

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

17th March, 2021

Proposition No. P.2021/21

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT WORK PLAN – STAGE 1

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy T Bury
Seconded by: Deputy A Gabriel

In proposition 7, to delete the semi-colon and substitute therefor:

“, with the exception of the resolutions listed immediately below, as referenced in Table A3.1 in Appendix 3, which shall remain extant and be subject to the changes here specified:

- Resolution 124, where the words “before the end of 2020” shall be removed and substituted with the words “as soon as practicable but no later than 10th May 2021”;
- Resolution 126, where the words “shall be restricted to” will be removed and substituted with the words “shall include”;
- Resolution 127;

noting, for the avoidance of doubt, that the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture can include any such models and criteria as the Committee sees fit, in addition to those already listed.”

Rule 4(3) Information

There are no financial implications to the States as the direction can be completed without additional resources.

Explanatory note

In order that the States’ members can make an informed decision about the future structure of secondary education, this amendment adjusts existing resolutions to make them more flexible so that the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture, as soon as practicable, finalise and publish a comparative review of models of secondary education on a like-for-like basis, at the same time or before it publishes its policy letter on 10th May

2021, as proposed in the requête submitted by Deputy A C Dudley-Owen and six other members for debate in February 2020.

The amendment supports the Committee by ensuring it can include **any** models or criteria which the Committee wishes to include.

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REPORT: SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT TO INSERT PROPOSITION 7A –
TRANSFORMATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

1. Introduction

It is accepted by all that the objectives in the transformation of secondary education are to develop a system that improves educational outcomes and standards, whilst providing taxpayers with value for money.

It is also accepted that the development of recommendations must provide an opportunity for appropriate consultation and input with multiple stakeholders, including the teaching profession and their representatives, who have provided considerable time and input into the review commenced following the success in February/March 2020 of the ‘pause and review’ requête.

It is also accepted that the success of the requête and the subsequent general election may have made a one 11-18 school on two sites politically undeliverable. While the political environment may be very different and the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture clearly must be given the time and space to develop their recommendations to present to the States of Deliberation, the review undertaken since March 2020 at public expense remains relevant input for all stakeholders and States members to be able to make an informed decision on the preferred model of secondary education.

2. Background

The transformation of secondary education in Guernsey began in 2001 when the States rejected the ending of selection at 11 and instead approved the maintenance of a grammar school with three high schools, subject to their being improved by spending from a substantial capital programme, the Education Development Plan (‘EDP’). The EDP encompassed, in principle: building a Sixth Form Centre at Les Varendes; developing St. Sampson’s High School; the redevelopment of Les Beaucamps and La Mare de Carteret High

Schools; the development of a performing arts centre at Les Ozouets; and the redevelopment of the College of Further Education.

Having approved the development of the Sixth Form Centre, St. Sampson's High School, the performing arts centre and the rebuilding of Les Beaucamps High School, in 2014, faced with falling pupil numbers, the States rejected plans to redevelop La Mare de Carteret High until after a decision had been made on the retention or abolition of selection at 11.

In 2016, before the general election, the States approved the ending of selection at 11 and the new States reaffirmed that decision after the election.

In 2017, the new Committee for Education, Sport & Culture brought forward proposals for three 11-16 secondary schools at St. Sampson's, Les Beaucamps and Les Varendes with a separate tertiary college, combining all post-16 sixth form and further education at Les Ozouets.

In January 2018, the States rejected the Committee's proposals in favour of an 'alternative model' prepared by four other members of the Assembly. This model comprised one 11-18 secondary school managed across two sites.

On 3rd March 2020, after approving propositions on a requête submitted by Deputy A C Dudley-Owen and six other members, the States resolved that the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture should carry out a review ("the Comparative Review") based on a like-for-like comparison between the extant policy but paused model of secondary education (one school on two sites) and various other models of secondary education (referred to in the Resolution numbered 126 in Appendix 3).

On 20th March 2020, after consideration of a policy letter submitted by the Committee, the States resolved the various other models which should be included in the Comparative Review (referred to in the Resolution numbered 128 in Appendix 3) and the minimum criteria against which the models should be assessed on a like-for-like basis (referred to in the Resolution numbered 129 in Appendix 3).

The Comparative Review has already been the subject of considerable work for nearly 12 months with time and input from many stakeholders and overseen by an independent overseer, Advocate Peter Harwood. It is nearing completion, and in the interests of transparency should be published for the consideration of all stakeholders, including taxpayers who have paid for the work to be done.

3. Criteria

The amendment provides that the Comparative Review shall include such criteria as the Committee sees fit, in addition to those listed in bullet points in the resolution numbered 129 in Appendix 3, namely:

Quality of education –

- Promoting the highest possible standards and outcomes;
- Range and equality of opportunities, including curriculum and facilities;
- Curriculum breadth and opportunities to group students flexibly;

- Standard of and access to facilities indoors and outdoors;
- Recruitment, retention, flexibility and resilience of staff teams;
- Pastoral support and wellbeing of students and staff;
- Support for students with special educational needs or disabilities;
- Pupil teacher ratios and average class sizes;
- Extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities; and
- Ease of transition between different phases of education.

Value for money –

- Capital expenditure;
- Revenue expenditure: making the best use of the funds the States are prepared to spend on secondary education annually; and

Transition costs to move from the status quo to the new model.

Infrastructure & organisation –

- Infrastructure at the school sites;
- Infrastructure around the school sites;
- Capacity and capability of the States to implement the model;
- Consistency with States' strategic objectives; and

School operational issues which are specific to any particular model (excluding those which are general to all models).

The amendment also provides that the Comparative Review shall include such models as the Committee sees fit, in addition to the models already worked on pursuant to the Resolution numbered 128 in Appendix 3, namely:

- Three 11-18 colleges;
- Two 11-18 colleges;
- Two 11-16 colleges and one 11-18 college; and
- Three 11-16 colleges and a separate sixth form college on a different site.

4. Conclusion

In order that States' members can make an informed decision about the future structure of secondary education, given the tortuous history, the most likely – arguably the only – way to conclude nearly a quarter century of debate about the future structure of secondary education remains exactly as proposed in the requête submitted by Deputy A C Dudley Owen and six other members, i.e. to present the States with a review comparing various models of secondary education, on a genuine like-for-like basis.

This amendment adjusts existing resolutions to make them more flexible so that the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture, as soon as practicable, finalise and publish the

comparative review of models of secondary education at the same time or before it publishes its policy letter on 10th May 2021. The amendment supports the Committee by ensuring it can include any models or criteria which the Committee wishes to include.