

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(11th Meeting)

22nd May 2009PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development, Senator T.J. Le Main, Minister for Housing, and Deputy I.J. Gorst, Minister for Social Security, from whom apologies had been received.

Senator T.A. Le Sueur, Chief Minister
 Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Senator F.E. Cohen, Minister for Planning and Environment
 Deputy A.E. Pryke, Minister for Health and Social Services
 Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs
 Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, Minister for Transport and Technical Services
 Deputy J.G. Reed, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture

In attendance -

W.D. Ogley, Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 M. Heald, Assistant Chief Executive
 J. Marshall, Strategic Planning Manager
 M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 P. Monamy, Acting Clerk to the Council of Ministers

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Draft States
 Strategic Plan
 2009 – 2014:
 amendments.
 1444/1(41)

A1. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. B5 of 7th May 2009, recalled that it had not identified a need to amend the draft States Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014 following consideration of consultation responses received.

The Council considered amendments to the draft States Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014, together with a series of draft comments and amendments intended to be presented either by the Council or by individual Ministers in response to the foregoing. The Council noted an outline of the process to be followed and recognised that some of the amendments involved a level of detail below the overall level of strategy upon which the draft States Strategic Plan was based. Consequently, some of the amendments were considered to be unnecessarily restrictive; however, it was agreed that a generally pragmatic approach would be adopted by the Council in its responses thereto. **The following courses of action were agreed -**

Amendment (lodged by Deputy R.G. Le Hérisier)

The Council accepted the amendments regarding Priority 9 - “Enhance support services to vulnerable children, families and others at risk” (although these were not considered to be ‘strategic’ matters); and rejected the amendment relating to a proposal for Priority 11 - “Enhance and improve health-care provision and promote a healthy lifestyle” to “Consider remodelling provision of primary care...”

2nd Amendment (lodged by Deputy S. Pitman)

The Council decided to reject the amendment relating to “Youth Service statutory status” at Priority 12 - “Maintain high quality education and skills”; and accepted the amendment of Priority 15 - “Protect our unique culture and identity” regarding the addition of a reference to “...ensuring that young people are taught about local history, culture and the workings of Jersey’s political system...” (although the last part of the amendment was not considered to be strategic).

3rd Amendment (lodged by Deputy T.M. Pitman)

The Council decided to reject the amendment which related to Priority 12 - “Maintain high quality education and skills”, as it inappropriately singled-out the finance industry.

4th Amendment (lodged by Deputy D.J. de Sousa)

The Council decided to accept the amendments regarding Priority 8 - “Increase social inclusion by encouraging and supporting people to help themselves.”

5th Amendment (lodged by the Deputy of St. Mary)

The Council decided to reject the amendments relating to the “Aim: Working together to meet the needs of our community”, “The priorities in detail” and Priority 4 - “Ensure sustainable Public Finances”; and to accept the amendments regarding Priority 11 - “Enhance and Improve health-care provision and promote a healthy lifestyle.”

6th Amendment (lodged by the Connétable of St. Helier)

The Council decided to accept the amendments regarding “Priorities” and the consequential changes to the headings of Priority 2 - “Maintain a strong, environmentally sustainable and diverse economy”, Priority 3 - “Reform the public services to improve efficiency” and Priority 15 - “Protect and enhance our unique culture and identity”, a proposed new Priority 16 - “Support the development of arts and heritage in Jersey”, and the amendment to Priority 7 - “Protect the public and keep our community safe”; and to reject the amendments relating to Priority 12 - “Maintain high quality education and skills”; and to reject the amendments relating to Priority 13 - “Protect and enhance our natural and built environment.”

7th Amendment (lodged by Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire)

The Council decided to accept the amendment regarding the addition to Priority 9 - “Enhance support services to vulnerable children, families and others at risk” of “Ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child”; and to reject the amendment to Priority 9 relating to the introduction of “a Children’s Commissioner for Jersey...”

8th Amendment (lodged by Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire)

The Council decided to accept the amendments regarding the “Aim: Working together to meet the needs of our community” and the addition to Priority 15 - “Protect and enhance our unique culture and identity” of bullet points relating “...to improve the public trust in government...” and “...Introduce time limits for the public release of government information...”; and to reject the amendments relating to Priority 9 - “Enhance support services to vulnerable children, families and others at risk.”

9th Amendment (lodged by Senator B.E. Shenton)

The Council decided to accept the amendment regarding Priority 2 - “Maintain a strong, environmentally sustainable and diverse economy.”

10th Amendment (lodged by Deputy M.R. Higgins)

The Council decided to reject the amendment relating to Priority 2 - "Maintain a strong, environmentally sustainable and diverse economy"; and to accept the amendment regarding Priority 4 - "Ensure sustainable Public Finances."

11th Amendment (lodged by Deputy G.P. Southern)

The Council decided to reject the amendments under "Priorities" relating to "...take concrete and measurable steps to actively promote the creation of a more equal society" and "Maintain the level and delivery of public services in an efficient and effective manner", the amendments relating to Priority 3 - "Reform the public service to reduce costs", the amendments relating to Priority 4 - "Ensure sustainable Public Finances", the amendments relating to Priority 5 - "Promote sustainable population levels" and the amendments relating to Priority 8 - "Increase social inclusion by encouraging and supporting people to help themselves"; and to accept the amendments under "Priorities" regarding the addition of "In the application of these priorities, due attention must be paid to the creation of greater equality" and the substitution of the heading "Limit population growth" at Priority 5, and the amendment in Priority 3 - "Reform the public service to reduce costs" regarding "value for money (VFM)."

The Council further decided to present to the States amendments to the amendments of -

- (a) - the Connétable of St. Helier regarding a new Priority 16 - "Support the development of arts and heritage in Jersey" so as to substitute revised text [Priority 15 - "Protect and enhance our unique culture and identity" was also to be amendment consequentially]; and**
- (b) - Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire regarding Priority 9 - "Enhance support services available to vulnerable children, families and others at risk" so as to substitute the word "Ratify" with the words "seek extension of the U.K. ratification of."**

The Strategic Planning Manager was requested to take the necessary action.