

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

26th January, 2022

Proposition No. P.2021/144

Policy & Resources Committee, Committee *for* Health & Care
and the Committee *for* Home Affairs

Living Responsibly with COVID-19

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy A Taylor

Seconded by: Deputy H Soulsby

To insert the following Proposition immediately after Proposition 1:-

- “2. To direct the Policy & Resources Committee, having consulted as it deems fit but specifically with the Scrutiny Management Committee, to submit in time for consideration by the States at their meeting to be held on 27th April, 2022, a Policy Letter and suitable Propositions setting out proposals for a review of the States of Guernsey’s strategic response and their effectiveness in the management of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Bailiwick and its residents, covering the period from the meeting of the Civil Contingences Authority on 12th March 2020 when an emergency was declared until the end of January 2022 , to include –
- (a) terms of reference, which should draw on and scrutinise as necessary the outputs of reviews established by the Tactical Co-ordinating Group that are establishing lessons learned in terms of emergency response on an operational level, but not duplicate effort to the detriment of resourcing the Bailiwick’s continuing recovery, and
 - (b) details of the resources required to undertake such a review;
- for the approval of the States.”

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The proposition does not contribute to the States' objectives and policy plans, but if approved, does provide an opportunity for scrutiny, which necessarily needs to operate outside the strategic planning and phasing process of government business.
- b) In preparing the proposition there has been consultation with a number of Members of the States, who are not members of the sponsoring Committees.
- c) The proposition has been submitted to Her Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- d) There are no financial implications to the States of carrying the proposal into effect, although it is noted that the Scrutiny Management Committee may require additional funding to complete the review in an acceptable timeframe.

Explanatory note

The terms of reference of, and person(s) or body responsible for, any review would be for the Policy & Resources Committee to propose and for the States to approve. The resources needed to complete the review would be for the Committee to determine and for the States to approve.

Depending on the precise terms of reference of the review, it is anticipated that a review of this nature would examine closely both political decision-making including its evidence base and the legislative framework for operationalising a response to a declared human welfare emergency. It would therefore include an assessment of the suitability of Guernsey's statutory and regulatory public health regime, particularly in terms of enabling and facilitating an effective governmental response to the impact of a pandemic such as COVID-19 and by extension and with the consent of their Assemblies would achieve similar for Alderney and Sark.

It is considered important that the terms of reference do not duplicate the internal emergency planning reviews already established but that the outputs of those reviews are available to the reviewers. This is to prevent duplication of work by the limited resource within the public sector which necessarily must now focus on fully restoring services and progressing with work that was suspended.

If such a review were agreed and subsequently undertaken, it is hoped that the completed report and any recommendations could be debated by the States later in the year or no later than quarter 1 of 2023 in order that any urgent recommendations would be undertaken in this political term.