

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(12th Meeting)

28th May 2009**PART A**

All members were present, with the exception of Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development and Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs, from whom apologies had been received.

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

In attendance -

Deputy S. Power, Assistant Minister for Housing
 J. Richardson, Deputy Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 M. Heald, Assistant Chief Executive
 J. Marshall, Strategic Planning Manager
 M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 I. Clarkson, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

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

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

A1. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A1 of 22nd May 2009, gave further consideration to a series of draft comments intended to be presented by the Council in response to the series of amendments, lodged by individual States Members, to the Draft States Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014.

The Council noted that the 11th Amendment lodged 'au Greffe' by Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier had been lodged less than 2 weeks before the scheduled date for debate of the Draft Strategic Plan. On that basis the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey effectively precluded debate of the 11th Amendment prior to 4th June 2009. The Council, having acknowledged that full compliance with the Standing Orders was essential to ensure good order in the States Assembly, agreed that it would not be minded to support a motion to permit debate on the 11th Amendment prior to 4th June.

There followed a general discussion concerning the high level migration policy proposals highlighted in the Draft Strategic Plan. The Council acknowledged that both the States and the public regarded the maintenance of sustainable population levels as a key priority. In this regard, the Council noted that the Statistics Unit had compiled updated population data for publication on 29th May 2009 and that this

would show a rise in the resident population for 2008 of 900 persons (the estimated total population for 2008 being 91,800). Having recalled that it was due to give further consideration to the recommendations of the Migration Advisory Group at its next scheduled meeting on 11th June 2009, the Council considered that it would be well placed to assure the States Assembly during the Strategic Plan debate that enhanced control of population levels could be delivered successfully in the short to medium term. An early States decision on the high level migration policy proposals in the Draft Plan was considered very necessary to set the context for the Council's meeting on 11th June and for the ongoing review of the Island Plan 2002. In view of the foregoing the Council affirmed its opposition to the migration policy related amendments included within Amendment No. 11, as lodged by Deputy G.P. Southern.

The Council approved a series of comments to the various amendments lodged, having agreed a number of minor refinements to the text of several of the same. It further elected to revise its position in respect of certain of the amendments lodged, as outlined below.

1st Amendment (lodged by Deputy R.G. Le Hérisssier)

The Council concluded that it would be appropriate to accept part 3 of the amendment on the basis that suitable arrangements for primary care would be considered for inclusion within the forthcoming 'New Directions' health strategy.

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

On reflection, the Council concluded that it should not oppose the 4th Amendment because the wording proposed would not run counter to its primary objectives. It therefore delegated to the Chief Minister, in consultation with the Minister for Social Security, authority to approve a suitable comment to the 4th Amendment for presentation to the States.

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

The Council considered that the presentation of an annual update of creditable data concerning climate change and worldwide rates of oil extraction would be broadly beneficial to the States; accordingly it resolved to accept part 2 of the 5th Amendment. Having recalled that it had previously committed to the introduction of environmental taxes and spending initiatives, and that a related public consultation was ongoing, the Council also formed the view that it should accept part 3 of the Amendment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Council affirmed its reluctance to propose the introduction of additional new tax measures during the economic downturn. The Council delegated to the Chief Minister, in consultation with the Minister for Treasury and Resources, authority to approve a suitable comment to the 5th Amendment for presentation to the States.

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