

ESTABLISHMENT OF JERSEY'S CABINET OFFICE

In response to the commitment in the Chief Minister's vision statement that within 100 days of a new government a "Cabinet Office" will be created to coordinate the work of government and strengthen government decision-making¹, the Cabinet Office will be formed by bringing together the three existing departments led by the Chief Minister (Office of the Chief Executive; Chief Operating Office; Strategic Policy, Performance and Planning Department) into a single new department.

The Cabinet Office will be under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer and directly accountable to the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister will delegate responsibilities to her Assistant Ministers for different areas of the Cabinet Office in order to support a team approach, with Connétable Jehan, as a member of the States Employment Board with the Chief Minister, overseeing matters relating to human resources; Deputy Alex Curtis leading on digital and ICT functions; and Deputy Stephenson overseeing and providing strategic direction on the communications function.

In addition, the Minister for Housing will directly oversee the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Unit, ensuring the necessary close alignment with spatial planning, regeneration, public health and social policy.

The new Cabinet Office will:

- Support Ministers and Assistant Ministers in discharging their day-to-day duties to the Assembly and public.
- Support the development of coherent and strategic government-wide policy.
- Support the development and oversight of the Government Programme.
- Oversee and deliver corporate functions.
- Oversee engagement frameworks across the organisation.
- Ensure good governance and risk management.
- Promote and deliver government-wide communications.
- Coordinate and deliver cross-government priorities.
- Oversee government-wide improvements and reforms.
- Support clear and transparent relationships with the States Assembly, Scrutiny Liaison Committee, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel, Privileges and Procedures Committee and the Public Accounts Committee.

¹ [2022.07.05 Order Paper Selection of Chief Minister.pdf \(gov.je\)](#)

A single head of expenditure for the Cabinet Office will be proposed in the Government Plan 2023, with individual existing accountable officers remaining responsible for existing functions and budgets within the new department. In addition, the Chief Executive will designate the Treasurer² and the Director General for the Strategic Policy, Performance and Planning³ as Assistant Chief Executives, which will support a more integrated leadership approach for the public service. The Chief Executive will agree with the Chief Minister the specific delegated responsibilities that each Assistant Chief Executive will undertake. Reporting lines will remain as they are when the Cabinet Office is first established (including the direct reports to the Chief Executive) in the interests of the swift creation of the new department, and as part of a phased approach over the next 12 months. During this time, the Chief Executive Office will, in discussion with the Chief Minister, develop the roles, responsibilities, and organisation of the Cabinet Office to deliver an enhanced emphasis on delivery and improvement across the public service. This will include an enhanced function to drive forward delivery of Council of Ministers' priorities, in particular those projects that are cross-cutting and require a dedicated level of focus to get them ready to deliver. The Ministerial Office will also continue to operate in a direct and trusted relationship role with Ministers and Assistant Ministers, aiding them in their day-to-day requirements.

Many of the most intractable and complex issues that the Island is facing, and which this Government wishes to address, require departments to work in an integrated way across government, including to address housing shortages, cost of living pressures, climate change, and health and wellbeing improvements. These complex issues require cross cutting interventions and joined-up policy development, leadership and delivery frameworks. The establishment of the Cabinet Office will support the development of a more focused and coordinated approach to driving forward delivery of the Council of Ministers' shared priorities and overall improvements across the public service.

Financial and Staffing Implications

No additional funding or staffing resources are required as a consequence of the establishment of a Cabinet Office through merging and superseding the Office of the Chief Executive; Chief Operating Office; and Strategic Policy, Performance and Planning Departments.

² The existing legal responsibilities of the States Treasurer will continue in their present form following this decision, including any necessary separation of functions.

³ In respect of the Chief Minister's overall responsibility for the Policy, Planning and Performance function within the Cabinet Office, the Director General for Policy, Planning and Performance, would be directly accountable to the Chief Minister.