

**THE STATES OF DELIBERATION**  
**of the**  
**ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

25<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

**Proposition P.2019/40**

**AMENDMENT**

Proposed by: Deputy E A Yerby  
Seconded by: Deputy M J Fallaize

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**POLICY & RESOURCE PLAN – 2018 REVIEW AND 2019 UPDATE**

1. To delete Proposition 2(a)-(e) and to substitute therefor:

"2a. To delete Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees and to replace it with the following:

**"Policy & Resource Plan**

23.(1) Committees of the States must contribute to the formulation and, once agreed by the States, the application of the States' Policy & Resource Plan.

23.(2) The Policy & Resource Plan should be reasonably straightforward, flexible and un-bureaucratic. It should focus on significant policy matters and lay down a framework of overall policy assumptions in order to assist Principal Committees in the setting of their policies and priorities. The Policy & Resource Plan should be seen as a means of strengthening leadership, co-ordination and accountability and not as an end in itself.

23.(3) The Policy & Resource Plan shall be formulated according to the following timetable from 2020 and in every States' term thereafter:

(a) When setting the schedule for future States Meetings, the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee shall include a Special Meeting not more than **3 months prior to the General Election**, the sole business at which shall be to consider an 'End of Term' policy letter as described in sub-paragraphs (b) and (c).

(b) In the final year of the States' term, all Committees (which includes Authorities, Boards and other States' bodies) shall produce a handover document to apprise their successors of what are considered to be the main policy and operational challenges facing

the Committee in the next term. This may include policy issues and extant Resolutions which the Committee either did not complete or could not prioritise during the term, but which they believe should be considered in the forthcoming term by their successor Committees. These reports must be transmitted to the Policy & Resources Committee in time to be published as appendices to its 'End of Term' policy letter;

- (c) At the Special Meeting convened in accordance with Rule 23(3)(a), the Policy & Resources Committee shall lay an 'End of Term' policy letter including:
  - i. Its commentary on progress against the Policy & Resource Plan during this States term;
  - ii. Identification of States Resolutions which remain outstanding;
  - iii. A proposed order of priority for the drafting of significant items of legislation for the year ahead; and
  - iv. The handover reports transmitted to it under the preceding sub-paragraph.

**23.(4) Policy & Resource Plan Phase 1 (Overall Objectives):**

- (a) **In the first 4 months following the General Election** – the Policy & Resources Committee develops a statement of overall policy objectives for the long term (say, 20 years) and medium term (say, three to five years) in connection with issues of strategic importance to the Island, e.g. fiscal and economic affairs, social affairs, the environment, population and external relations, for recommendation to the States;
- (b) **No later than 6 months after the General Election** – the States debate the recommendations of the Policy & Resources Committee and make resolutions on their overall policy objectives.

**23.(5) Policy & Resource Plan Phase 2 (Committee Objectives):**

- (a) **6-12 months after the General Election** – each Committee (including Authorities, Boards and other States' bodies) develops a policy plan setting out its policies and priorities for the current States' term to contribute to the agreed States' objectives in Phase 1 of the Policy & Resource Plan, to fulfil its purpose and policy responsibilities which are set out in its mandate, and to address outstanding States Resolutions;
- (b) The Policy & Resources Committee develops a Medium Term Financial Plan for the States which sets out a fiscal plan covering the medium

term, designed to ensure the finances of the States can support the delivery of the outcomes set out in the Policy & Resource Plan and provide a framework for budget-setting over the period;

- (c) The Policy & Resources Committee also works with Committees to ensure that, so far as possible, their policy plans are co-ordinated and consistent with the States' objectives and with each other; any conflicts and areas where prioritisation is necessary are identified; and the Policy & Resources Committee facilitates cross-committee working where policy areas span more than one Principal Committee;
- (d) The Committee policy plans are submitted to the States by the Policy & Resources Committee, if necessary with Committees' differences of opinion highlighted in order for the States to resolve the points at issue, together with the Medium Term Financial Plan and appendices including the Prioritisation of Legislative Drafting and the Annual Report of the Chief Executive of the States, as Phase 2 of the Policy & Resource Plan;
- (e) **No later than 12 months after the General Election** – the States debate and make resolutions on Phase 2 of the Policy & Resource Plan;

**23.(6) Policy & Resource Plan – Annual Reporting:**

- (a) **Every 12 months thereafter (i.e. at the end of the second and third years of the States' term)** – the Policy & Resources Committee submits an update on the Policy & Resource Plan to the States, which shall include:
  - i. commentary on overall progress (including progress against outstanding States' resolutions) from the Policy & Resources Committee;
  - ii. annual performance reports from States' Committees (which must be submitted by all Principal Committees, and may be submitted by any other Committee of the States on their own initiative or at the request of the Policy & Resources Committee);
  - iii. any proposals to amend the objectives in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the Policy & Resource Plan, including the Medium Term Financial Plan, which are considered necessary;
  - iv. an update on progress and prioritization of Legislative Drafting for the year ahead; and
  - v. the Annual Report of the Chief Executive of the States.

- (b) **In the final year of the States' term**, Rule 23(3) applies.

**23.(7) Policy & Resource Plan – Submissions:**

- (a) The policy letters constituting Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Policy & Resource Plan, and the 'End of Term' report, shall not exceed 24 sides of A4 apiece in length;
- (b) The Committee submissions to Phase 2 of the Policy & Resource Plan shall not exceed 12 sides of A4 apiece in length;
- (c) The policy letters constituting the Policy & Resources Committee's summary of the annual update to the States in Years 2 and 3 of the term shall not exceed 12 sides of A4 apiece in length; and
- (d) The Committees' annual updates to the States in Years 2 and 3 of the term, and in the 'End of Term' report, shall not exceed 8 sides of A4 apiece in length."

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This amendment deletes the version of Rule 23 which was proposed by the Policy & Resources Committee (which is premised around the idea of Policy Supervisory Boards, which we do not support) and replaces it with one more similar to the original.

It carries forward the following positive changes proposed by P&R:

- Dates are removed, so the same cycle can be followed in every States' term;
- The Medium Term Financial Plan is integrated in Phase Two (see 23(5)(b));
- An 'end of term'/handover report is introduced (see 23(3)).

It also introduces a small number of other changes which we believe will be beneficial:

- All Committees will have the opportunity to contribute to the Plan, benefiting those policy-making Committees which are not Principal Committees and increasing States' visibility of their work (see 23(5)(a) and 23(6)(a)(ii));
- Annual reporting requirements are separated out from the development of Phase 2, for clarity (see 23(6));
- The Chief Executive's report is formally incorporated in the annual reporting requirements, in line with existing States' Resolutions (see 23(6)(a)(v)); and
- Maximum submission lengths are introduced (see 23(7)) in order to reduce the resource burden on Committees and support the aims of Rule 23(2) – that the Plan should be "straightforward, flexible and unbureaucratic" and "not an end in itself."