

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE BY
DEPUTY LESTER QUERIPEL**

Question

As you are aware, the purpose of the Financial Transformation Programme is to transform departmental delivery of services and identify efficiency savings wherever possible. With this in mind, can you tell me if there are any areas within your department, that staff, or Board members, consider to be 'no go areas' in relation to the FTP?

Answer

The Environment Department does not consider there to be any specific 'no go areas' in relation to the FTP, provided that its essential services can still be delivered. In this respect the Department has exceeded all of its FTP targets set so far and is due to exceed its overall FTP target by some £300k -£400k by the end of 2014. Throughout the period of FTP savings the Department has also returned annual under spends of circa £500k.

Question

The Treasury and Resources department recently saved £5,400 by printing the 2014 Budget in black and white instead of the usual colour version. Therefore, I ask the following questions:

- a) How much did your department spend on printing leaflets, brochures, reports etc in colour, in 2012?*
- b) How much would it have cost to print the same documents in black and white?*

Answer

The Department's printing costs in 2012 for leaflets, brochures and reports across the relevant functional areas were as follows:-

Forward Planning - 2012 was the official launch of the formal Review of the Rural Area Plan and the Urban Area Plan. The existing Development Plans needed to be comprehensively reviewed to ensure that land use policies comply with the States approved Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP). A new Development Plan will have a vital role in the Island's future and is of Island wide importance and will affect every resident of Guernsey to some degree. When reviewing Development Plans the Environment Department is legally required to undertake a minimum level of community involvement. However, given the island wide importance of the new Plan, the Department has committed publicly to exceed the minimum requirements and to engage with and inform the public during the Plan Review process so that individuals and organisations have a range of opportunities to get involved in the Plan making process. The Department has used a wide variety of methods to engage with the public including Press, media interviews, stakeholder workshops and informal drop in sessions around the Island and has not relied solely on the production of leaflets, brochures etc. There is however a significant amount of material and evidence which it is important that islanders have an opportunity to see and consider. The Department has generally used the media to draw attention to its website where all the information is made available. However, at the commencement of the Plan Review and at key stages in the process it has been necessary to draw the public's attention to the process and issues in an engaging, attractive and interesting way and

the use of colour prints is seen as essential to a successful outcome in this regard. These colour documents relate to public engagement and a community guide to the Plan Review process and greatly facilitate the dissemination of a vast amount of evidence and often technical material to the public in an understandable format. It is emphasised however that all of the media articles and interviews, as well as the community guide directed people to the Department's website first and foremost for the information. In addition some information (e.g. maps and images) cannot be easily interpreted if produced in black and white.

Forward Planning

Place check visioning maps	40
Images for Visioning workshop	150
Visioning workshop summary	135
Plan Review launch/first stage consultation	10,200
Community Guide to plan review	1,100
Plan Review flyer/leaflet	100
Total colour pages	11,725

Conservation and Design Colour

Conservation Area Advice Note	80
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Building Control

In 2012, the new Building Regulations and Guernsey Technical Standards were launched. A complete set of technical standards represent 1000 pages all printed double sided in colour (500 sheets of paper). Colour is very important to these documents as it is used for interpretation, therefore the last two drafts of the document were printed in colour.

Building Control Colour

2 x drafts	2,000
1 x master set for maintenance	1,000
2 x Library sets	2,000
1 x Reception set	1,000
2 x Meeting room sets	2,000
11 x Staff sets	11,000
2 x Spare sets	2,000

Total	21,000 colour copies
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Environmental Services Unit

Again all leaflets are produced in house but with the vast majority of information provided through the States internet.

Leaflets on Candie Gardens

100

Traffic Services

No colour leaflets were printed in 2012 for traffic services. Again is now customary for leaflets to be produced in house. It should be noted that many traffic leaflets do include images of traffic signs requiring colour print.

In total the Department produced 32,905 colour copy leaflets in 2012 at a cost of 3.9p per copy generating a total cost of £1,283.29 had these copies been produced in black and white at the per copy cost of 0.44p then the cost would have been £144.78 generating an overall saving of £1,138.51. No allowance is made above for double sided printing in these figures and hence the saving would have been lower in practice.

To put this in context this would represent less than 0.08% of the FTP target set for the Department and less than 0.065 of the FTP target the department is aiming to deliver. The £1,138.51 potential savings figure can also be compared with the estimated £300 cost in extracting this data in order to provide this answer to your question.

Question

In October 2009, the Scrutiny committee produced a report entitled 'Investigating Vandalism'. In that report, the committee set out recommendations for all States departments to consider. Can you give me update on the progress made by your department, regarding those recommendations?

Recommendation 13 – merits of providing more leisure facilities on estates and ‘hotspot’ areas:

Comment – The issue of what leisure and recreation provision there needs to be, and where it is located, is considered by the Development Plan Review. The Evidence Report ‘Open Space and Recreation Survey’ and the issues and options posed in the ‘Key Issues and options’ booklet (both available on the Department’s website) pose questions about the availability of leisure and recreation land in the future and specifically whether or not play areas should be required on developments over a certain size. The public response was somewhat supportive although some did not think this was needed given the number and types of open space which can easily be accessed already. Details of the public response can be found in the ‘Summary of public Responses’ which is on the Department’s website. In terms of consultation with other States Departments, Home Department has said that in line with the core values of the SLUP to maintain Guernsey as a safe and secure place to live consideration should be given to requiring new developments to comply with principles of designing out crime although this is more to do with physical security than provision of leisure areas. Culture and Leisure does not specifically mention the need for leisure space in Hotspots or on estates but does recognise there are concerns about the availability and development of civic spaces. All of these comments will be considered when formulating policies for the new Plan.

Recommendation 16 – Consider the idea of community spaces:

Comment – This is the type of initiative which might be brought forward in a Community Plan following the adoption of the new Development Plan which will put the framework for such plans in place

Recommendation 17 – Extend alcohol free zones:

Comment – This does not relate to development as such nor is it a land supply issue. The Environment Department does deal with proposals for associated temporary signage. The application of alcohol free zones in parks continues to be applied on a case by case basis and always on a temporary basis. We consider the blanket extension of alcohol free zones to parks to be an excessive measure which would have the effect of curbing the freedom of the vast majority of law abiding citizens including visitors who may, for example, wish to enjoy a drink with their picnic in a public place.

Recommendation 18 – Advertising to promote crimestoppers

Comment - Crimestoppers stickers have been affixed to the single fleet vehicle which the Department owns.

Recommendation 19 – Fast tracking applications or exemptions for Neighbourhood Watch signs:

Comment - This recommendation followed reports from Neighbourhood Watch coordinators of delays in getting approval from the Environment Department for signage for schemes. Since publication of the Scrutiny Committee's report in October 2009, however, application decision times have improved dramatically across the board as a result of implementation of the Shepley Report (2008) recommendations and introduction of the new Planning Law in April 2009, and targets for speed of decision are consequently being met and exceeded. There have been no instances of delay for applications of this type. Furthermore, the erection of some Neighbourhood Watch signs may not amount to development requiring planning permission at all, and, where relevant, coordinators will be so advised.

Question

Footnote 7, at the bottom of page 1099 of the Tuesday, July 30th, 2013 Billet d'état. (XV 2013) stated that 'a draft Development Plan will be presented to the States for consideration at the end of 2015'. Yet paragraph 17.1 on page 1124 of the same Billet, stated that 'the Development Plan being prepared by the Environment department, is due to come into force from the beginning of 2015'. Therefore, I ask the following questions:

- a) Are these dates for two different Development Plans?*
- b) If the answer is that 'there is only one Development Plan, can you give me the correct information regarding the Development Plan: Is it due to be presented to the States for consideration at the end of 2015, as stated in the Billet, or is it due to come into force from the beginning of 2015, as also stated in the Billet?*
- c) If the printing of two separate dates regarding the presentation of the Development Plan, was the result*

of an error: who was responsible for that error?

d) What action has your department taken to correct and explain that error to the public, the media and local politicians?

Answers

(a) No, there will be only one Development Plan.

(b) The Plan will be presented to the States for consideration towards the end of 2015.

(c) The two conflicting dates were presented in the States Report on Strategic Asset Management prepared by the Policy Council and Treasury and Resources Departments and not by the Environment Department as such we are unable to advise as to who made the error other than to say it was not the Environment Department staff.

(d) The Environment Department has made clear the time lines for the Development Plan Review on numerous occasions through numerous different channels of communication (media, radio, workshops and presentations, drop in sessions, website, Strategic Land Use Planning Group, States groups and working parties and policy groups and not least through the second stage public consultation).

Date of Receipt of Question: 2nd December, 2013

Date of Reply: 23rd December, 2013