

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

3rd November, 2026

Proposition No. P.2026/82

Committee for Education, Sport & Culture

THE STATES OF GUERNSEY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 2027

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy P Montague

Seconded by: Deputy A Cameron

To insert an additional proposition as follows:

“SHOULD PROPOSITION 16 CARRY AND PROPOSITION 17 LOSE:

To agree, notwithstanding Proposition 16, an additional £1.605m of expenditure for the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture above the agreed Committee Net Expenditure total.”.

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The propositions contribute to the States’ objectives and policy plans by ensuring the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture can meet its stated purpose which is *“To encourage human development by maximising opportunities for participation and excellence through education, learning, sport and culture at every stage of life”*. In addition, 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. Without the 2027 Budget as provided for via this Amendment, the Committee risks not meeting the educational needs of children and young people, with the resultant impact this can have on their outcomes and life chances.
- b) In preparing the proposition, there has been no formal consultation with the Policy & Resources Committee; however, discussions have taken place with the President of the Policy & Resources Committee.
- 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 an increase of £1.605m in the overall Committee Net Expenditure under Option A, to align the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture's 2027 Budget with that of Option B. The implications of not carrying the proposal into effect are set out in the Explanatory Note.
- e) Drafting advice has been sought from the States Greffier and from Officers of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Explanatory note

The Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture identified savings of £297k in its 2027 budget submission. In large part, these savings arise from reductions in relocation & rent allowances and a reduced need for agency teachers, both of which can be attributed to increased stability within the secondary phase of education following the implementation of the new target operating model in September 2025. In addition, the island's falling birth rate is leading to a decline in pupil numbers in our primary schools, with admissions managed to ensure that schools operate efficiently in terms of the number of forms of entry in each school, with the resultant reduction in classroom teachers and Learning Support Assistants being managed accordingly.

Alongside those savings, the Committee has identified a requirement for additional resources for demand-led services that must be provided if the Committee is to meet its statutory and moral obligations to the most vulnerable children and young people to whom it delivers education. Simply put, it is not possible for the Committee to meet those obligations within the funding constraints of 'Option A' of the Policy & Resources Committee's 2027 Budget proposals.

In this regard, it should be noted that the lack of synchronicity between the academic year and the calendar/budget year means that, in many cases, demand-led resources must be put in place at the start of an academic year (in one budget period) for the whole of that academic year (into the next budget period). It is neither reasonable or ethical to withhold this support nor to withdraw it part-way through an academic year, and this inevitably creates a cost pressure which is felt acutely in the current fiscal climate.

This notwithstanding, the Committee, through difficult but necessary decisions about areas where budget will be reduced during 2027 and careful stewardship, has committed to limiting its 2027 spending to the 'Option B' figure proposed by the Policy & Resources Committee. The Committee is, however, certain that it cannot fulfil its mandated obligations within the 'Option A' figure, which is some £1.605m short of Option B, and thus the Committee's minimum needs.

Should the Assembly not support this Amendment, the Committee will be unable to provide:

- three Family Support Workers to work across all 10 Primary Schools. This additional resource is intended to strengthen early intervention and provide targeted support to families, including improving pupil attendance (which remains a key priority for the Committee given the clear link between attendance and academic achievement) and engagement. It will enable primary schools to respond more effectively to pupils' social, emotional, and welfare needs, and evidence from similar roles in secondary schools demonstrates that these roles help to reduce pressures on school-based staff.
- sufficient apprenticeship grants for employers. To access the apprenticeship training the 'sponsoring' employer must pay the apprentice for time spent at The Guernsey Institute (TGI). The Committee provides grant support for small to medium employers (SMEs) to assist with this overhead, as it is usually not until year three of the apprenticeship that productivity increases and charge-out to customers can match the cost of the apprentice's wages. Approximately 70% of employers registered with TGI Apprenticeships are SMEs, and the construction sector represents c70% of the apprentice numbers. This funding should be seen as an economic enabler, without which the pipeline of skilled workers would be in danger of reducing.
- sufficient Individual Pupil Support. The Individual Pupil Support (IPS) budget is a critical component of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) framework, enabling the Committee to meet its statutory responsibilities to provide suitable education and tailored provision for children and young people with significant and complex ALN. IPS funding provides essential support for learners whose needs exceed the capacity of delegated school resources. This includes pupils with formal Determinations (a statutory statement of need), children requiring intensive intervention primarily within mainstream settings, and those presenting with complex safeguarding needs that place them at increased risk of educational disengagement. Although significant progress has been made supporting children in the lower end of the continuum, demand for support continues to increase. At the higher end of the continuum currently, 4.8% of pupils hold a formal Determination, and therefore legally require supported provision. In addition, a significant number of learners without Determinations require enhanced support through targeted and specialist interventions in order to access education successfully. The increasing prevalence of diagnosed neurodevelopmental conditions, communication needs, social and emotional difficulties, and safeguarding concerns has created sustained pressure on the IPS budget, mirroring national trends, where education systems are reporting significant growth in the number of children identified with ALN and requiring specialist support.

- a complete Communication, Interaction and Autism Service (CIAS). CIAS delivers highly specialised support both through its bases and outreach service such as:
 - Specialist teaching and intervention
 - Autism-informed learning environments
 - Sensory and communication support
 - Social communication programmes
 - Curriculum adaptation
 - Behaviour and regulation strategies
 - Support for successful transitions
 - Advice, training and capacity building for mainstream (and all) settings

The service enables a number of learners with significant communication and interaction needs to have access to mainstream schools whilst accessing specialist expertise that would otherwise result in more costly alternatives. The number of learners accessing a CIAS Base has increased from 18 learners in 2021 to 52 by September 2026, and this demand for support continues to rise, with a further 200+ learners accessing support through the CIAS Outreach Team. Based on 2021 baselines, this would represent an overall increase of approximately 189% in CIAS Base provision and 68% in CIAS Outreach caseloads within a five-year period. This sustained growth demonstrates both the increasing demand for specialist communication and interaction support and the critical role CIAS plays in enabling children and young people with significant needs to access education successfully within mainstream settings.

- a full-time Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) at Le Murier School. The need to fund this role was highlighted in the Budget 2026 process, but insufficient funding was provided so it is currently filled on only a part-time basis. It is now essential to increase the role to full-time to ensure the school can effectively fulfil its statutory and operational responsibilities. The ALNCo role is a key requirement within the ALN Code of Practice and plays a critical role in coordinating provision, overseeing the individual Action Plans for children with a Determination (a statutory statement of need), supporting multi-agency working, and ensuring that the needs of learners are identified, assessed and met appropriately. In addition, the role supports the school's duties under Prevention of Discrimination legislation by helping to ensure equitable access to education, reasonable adjustments, and compliance with legal obligations relating to learners with additional needs. All mainstream primary and secondary schools now have dedicated full-time ALNCo posts and it has become increasingly evident that the same level of leadership and coordination is required at Le Murier School.

In addition to these demands, the Committee has already absorbed costs amounting to £253k linked to the operation of the new system of education governance, which is now a statutory function.

In summary, the Committee's 2026 budget did not reflect the true cost of service delivery, and this shortfall risks being compounded for 2027. It is simply not possible for the Committee to contain its 2027 demand-led spending to the Option A level if it is to meet its obligations to the children and young people of Guernsey and Alderney.