

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

17th July, 2024

Proposition No. P.2024/52

Requête

Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles: the Role of the Parliamentary Assembly
within the “Three Branches of Government”

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy C Meerveld

Seconded by: Deputy H Soulsby

To delete Proposition 2 and replace it with the following:

“2. To direct that the States’ Assembly & Constitution Committee should consider and report back by December 2027 to the States of Deliberation with any recommendations for the adoption of an appropriate version of the Model Law to establish a special purpose parliamentary body to oversee the institution of the States of Deliberation as a parliament, having regard to our size, scale, and system of government, and to direct the Policy & Resources Committee to include the work for future prioritisation and resource allocation by the next Assembly in the next term’s Government Work Plan.”

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The proposition contributes to the States’ objectives and policy plans generally by potentially developing Guernsey’s international identity and enhancing the constitutional resilience of the Bailiwick. Specifically, giving more time to assess the adoption of a version of the Model Law for Guernsey will enable a more effective and securely based outcome to be reached which will enhance the operation of parliament and government.
- b) In preparing the proposition, consultation has been undertaken with the Policy & Resources Committee.

- c) The proposition has been submitted to His Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- d) There are no significant financial implications to the States of carrying the proposal into effect, as the delay to the date when the Committee is required to report back to the States will mean it is more likely that this work can be completed using existing resources.

Explanatory note

The States' Assembly & Constitution Committee has only one full-time officer, although other officers do provide additional support to the Committee as required. The Committee is entering a busy period as it prepares for the 2025 General Election, including the provision of an induction and ongoing development programme for Members, both of which it must prioritise. It also intends to complete its review of the Rules of Procedure before the end of this political term. If it is required to report to the States by June 2026 on an appropriate version of the Model Law for Guernsey, some of this work will not be completed without involving additional resources, thereby entailing unnecessary costs.

Furthermore, this work has not been prioritised through the Government Work Plan and it would make sense to delay it until such prioritisation has taken place. As it is anticipated that the Policy & Resources Committee will recommend that the next GWP be lodged no later than Q1 2026, it is felt that delivery in December 2027 is reasonable, bearing in mind the consultation and engagement that will form a crucial part of the project, should it take place.