

QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 11 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

From	Deputy R.G. Prow
To	President, Policy & Resources Committee
Subject	Education – Approval of Expenditure of public funds up to a maximum of £157m
Date of questions	6 th January 2020
States' Meeting	15 th January 2020

Question 1

The States resolved on the 6th September 2019 to delegate authority to the Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) to approve expenditure of public funds up to a maximum of £157.2 m for the purpose of putting into effect decisions made regarding education policy. P&R was also directed by the States to apply “rigorous review and challenge of the business cases presented”.... “an assessment as to whether the final proposals balance costs and benefits and therefore use of public resources in a way that creates and maximises public value ...”.

At the time authority was delegated by the States, no cost benefit analysis was presented, a matter raised by the Scrutiny Management Committee and members in debate. Now with an increase in public challenge, concerns raised by Unions on behalf of the teaching profession and opposition from some of the Douzaines, what is P&R’s response to these issues in order to discharge its duties on a matter of such high public interest?

Question 2

What Outline Business Case or cases, as required by States Treasury guidance and resolutions made by the States on 6th September 2019, have now been submitted and do those submissions take into account the issues made apparent by vigorous challenges made in recent weeks by the public, the Unions and the Douzaines?

Question 3

Can P&R outline if any, cost benefit justifications and accompanying details, have been submitted to date by the Committee *for* Education Sport and Culture (“the Committee”) for any additional investment, revised staffing structure and increased space requirements above the agreed baseline?

Question 4

P & R gave permission for the Committee to go out to tender on 3rd December 2019 knowing that there had been substantial, and now growing, opposition to the plans. What has P & R done to apply rigorous review and challenge to the design of the buildings as detailed in the Planning Application to the Development and Planning Authority (DPA) to address these concerns?

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Question 5

Bearing in mind the substantial risk of cost overrun of any work required to mitigate planning considerations , are there any precedents for the States going out to tender for projects of large multi-million pound building developments before the plans have been given final DPA approval?