

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

5th November, 2019

Proposition No. P.2019/104

Policy & Resources Committee

The States of Guernsey Annual Budget for 2020

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy M Lowe
Seconded by: Deputy M Leadbeater

To delete proposition 30 and substitute with:

“To allocate to the Committee for Home Affairs a ring-fenced budget for “Countering economic crime, money laundering and terrorist financing” initially of £1.0million and for the Policy and Resources Committee to allocate initially £0.3million to the Law Officers of the Crown or others as appropriate comprising service development funding of a maximum of £1.3million.”

Rule 4(3) Information

There are no financial costs to this amendment.

Explanatory note

The original proposition directs that a Pooled Budget be formed for “Countering economic crime, money laundering and terrorist financing” initially comprising the service development funding of a maximum of £1.3million.

The Committee for Home Affairs is fully supportive of this funding to tackle such criminality. Furthermore it is fully supportive of the resources being ‘ring fenced’ to ensure they cannot be redeployed for other purposes.

This amendment is to bring clarity that principal political accountability for the services and legislation relating to the investigation and the tackling of crime, in nearly all its various forms, is vested in the Committee for Home Affairs.

It is acknowledged that successful investigations and prosecution of criminals require team work from various government and non-government bodies. Home Affairs and its services rely on cooperation and support, and the Committee also recognises that

part of the £1.3m initial funding the States is being asked to set aside will almost certainly be needed to support the Law Officers.

The Committee is acutely aware of the need for good governance and while the terminology of a 'pooled budget' is understood it lacks the clear political ownership and leadership which is so important. In the absence of such clarity there will be insufficient accountability to this Assembly, it being all too easy to deflect criticism to others.