

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 HJR Soulsby

Seconded by: Deputy PTR Ferbrache

1. To delete Proposition 1 and replace with the following:

“To agree that the four main priorities of government at this time are:

- Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Managing the effects of Brexit;
- Delivering the recovery actions; and
- Right-sizing government”

2. In Propositions 4, 5 and 6, to delete “three” and replace with “four”.

Rule 4(3) Information

There would be no additional financial implications to the States by including the objective ‘Right-sizing government’ as a fourth government priority for this term. However the implication of elevating relevant actions to a stand-alone priority rather than consideration within the current third priority, may impact recommendations on resourcing. The Policy & Resources Committee will bring those recommendations to the Assembly on 21st July, alongside the recommendations for the other priority areas and the supporting funding and investment proposals.

Explanatory note

The Committee carefully considered how to develop the Government Work Plan. It determined that the multiple programmes and portfolios of projects needed to be brought together to provide visibility to the community and afford better management and governance by the Assembly in holding itself and Committees to account.

This is a challenging piece of work in the timeframe, especially working in the Island's machinery of government. It is for this reason that the Committee recommended three priorities. Two are demand driven; the third catches all other work of government and provides for it to be evaluated and prioritised for resources to ensure actions are delivered.

Two Amendments have been laid to create new priorities. The Committee will resist the Amendment to isolate capital investment in infrastructure from policy development for the reasons set out above. However, it has heard from a number of States Members that Public Service Reform is important to them. This is also true of the Policy & Resources Committee which sees it as an enabler for recovery. However, it does not believe that Public Service Reform, alone, should be the fourth priority, but rather that it should be about resetting, or right-sizing government.

Therefore, this Amendment goes further than Amendment 5 laid by Deputies St Pier and Oliver to introduce a priority area for Public Service Reform, and instead builds on what it is understood are its intentions. This Amendment seeks to broaden the focus of the proposed fourth priority to enable it to incorporate related work that supports 'a reset and right-sizing' of government, and not be limited in focus to Public Service Reform alone, which in isolation will not provide a rounded programme of work to deliver the intended outcome.

Public Service Reform will need to be supported by other enabling work such as establishing a commissioning function; identifying and progressing commissioning opportunities; and consideration of the machinery of government. This Amendment ensures that those actions to drive the outcome will be integrated into a managed programme, with resourcing identified for phased recovery, and returned to the Assembly for its consideration in the stage 2 policy letter proposed to be scheduled for 21st July 2021.