

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
AND
COMMITTEE *FOR* EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE INDEPENDENCE OF THE LADIES' COLLEGE
AND ELIZABETH COLLEGE

The States are asked to decide:

Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter entitled "Proposals for Future Independence of The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College" dated 5th October, 2026, they are of the opinion:

1. To agree that:
 - (a) the administration and management of The Ladies' College shall be provided wholly independently from the States as described in the Policy Letter; and
 - (b) The Ladies' College (Guernsey) Law, 1962 and Ordinances made under the Law shall be repealed and any related legislation repealed or amended in order to give effect to (a) above; and
 - (c) should The Ladies' College so request, the operations, assets, liabilities and appropriate governance arrangements of The Ladies' College (including all contracts with employees and other counterparties) shall be transferred by way of legislation to a new charitable structure or person on such terms and conditions as may be agreed by the Policy & Resources Committee and The Ladies' College.
2. To agree that the real property vested in the States and leased to The Ladies' College for the purpose of providing education shall be transferred:
 - (a) to such charitable structure or person; and
 - (b) upon such terms and conditions (including as to the purpose for which the land is to be used, the purchase price and any pre-emption right of the States, should the land cease to be used for education purposes),as may be approved by the Policy & Resources Committee.

3. To authorise the Policy & Resources Committee to make and enter into, on behalf of the States, any agreement or conveyance relating to any property owned by the States and used by Elizabeth College for the provision of education.
4. To rescind their Resolutions of 20th March 2025 relating to the provision of States' grant funding to The Ladies' College, Elizabeth College and Blanchelande College with effect from 31st August 2027 provided that, with effect from 1st September 2027:
 - (a) the proposals for the independence of The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College have been implemented; and
 - (b) the gift from the philanthropist is accessible by The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College,

all as described in the Policy Letter accompanying these Propositions.
5. Only if the events described in Proposition 4 have not occurred on or before 1st September 2027, to rescind their Resolutions referred to in Proposition 4 with effect from such later date as is agreed by the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture and both The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College, being a date as soon as is practicable thereafter.
6. To:
 - (a) agree that grant funding to Blanchelande College should continue on the same terms, with the same notice period and the same maximum value (when computed for Blanchelande College alone), as resulted from their Resolutions referred to in Proposition 4; and
 - (b) authorise the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture to negotiate and agree a suitable variation to the current States Grant Agreement, or a replacement agreement, with Blanchelande College in broadly the same terms as the current agreement, and the terms and conditions upon which the current States Grant Agreements with The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College shall cease, to be effective from 1st September 2027 or, in the event that the events described in Proposition 4 have not then occurred, on the date agreed for the purpose of Proposition 5; and
 - (c) direct the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture to register The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College as Independent Schools from 1st September 2027 or, in the event that the events described in

Proposition 4 have not then occurred, on the date agreed for the purposes of Proposition 5;

- (d) note the intention of the Policy & Resources Committee and the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture that, in considering future States budgets and expenditure priorities, the financial benefits accruing to the States as a consequence of the cessation of grant funding described in this Policy Letter should continue to be applied for the benefit of education in Guernsey; and
 - (e) note the intention of all schools in Guernsey to work collaboratively to ensure opportunities and experiences are developed that will improve the outcomes for all pupils.
- 7 To authorise the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture to make such arrangements with The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College as to the continued provision of statistical data relating to each College's number and category of pupils, their levels of attainment and the capacity of each College, as may be necessary to enable the States to formulate informed education and social policy and to produce and publish statistics for the jurisdiction.
 - 8 To note that each of The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College will continue to adopt and implement educational and safeguarding standards intended to promote best practice for pupils and staff as set out in the Independent Schools Inspectorate Framework (or other comparable inspection framework).
 - 9 To authorise the Policy & Resources Committee and the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture, each after consulting the other, to make and enter into, on behalf of the States, such other arrangements (including but not limited to contractual agreements and conveyances of land) as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of implementing the arrangements described in the Policy Letter.
 - 10 To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above decisions.

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
AND
COMMITTEE *FOR* EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE INDEPENDENCE OF THE LADIES' COLLEGE
AND ELIZABETH COLLEGE

The Presiding Officer
States of Guernsey
Royal Court House
St Peter Port

5th October, 2026

Dear Madam

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. An anonymous philanthropist has offered a substantial endowment to each of The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College which, in the case of The Ladies' College, will allow, and is contingent upon, its administration and management first returning to being wholly independent from the States, thus putting it on the same footing as the other two grant-aided colleges.
- 1.2. Contingent upon each of The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College being wholly independent from the States, the endowment, which is being made by way of philanthropic gift to be accessed through a funding foundation, would also enable The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College to step away from the States' funding agreement, allowing tax payers' monies, of approximately £2.2m per annum, to be redeployed by the States, whilst ensuring that both Colleges can maintain fees for parents at broadly their current level in real terms.
- 1.3. To achieve the independence required by the philanthropist, and enable the continuing operation of The Ladies' College, it would be necessary for the States to transfer some land which the States own (and is currently leased to the College) to the College (under its new operating structure) subject to payment of an agreed purchase price. As part of that reorganisation of the College, it is proposed that the legislation currently governing the operation of The Ladies' College should be repealed and the operations, assets, liabilities and appropriate governance arrangements of the College transferred by way of legislation, if this

is the College's preferred method of transfer, to a new charitable structure which would be responsible for the operation and management of the College.

2. Background

- 2.1. With its origins dating from 1563, Elizabeth College, which was originally an all-boys school, has operated from its current site in La Grange since the 1820s. During the 1800s and 1900s, the College expanded its premises via loans and grants from the States. The College has received grant-aid from the States since 1965 and became co-educational in 2021. It is administered and governed wholly independently of the States.
- 2.2. There are two parcels of land/buildings on the Elizabeth College estate that are owned by the States, being the Upland Road building and a significant portion of the Junior School site at the Beechwood site, on Queen's Road. Elizabeth College has occupied, developed and maintained both those sites since circa 1950. It is the intention of Elizabeth College to engage with the States to seek to acquire both these sites.
- 2.3. The Ladies' College was founded in 1872. In 1962, following a report that its then senior school premises were inadequate, the States supported the College by approving and part-funding the construction of the current senior school building on the States-owned Les Gravées site, where Melrose was already based.
- 2.4. Whilst a form of States subsidy had been in place since the early 1910s, the opportunity was also taken in 1962 to make arrangements to provide a scheme of administration for The Ladies' College. The dissolution of the company that had operated the College and arrangements for its future management and administration, via a Board established as a statutory body corporate, were implemented by enactment of The Ladies' College (Guernsey) Law, 1962¹.
- 2.5. This Law was enacted by the States in order to enable The Ladies' College to thrive; it was not enacted as part of a States policy position to reduce the College's independence and, indeed, it sets out explicitly its aim to '*give as much independence as possible from direct control of the States but constituted so to provide adequate safeguards for the continuing administration of the College to the satisfaction of the States.*' [Billet of 1962]
- 2.6. By 2014, with funding required to redevelop parts of the main school building (including replacing huts that had been used as classrooms for a number of years), the States provided further support by agreeing to enter into a formal lease with The Ladies' College, which in turn enabled the College to obtain a bank

¹ [The Ladies' College \(Guernsey\) Law, 1962 \(consolidated text\)](#)

loan. The development of the site was funded through donations and a bank loan, which the States still guarantee. The site (excluding the field and Food Technology building which are owned by the College) is leased to the College for a peppercorn rent of £250 a year (with inflation applied) plus a commitment to invest £10m into the site by the end of 2035. Assuming the investment conditions are met, the lease has an option to extend for a further 25 years, which option can be exercised between 1st January and 30th June 2039. If the option were to be exercised, the lease would be extended from 1st January 2040.

- 2.7. The current arrangements under the 1962 Law, for the management and administration of The Ladies' College, place it on a different footing to the other grant-aided colleges. The endowment proposal to fund the operation of the College, subject to the need for its wholly independent operation, provides The Ladies' College the opportunity to be placed on the same footing as the other grant-aided colleges, thereby ensuring the College's continued operation as an all-girls school. In addition, it will enable the College, alongside Elizabeth College, to step away from the States' funding agreement with the States, allowing taxpayers' monies, of approximately £2.2m per annum to be redeployed by the States. The College would also be able to replace the States' guarantee, granted to the College as part of its redevelopment project started in 2014, thereby removing that exposure from the States.
- 2.8. Blanchelande College has been in operation since 1904, initially as a Catholic School for girls. It has been in receipt of grant-aid from the States since 2001, and has been operating from its current site at Les Vauxbelets since 1999. The site was purchased by The Blanchelande College Trust in 2022. The College is administered and governed wholly independently of the States.
- 2.9. The Committees have been advised that it is not intended that Blanchelande College will benefit from the proposed endowment.
- 2.10. At their meeting of 19th March 2025, the States resolved² that the three Colleges would continue to benefit from grant-funding, each by way of a rolling grant agreement (in identical terms) with the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture, commencing in September 2026. Those formal Agreements are now in place and in operation, with grant payments made to each College in instalments at the start of each academic term.

3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1. The aim of this Policy Letter is to seek approval from the States in relation to a number of matters that will enable the proposal for full independence for Elizabeth College and The Ladies' College to proceed, thereby enabling both

² [20th March 2025 - Resolutions Concerning Billet d'État No VII dated 7th March 2025](#)

Colleges to receive the philanthropist's gift and step away from the current States' grant aid, and for grant-aid to continue only in respect of Blanchelande College. The principal aims and objectives are set out below as follows:

Independent administration, management and financing

- 3.2. Subject to the States' approval, the administration and management of The Ladies' College shall be provided wholly independently from the States, as requested by the philanthropist responsible for the offer of an endowment. Both The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College have also indicated that, contingent on their independence having been secured in accordance with the matters set out in this Policy Letter and the accompanying Propositions, they would plan to withdraw from the grant funding agreement with the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture at the end of the current academic year.

Ownership of The Ladies' College site

- 3.3. The Ladies' College seeks confirmation that it can acquire the real property vested in the States (the Les Gravées site) and leased to the College for the purpose of providing education.
- 3.4. At the present time, there is a covenant ensuring the site is used for educational purposes, and it would be the intention that this remains in place. Moreover, it is intended that, should the future owners wish to sell the site or any part of it, the States is given first right of refusal.

Repeal of The Ladies' College (Guernsey) Law, 1962 and transfer of its operations, assets, liabilities and appropriate governance arrangements to a new charitable structure

- 3.5. The Ladies' College (Guernsey) Law, 1962 and Ordinances made under that Law provide for a scheme of management that involves the States in a number of decisions relating to the College and its operation. For example, the constitution of the Board that is empowered to manage the College is such as shall be prescribed by the States by Resolution. The States are also empowered to make Ordinances regulating various matters, including the College's general conduct, organisation and curriculum.
- 3.6. The College has requested that The Ladies' College (Guernsey) Law, 1962 and Ordinances made under the Law³ are repealed to enable the independent administration and management of The Ladies' College, which is a condition of its receipt of the endowment. The College's Board of Governors is constituted under this Law and has vested in it the personal property of the College. As this

³ [The Ladies' College Ordinance, 1962 \(consolidated text\)](#)

entity will cease to exist when the Law is repealed, the operations, assets and liabilities of the College together with the contracts of employment of members of staff and possibly the existing governance arrangements of the College will need to be preserved and transferred to the new charitable structure that will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the College as the successor to the Board.

- 3.7. Given that the original assets (other than real property) of the College were transferred to the Board of Governors in 1962 under the 1962 Law and the need for any transfer to be given effect in a timely manner, it might be expedient to effect any transfer of assets by way of legislation. For this reason, if The Ladies' College wish, it is proposed that a transfer of assets etc. is given effect by way of legislation. Whilst final details of the most appropriate mechanism would need to be discussed and agreed between The Ladies' College and the Law Officers of the Crown, it is possible that relevant legislative provisions might conveniently be included as part of the Law repealing the 1962 Law.

Ownership of Elizabeth College sites

- 3.8. Elizabeth College seeks confirmation that it can acquire two parcels of land/buildings located at Upland Road and on the junior school Beechwood site, in Queen's Road, that are currently in the States' ownership. Doing so would bring into Elizabeth College's ownership the entirety of the estate from which it delivers education and, subject to the States' decisions in respect of this Policy Letter, would mean that both it and The Ladies' College are on the same footing when it comes to ownership and autonomy over their estate.

Continued funding of Blanchelande College

- 3.9. Any new arrangements reached for the future funding of The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College will not affect the funding arrangements agreed between the States and Blanchelande College. However, subject to the States' decisions in respect of the other matters addressed in this Policy Letter, it will be necessary to vary or replace the current States Grant Agreement with Blanchelande College to reflect its position as the sole grant-aided college. Any such variation or new agreement would need to be agreed between the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture and Blanchelande College.

Termination of States Grant Agreements with The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College

- 3.10. On the basis that the new arrangements are implemented by the relevant date (1st September 2027), The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College have indicated that they want to withdraw from the current States Grant Agreements with the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture at that time. The terms and conditions

upon which the Agreements will come to an end will need to be agreed with the respective Colleges. Thus, the States are requested to provide the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture with the necessary authority to negotiate and agree those terms and conditions.

- 3.11. The preceding paragraph assumes that the steps required for The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College to be wholly independent will have been implemented by 1st September 2027, to enable both Colleges to meet the philanthropist's requirements for the endowment. If there are steps which need to be completed after 1st September 2027, the current funding arrangements would continue until such time as the endowment is made available to the Colleges, and both Colleges are then in a position to step back from the current States Grant Agreement. Such later date would be agreed by the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture and both Colleges.

4. Summary of principal benefits of the proposed philanthropic gift

- 4.1. The Colleges have advised that the size of the philanthropist's gift is such that they anticipate it will have an impact across at least a 50-year period.
- 4.2. The gift will also enable the creation of the 'Legacy Programme'. This will allow both The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College to continue their current partnership working and extend opportunities to the wider community.
- 4.3. The Ladies' College intends to build an Innovation Institute and Hub which will be a centre for educational research in an age of AI, helping position students, schools and teachers for the changes coming, and providing research, training and workshops for the wider community.
- 4.4. Elizabeth College will explore options to strengthen and build upon current partnership work, invest in areas like artist development programmes, excellence in sport, and wider creative opportunities for students and members of the community.
- 4.5. The Ladies' College will introduce a bursary scheme and Elizabeth College will also extend its bursary offer. It should be noted that both Colleges have confirmed that they do not intend to increase their overall capacity, and The Ladies' College, which is currently operating under capacity, has confirmed that it will use the new bursary scheme to increase its numbers to capacity over time.
- 4.6. The Ladies' College has confirmed that the transaction costs associated with it achieving independence from the States of Guernsey will fall to the College and the funding foundation which is overseeing this philanthropic gift.

- 4.7. Elizabeth College has confirmed that the transaction costs associated with its acquisition of land/buildings currently in States ownership will not fall to the States.

5. Governance

- 5.1. The Committees understand that the philanthropist's gift will be offered through a funding foundation which will be created once arrangements enabling the independent operation of The Ladies' College have been put in place and the assets currently used by the College, and its liabilities, are available for transfer to it. This new funding foundation is intended to hold the access to the endowment, and to support the two Colleges against agreed key performance indicators (including access and the Legacy Programme). The funding foundation will not have any stake in the ownership of either College or take on any role in either College's day-to-day operation, curriculum, admissions or leadership.
- 5.2. The funding foundation will support the two Colleges but not own them or their assets. Each College's ethos will remain under the control of its own governors and its Principal; the funding foundation's role will be confined to providing access to the endowment funding and to holding the Colleges to account against their respective commitments to access, excellence and the Legacy Programme, through regular reporting.
- 5.3. The Education (Guernsey) Law, 1970, requires all schools operating in Guernsey to be registered, and already includes an 'Independent School' category. Given the long-standing nature of The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College, the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture has confirmed that there is no impediment to them being registered as Independent Schools from 1st September 2027 (or such later date as may be agreed by the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture and both the Colleges), should the States agree the Propositions attached to this Policy Letter and the mechanisms for independence have been put in place.
- 5.4. The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College are inspected under the Independent Schools Inspectorate's Inspection Framework⁴, a position that will not be altered following their access to the philanthropist's endowment. External inspections under an approved framework such as this mean that government and parents can continue to be satisfied as to the standards of both Colleges.
- 5.5. It is expected that the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture will liaise with both Colleges in relation to their continued provision of statistical data necessary to enable the States to continue to formulate informed education and social policy and to produce and publish statistics for the jurisdiction. This would

⁴ [Independent Schools Inspectorate's Inspection Framework](#)

include data relating to the number and category of pupils, their levels of attainment and the capacity of each College.

- 5.6. In addition, both Colleges would continue to commit to independent inspection, to publish inspection reports and results, and to comply with the obligations, such as safeguarding and educational standards, expected of any independent school, including working with local agencies in the same way as they do now.

6. Source of Funds

- 6.1. Whilst the philanthropist wishes to remain anonymous, the Committees have been reassured that appropriate checks have been carried out by each College and the Law Officers of the Crown. The identity of the philanthropist has been shared with The Ladies' College's Chair of the Board of Governors, the Chair of Elizabeth College's Board of Directors and the President of the Policy & Resources Committee.
- 6.2. The source of this gift has been subject to appropriate due diligence, consistent with Guernsey's anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) requirements. The philanthropist's identity has been verified through independent legal advisers and the Colleges have also carried out their own due diligence through professional advisers and are satisfied that the gift originates from legitimate sources.

7. Final Considerations

- 7.1. The Committees have been advised that the philanthropist's commitment to provide the gift to the Colleges is not open-ended. It depends on the States enabling The Ladies' College's transition to independence as described in this Policy Letter within a reasonable timeframe which, it is suggested, should be in time for the start of the 2027/28 academic year. It also depends upon the completion of the acquisition of land by Elizabeth College, as described in this Policy Letter, to ensure its full independence.

8. Compliance with Rule 4

- 8.1. Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees sets out the information which must be included in, or appended to, motions laid before the States.
- 8.2. In accordance with Rule 4(1):

- a) The propositions contribute to the States' objectives and policy plans by facilitating a philanthropic gift that will negate the need for the grant-aid provided by taxpayers to The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College. The Government Work Plan includes as one of its areas of focus 'foundations for our future' with a key objective to ensure that Guernsey is a place to grow and succeed. An investment on this scale supports this objective.
- b) In preparing the propositions, consultation has been undertaken with The Ladies' College, Elizabeth College, Blanchelande College and the philanthropist's representative.
- c) The propositions have been submitted to His Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- d) The financial implications to the States of carrying the proposal into effect are as follows:

The grant funding from the States to The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College, currently c£2.2m per annum, will cease.

The States will benefit from the proceeds of the sale of land/buildings to The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College.

The transaction costs associated with it achieving independence from the States of Guernsey will fall to The Ladies' College (as it has confirmed) and the funding foundation which is overseeing this philanthropic gift.

The transaction costs associated with Elizabeth College's acquisition of land/buildings currently in States ownership will not fall to the States, as it has also confirmed.

Officers' time will be spent giving effect to the resultant Resolutions.

8.3. In accordance with Rule 4(2):

- a) The Propositions relate to the Policy & Resources Committee's purpose:
"To provide leadership and co-ordination of the work of the States so as to best manage the financial and other resources of the States"

and to its operational functions relating to the States Property Unit.

The propositions relate to the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture's purpose:

“To encourage human development by maximising opportunities for participation and excellence through education, learning, sport and culture at every stage of life”

- ☐ and to its operational functions relating to providing advice and administrative support in respect of the Grant-Aided Colleges, including but not limited to financial support for fee payers at the Grant-Aided Colleges.

- b) The propositions have the unanimous support of the Policy & Resources Committee and the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture.

Yours faithfully

H L de Sausmarez
President
Policy & Resources Committee

P S N Montague
President
Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture

Y Burford
Vice President

A Cameron
Vice President

S J Falla
A J Niles
C N K Parkinson

R P Curgenven
S T Hansmann Rouxel
A D S Matthews

A J Hibbs
Non-States Member