

PM/SC/110

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(14th Meeting)

19th April 2012PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, from whom apologies were received.

Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister
 Deputy E.J. Noel, Assistant 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
 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, Assistant Chief Minister
 J. Richardson, Interim Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 Mrs. J. Marshall, Head of Strategic Policy
 C. Keir, Communications Manager
 P. Monamy, Acting Clerk to the Council of Ministers

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

Draft Strategic
 Plan 2012:
 Amendment of
 Health, Social
 Security and
 Housing
 Scrutiny Panel
 re. additional
 Priority
 ("Promoting
 Family and
 Community
 values").
 1444/1(61)

A1. The Council, with reference to its Minute Nos. B1 and B2 of 9th March 2012, considered a report dated 17th April 2012 prepared by the Head of Strategic Planning concerning the only proposed amendment to the Draft Strategic Plan 2012 (P.28/2012), namely that which had been lodged 'au Greffe; by the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel which sought the inclusion of an additional Priority – 'Promoting Family and Community values.'

It was noted that the proposed additional Priority covered policy areas which had been agreed in the previous strategic plan and were already being implemented and that, as such, they would not normally be considered in the same light as other priorities (i.e. for new action and focus by the Council). The Council recalled that, for example, "Children and Young People: A Strategic Framework for Jersey" had already been presented to the States and that a Ministerial group had been put in place to oversee its implementation. Additionally, work was also continuing on the actions required ahead of progressing a request to the United Kingdom on the Island's behalf to seek the extension to Jersey of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, notwithstanding that certain derogations from the obligations under the Conventions would be required.

The Council considered its options in this matter which included:

1. Accepting the amendment;

2. Opposing the amendment;
3. Attempting to persuade the Scrutiny Panel to withdraw its amendment on the basis of undertakings to carry out certain actions;
4. Lodging 'au Greffe' an amendment to the amendment, with scope to amend the wording slightly but not to go as far as removing the proposal to add a 7th priority; and
5. Lodging 'au Greffe' an amendment and seek to defer the debate for 2 weeks, whilst at the same time persuading the Scrutiny Panel to – preferably - withdraw its amendment (although it was possible for both amendments to be considered by the States).

The Council agreed that, given that it was already committed to implementing the key actions as 'business as usual', it would be difficult to oppose the amendment, even though it was not 'action-based.'

The Council concluded that, on balance, it would be prepared to accept the amendment and the Chief Minister, together with the Head of Strategic Policy, was authorised to finalise the wording of its comment to be presented to the States in due course.