy on the success of their joint efforts and indicated its approval of the proposal to present the Annual Report to the States, invited the Minister for Home Affairs to take the necessary action.

“Building a Safer Society” Strategy: Annual Report 2013.

A3. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A2 of this meeting, discussed with the Chief Officer, Home Affairs Department, together with the Executive Officer, Community Safety and Criminal Justice, a review of the “Building a Safer Society” (BaSS) Strategy, dated June 2014.

561/1(16)

It was recalled that the present Building a Safer Society community safety and substance misuse strategy had been designed specifically for the period 2010-2015. It was recognised that, since 1996, BaSS (and prior Community Safety and Substance Misuse strategies) had consistently been aligned with the States Strategic Plan and had successfully supported many initiatives, all of which had benefitted the community.

The Council noted that the review process had commenced with an independent evaluation, which had consulted 17 key partners, and had moved on to a workshop for stakeholders from voluntary, community, public and private sectors. The combined results from the interviews held and the workshop had highlighted what had worked, as well as the following areas for improvement –

- inclusion in departmental business plans;

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- more publicity for successes;
- feedback to initiatives;
- a separate drug strategy;
- information-sharing outside of the States; and
- more capacity for BaSS to influence change in culture.

The Council noted that consensus had been achieved in the main future challenges for the strategy, as follows -

- engaging communities and raising awareness;
- internet misuse;
- joined-up working around social policy issues;
- social exclusion and equality;
- misuse of drugs, especially new psychoactive substances (NPS);
- domestic abuse;
- mental health issues;
- ageing population;
- gaps in services; and
- funding.

It was recognised that the next stage in formulating strategy was to be the formation of a group of senior officers which would utilise the data available in order to develop a community safety strategy fit for the next 4 years.

The Council considered the desirability of dealing with the causes of crime and its prevention, rather than just the individuals involved and, whilst welcoming the reducing crime trends, asked for benchmarking information to be presented to it in due course in relation to the position in other jurisdictions.

Having reiterated its congratulations on the success of the joint working which was evident under the BaSS strategy, the Council invited the officers concerned to take the necessary action towards the formulation of the ongoing strategy.

States
Business.
1240/7/1(1)

A4. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A2 of 11th July 2014, noted the list of public business scheduled for consideration by the States Assembly on 9th September 2014 and subsequent meetings, and commented specifically on the following –

9th September 2014:

Committee of Inquiry: sale of Broad Street post office building (P.61/2014)

The Council recalled that it, and also the Minister for Treasury and Resources, had commented on the projet.

Draft Employment of States of Jersey Employees (Amendment No. 7) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.97/2014) and Amendments

The Council, having recalled that it had previously indicated its support of the draft Regulations, also agreed that it supported the 2 Amendments thereto.

Draft Criminal Justice (Compensation Orders) (Amendment No. 2) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.115/2014)

The Council supported the draft Amendment.

Draft Criminal Justice (Amendment No. 3) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.116/2014)

The Council supported the draft Amendment.

Milli's Contact Centre: funding (P.119/2014)

The Council, with the Assistant Director – Policy, Chief Minister’s Department in attendance, recognised the importance of services such as those provided by Milli’s Contact Centre, which enabled separated parents to have contact with their children, often in difficult and sensitive circumstances. The Council agreed to ask the Probation Board whether the Probation and After-Care Service might lead on working with Island-based contact service providers, including Milli’s. It was noted that Milli’s had confirmed that sufficient funding was available for the next 2 years, and so the Council agreed that it could not support part (a) of the proposition, as this was considered to be unnecessary. The Council, however, supported part (b) of the proposition to the extent that it would help to secure, in the longer term, a high-quality family contact service for Jersey, recognising that in negotiating and commissioning a service under a service level agreement, there could be no guarantee at the outset as to the service provider, or the quantum of service provided.

Kerbside Recycling: feasibility study (P.121/2014) and Amendment

The Council recalled that it had previously indicated its support of the Amendment of the Minister for Transport and Technical Services to extend the timescale envisaged for the production of a report to the States Assembly to the end of 2015, as it was believed that the necessary work to implement the study required could be incorporated into the Department’s 2015 plan. The Minister for Transport and Technical Services indicated his intention to discuss the matter with the Comité des Connétables in due course.

Survivor’s Benefit: repeal of 2012 changes (P.122/2014)

The Council noted that a comment on the projet would be forthcoming from the Minister for Social Security in due course.

Funding for Women’s Refuge (P.124/2014)

The Council, with the Assistant Director – Policy, Chief Minister’s Department in attendance, noted that services such as those provided by the Refuge were currently procured under a Service Level Agreement in order to ensure value for money for the States. The Minister for Health and Social Services undertook to present a comment to the States, and the Council agreed that it also would present a comment on the projet to the States in due course.

Springfield Stadium: maintaining amenity space (P.125/2014)

The Council noted from the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture that public access was currently granted to most areas of the Springfield Complex, with the exception of the all-weather playing surface.

Bedrocan BV: possession for treatment purposes – petition (P.126/2014)

The Council noted from the Minister for Health and Social Services that there was currently no definition or advice that would warrant the granting of a licence under “special purposes”, in this case. Further, even in the event that the granting of a licence were to be appropriate, the Minister could not prescribe or insist on the prescription of Bedrocan (which remained an unlicensed product in the UK), or any licensed or unlicensed drug, in a particular case as such a decision would always rest, rightly, with the medical professionals in whom responsibility was vested for clinical care and treatment because they had the knowledge and medical expertise to do so. The Minister for Health and Social Services undertook to present a comment to the States urging members to vote against both parts of the proposition.

Sativex: possession for treatment purposes – petition (P.127/2014)

The Council noted from the Minister for Health and Social Services that Sativex was a licensed cannaboid-based medicinal product which had been available to any

doctor to prescribe in Jersey since 2008, where there had been a clinical assessment that this would be an appropriate treatment for any individual patient. Consequently, there was no requirement for the Minister to issue an individual licence and whether the prescription of Sativex in this case was appropriate remained a decision solely for an appropriate consultant, based on clinical expertise. The Minister for Health and Social Services undertook to present a comment to the States urging members to vote against both parts of the proposition.

Cannabis: possession of cannabis for treatment purposes – petition (P.128/2014)

The Council noted from the Minister for Health and Social Services that the proposition sought the grant of an individual licence for possession of raw cannabis – a drug that was illegal, unlicensed, uncontrolled and unsupervised through any clinical oversight. The Minister indicated that without the ability to control its use, purity or dosage, the importation and use of cannabis, in its raw form, could never be endorsed. The Minister for Health and Social Services undertook to present a comment to the States urging members to vote against the proposition.

Draft States of Jersey (Amendment No. 7) Law 2014 (Appointed Day) Act 201- (P.131/2014)

The Council supported the draft Appointed Day Act.

Draft Amendment (No. 24) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey (P.132/2014)

The Council supported the draft Amendment.

Draft Amendment (No. 25) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey (P.133/2014)

The Council supported the draft Amendment.

Jersey Innovation Fund: Board remuneration (P.134/2014)

The Council supported the projet.

Draft Income Support (Special Payments) (Child Personal Care) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.135/2014)

The Council, having noted that the cost to the Social Security Department for 2015 and subsequent years arising from the proposal was estimated at £750,000, supported the draft Regulations.

Draft Income Support (Amendment No. 12) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.136/2014)

The Council supported the draft Amendment.

Draft Income Support (Special Payments) (Cold Weather Payments) (Amendment No. 2) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.137/2014)

The Council supported the draft Amendment.

Draft Public Elections (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.138/2014)

The Council supported the draft Amendment.

Draft Amendment (No. 26) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey (P.139/2014)

The Council supported the draft Amendment.

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States of Jersey Complaints Board: appointment of Deputy Chairman
(P.142/2014)

The Council supported the projet.

Social Security Tribunal: re-appointment of members (P.145/2014)

The Council supported the projet.

Deputy A.K.F.
Green:
reappointment
as Chairman of
Headway
UK – congrat-
ulations.
1240/9/1(159)

A5. The Council endorsed the sentiments expressed by the Chief Minister in congratulating Deputy Green on his recent reappointment as Chairman of Headway UK.