

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

15th November, 2016

Proposition No. P.2016/48

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy G A St Pier

Seconded by: Deputy L S Trott

Policy & Resources Committee

The Policy & Resource Plan – Phase One

To insert at the end of the words in Proposition 3:

“, but subject to pages 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Appendix 1 being modified as follows:

- a) on page 7, in the section entitled "OUR ECONOMY" under the sub-heading "Strong, sustainable and growing economy" in between sentences three and four, by the insertion of the following two sentences:

“A strong economy is essential to maintain high rates of employment, low rates of unemployment and a diverse range of well-remunerated jobs. Without a strong economy the States will not have the revenue necessary to pursue social welfare programmes or invest in vital public services and infrastructure.”,

- b) on page 8, in the section entitled "OUR ECONOMY" under the sub-heading "Sustainable public finances" and in between sentences two and three of the first paragraph, by the insertion of the following two sentences:

“Indeed in recent years States’ expenditure has fallen significantly in relation to the size of the Island’s economy. There is some scope for further efficiency savings, but it must be recognised that Guernsey already spends less per capita on public services and infrastructure than many comparable jurisdictions.”,

- c) also on page 8, under the sub-heading "Sustainable public finances" by the deletion of the second paragraph and substitution therefor of the following paragraph:

“As a matter of priority the budget of the States must be balanced and surpluses generated. The deficit cannot reasonably be eliminated nor reserves rebuilt by spending cuts alone or tax increases alone. The former would imperil vital public services and investment in essential infrastructure; the latter would be unfair and imprudent and may depress economic activity. Ideally, in the years ahead, economic growth will make at least some contribution to improving public finances, but it would be unwise to rely on ambitious levels of economic growth. As such the States will pursue a moderate, balanced, responsible approach which recognises the need to restrain public expenditure and raise additional revenue. Additional revenue will be raised as far as possible from individuals and entities most able to bear the burden. Restraining public expenditure will require the prudent management of financial resources, people and physical infrastructure. The States also need to rethink the delivery of some public services to ensure that they are financially sustainable and provided efficiently whilst meeting public need.”

- d) further on page 8 under the sub-heading “Sustainable public finances” -
- (i) at the end of the second bullet point, by the addition of the following wording:

“which will reflect the commitment of the States to encourage economic growth; restrain public expenditure by requiring further efficiency savings and the prudent management of financial resources, people and physical infrastructure; and raise additional revenue as far as possible from individuals and entities most able to bear the burden”, and
 - (ii) at the end of the third bullet point, by the addition of the following wording:

"without contravening any part of the States’ Fiscal Policy Framework".
- e) on page 11, in the section of Appendix 1 entitled "OUR COMMUNITY" -
- (i) by deleting :
 - (A) the sub-heading “Inclusive and equal community”, and
 - (B) all three paragraphs appearing after the sub-heading, and
 - (ii) by substituting therefor:
 - (A) the sub-heading: "One community: inclusive and committed to social justice", and
 - (B) the following paragraphs:

"The previous States made progress in this area, developing and approving strategies and plans that, when implemented, will see improvements in inclusion and social justice in our island. Whilst most people in Guernsey have a good standard of living and a high quality of life, this is not universal. There are some individuals who, for a variety of reasons, are not able to enjoy a standard of living or level of participation in society that would be deemed acceptable against independent measures of wellbeing.

We want to be an open, forward-looking people; to celebrate difference and diversity and freedom of expression; but to be one community bound by a commitment to inclusion and social justice.

We want our community to come together as a single unit: integrated and supportive of each other. A community where people look out for one another but also understand the importance of personal responsibility. Inclusion and equality of opportunity should exist from birth into adult life in areas such as education, the workplace and the community. Guernsey should be a place where no-one gets left behind.

We place equal emphasis on standard of living and quality of life. The previous States have agreed, most recently in 2016, that for a variety of reasons some individuals and families suffer from levels of financial deprivation and social exclusion which are wholly unacceptable in a generally prosperous society. We recognise that the success of a society is affected not just by how wealthy it is but also by the wellbeing of all its people.

We want to understand better the extent of relative poverty and income inequality in Guernsey and their effects on individuals, families and the prosperity and wellbeing of society generally."

- f) on page 12, by deletion of the first bullet point (where it appears at the top of that page) and by substitution of the following bullet point:

- "Prioritise, resource and implement social policy initiatives which were agreed by the 2012-16 States, including in relation to: disability and inclusion; supported living and ageing well; children and young people; mental health and wellbeing; and a social welfare system which unifies housing and income benefits and directs financial assistance to those in most need, as developed by the former Social Welfare Benefits Investigation Committee".

g) also on page 12, in the last bullet point (above the sub-heading “Lifelong learning”), by the deletion of the words “Promote and support access to sport and the arts” and substitution therefor of the words “Support, nurture and promote access to sports and the arts through the dynamic and efficient use of all resources available”,

h) further on page 12, under the sub-heading “Lifelong learning”, by the deletion of both paragraphs and substitution therefor of the following paragraph:

“The learning environment provided by the public and private sectors in Guernsey is excellent. However, continuous improvement is essential. Education has a unique power to unlock opportunity for every individual and to secure a future of economic prosperity and social inclusion for our Islands. We want every child to receive a first class education as a right and not a privilege. This should be reflected both in high levels of attainment in every school and in learners’ wellbeing and personal development. We want everyone in our community, recognising their diversity, to have the opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to be adaptable and resilient and to pursue happy, healthy and fulfilling lives, contributing to the success of our economy. We want people to have a lifelong enjoyment of learning, not just for the benefit of their work lives but also for their health and wellbeing. The quality and depth of education and lifelong learning will in part determine how successfully we are able to meet the complex challenges of the present and the future.”

i) on page 13, in the last bullet point under the part of the Plan entitled “Lifelong learning” by the deletion of the words “Improve digital and financial literacy across our community, for young” by substitution therefore of the words “Improve digital and financial literacy across our community, for young and old”,

j) also on page 13, in the fifth bullet point under the part of the Plan entitled “Centre of excellence and innovation”, by the deletion of the words “Remove barriers to business, keeping regulation appropriate, proportionate and at a minimum” and substitution therefor of the words “Remove barriers to business, keeping regulation appropriate and proportionate”,

k) on page 14, in the fifth bullet point under the part of the Plan entitled “Mature international identity” by the deletion of the words “Protect and promote our unique identity and rich heritage, including through our culture and arts” and substitution therefor of the words “Protect and promote our unique identity, language and rich heritage through our culture and arts”.