



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATES OF DELIBERATION

OF THE

ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

HANSARD

Royal Court House, Guernsey, Wednesday, 24th January 2024

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Present:

Sir R. J. McMahon, Esq., Bailiff and Presiding Officer

Law Officers

M. M. E. Pullum, Q.C. (H.M. Procureur)

People's Deputies

S. E. Aldwell	C. J. Le Tissier
A. H. Brouard	M. P. Leadbeater
T. L. Bury	D. J. Mahoney
A. Cameron	A. D. S. Matthews
D. de G. de Lisle	L. J. McKenna
H. L. de Sausmarez	N. G. Moakes
A. C. Dudley-Owen	R. C. Murray
J. F. Dyke	V. S. Oliver
S. P. Fairclough	C. N. K. Parkinson
S. J. Falla	R. G. Prow
P. T. R. Ferbrache	L. C. Queripel
A. Gabriel	P. J. Roffey
J. A. B. Gollop	H. J. R. Soulsby
S. P. Haskins	A. W. Taylor
M. A. J. Helyar	L. S. Trott
N. R. Inder	S. P. J. Vermeulen
A. Kazantseva-Miller	

Representatives of the Island of Alderney

Alderney Representatives S. Roberts

The Clerk to the States of Deliberation

S. M. D. Ross, Esq. (States' Greffier)

Absent at the Evocation

Deputy C. P. A Blin (*relevé à 9h 38*); Deputy Y. Burford (*indisposée*);
Deputy J. P. Le Tocq (*absent de l'Île*); Deputy C. P. Meerveld (*relevé à 9h 38*);
Deputy G. A. St Pier (*relevé à 9h 38*); Alderney Representative E. A. J. Snowdon (*relevé à 2h 33*)

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States of Deliberation

The States met at 9.30 a.m.

[THE BAILIFF *in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

The States' Greffier

EVOCAATION

Procedural – Filming and photographs of the Meeting

5 **The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States', Happy New Year to you all. What you agreed at the close of the last Meeting was that the media could film and take photographs, for those who still want photographs at this point at this Meeting. So, we will give them a minute or two maximum and then we will proceed with our business.

Obviously, if any of them want you to face them rather than get a picture of your better side, which is the back of the back of your head, (*Laughter*) then that can be requested as well.

Members of the States.

Greffier, over to you please.

CONVOCATION

10 **The States' Greffier:** Billet d'État I of 2024. To the Members of the States' of the Island of Guernsey I hereby give notice that a Meeting of the States' of Deliberation will be held at the Royal Courthouse on Wednesday, 24th January 2024 at 9.30 a.m. to consider the items listed in this Billet d'État which have been submitted for debate.

15 **The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, let us just try and relevé those Members who have arrived since the roll call. Deputy St Pier, Deputy Blin and Deputy Meerveld, is it each of your wishes that you be relevé?

20 **Deputy Blin/Deputy Meerveld/Deputy St Pier:** Yes, please sir.

The Bailiff: So we will deal with that now.

Tribute to former Deputy Michael Garrett

25 **The Bailiff:** Members of the States' of Deliberation, sadly we must start this first States' Meeting of the year by paying tribute to former C atel Deputy Michael Guy Gordon Garrett who passed away on 31st December last year at the age of 79.

30 Mike, as he was usually known, came to Guernsey to work because of childhood connections. He was a manager in various hospitality businesses and he may well be familiar to some of you from one of those, which included the St Pierre Park Hotel, Pembroke Bay Hotel; he did a consultancy at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital to implement something called Cook Chill; Linton Park Hotel, Coppercraft and, of course, the old Government House Hotel.

35 He was a Fellow of the Institute for Hospitality and locally he was involved with the Guernsey Group of something called Skull International, which is a worldwide tourism association with the Salon Culinare and he was, for a time, President of the Guernsey Hotel & Tourism Association. After two unsuccessful attempts in different electoral districts, at the third time of standing Mike became a C atel Deputy at the 2008 General Election. During his single term in office he was a Member of the Culture & Leisure Department as its Deputy Minister and so deputised from time to time for Minister O'Hara at the Policy Council. His long standing experience in hospitality proved valuable in that role. He was also elected to membership of the Scrutiny Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. He also sat on the States' Strategic Plan Working Party which at that time was how what is now the Government Work Plan was styled. He was always keen to be involved and could be relied on to get things done.

45 He lost his seat at the 2012 General Election but was a candidate again in 2016, this time for St Peter Port South, albeit he was unsuccessful. After leaving the States, Mike also maintained his interest in politics by being elected to the St Peter Port Douzaine from 2015 and on various occasions he was therefore back in this Chamber as a delegate for sittings of the States of Election. He was in his third term as a Douzenier at the time of his death.

50 Mike was keen on sport, local history and travelling. He was also a man of strong Christian faith. I am aware that he was a good friend to Deputy Gollop and accompanied him when Deputy Gollop was invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party. Mike leaves children Scott, Brett, Neil, Michelle and Amy, and stepchildren Katrina, Kirsty and Leanne, as well as grandchildren and wider family, to all of whom we extend our sincere condolences. Members of the States, will you now please join me in rising for a period of silence to honour the memory of former States' Member Michael Garrett.

Members stood in silence

The Bailiff: Thank you all very much.

**Unveiling of blue plaque –
Centenary of election of first female Member, Deputy Marie Randall**

55 **The Bailiff:** I am going to remind Members that at lunchtime today, 12.45 p.m. precisely, there will be the unveiling of a blue plaque marking Marie Randall, who was the first female Deputy, and she was elected into office for the first time at the end of January 1924 – so effectively 100 years ago – who thereafter served for many years as the only female Deputy in this Assembly.

60 That is taking place in St Julian's Avenue and I would encourage as many of you as can to come along and mark that occasion at lunchtime today.

Statement

General update on the States of Alderney – Statement by Alderney Representative Roberts

The Bailiff: I am going to invite, and by default it must be, Alderney Representative Roberts to deliver a general update statement on behalf of the States of Alderney. Alderney Representative Roberts.

65 **Alderney Representative Roberts:** Thank you sir.

I just give apologies to my colleague, Mr Snowdon, who will be on the 12 p.m. today and will be joining me this afternoon.

I am grateful for the opportunity to update the Assembly on the work undertaken across the States of Alderney during 2023 and our priorities for 2024. It has been a very busy year for our Island and I will focus on the areas of work which are most pertinent to the Bailiwick as a whole and the relationship between our two Islands in particular.

70 As well as our close Bailiwick ties, we share the same agenda for change with Guernsey and this is demonstrated in the similarities in our ongoing programmes of work. In a list which will be all-too familiar with our Guernsey colleagues, we have focused on the sustainability of public finances, securing the core services required by our community and supporting and fostering economic growth.

75 Given the numerous overlaps and similarities in our areas of focus, a point illustrated by the common themes between Guernsey's Government Work Plan and Alderney's Government Work Plan, we have been grateful for the greater collaboration through the Working Together initiative and hence the support of Guernsey politicians and officers provided over that year.

80 To a great extent, this initiative has contributed to our working practices and processes, provided expertise in areas that our organisation does not have the fortune of possessing, acted as an enabler to progress workstreams that contribute to the retention of people and the attraction of young families, and has improved our economic and tourism strategies which will not only benefit Alderney but the Bailiwick as a whole.

We, therefore, are looking forward to building on the positive foundations established to date with the new Policy & Resources Committee. We were grateful for the early correspondence from Deputy Trott and we are keen to welcome him and his Committee to Alderney as soon as possible.

90 The themes on the agenda of the Island Plan continue to mature as we focus on those areas which will make the greatest difference to our community. There are, of course, only limited resources available within Alderney and we are conscious of the need to prioritise effectively, including considering how our workstreams can be complementary to their Guernsey equivalents.

95 To take our areas of focus in turn. We are focused on public finances, striving towards value for money, challenging expenditure, identifying opportunities for additional income and delivering efficiencies so that funding is allocated to the greatest priority. Exceptional and unavoidable operational pressures within health and care meant that we entered 2023 with an anticipated deficit in the revenue budget of over £500,000.

100 Through careful management and constant evaluation across the Government's budgets, the position improved over the course of the year and we are anticipating that the final figures will show a deficit in the region of £400,000. The position is improved further still for this year where, through further scrutiny of expenditure and proportionate increases to Alderney property tax, we are anticipating a balanced revenue budget. We have not shied away from making the challenging decisions necessary to make savings whenever possible and we will continue to do so.

105 At the same time, we are continuing a proportionate programme of capital investment, predominantly funded by the Alderney Gambling Control Commission surpluses. There is a

structured leg of investment, combining necessary routine works with focused improvement activity. For example, the phased work on the Mouriaux to Platte Saline Sewer Scheme and funding support for new social housing in conjunction with the Alderney Housing Association.

110 In common with Guernsey, we are adopting principles of best practice on financial reporting. As part of this, work is underway to prepare a Property Asset Register. This central point of reference will provide the evidence necessary to inform future decisions on the size and use of the States' estate, including decisions to release or redevelop properties.

115 Regarding public services, healthcare once again dominated time. After significant operational risks in 2022, healthcare provision is stabilised. The primary healthcare practice, Island Medical Centre, is operating safely and efficiently, providing an enhanced service to the public and more appointments are now available.

120 A newly commissioned ambulance service, provided by St John Ambulance and Rescue Service Guernsey commenced last year. The Alderney service is a satellite station of the Guernsey organisation operating under the same clinical governance framework with ongoing support, leadership and oversight provided by senior staff in Guernsey. Locally based staff have been suitably trained and will be supported by a small number of volunteers who will act as community first responders. The new resilient and professional service provides reassurances to the community and complements our existing emergency service provision on our Island.

125 Stabilising healthcare, while hugely important, was only the short-term aim with a longer aim to develop a sustainable and integrated care model which can effectively respond to the needs of an ageing population. Our integrated care strategy, which we are working on in Alderney today, will work in Guernsey in the future as you face the same challenges and we are grateful for the opportunities created through the Alderney Care Board to share expertise and collectively develop delivery models with colleagues from the Committee for Health & Social Care.

130 We believe that significant change in how care is delivered will be seen over the coming months. Importantly, the joint working in regard to healthcare has demonstrated a mature 21st century approach to the transferred services where the two Islands have worked collaboratively, fully acknowledging the respective roles and responsibilities to ultimately deliver improved services which should lead to efficiencies for both Islands. We hope we can prove this a blueprint for other areas of joint working between the two Islands.

135 Similarly, in common with Guernsey, we wish to support and foster economic growth and a key focus is preparing for the forthcoming Moneyval inspection. We are united with our Bailiwick colleagues in our commitment to meeting the FATF standards. We continue to do so and we can support the Bailiwick's collective position, consistently prioritising the consideration and approval of the legislation needed to support Moneyval. Data is being collated which will demonstrate to the inspectors the steps taken within Alderney to regulate businesses to international standards.

140 The formal establishment of an Economic Development Committee as a full States' Committee in Alderney in January 2023, has bought with it greater opportunity to focus on Alderney's economic prosperity. The Committee has worked closely with a range of stakeholders, both on Island and across the Channel Islands, to undertake current experiences and opportunities with the aim of developing phased and prioritised plans to increase economic activity through its enhanced employment opportunities and transport links.

145 Alderney already punches above its weight – the Gambling Commission being an obvious example – but we know there is further untapped potential which would benefit not just Alderney but the Bailiwick as a whole. Work has been allocated to four pillars of activity; tourism and marketing, business and commerce, Locate Alderney and digital infrastructure.

150 Alderney is open for business, and we are working with all those involved to ensure we have the right infrastructure and legislation to support the established sectors, while attracting new businesses and individuals to the Island. This will be supported by wider activity ongoing through the States of Alderney, for example the commissioned development of the Braye Opportunity Area Masterplan.

160 It will not surprise the Assembly that the key priority for Alderney remains the necessary and overdue works at the airport. The project, as approved by this Assembly in December 2022 and reaffirmed through its inclusion in the Funding & Investment Plan, to refurbish and lengthen the runway, is a vital investment in order to secure and futureproof transport links for Alderney.

165 Aurigny and Alderney Airport have been the cornerstone of connectivity for our Island for many years and although there are fewer destinations through direct routes now, as there once were, Southampton and Guernsey represent our lifelines that we depend on, and to keep those routes alive through the runway investment is now more important than ever. The States of Alderney continues to do all it can to support the project, which is now the subject of a live planning debate.

On the subject of futureproofing, the States of Alderney are working closely and regularly with Alderney Electricity Limited on the implementation of a renewables strategy, in line with the recently agreed energy policy and will be frequently engaging with the general public regarding renewable domestic energy initiatives for the Island.

170 Furthermore, as we look forward to enhance Alderney's contribution to the Bailiwick's future prosperity, we have started working with Guernsey to look at developing marine renewables within our waters in order to use our assets to forge a sustainable future for the whole Bailiwick. We recognise that capital investment is understandably a contentious subject at this moment in time in Guernsey, made more so by recent decisions within the Assembly.

175 We are as invested in the delivery of the full Capital Portfolio in Guernsey as is Guernsey. We know, for example, that the digital elements of the Transforming Education Programme would have tremendous benefits for our learners in St Anne's, as we would the development of the Guernsey Institute.

180 The merits of these other well deserving projects do not detract from the need for investment in Alderney Airport. Option C+ has already been agreed as the optimum solution for Alderney Airport and we are grateful to the States' Trading Supervisory Board for their continued support. We do need to get on with these changes, necessary improvements to Alderney's runway and we hope that there are no further challenges to the process as this project is not only essential to Alderney, but it will provide benefits to the Bailiwick as a whole.

185 Sir, I am really grateful for this opportunity to provide this update to the Assembly. I welcome any questions but what I would ask is that if everybody is asking me a question if they could speak up because I have just got off an aircraft and one of my ears is as deaf as a post. I have tried to clear it, but if you could just speak up please.

Thank you.

190 **The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, it is an opportunity now to ask questions on any matter for which the States of Alderney has responsibility. That is what it says. So does anyone have a question that they wish to put to Alderney Representative Roberts on any matter for which the States of Alderney has responsibility? Deputy Queripel.

195 **Deputy Queripel:** Thank you, sir.

Can Mr Roberts please remind me what the duties and responsibilities of the Alderney Liaison Group are and do they do enough to support Alderney?

200 **The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts.

Alderney Representative Roberts: Thank you, sir.

205 Yes, the Alderney Liaison Group, I think, is a very useful tool for talking between the Islands. Talk is very important at this time. It is an avenue for the Bailiwick politicians to get various topics of concern and the closer we work together and recognise each other's problems or successes can only be beneficial and supplementary to both Islands.

My own view is that we should work together more closely and this has been improved greatly in 2023 and I hope the new P&R and P&F continue in this vein. I am really looking forward to that

210 and where we can find common ground, go forward and make a new start. I believe Deputy Queripel, we met four times last year and I do not have what the agendas or subjects were; they may have been something I cannot talk about but. In my view, positive thinking produces positive outcomes and positive solutions and I think to talk together possibly as much as we can is the thing. I think we need to work closer together.

215 **The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts, the time for answering is up.

Alderney Representative Roberts: Sorry, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Leadbeater.

220

Deputy Leadbeater: Thank you, sir.

Could Alderney Representative Roberts give us an update on Alderney's plans for renewable energy?

225 **The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts.

Alderney Representative Roberts: Deputy Leadbeater, could you repeat the question, please?

230 **Deputy Leadbeater:** Could Alderney Representative Roberts give us an update on Alderney's plans for renewable energy?

235 **Alderney Representative Roberts:** Right, yes I can. We have had a meeting with Alderney Electric they are currently looking at a turbine for the Island, an on Island turbine, and also to do solar panels. This is still in its infancy but it is going forward and when it comes to a certain point it will have to go to public consultation, obviously, because one of the turbines would be possibly on Island and that will always be a subject that people will want to talk about, so it will go all go to public consultation.

240 Also, we had a meeting with a company or a representative on wind turbines. Personally, this is a personal view, I think that wind turbines could be the future for the Islands. I think they could be a money spinner. They are a long way down the line, I think they take 10 or 13 years to get in place by the time they are actually working, but after all the legislation with the seabed and getting things in place, it is not something you can do in a year or two years. It is going to take, well they said 10 to 15, so I called it 13 years.

245 **The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts, the time is up once again.

Alderney Representative Roberts: Okay.

The Bailiff: Deputy Vermeulen.

250

Deputy Vermeulen: Thank you, sir.

Could Deputy Roberts update me on the connectivity by sea to Alderney? We see there is a new inter-island ferry and I wondered if Alderney had been included in those negotiations to have the catamaran perhaps call in on the lovely northern Isle.

255

The Bailiff: Alderney Representative Roberts.

260 **Alderney Representative Roberts:** Of course. Eleven years ago I came to the States on a connectivity ticket because it was so terrible in Alderney and being an ex-aviation person I felt that that was the biggest need, and I have always known it is the biggest need for Alderney and a large

ferry, you know is fine, but for us to run a ferry that is reliable through the winter simply would not work in my view.

265 We lost 25% of our summer ferry through bad weather. Now, okay it is a smaller ferry but we did lose 25% of the sailings through the high sea. So it could never ever replace the Airport, which is a shame but our seas are the roughest in the Channel Islands. It is well known that we have the roughest water and I would not have a lot of confidence in it.

270 So through the summer, I would love to see it visiting Alderney, beautiful the more people it can bring in the better. We need people in Alderney, we need the opportunity for people to reach Alderney and we need the opportunity for families to come, because it is very expensive. It is very expensive to come to Guernsey, it is even more expensive to go to Alderney.

The Bailiff: Alderney Representative Roberts, once again the time is up, could you please keep an eye on the clock. Deputy Gabriel.

275 **Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, sir.

Could Deputy Roberts tell the Assembly more about the Braye Opportunity Masterplan and how the Alderney breakwater fits into that and how it relies on Guernsey's financial involvement to that? Thank you.

280 **The Bailiff:** All right, he is not a Deputy so can people please refer to him as Alderney Representative Roberts.

Alderney Representative Roberts: Thank you, sir.

285 I am delighted, Deputy Gabriel, for this question. Yes, the Braye Opportunity Plan is going forward and we have a Committee that is driving that in Alderney and it is to look at the various parts of where we could have a Marina. We have been talking about a Marina since I can remember, since I was at school we have been talking about Marina, but the breakwater is a totally separate issue that was a total separate agreement, I believe in the early 1980s, and this was to do with the British Government and the British Government said that they would not charge a defence charge, which is 2% of GDP, if they looked after in turn for Alderney breakwater.

290 I think it has proved quite a good, I do not want to say it is a good deal for Guernsey, but I believe that it has been all right and Guernsey has done a fantastic job on our breakwater; absolutely fantastic and it continues to stand up and it is, in a way, it is our Marina because the wind comes from the north west and without that we would be totally exposed and I would like to thank Guernsey for continuing, I take this opportunity for continuing, to support our breakwater. But the Harbour Use Plan is fully operational, it is in its infancy.

295 **The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts, your time has elapsed once again. Deputy Oliver.

300 **Deputy Oliver:** Thank you, sir.

Within your speech you mentioned, briefly, the Airport and I was just wondering if you could give a little bit more detail on that and the progress that it is making.

305 **The Bailiff:** The difficulty with that question is it is not a matter for which the States' of Alderney has responsibility.

Alderney Representative Roberts: Sir, I do not mind answering that question, sir.

310 **The Bailiff:** I am not going to allow you to. Anyone else? Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: I was pleased to be attending, just quietly, the States of Alderney meeting in January when the Committees were elected and I noticed Alderney Representative Mr Robert's

315 colleague, Alex Snowdon, was re-elected President of Economic Development and had seven of the 10 States' Members on it. What key priorities for 2024 are there to develop Alderney's economy, revenue and population to enhance the strength of our Bailiwick?

The Bailiff: Alderney Representative Roberts.

320 **Alderney Representative Roberts:** Yes and you are indeed correct. It has now gone to seven Members but we actually decided at the meeting that was not right because it is supposed to be six Members, no more than six Members on every Committee. So one, I should imagine, one Committee will be coming off.

325 We have been talking to the Guernsey Finance and we have had some very positive meetings with them about looking for having offshore offices, Alderney offices, opening offices in Alderney and we had long positive conversations with them and they are going quite well and we are meeting again with them in the future.

330 There is one or two other things with the Braye Opportunity Plan which is another thing. There is a few things I cannot actually talk about because it would be commercially wrong for me to actually speak about that at this time. But I must say that since that Committee was formed, and I was on the Committee before, it is a much more positive Committee and I am more than happy to be on that Committee and be part of it because I believe that they have got some good ideas and they are actually proactive with that.

335 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

Deputy Matthews: Thank you, sir.

340 I did read in the paper recently a story which included a quote from Alderney Representative Snowdon about the possibility of Alderney and Jersey establishing a summer air link. Does Alderney Representative Roberts agree with me that that has the potential to bring a lot of benefits to Alderney if that were to be established?

The Bailiff: Alderney Representative Roberts.

345 **Alderney Representative Roberts:** Delighted you asked that question to me, Deputy Matthews. Yes, it is well known that I worked for the Airport for 23 years and we used to fly to Jersey, although Guernsey used to fly between each other and they used to be like buses at one time, I am sure you can all remember it, it was brilliant and you could just jump on and off you would go on the Shorts perhaps, or a Trislander and they were going every hour, and that was an absolutely marvellous time.

350 After that finished we had a Jersey connection and a Jersey connection made a tremendous difference because it gave us another pool of people that could come to Alderney and it was used and we used it through the year and it was an average passengers for a Trislander of 16, an average of passengers through the year of 11, which wipes its face well.

355 So the Jersey flight moved well. We had another company tendered for the route, stupidly, I will say that word, the decisions were made to let them join them on that route and after that, Aurigny said well you know what, we are pulling out. Then shortly after, the other company pulled out and we lost the Jersey connection. It is very valuable to Alderney, the Jersey connection. We have football teams, we have ladies golf teams, gentleman's golf teams, sporting teams.

360 **The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts, 90 seconds has elapsed once again.

Alderney Representative Roberts: Sorry, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

365 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Sir, one of the big four has a substantial satellite office, by Alderney standards, in Alderney. It seems like a good model for creating high value jobs in Alderney by being a little bit of a back office to Guernsey financial services business. What kind of activity, if any, is the Economic Development Committee of the States Alderney undertaking to explore building on that successful model?

370 Thank you.

The Bailiff: Alderney Representative Roberts.

375 **Alderney Representative Roberts:** Yes, indeed that is exactly one of the items that we are actually discussing at this time. If we can achieve that we have to be prepared for the other half and not only that, if we manage to get the back offices to Alderney and perhaps get them living in Alderney, we will attract younger people, we will attract children, redress the balance, because the balance is not right in Guernsey and we need more young people.

380 Yes, that is the fact, and we are looking at that exact subject at this very time and it was mentioned in the last meeting. I cannot talk about the meeting and what goes through, as you know, but we are doing lots to prepare ourselves should that happen. But the next meeting is going to be with the finance so we shall know better then whether any progress has been made.

The Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

385

Deputy Gollop: Alderney has a new team and a new Chief Executive and, hopefully, an exciting year ahead. But what savings will Policy & Finance and the States of Alderney be looking perhaps to achieve as part of an efficiency drive with the new regime?

390 **The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts, are you able to answer that?

395 **Alderney Representative Roberts:** I am full of belief that the new Chief Executive has got his finger on the pulse almost, and has hit the ground running, and he is looking at all these issues to save money. It is a time of saving money; we all appreciate that until we have got a proper taxation programme in place which actually pays for things and until we get that, that is going to be the most difficult thing.

400 But, no, there are other ways of saving money and that has being spoken of in Alderney States' and I spoke about that this week privately to somebody and they were telling me, privately, that they were there was some cuttings going there. We wanted to do something, for instance, and that would have included employing another person, so we decided not to do that particular thing, but to spread it in another direction so it could get done that way to save that person being taken on.

The Bailiff: Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

405 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Thank you, sir.

Apart from the Alderney Gambling Commission, Alderney is also home for a company which has been instrumental in setting up and managing all the domain names and domain infrastructure in the whole of the Channel Islands, that includes Guernsey, Jersey and Alderney domain names. But being such a substantial important digital business, have the States of Guernsey explored any opportunities to work with that business to expand Alderney's digital capability, projects and initiatives?

410 Thank you.

The Bailiff: Alderney Representative Roberts.

415

Alderney Representative Roberts: Thank you for that question.

420 There have been a few conversations on that over the years, it has been ongoing, but nothing
actually concrete has come out of it. There has been no agreement between the two parties or the
party that does that to actually register. They do not employ anybody, I do not believe, I think it is
a one-man company, I believe. I might be wrong, there might be one employee, but that is as far
as I know about that one. At one time years ago, they wanted to do a registration for Alderney, you
know where you go the GY1 they wanted to do AC1, but that did not come to a head. I cannot really
give you any more information than that, I am afraid, but I can find out for you and I will find out
for you.

425 **The Bailiff:** As I do not see any other Member rising to ask a question of Alderney Representative
Roberts about any matter for which the States of Alderney has responsibility, we will draw that to a
close.

430 On this occasion there are no questions pursuant to Rule 11, there were some slips, shall we say,
in relation to that, but that will be rectified for the next occasion. I simply remind Members that all
the conditions in Rule 11, paragraph 2 need to be met and I will invite the Greffier to turn to the
next item of business, please.

Billet d'État I

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

5. Independent Monitoring Panel Appointment of Member and Notification of Resignation of Member – Propositions carried

Article 5.

The States are asked to decide: -

*Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter entitled 'Independent Monitoring Panel:
Appointment of Members and Notification of Resignation of Member' dated 25th September 2023,
they are of the opinion:-*

- 1. To confirm the appointment of Dr Nichola Lloyd as a member of the Independent Monitoring
Panel for a period of four years from 15th May 2023;*
- 2. To confirm the appointment of Mrs Alison Good as a member of the Independent Monitoring
Panel for a period of four years from 18th September 2023;*
- 3. To note the resignation of Mrs Jane Rowlinson as a member of the Independent Monitoring
Panel with effect from 23rd June 2023.*

435 **The States' Greffier:** Article 5, Committee for Home Affairs – Independent Monitoring Panel
Appointment of Member and Notification of Resignation of Member.

The Bailiff: And I will invite the President of the Committee, Deputy Prow, to speak to this matter
if he wishes to do so.

440 **Deputy Prow:** Thank you, sir.

The policy letter before us seeks to confirm two new appointments to the Independent
Monitoring Panel and notify the Assembly of the resignation of one Member of the panel, and I

445 take this opportunity to thank the panel for all the work they do. The Committee is pleased to propose confirmation of the appointment of both Doctor Nichola Lloyd and Mrs Alison Good to the panel for a four-year term.

The Committee is also formally notifying the Assembly of the resignation of Mrs Jane Rowlinson from the panel. The Committee wishes to take this opportunity to place on record its thanks to Mrs Rowlinson for her service over the last five years.

Thank you, sir.

450

The Bailiff: I do not see any other Member rising to speak at the moment. Is there any request that any of the three Propositions be taken separately? No, in that case I will simply invite the Greffier to open the voting on the three Propositions, please.

455

There was a recorded vote.

Carried – Pour 34, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 3, Absent 3

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Aldwell, Sue	None	None	Helyar, Mark	Burford, Yvonne
Blin, Chris			Matthews, Aidan	Le Tocq, Jonathan
Brouard, Al			Queripel, Lester	Snowdon, Alexander
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Mahoney, David				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Roberts, Steve				
Roffey, Peter				
Soulsby, Heidi				
St Pier, Gavin				
Taylor, Andrew				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

460 **The Bailiff:** Will you now please close the voting Greffier. In respect of the three Propositions, there voted in favour 34 Members, no Member voted against, no Member abstained, 3 Members did not vote and 3 were absent and, therefore, I will declare all three Propositions duly carried.

COMMITTEE FOR POLICY & RESOURCES

6. Election of three ordinary members of the Guernsey Financial Services Commission – Propositions carried

Article 6.

The States are asked to decide: -

Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled 'Election of three ordinary members of the Guernsey Financial Services Commission' dated 24th November, 2023, they are of the opinion:-

- 1. To appoint Mr Robert Girard as an ordinary member of the Guernsey Financial Services Commission for a three-year term with effect from 25th January 2024.*
- 2. To appoint Ms Anna Guggenheim KC as an ordinary member of the Guernsey Financial Services Commission for a three-year term with effect from 25th January 2024.*
- 3. To appoint Mr Paul Hodgson as an ordinary member of the Guernsey Financial Services Commission for a three-year term with effect from 25th January 2024.*

The States' Greffier: Article 6, Policy & Resources Committee, Election of three ordinary members of the Guernsey Financial Services Commission.

465

The Bailiff: I will invite the President, Deputy Trott, to open the debate, please.

Deputy Trott: Thank you, sir.

470 We note that Advocate Simon Howitt retires next week after more than a decade of notable service to the Commission. His expertise will be missed and that is clearly evidenced by his length of service. Now, sir, the credit for interviewing, selecting and recommending the three outstanding nominations for the Commission, namely Robert Girard, Anna Guggenheim and Paul Hodgson, goes to the former Policy & Resources Committee but I am able to say that I know all three well, regard them extremely highly and have no hesitation in proposing their candidature on behalf of the new
475 Policy & Resources Committee.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Once again, I do not see any Member rising seeking to comment on any of these proposed appointments with effect from tomorrow. Does anyone wish any of the Propositions to be put separately? No, in that case, I will invite the Greffier to open the voting on the three Propositions then, please.

480

There was a recorded vote.

485 *Carried – Pour 35, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 2, Absent 3*

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Aldwell, Sue	None	None	Matthews, Aidan	Burford, Yvonne
Blin, Chris			Queripel, Lester	Le Tocq, Jonathan
Brouard, Al				Snowdon, Alexander
Bury, Tina				

Cameron, Andy
De Lisle, David
De Sausmarez, Lindsay
Dudley-Owen, Andrea
Dyke, John
Fairclough, Simon
Falla, Steve
Ferbrache, Peter
Gabriel, Adrian
Gollop, John
Haskins, Sam
Helyar, Mark
Inder, Neil
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha
Le Tissier, Chris
Leadbeater, Marc
Mahoney, David
McKenna, Liam
Meerveld, Carl
Moakes, Nick
Murray, Bob
Oliver, Victoria
Parkinson, Charles
Prow, Robert
Roberts, Steve
Roffey, Peter
Soulsby, Heidi
St Pier, Gavin
Taylor, Andrew
Trott, Lyndon
Vermeulen, Simon

The Bailiff: And will you now close the voting please, Greffier. In respect of these three Propositions, there voted in favour 35 Members, no Member voted against, no Member abstained, but 5 Members did not participate in the vote and, therefore, I will declare all three Propositions duly carried.

490

OVERSEAS AID & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

7. Appointment of Commissioner – Proposition carried

Article 7.

The States are asked to decide: -

Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter entitled "Overseas Aid & Development Commission - Appointment of Commissioner" dated 15th November 2023, they are of the opinion:-

(i) To appoint Mr Mike Allen as a Commissioner on the Overseas Aid & Development Commission from 1st February 2024 until 31st July 2026.

The States' Greffier: Article 7, Overseas Aid & Development Commission – appointment of a Commissioner.

495 **The Bailiff:** And I will invite the President of the Commission, Deputy Blin, to open the debate, please.

Deputy Blin: Thank you, sir.

500 The appointment has arisen as Mrs Margaret McGuinness is stepping down from the Commission as of 31st January, following six and a half years of dedicated service as a volunteer Commissioner. Mrs McGuinness is leaving the Commission as she is retiring from her employment at Guernsey Water and moving to the United Kingdom.

505 I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Commission and personally, to thank Mrs McGuinness for her high level of commitment and hard work. In particular, Mrs McGuinness' vast professional experience and knowledge of public health matters, especially within the context of water and sanitation, has been invaluable to the Commission. As a result of her endeavours, some of the world's poorest communities received development aid which will bring life changing and sustainable improvement in their lives.

510 The purpose of this is to seek approval to appoint one new Commissioner to serve the remainder of Mrs McGuinness' terms from 1st February 2024 to 31st July 2026. This vacancy was advertised widely across local and social media and a number of applications were received, all of which were of high quality. I wish to thank all of the candidates for their interest.

515 The proposed new Commissioner is Mr Mike Allen. He is an experienced business leader who has successfully led multi-disciplinary teams internationally in multiple sectors. Mr Allen has also supported charitable projects globally with a supply of services and products, at the behest of international government development agencies. He has also worked alongside the United Nations and the World Health Organisation and visited many projects in the developing world to understand their needs and how to best maximise the results for the beneficiaries.

520 In addition, Mr Allen founded his own business providing outsourced procurement services for governments and NGOs with partners in West and East Africa. Mr Allen's extensive experience of conducting business in the developing world, including working alongside charities and governments, will be of great benefit to the Commission and allow it to gain a more international perspective in regard to how businesses, governments and charities interact on development projects. I therefore commend Mr Allen to the Assembly.

525 **The Bailiff:** I am going to put the single Proposition to you as to whether you are minded to appoint Mr Allen as a Commissioner for the balance of the terms of Mrs McGuinness and invite the Greffier to open the voting.

There was a recorded vote.

530

Carried – Pour 37, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 0, Absent 3

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Aldwell, Sue	None	None	None	Burford, Yvonne
Blin, Chris				Le Tocq, Jonathan
Brouard, Al				Snowdon, Alexander
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				

Gollop, John
Haskins, Sam
Helyar, Mark
Inder, Neil
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha
Le Tissier, Chris
Leadbeater, Marc
Mahoney, David
Matthews, Aidan
McKenna, Liam
Meerveld, Carl
Moakes, Nick
Murray, Bob
Oliver, Victoria
Parkinson, Charles
Prow, Robert
Queripel, Lester
Roberts, Steve
Roffey, Peter
Soulsby, Heidi
St Pier, Gavin
Taylor, Andrew
Trott, Lyndon
Vermeulen, Simon

535 **The Bailiff:** Will you now please close the voting, Greffier. And the voting on this Proposition was that there voted in favour 37 Members, no Member voted against, no Member abstained, 3 Members did not participate and, therefore, I will declare the Proposition duly carried.

COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

8. Police Complaints Commission Re-appointment of Chairman – Proposition carried

Article 8.

The States are asked to decide: -

Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter entitled 'Police Complaints Commission: Re-Appointment of Chairman' dated 1st November 2023, they are of the opinion:-

1. To re-appoint Mr Robert Steven Jordan as the Chairman of the Police Complaints Commission for a term of four years, with effect from 26th February 2024.

The States' Greffier: Article 8, Committee for Home Affairs – Police Complaints Commission Re-appointment of Chairman.

540 **The Bailiff:** I invite the President, Deputy Prow, to open the debate.

Deputy Prow: Thank you, sir.

545 The policy letter before us seeks to reappoint the Chairman of the Police Complaints Commission. Mr Robert Steven Jordan has served as the Chairman of the Commission since February 2020 and has demonstrated throughout his tenure that he has ably displayed the required skills to fulfil the role.

The Committee has met with Mr Jordan on a number of occasions since he took up the role and I would like to take this opportunity to put on record the Committee's thanks for his continued commitment and his hard work. I ask the Assembly to support Mr Jordan's reappointment.

550 Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Once again, I do not see any Member wishing to speak in respect of this proposed reappointment of Mr Jordan as Chairman of the Police Complaints Commission, with effect from Friday. I will invite the Greffier to open the voting, please.

555 *There was a recorded vote.*

Carried – Pour 37, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 0, Absent 3

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Aldwell, Sue	None	None	None	Burford, Yvonne
Blin, Chris				Le Tocq, Jonathan
Brouard, Al				Snowdon, Alexander
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Helyar, Mark				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Mahoney, David				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Roberts, Steve				
Roffey, Peter				
Soulsby, Heidi				
St Pier, Gavin				
Taylor, Andrew				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

560 **The Bailiff:** There voted in favour 37 Members, no Member voted against, no Member abstained, 3 Members did not participate and, therefore, I will declare the Proposition duly carried

and correct myself that it is not from this Friday, but from 26th February next month, courtesy of those to my left who pointed out my error.

PRESIDING OFFICER

**9. Election of the President of the Transport Licensing Authority –
Debate commenced**

Article 9.

The States are asked: -

To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Transport Licensing Authority to complete the unexpired term of office, that is to the 30th June 2025, of Deputy J. A. B. Gollop who has been deemed to have resigned from that office, in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.

The States' Greffier: Article 9, Election of the President of the Transport Licensing Authority.

565

The Bailiff: And this is an opportunity for Members to propose and second candidates for the vacated office by virtue of Deputy Gollop's election as a Member of the Policy & Resources Committee as President of the Transport Licensing Authority.

Deputy Gollop.

570

Deputy Gollop: I thank you, sir.

And I found I was instantly ejected from my seat at the Transport Licensing Authority when I joined P&R, but I am still sitting here at the moment, but I have a candidate to propose.

575

The Bailiff: Good.

Deputy Gollop: My candidate, I do not know if there is any opposition, is the current Vice-President, Deputy Doctor David de Lisle. I could speak as to his merits, but ...

580

The Bailiff: No, no, you are simply proposing. Is Deputy de Lisle candidature seconded?

Deputy McKenna: Yes, sir.

585

The Bailiff: Deputy McKenna. Are there any other nominations for the vacancy as the President of the Transport Licensing Authority? Well, in accordance, with my reading at least, of Rule 16, Paragraph 4, even though there is only one candidate, I would invite the proposer Deputy Gollop, to speak for not more than five minutes and then the candidate, Deputy de Lisle, is able to speak for not more than 10 minutes. There will not be any questions, because obviously there is only a single candidate. So, Deputy Gollop.

590

Deputy Gollop: I thought that would be the case, sir and as our arrangements are linked to seating arrangements, I suspect should Deputy de Lisle be successful, he will have the right to sit where I am sitting; but that is for another day. I put up Deputy de Lisle for other positions, including successfully for the Policy Council as an Environment Minister and I am well aware of his attributes having served with him on legislation for a number of years as well, where he always attends and is always widely read of his papers.

595

The relevant point to make is that he has served on this Committee since the last election and was elected Vice-President. We have not met that often, it is fair to say, but that has been because

600 we have had a period of stability in our transport rather than that of cut-throat competition, which would have brought in more licence applications for lifeline routes and, of course, it does not currently apply to open routes.

But Deputy de Lisle fulfilled this role in a previous term when he sat on Commerce & Employment between 2012 and 2016 and then there was a reshaping of Government and the roles were redistributed. But his awareness of working with the staff and the process from that era, when perhaps more logically it was part of a transport based Committee that had an economic imperative as well, was valuable. And he has worked well with our team, which includes Deputy Blin and Deputy McKenna and Mr Roberts from Alderney.

610 I think we only see Deputy de Lisle as a as a long serving and valuable Member of this Chamber, but it is important to bear out that that he is not only entering, well he is in his 20th year he will enter his 21st year as a Member by Easter and is still a Douzeniers after 25 years, but he has been a lecturer and a teacher in Guernsey, but also a sessional lecturer in Canada at Carleton University, a senior economist in the Atlantic region, a senior consultant, a chief planning and program analyst in Manitoba, a lecturer at Brock University, which has a very strong linkage with Guernsey, a teaching assistant at McGill University, a lecturer in geography and also effectively an economic development adviser and analyst for Ottawa and Canada and the regions and provinces of Canada. So he brings a vast experience and a vast experience of Guernsey history as well.

615 When you look at the portraits of Guernsey all the dignitaries of the 17th century seem to be from the de Lisle family. So, I think that his passion for the Island and his knowledge are important. The other quality, I would say, is that apart from politics he is very interested in the retail sector, works to run two in the Town. I mention that because retail is a lifeblood of Guernsey (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) and means that he takes a very broad interest in transportation and migration and passenger transportation, far greater than just an armchair Deputy; he has actually got his feet on the ground. So I commend his candidature.

625 **The Bailiff:** Deputy de Lisle, your opportunity to explain what you will do if you are elected as president of the Transport Licensing Authority.

Deputy de Lisle: Thank you, sir.

630 I thank Deputy Gollop for proposing my nomination and Deputy McKenna for seconding. But I am asking Members of the States to consider my nomination for the position of President of the Transport Licensing Authority. At the beginning of this time, I was elected as Vice-President of the Transport Licensing Authority, I have served previously also on the Transport Licensing Authority under Commerce and Employment during the 2012-16 term, together with Deputy Brouard and former Deputy Laurie Queripel.

635 Over this time, as a Member of the Transport Licensing Authority, there have been changes to the mandate of the Authority due to policy. During my previous term, there were in fact 13 applications, whereas this time there has only been one application so far. Under the quasi open skies policy approved by the States' last term a Guernsey Air Transport Licence is only required by airlines that operate routes designated as lifeline routes, of which there are three; there is Alderney, London Gatwick and Southampton.

640 Before Open Skies, the Air Licensing Law applied to routes between Guernsey and other places in the British Isles, but not the continent or in fact the Republic of Ireland. Despite these changes, the Transport Licensing Authority is responsible for any application on any one of the three lifeline routes. For example, they were originally only two lifeline routes, London Gatwick and Alderney, but Economic Development added Southampton in 2021.

645 As a consequence Aurigny applied for a licence this time for this route and the TLA determined that application. Sir, I think it is important to point out that I have a broader understanding of air transport policy and planning due to my experience with Transport Canada implementing the air navigation satellite based system.

650 In this, I provided support to the Systems Engineering and Integration Project in the area of financial and economic management and conducted a benefit cost analysis for implementation of the air navigation satellite based system across Canada. This paper was submitted by the Deputy Minister of Transport Canada to the 10th Air Navigation Conference, that is the IKO conference, in Montreal in 1991.

655 It had been anticipated that the authority would take on the responsibility of licensing Ro-ro ferry operators and some aspects of licensing of road transport. But to date, while relevant legislation has been drafted, it has not been brought into effect. So the sole responsibility of the Transport Licensing Authority remains limited to consideration of light air transport licensing, the determination of applications that come forward for air transport route licences. I feel that I have the experience working in the role, which is very important, I think, and ask Members of the
660 Assembly to support my nomination as President of the Transport Licensing Authority.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Thank you very much.

665 Well, Members of the States, there will be a secret ballot, as required, in respect of the candidature of Deputy de Lisle, who was proposed by Deputy Gollop and seconded by Deputy McKenna.

There was a ballot.

The Bailiff: Are there any more voting slips to be handed to the Sheriff? Well, I think we can proceed to the next election because there is no ineligibility for the President of the Transport
670 Licensing Authority to be on the Committee for Employment & Social Security.

PRESIDING OFFICER

10. Election of a Member for the Committee for Employment & Social Security – Deputy de Lisle elected

Article 10.

The States are asked: -

To elect a sitting Member of the States as a member of the Committee for Employment & Social Security to complete the unexpired term of office, that is to the 30th June 2025, of Deputy J.A.B. Gollop who has been deemed to have resigned from that office, in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.

The States' Greffier: Article 10, Election of a Member for the Committee for Employment & Social Security.

675 **The Bailiff:** And I will invite the President of the Committee, Deputy Roffey, to nominate someone if he wishes to do so.

Deputy Roffey: I do so. The Committee will be putting forward Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

680 **The Bailiff:** And is that nomination seconded?

Deputy de Sausmarez: Yes, sir.

The Bailiff: Thank you, Deputy de Sausmarez. Are there any other candidates?

685 **Deputy Soulsby:** Sir, I would like to propose Deputy Adrian Gabriel.

The Bailiff: And is that nomination of Deputy Gabriel, seconded?

Deputy Fairclough: Yes.

690

The Bailiff: Deputy Fairclough. Anyone else? Deputy Trott.

Deputy Trott: Sir, I would like to nominate Deputy Lester Queripel.

695 **The Bailiff:** And is Deputy Queripel's nomination seconded?

Deputy Taylor: Yes, sir, I will second that.

The Bailiff: Okay. Anyone else, I have still got some space on my list?

700

Good, right well we have got Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, Deputy Gabriel and Deputy Queripel as nominees. On this occasion what will happen now is that I will invite each of the proposers to speak for no longer than three minutes in respect of their candidate and then each candidate can speak equally for no longer than three minutes and then voting by secret ballot will take place. No one else is entitled to speak. There are no questions. So, Deputy Roffey.

705

Deputy Roffey: It is no surprise that ESS is such a popular to try and join. We had some difficulty in our debate about who to actually put forward because there were some very good candidates, all of which we could work with. But I think we came down with Deputy Kazantseva-Miller for three reasons.

710

The first is that, as Members will have observed over the last three years, she is very bright and analytical and the work of ESS at times can be incredibly complex. By that, sir, I am not suggesting that other Principal Committees do not also deal with complex stuff and I am certainly not suggesting that the other candidates are not the brightest tools in the box either. But just that the particular analytical style of Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, I think, is suited to some of the work streams, a bit like SLAWS, which will be very much in the public domain over the next few months.

715

I think the second reason was that we know that this Deputy has a particular interest in the work stream of maximising economic participation amongst the existing workforce. Now, that is not a matter that falls just on ESS, of course, it is very much a cross policy that is important to all of us, but ESS clearly has a central role on that and, therefore, her passion for that particular subject, I think, will be able to be harnessed by us in that way.

720

And the third reason was a rather slightly perverse one. We thought of all the three candidates that had expressed an interest that maybe Deputy Kazantseva-Miller might be the most cynical about some of our existing policies (*Laughter*) and we like to get cynics inside the tent because we believe in what we do and we believe that when people see the reasons why we do it and understand the full situation the scales tend to fall from their eyes. So, for those three reasons we felt the Deputy Kazantseva-Miller was the ideal candidate. Although we fully accept that there were other very good candidates as well.

725

The Bailiff: Well, I will now invite Deputy Kazantseva-Miller to speak to her candidature.

730

Deputy Kazantseva-Miller: Thank you, sir.

Members, I know that anyone standing today will struggle to fill the shoes of our unique Deputy Gollop. I certainly know of no other Deputy who could keep their own Committee guessing which way they would vote (*Laughter*) the way Deputy Gollop occasionally did on ESS. But one way I will bring continuity to this role is my ability to hold a spectrum of opposing views and helping to reconcile polarising political positions, something that Deputy Gollop excelled at.

735

740 Many of the issues under the Committee's mandate are like political Marmite, such as views on the benefits and welfare system. I do not label myself as following into either side of the political spectrum. I believe firmly that we need to maximise the benefits of the policies under the mandate of ESS, while also maximising the benefits of what a competitive and well-functioning economic system can achieve.

745 With this in mind, and as Deputy Roffey has very acutely observed, when you vote for me today you will know that I will be coming to the Committee as a critical friend, as someone not afraid to ask the difficult questions and who will be keen to look under the bonnet. And I know that Deputy Roffey and his Committee appreciate a diversity of views and strong opinions and I have no doubt would be able to work well with any Member the Assembly chooses today.

750 And now, with only 15 months left, what would I really like to dig my teeth into? Number one is absolutely the work around workforce participation and family support and ESS is one of the key Committees that will be enabling the progression of this policy option as mandated by the Population & Immigration Review, as well as the Leadbeater Cameron Amendment.

755 The second area is also around affordable housing and this is where my work on planning, as we go through the Island Development Plan review, will also be valuable in ensuring we are going to meet our objectives on housing development. Last but not least, one cannot mention SLAWS that Supported Living and Ageing Well Strategy. One of the most important and sensitive policies still outstanding this political term and I can say that you cannot be faint-hearted to be wanting to join ESS today just as SLAWS is ready to hit the press.

But knowing that Deputy Queripel was standing, I could not not finish without adding a poem. Here it is:

In Lesters' Isle where Guernsey is great improving participation is a promising phrase,
Assembly listens, minds set free ready for the election spree,
a chorus rises, hope echoes high, 'Vote for Sasha', Members cry
in democracies dance a choice to sway guided by the Presiding Officers impartial say.
I would be honoured to have your vote today.

760 Thank you.

The Bailiff: I invite the proposer of Deputy Gabriel, Deputy Soulsby, to speak to her candidate.

Deputy Soulsby: Thank you, sir.

765 So when I first met Deputy Gabriel just over three years ago now, I got talking to him, I thought he was an individual with integrity. Now that I know him better, indeed sitting next to him during my gap year, I have seen the evidence of that. *(Laughter)* He listens, he empathises with people, some might say too much, but he is committed to making people's lives better.

770 With Deputy Gabriel you know what you are getting from the outset. He wears his heart on his sleeve. He enjoys his interactions with the people of Guernsey and strives to do the right thing for them in all he does. He holds strong views, is not afraid to make those views known, but he is also willing to listen and consider the evidence before making a decision, which is incredibly important on a Committee whose mandate is complex and which has several work streams that are difficult and challenging.

775 Members will know housing is an intrinsic part of the mandate of ESS. Deputy Gabriel has been working with housing officers at E&I to develop the Guernsey Housing Plan already and is well versed in the policy detail and is so keen to add value to the Employment & Social Care Committee by full participation in the policy discussions and development of partner agencies.

780 He is keen to ensure that low income families are able to heat their homes and clothe their children, the latter being a passion inherited from his late grandfather, Ben. Family is important to Deputy Gabriel, he was born, educated and worked exclusively in Guernsey. His life experiences

mean he understands what makes Guernsey special, but at the same time the challenges it can bring to some people.

785 Working in the logistics sector and customer facing roles, as well as the Civil Service, has given him the experience to look at issues objectively and methodically. For example, during his time at Education he was responsible for managing the transport arrangements for students of Le Murier, Le Bouet and Le Rondin and link sites into mainstream schools.

790 He liaised with parents, carers, staff and teachers of special educational needs students about their needs and transport arrangements to better serve their needs. He considered their varying requirements for making strategic decisions around their transport requirements coupled with the resources available.

795 Deputy Gabriel understands the value of community and has done his bit helping to contribute to it, something that will serve him well on a Committee that really is all about people. He served on the St Peter Port Douzaine for a four-year term. He volunteers occasionally for the Guernsey Voluntary Service at Jubilee House and was a volunteer for the Island Games last year. So when Deputy Gabriel asked me whether I would propose him for the vacant position on ESS I had no hesitation in doing so. He will be a hard working and thoughtful Member of the Committee. I commend Deputy Gabriel to the Assembly and Members ask that you give him your support for this role and the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security.

800

The Bailiff: I will now invite Deputy Gabriel, to speak for up to three minutes please.

Deputy Gabriel: Thank you, sir.

805 Firstly, I would like to thank my Proposer, Deputy Soulsby, and my seconder, Deputy Fairclough, and I would like to expand on the speech that Members have just heard Deputy Soulsby give, my experiences on this planet and where I think I can add value to the Employment & Social Security Committee.

810 Deputy Soulsby has already started the ball rolling by outlining some of my work experiences when I was managing student and SEN transport when I was based at Education's head office in the Grange. Other roles in the private sector and in the Civil Service have seen me interact with utilities, suppliers and the general public in all sorts of ways and this has taught me that sometimes, in general, everybody needs help in one way or another.

815 We are still in the very challenging times created by the tri-factor of COVID, Brexit and the invasion of Ukraine. These pressures are still affecting the families of Guernsey, those that ESS can and do help with Income Support and more. Let's face it, the housing crisis threatens our economy and ultimately our prosperity. We have to get it right or else even more of our young people will not be able to afford to set up their own households and reasonably afford to live on their Island; or they all leave and Guernsey will become a retirement village and nobody wants that.

820 What I am committed to help implement solutions for is our housing situation. ESS and E&I have a key role in this. At E&I we have already developed and spearheaded the Guernsey Housing Plan, a plan with six priority areas, one of those is affordable housing provision. Many of the work streams that are contained in those priorities are coupled with the areas that fall under the wide and complex mandate of ESS, such as creating policies that centre around defining public sector key workers and their housing provision.

825 Another is landlord and tenant rights and obligations. The many crossovers and synergies between the two Committees will help me understand the many aspects of the ESS mandate and I will be able to hit the ground running, so to speak. Another area that I am keen to get involved in and help provide for the community is social rental, housing and partial ownership.

830 The DHA are part of this solution. I am keen to work at ESS to help accelerate the builds with the correct and able partner or partners, because by providing for this sector of the community in turn, it will also support the private market too. I am keen to understand the challenges around the maintenance budget too and this is a key. We need to enable staff and agencies to maintain what

we have. Too often I see examples of under-investment in asset management and I am keen to play my part to ensure that maintenance of property is firmly in front and centre of the agenda at ESS.

835 I was pleased to see the introduction of your Island pension, however, we must not leave behind those who are of pensionable age. The decision to double lock the pension was a good one, it should always be a benchmark not just against inflation but also against median earnings to limit the trend for pensioners to become poorer in relative terms compared with the rest of their community.

840

The Bailiff: I am afraid that your three minutes have expired.

Deputy Gabriel: Thank you, sir.

845 **The Bailiff:** I invite Deputy Trott to speak to the candidature of Deputy Queripel.

Deputy Trott: Thank you, sir.

I have no hesitation in proposing Deputy Lester Queripel. He has consistently championed social policy throughout every single one of his 11-plus years he has been a Deputy. He even established the Age Concern Fuel Fund here in the Island for pensioners who struggle to pay their fuel bills in winter, when he was Chairman of Age Concern back in 2013.

850

He went out into the community and acquired sufficient funding for the scheme to begin its operations and he ran the fund and sat as Chairman of the Fuel Fund Committee for six years, from 2013 until 2019. During that time, the fund paid out tens of thousands of pounds to hundreds of pensioners in need.

855

However, operating the fund became so time consuming, due to the fact it was being accessed by so many pensioners, that Deputy Queripel reluctantly handed over the reins to the next Chairman of the Fuel Fund. The good news is that the fund is still operating to this day, 11 years since he first set it up.

860

Now, sir, Deputy Queripel tells me that he has taken on 310 one-to-one cases in his time as a Deputy and that 62 of those cases has involved supporting Islanders in their quest to attain numerous benefits from ESS. He tells me, and I believe him, he has always had an excellent working relationship with staff with whom he has worked with at ESS and I am sure I do not need to remind colleagues, sir, that he has sung the praises of staff working at ESS in several of his speeches over the years.

865

He also tells me that in the vast majority of those cases, with the help of those Members of staff, he has succeeded in attaining benefit payments on behalf of the majority of Islanders who have sought his assistance. It is clear he is familiar with the system and how it is administered. Deputy Queripel is a strong advocate of the need to accelerate the provision of affordable housing here in the Island, and I have every faith he will do his absolute utmost to do just that, should he succeed in being elected. He is obviously a very good fit. Deputy Queripel, has the skills and interests absolutely complementary to this Committee's mandate.

870

Thank you, sir.

875 **The Bailiff:** And I will invite Deputy Queripel now to speak to his nomination. Deputy Queripel, please.

880

Deputy Queripel: Sir, the purpose of the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security as laid out in the Blue Book is to foster a compassionate, cohesive, aspirational society in which responsibility is encouraged and individuals and families are supported through schemes of social protection relating to pensions and benefits, social housing, employment, re-employment and labour market legislation and, sir, I resonate with every single word of that, particularly the compassionate, cohesive and aspirational society parts.

885 My primary reason for wanting to be a Deputy in the first place is because I wanted to help
Islanders resolve their problems and since being elected back in 2012, I have worked on 310 one-
to-one cases at Deputy Trott mentioned in his speech. One of my first cases was incredibly complex,
I was asked to help a couple in severe distress. Their children had been taken away from them,
pending an inquiry into alleged abuse, they were being evicted from their home, they had a £5,000
890 tax bill they could not afford to pay and one of them had been threatened with the sack because
of their abusive behaviour. I managed to resolve three out of four of those issues, sir, but due to
the fact I was not successful in resolving them all, the couple told me they thought I was a huge
disappointment and that really hurts, sir.

But I was determined to help my fellow Islanders whenever I could and 62 of those 310 cases
have been supporting Islanders in their quest to obtain assistance from ESS and it has been an
895 absolute privilege working with staff at ESS over the years. Every single one of them has bent over
backwards to help and I have nothing but the utmost respect for them.

So having worked on the outside for 11 ³/₄ years I would very much like to now work on the
inside in an attempt to further my knowledge as to how the Department operates and that is the
missing part of my ESS jigsaw at the moment.

900 Having spent so much time working with Members of staff at ESS, I feel it would be a natural
progression for me to become a Member of the Committee and I only hope the majority of my
colleagues feel that I would add value to such a caring, compassionate and considerate Committee.

Thank you, sir.

905 **The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, it is now time to take your voting slips and to vote on
the election of a Member of the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security. I will remind you that
there are three candidates; Deputy Kazantseva-Miller is proposed by Deputy Roffey, seconded by
Deputy de Sausmarez. Deputy Gabriel is proposed by Deputy Soulsby and seconded by Deputy
Fairclough and Deputy Queripel is proposed by Deputy Trott and seconded by Deputy Taylor.

There was a ballot.

910 **The Bailiff:** Are there any more voting slips that have not been handed in? In that case let me
go back to the election of a President of the Transport Licensing Authority. Deputy de Lisle was
proposed by Deputy Gollop and seconded by Deputy McKenna and he secured 30 votes. There
were two spoilt papers and there were three blank papers. Quite what the other two Members who
are present did, I have no idea at all. But as a result of securing 30 votes, I will declare Deputy de
915 Lisle duly elected as the President of the Transport Licensing Authority. Perhaps at lunchtime there
might be a reshuffling of seats generally, so that people are occupying the right seats for the
afternoon session.

Now what is being circulated to you now is a further amendment to the next item of business.
It is almost a case of can you spot the 10 differences between the previous amendment and the
920 current amendments? But I thought we would just get that so that you have got it in your hands
before I ask the Greffier to call the next item of business.

The States' Greffier: Would you like me to do that now, sir?

925 **The Bailiff:** Well, we will just wait. If all Members now have a copy of Amendment 5, I will ask
the Greffier to call the item of business, please.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**1. Government Work Plan 2023-25 –
Debate commenced**

Article 1.

The States are asked: -

Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled 'Government Work Plan 2023-25: policy, strategies and plans' dated 18th August 2023, they are of the opinion:-

1. To agree the statements of work for three strategic portfolios for the duration of this political term and to direct the Committees of the States to prioritise their resources to progress accordingly: Public service resilience, security and governance;

Housing, infrastructure and the economy; and

Sustainable health and care services.

2. To agree that housing supply and affordability is a critical enabler to each of the strategic portfolios and a main driver of cost of living pressures; and therefore to agree in principle that the States should be prepared to invest to facilitate regeneration of the Bridge through the development of housing and related flood defense work.

3. To direct the Policy & Resources Committee to identify an annual sum in the Funding & Investment Plan for future government work plans, based on the principles of proportionate legislation and efficient public service delivery.

4. To direct the Committee for Economic Development to prioritise its resources to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with its committee work plan in Appendix 4 that translates the requirements of the Government Work Plan where they engage its mandate, noting the funding provision in Appendix 10.

5. To direct the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture to prioritise its resources to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with its committee work plan in Appendix 5 that translates the requirements of the Government Work Plan where they engage its mandate, noting the funding provision in Appendix 10.

6. To direct the Committee for Employment & Social Security to prioritise its resources to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with its committee work plan in Appendix 6 that translates the requirements of the Government Work Plan where they engage its mandate, noting the funding provision in Appendix 10.

7. To direct the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure to prioritise its resources to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with its committee work plan in Appendix 7 that translates the requirements of the Government Work Plan where they engage its mandate, noting the funding provision in Appendix 10.

8. To direct the Committee for Health & Social Care to prioritise its resources to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with its committee work plan in Appendix 8 that translates the requirements of the Government Work Plan where they engage its mandate, noting the funding provision in Appendix 10.

9. To direct the Committee for Home Affairs to prioritise its resources to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with its committee work plan in Appendix 9 that translates the requirements of the Government Work Plan where they engage its mandate, noting the funding provision in Appendix 10.

10. To note that the Policy & Resources Committee has taken account of the costs for the work established in the Government Work Plan 2023-25 in Appendix 10 when setting the Annual Budgets for 2024 and 2025 as previously directed by the States.

11. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rules 1(2) and 23, replace the Ordinary Meeting on 3rd July 2024 with an Ordinary Meeting of the States on Wednesday 19th June 2024 where they will consider the States Accounts, a proposed order of priority for the drafting of significant items of

legislation for the year ahead and identification of States Resolutions; which remain outstanding and delete the Special Meeting on 18th June 2024.

12. In the final year of the States' term, direct the Policy & Resources Committee to lay an 'End of Term' policy letter including:

i. its commentary on progress against the Government Work Plan in a 2024-25 Government Work Plan Monitoring Report;

ii. identification of States Resolutions which remain outstanding;

iii. a proposed order of priority for the drafting of significant items of legislation for the year ahead; and

iv. handover reports prepared by all Committees (which includes Authorities, Boards and other States' bodies) to appraise their successors of what are considered to be the main policy and operational challenges facing the Committee in the next term. This may include policy issues and extant Resolutions which the Committee either did not complete or could not prioritise during the term, but which they believe should be considered in the forthcoming term by their successor Committees. These reports must be prepared to a standard format reflecting the Government Work Plan and transmitted to the Policy & Resources Committee in time to be considered and published as appendices to its 'End of Term' policy.

930 **The States' Greffier:** Article 1, Policy & Resources Committee – Government Work Plan 2023-25.

The Bailiff: Well, on behalf of the Committee I will invite Deputy Murray, to open the debate please.

935 **Deputy Murray:** Thank you, sir.

I am a bit disconcerted because it has taken so long I am wondering if I am actually dreaming and that we are actually about to debate the GWP, (*Laughter*) so if I am standing here in my jimjams, I would certainly appreciate somebody giving me a pinch.

940 Sir, the Assembly has waited a long time to debate the reset of its Government Work Plan for the remainder of this political term. Having originally considered it in principle under the provisions of Rule 79 last summer, under the leadership of the former Policy & Resources Committee.

945 As the successor Committee elected just before Christmas, there has been limited time to discuss it, which by its nature is all encompassing and engages the mandate of every States' Committee. However, this is a reset which was certainly developed with all the Committees and as the previous lead on that work, I am able to advise the States that it is our view that it continues to identify the priority work, whether that be in the three portfolios or as obligatory matters such as within legislation, extant strategies, or in respect of the increasing international obligations we face as a jurisdiction.

950 The former Policy & Resources Committee took away the views that the summer debate elicited. Members will recall housing was the greatest concern, as indeed it has been since the plan was first developed at the start of this term (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) Housing supply and affordability remains the single greatest enabler for our future, followed closely by education and skills, if our Island is to be attractive to the working families necessary to grow our economy and sustain our public services. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

955 Sir, this is the Assembly's plan. Appendix 12, for example, contains the Guernsey Housing Plan from the work led by the Committee for Environment & Infrastructure and this policy letter also discharges a Resolution to set out the scope for future homes on States' property. The Committee for Employment & Social Security continues to work with the Guernsey Housing Association in discharging its mandate for affordable housing in very close co-operation with Policy & Resources, which is a co-regulator of the Association.

960 The other consistent theme in the previous debate was a request for progress updates. The policy letter now addresses that in Appendix 11. There has, of course, been further progress given

the time elapsed since publication and it will be for those lead Committees to develop further the updates already described in the policy letter where they wish.

965 So, sir, the policy letter before us reflects Members work in Committees and their input through that earlier debate ensures that this can truly be considered the Assembly's Plan. We now have the opportunity today to endorse the resulting work streams so that we can motor on, as we must, to work through to the end of this term, however challenging the topics we face together.

970 The Propositions in the policy letter were constructed to: (1) Support endorsement of the three strategic portfolios that will progress work to future proof our community; (2) Evidence the Committee work plans that will enable that will deliver the enabling policy development and operational implementation of both future decisions and those already made in the form of new legislation and extant strategies; (3) Prioritise economic growth and housing, particularly through the Bridge Regeneration Project; (4) Procedural matters for reporting through to the end of the term.

975 Of course, the Assembly has already approved and amended the Funding & Investment Plan, reflected now in the 2024 Budget. That afforded, in principle, agreement to essential developments. However, a critical enabler remained unfunded; the Transforming Education Programme. That was not something that this Policy & Resources could, in good conscience, allow to be left unaddressed, especially ahead of the Assembly's consideration of this GWP which, frankly, might well be undeliverable without some elements of the Transforming Education Programme progressing, such as in facilitating the skills strategy.

980 Consequently, the Committee has looked again at funding mechanisms and by laying the amendment you have just received, which we will shortly debate, is asking the Assembly to carefully reflect on how its Work Plan could be fully delivered without making this necessary investment.

985 Sir, on the theme of how relevant this debate is today, I have already highlighted housing supply and affordability and supporting education and skills development, both critical enablers common to each of the three portfolios. But I would like to further illustrate the enabling role that the GWP represents. Led by the Cross Committee's Strategy and Policy Service, working with Committee leads where their mandates are engaged and in this case HSC, ESS and P&R, I can advise the Assembly will have a future model of long-term care and options for its funding by the middle of this year.

990 This will in part discharge long outstanding resolutions from the Supporting Living and Ageing Well Strategy, known as SLAWS and, if agreed, will set the direction to manage and mitigate the projections which currently indicate that demand will exceed current bed capacity by the end of this year. Indeed, projections suggest that by 2030, just six years away, an additional 132 care beds will be required, equivalent to four average sized care homes with 33 beds and 48 more people will need support at home.

1000 The impact of our ageing demographic, therefore, is no longer just a future challenge; it is already at the gate. Consequently, the Assembly will be able to consider an implementation plan which demonstrates the interdependencies of decisions we make here today. Progressing a new model for long term care could be the step change needed to ensure we can mitigate the rising costs of health and care, a core outcome of the Sustainable Health & Care Portfolio, so that we can continue to deliver the care that the community requires now and in the future.

1005 But there are no quick fixes and any new model will take time to implement and the point at which it starts will be in the hands of this Assembly. Co-ordination will be required for the multifaceted activity needed to ensure we can resource any such new resulting model. For example, market incentivisation on Island training, clear career pathways and potential options aimed at encouraging employment choices for local people being just some of the possibilities before us.

1010 A key aspect, yet again, will be, of course, in addressing the availability of necessary housing provision. But this initiative will be seen to demonstrate the value in the integration of future planning to align decision making across the strategic portfolios. There are other existing examples within the other two portfolios of bringing together interrelated actions and co-ordinating the work to achieve the very best option appraisals for this Assembly.

1015 The States' Electricity Strategy has kicked off a range of important actions. The offshore wind group has been reconstituted as a broader group through which to explore the potential for offshore wind energy and now includes the Committee *for* Environment & Infrastructure to work more closely with other interdependent work streams, such as the implementation of that Electricity Strategy.

1020 The Moneyval evaluation rightly remains a priority. The provision of the resources that have been required and the funding that has been needed have in part been enabled by us being able to take a broad view across our Government priorities. This has been a cross Committee endeavour, very much led by Home Affairs, but has involved Economic Development, P&R and, of course, the Law Officers with some 82 pieces of legislation having been enabled and, of course, endorsed by this Assembly.

1025 Similarly, with our response to the impact of Brexit, whether it be borders or trade agreements, the Government Work Plan has enabled us to see the scale of what we need to deliver as a Government tasked with maintaining and delivering public services, whilst meeting international obligations and ensuring we remain competitive as an international finance centre.

1030 So, sir, we are making progress in critical areas, but it is clear that we are still trying to do way too much with limited resources and the next step has of necessity to be even more robust with prioritisation of what really matters, of what really can be done and what our taxpayers can and are willing to afford.

1035 In closing, sir, I would re-emphasise the importance of ensuring we retain that capacity across Government to continue to move quickly, particularly this year as the international world around us becomes increasingly changeable. 2024 will be a year of elections across many jurisdictions, likely the UK, certainly the EU and of course in the US and with a fresh conflict having broken out, even in the time since this policy letter was first published, uncertainty and change is unfortunately becoming the new normal and we will undoubtedly have to respond to the impact of international developments at pace.

1040 But as a jurisdiction, we have many strengths (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) and being agile when circumstances demand is certainly one of them. The GWP reset before us today is designed to bring focus, recognising the need to have that capacity readily available by prioritising resources on the most pressing needs of Government and I look forward to the input of Members during the ensuing debate.

1045 Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Well, Members of the States, before we turn to the amendments, let me declare the result of the election for a Member of the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security. Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, who was proposed by Deputy Roffey, seconded by Deputy de Sausmarez, received 10 votes. Deputy Gabriel, who was proposed by Deputy Soulsby and seconded by Deputy Fairclough, received nine votes. Deputy Queripel, who was proposed by Deputy Trott and seconded by Deputy Taylor, received 18 votes. There were no spoilt papers, there were no blank papers, everyone participated and, therefore, I declare Deputy Queripel duly elected.

1055 Deputy Trott, I understand that the Committee does not want to pursue Amendment 4, but wishes to pursue Amendment 5 instead. So you will not be laying Amendment 4, but as a Committee amendment I will invite you to lay Amendment 5.

Deputy Trott: Thank you, sir.

1060 I am, as you say, laying Amendment 5 which has one difference to Amendment 4, which I shall refer to later.

The Bailiff: Would you like it read at all?

1065 **Deputy Trott:** To be honest, sir, I think that would be of help. Yes, I think I will ask for it to be read.

The Bailiff: By the Greffier? (*Laughter*)

1070 **The States' Greffier:** Amendment 5 proposed by Deputy Trott and seconded by Deputy Soulsby.

[Amendment 5:](#)

Option to insert new propositions as follows:

Option 1

13. To agree that progressing the Transforming Education Programme is a priority in this political term and that:

- a. The capital elements of the Transforming Education Programme should be phased, with priority given in this term to the construction of The Guernsey Institute and the foundations for the Sixth Form Centre at Les Ozouets Campus and the necessary refurbishment of Les Varendes High School – 'Phase 1' (as set out in Appendix 1 (Option 1) to this amendment);*
- b. 'Phase 1' of the Transforming Education Programme should be added to the agreed capital portfolio for the remainder of this term at an indicative cost of up to £88m;*
- c. The total portfolio value in this term will increase to £428m;*
- d. The increase in the portfolio value should be funded by:*
 - i. Use of up to £33m from the General Revenue Reserve; and*
 - ii. Borrowing of up to £55m under the authority previously granted¹ to the Policy & Resources Committee; and*
- e. The States will be able to afford to service the additional borrowing through the substantial increase in the estimate of revenues likely to accrue through implementation of the OECD's Pillar Two initiative which provides for a 15% effective tax rate for large multinational enterprises and will be effective from 2025. Or, if Option 1 is not approved: -*

Option 2

14. To agree that progressing the Transforming Education Programme is a priority in this political term and that:

- a. The capital elements of the Transforming Education Programme should be phased, with priority given in this term to the construction of The Guernsey Institute at Les Ozouets Campus and the necessary refurbishment of Les Varendes High School – 'Phase 1' (as set out in Appendix 1 (Option 2) to this amendment);*
- b. 'Phase 1' of the Transforming Education Programme should be added to the agreed capital portfolio for the remainder of this term at an indicative cost of up to £87m;*
- c. The total portfolio value in this term will increase to £427m;*
- d. The increase in the portfolio value should be funded by:*
 - i. Use of up to £32m from the General Revenue Reserve; and*
 - ii. Borrowing of up to £55m under the authority previously granted to the Policy & Resources Committee; and*
- e. The States will be able to afford to service the additional borrowing through the substantial increase in the estimate of revenues likely to accrue through implementation of the OECD's Pillar Two initiative which provides for a 15% effective tax rate for large multinational enterprises and will be effective from 2025.*

The Bailiff: Thank you very much, Deputy Trott.

Deputy Trott: Thank you, sir.

1075 Beautifully and faultlessly read by the States' Greffier. Sir, this amendment has dual drivers for the Policy & Resources Committee. The first is the need to invest in education and skills, which benefits the whole community and our economy. The second is the imperative to support the development of housing, which I have personally stated is my top priority and which again is a key enabler in our community to drive the economy.

1080 Voting for this amendment today would deliver on both of those priorities. But how is this
investment made possible? Well, that is through a strong economy, a degree of compromise and a
pinch of good fortune. Of that there can be no doubt. I should say at the outset, that this
amendment is not about the agreed model of secondary and post-16 education. That model has
previously been agreed by the Assembly. This amendment does not seek to alter that model. Not
1085 only is that not our mandate, but we also do not happen to believe it is what is currently required.

This amendment is about how we go about funding that model so that it can be implemented.
So, the first element of the Propositions are about phasing the programme. So phase one will
include the redevelopment of Les Ozouets Campus to build a new home for the Guernsey Institute,
plus the option of setting the foundations for the sixth form centre, which I will come back to.

1090 It also includes the digital roadmap for the Institute and the necessary improvements at Les
Varendes High School. It also incorporates several elements of the programme, which are already
funded and in train and, therefore, not subject of this amendment. All of this is set out in the
appendix to the amendment, necessarily extensive

Phase two, a matter for the next Assembly to fund, will compromise the building of the new sixth
1095 form centre, as well as the sports facilities necessary to deliver the post-16 curriculum. Now that is
enough from me on matters in the remit of the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture other
than to thank Members of that Committee warmly for working with us on this amendment and for
the compromise they are putting forward. It is how I remember the Guernsey politics of yesteryear
and it is great to see it back in play. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

1100 What this phasing means is that the funding requirement in this term has reduced from
£111 million, which was included in the Funding & Investment plan, to £88 million for Option 1 or
£87 million for Option 2. So the funding we now need to find has reduced by £23 million or
£24 million

Now, before I go on to talk about the funding proposals, I will briefly mention the options
1105 presented. So Option 1 includes the foundation work for the sixth form centre as part of Phase 1.
This work, which will minimise future costs and disruption, comes at a cost of only £1 million. I
should say that the Members of the Policy & Resources Committee are minded, strongly minded,
to vote for this option as it is likely to deliver better value for money and importantly will remove a
future disruption to students at the Guernsey Institute from noisy piling work.

1110 Option 2 would leave the foundation work until Phase 2 and this would save us just under
£1 million now. Now, sir, suffice to say that these options have been laid out so that the Assembly
can decide today either one, in my opinion, being far better than the *status quo*. So turning to
funding, we have calculated that it is safe to use up to £33 million from the General Revenue Reserve
without adversely affecting the resilience of our reserves. Given the additional revenue, which we
1115 are delighted, is now to be expected from the OECD's Pillar Two initiative and after taking account
of servicing borrowing, this would allow the General Revenue Reserve to be restored to current
levels by mid 2028.

This leaves a balance of £55 million to find and we are proposing that this is funded through
1120 borrowing. Now, I am all too aware of the cautiousness of several Members of this Assembly and
the reluctance to add debt to our balance sheet. But Members' of the Assembly, in the same way
we authorised a small amount of borrowing, when the Hospital Modernisation Programme was
added to the portfolio, we now need to do so for this vital programme of work.

In making this proposal it is important to remember, firstly, that the borrowing is not required
today. In fact, it will not be required in this term. The expectation is that borrowing will be required
1125 sometime during 2026, so it is at least two years away. Secondly, that inflation and interest rates are
likely to fall over that period and so the £3.2 million per annum estimate of the cost of a long dated
bond today is likely to be somewhat less by the time the borrowing is put in place.

Thirdly, and most importantly, we now have reliable updated estimates on the revenues likely to
1130 accrue from the Pillar Two initiative. Let me spend a little time on that as we have had some
questions, quite understandable questions, about why the estimate has increased so much. Well,

the team in the Revenue Service undertakes a detailed review of revenue forecasts each quarter based on the latest information available.

1135 The latest such review picked up that some in-scope companies had filed their 2022 tax returns which could then be fed into the Pillar Two analysis. Then, in December, more detailed information became available on the approach of other jurisdictions, including the USA, which allowed the forecasting to evolve, and this has all led to a revised estimate of an average of £30 million a year, although the Income Inclusion Rule is planned to come into effect from 2025 in Guernsey, subject to States' decisions later this year, revenues are not expected until 2026.

1140 It is important for the States to know that when this information came our way this amendment in front of you today had not even been thought of. In other words, this very positive news about our tax revenues, which was not known to our predecessors on P&R, came about before we considered this compromise Amendment for the Assembly. So there can be no suggestion that we have simply received information and manipulated that information in a manner that makes this amendment deliverable. It was very much a case that it was a consequence of that good news, not
1145 in any way part of it.

Now, one Member has asked about our confidence in the numbers. Well, of course, there is still a way to go until final implementation and we cannot predict the amount of consolidation and other behavioural changes that will result. But, the people who know are confident that the estimate of £30 million is a solid one on which to plan our finances. This all means that the additional
1150 revenues will enable the repayment of borrowing, the replenishment of reserves and the overall affordability of the proposal.

Now, sir, I am going to return briefly to housing because the Coutanchez site is a prime site for housing and its development framework allows for private development and or affordable housing, however, the Committee for Employment & Social Security had some concerns about the
1155 Proposition that was previously Proposition 15. We have received undertakings from them that if we were to remove that Proposition then we could be reliant on their support for one or other of the options in this amendment.

And I said at the start this is all about consensus, it is all about consensus, and in my view, we have an opportunity today to send out a very strong signal to our community that we are all
1160 determined to see this project progress. So I do hope that Members will agree that this amendment is a classic Guernsey compromise. I make no apologies for that. And success will be everyone leaving feeling that they did not quite get what they wanted. (*Laughter*) That is what compromise is all about and that is what our consensus system is all about; the art of the possible.

So I implore Members, all Members, to vote for this amendment so that we can get on with not
1165 one, but two important priorities for the States and I genuinely look forward to the debate, which I believe, is going to be extremely positive in nature.

Thank you, sir.

1170 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby, do you formally second Amendment 5?

Deputy Soulsby: I do, sir.

The Bailiff: Thank you. Deputy Haskins.

1175 **Deputy Haskins:** Thank you, sir,

I do echo Deputy Trott's comments and it was an excellent and comprehensive speech, I hasten to add. Sir, but I would like to start by saying that the majority of ESC do support this amendment. It is, of course, merely to add two Propositions into the list of current Propositions in the GWP.

1180 The time to debate Option 1 or 2 should really be in general debate, not here, as we can only agree with the full amendment or not. So with that said, sir, I will not be very long. This is not, as Deputy Trott has already mentioned, not another debate on the model and is not a debate on any

interim home for the rest of the programme. This is about funding for the construction element of the Guernsey Institute in the Transforming Education Programme.

1185 Sir, put simply, TEP is an agreed and critical programme. Deputy Trott said it, a vital programme. Some Members explained, through previous debates, that they thought we could not afford to deliver this project at the time. This Assembly is now being informed, after more work has been done in the OECD Pillar Two arena, that there are substantial revenues that will be forthcoming from them and there is high certainty to them.

1190 Now, this equates to £20 million a year above the original estimate. Essentially, if we had a surplus that we really should have, we could take it from there and it would take just around four and a half years to replenish the amount spent. Unfortunately, we do not have that level of surplus, so we are being advised that we should still borrow, not the full amount, the £55 million.

1195 Now the interest and capital repayment is £3.2 million a year and given that this programme needs to be done sooner, or later, it still needs to be done either way, it is the perfect opportunity to put it back in the GWP.

Now it was not in this one because it was essentially already funded, already agreed and in flight, but we are where we are. It is our States' agreed direction plus, as Deputy Trott will I am sure continue to remind us, we will get one step closer to delivering on more housing, which most of this Assembly know is our priority.

1200 The amendment states that it will take two and a half years to fill the revenue gap of £33 million, which I say is fantastic news. That is £33 million over 30 months, which is around £12 million a year. Out of interest, and only for interest, I work out that the repayments on £16.2 million at around 5%, which we hope will be lower, would be roughly £800,000 a year.

1205 So, am I happy that P&R have returned with only some of the funding? Well, no, of course not because any delay costs the taxpayer money. Is it cheaper in the long run and more efficient to do it all at once? Yes, but this amendment in front of us is the compromise that has been mentioned by Deputy Trott and that some Members have sought and it represents our best chance of obtaining approval. Start with the TGI, lay the groundwork for Phase 2, or not, and then build sixth form later.

1210 As I said, sir, I am not going to explain all the merits of which option as I do not believe here is the right place, but what we are being told is we can afford TEP, the Transforming Education Programme, and we urgently need, it is essential, that we have TEP. So I see no barrier. So Members, please vote for this amendment and you can look forward to me explaining why Option 1 will be the best option in general debate.

Thank you.

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The Bailiff: Deputy Ferbrache.

1220 **Deputy Ferbrache:** So I read on the previous amendment, it is pragmatic. I probably would not have voted for it if the majority of the Education Committee had been against it, but they are not. We have heard from the Vice-President that he is in favour, in relation to where we are and as he has said the genesis really for this is the extra £20 million, or thereabouts, which may come under Pillar Two.

1225 Now I say various things in relation to that. Firstly, I applaud the persistence and the judgement of Deputy Parkinson (**Several Members:** Hear, hear.) because Deputy Parkinson had said consistently, in many speeches inside and outside this Assembly, that the £10 million that we had been advised by expensive independent consultants was the likely figure that we would receive from Pillar Two, was inaccurate. He said it would be many millions of pounds more and it looks as though and, of course the proof of the pudding is not quite in the eating yet, that he is going to be right.

1230 But I now accept his judgement which he, as I say, consistently has echoed, stated and put forward over a period of time. I am disappointed with the advice that we have received, both externally and internally in relation to the figure because a multiple of three is unacceptable. That is not the fault of the current P&R or any Member thereof, but the figures we were given consistently

1235 at P&R over a long period of time, and I asked those that were advising us 50, 60, 70 times every time, could we rely on that figure because that was the figure we were going to put forward to the States that we would receive from Pillar Two, the £10 million, and I was told yes that is the figure we put forward. Deputy Helyar was told that figure and, therefore, that was the advice we gave to the States.

1240 Not only was it wrong, it was badly wrong, but we could only rely upon the advice that we were given. Now the last thing I ever wanted to do was sound like a grumpy predecessor to a States' Committee and say that, 'Oh, well, everything you do is wrong and everything we did is right', as a political predecessor did. I am not talking about anything internally in Guernsey, I am talking about Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher.

1245 Now Edward Heath was disgruntled after losing two elections in 1974, being ejected upon the leadership of the Tory party in 1975 and his predecessor did everything wrong, sorry his successor I should say, did everything wrong.

1250 Now, of course, I am not like Edward Heath I cannot play the piano and I cannot sail the Atlantic and Deputy Trott is not like Margaret Thatcher because he does not wear dresses and he has not got a handbag. (*Laughter*) What he does have is a wallet and he is a Guernseyman and he keeps it as tightly closed as he possibly can; that is not true, as when we went to lunch he often pays his way, occasionally.

1255 But seriously, in relation it is a good, pragmatic decision. That is not to say I am not disappointed. Not with Deputy Trott or anybody else in P&R because I anticipate, I do not know, that it was a compromise within P&R as well because they may well hold different views in relation to the education model going forward; but that is for another day.

1260 What I am concerned about is, it is not again a criticism, but it is a very helpful and detailed explanatory note because it shows that the original scope would have cost £111.3 million and the funding requirement is just under £88 million and the reason for that is that they have taken away the sports hall and the sixth form centre, which totalled £24 million or £25 million or thereabouts in relation to that.

1265 Now, I appreciate that is the right decision to do, but what we are told, and again I accept that, and I very much accept that, it is a guesstimate at the moment because what we have been told is two things the Pillar Two monies will not come through until at least until 2026 and it might be 2028. There is some variation as to precisely when that will be. We are not going to need the borrowing, Deputy Trott said that, for another couple of years or so. He does not know, he has not got a crystal ball, he does not know what the precise rate of interest is, but 5% is a reasonable assessment. If it is a bit more, a bit less, it is within that tolerance I would have thought.

1270 And what they have estimated over a 40-year period is with interest and capital it will cost £3.2 million a year. Now that has got to be well, affordable. Now, what I just did on my calculator was to say if we did the whole thing and borrowed another £24 million or £25 million, i.e. included the sports hall, it is a great shame we cannot include the sports hall, and included the sixth form centre, and it is a great shame that we cannot move the sixth form centre now, that just using that arithmetic the cost would be, over that period, circa £4.6 million because you would be adding back another £24 million or £25 million.

1275 Now, if we can afford £3.2 million, we can really afford £4.6 million, bearing in mind we have been told we are going to get another £20 million and I would have thought, if I really were to press Deputy Parkinson he might think that the £30 million might be a lower figure and we might achieve even more. But he has been more right on this topic than anybody else in this Assembly in relation to that figure because we have been told what it is now.

1280 I assume that the Americans could still be an impediment to this, we have now crossed that bridge and that they are not going to be able to put anything down which will prevent Pillar Two because we are dependent on Pillar Two for, now, £30 million. But I say, I echo, Deputy Trott's words that this is a good compromise. I wish we could do more because we are still going to be left with the problem of what to do with the sixth form centre and also we are all interested in sport in one form or another, even Deputy Trott and I because we support Tottenham Hotspur and they are a

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football team, I think, that in respect of all of those matters, that it is a shame that we cannot go forward with that.

1290 But we are, to use that horrible colloquial phrase, where we are and it is better to do this going forward. So having heard Deputy Trott, having heard the Vice-President of the Education, Sport & Culture Committee, I have absolutely no reservations at all to say that we should support the amendment.

The Bailiff: Deputy Prow.

1295 **Deputy Prow:** Thank you, sir.

I would start by saying that I very much agree with the Vice-President of Education, Sport & Culture in commending Deputy Trott for his very clear and very good opening to this amendment, which is actually very helpful and I would also say, sir, that I was very relieved to see this amendment to the Government Work Plan.

1300 Sir, in my view, it would have been a disgrace for this Assembly to have this term agreed a Transformation of Education Programme, but not to have delivered any of it. That decision was a clear one. The majority plank being to build the Guernsey Institute and a sixth form centre at Les Ozouets. This decision was destined to end decades of controversy and inertia and provide a way forward following the decision to end grammar school education.

1305 In my contributions to these debates, I have emphasised the absolute need for our young people to have the best possible education and skills to live and work in our Bailiwick, or to follow their dreams. I will not rehearse this any further today. However, I believe it is entirely appropriate for Policy & Resources to bring this amendment as it deals with the capital elements and funding. This is, after all, a Government Work Plan debate.

1310 As an Assembly, we should remind ourselves that we consider this matter in the absence of a fiscal taxation policy, which is fit for purpose, to meet all the enormous challenges we face from housing shortages, pressures on public services, crumbling infrastructure, the deficit and the ageing demographic. We are, however, put on notice in the explanatory note that the States will not address fiscal policy, including a new Capital Portfolio, until the next political term; timing not known, likely to be before June 2026. Sir, this is very relevant to this amendment in terms of putting off decisions or phasing as described in the amendment. Nonetheless, I thank P&R for revisiting this vital initiative with this amendment.

1320 Sir, we are told P&R have taken a fresh look at the best means of funding. As an Assembly, despite valiant attempts, we were unable to do so in the funding investment debate. It appears the revisit is enabled by the very recent information received by Treasury in respect of the global Pillar Two initiatives. I endorse completely what Deputy Ferbrache has said in his speech.

1325 It is unfortunate that we, as an Assembly, did not have the information we appear to have now and the estimated modelling was so out of kilter to what we are now being told. And indeed, I endorse what Deputy Ferbrache has said around what Deputy Parkinson has been trying to say to this Assembly for some while, that the assumptions relating to Pillar Two has risen from £10 million to £30 million. This is extraordinary when revenues are struggling to scratch the surface of the challenges I alluded to.

1330 So as I see it, this has allowed P&R to prioritise a new Capital Portfolio contained within the ambit of the whole Government Work Plan. In summary, this has given scope to use General Revenue Reserve to borrow and to borrow. P&R already have the ability to borrow up to £200 million and they are suggesting it is possible to increase the total GWP portfolio to £427 million. Sir, this is, of course, excellent news.

1335 There is, of course, a sting in the tail or a compromise as very well explained by Deputy Trott with regard to delivering what the States had resolved to do. The TEP will be phased. The cost associated with the construction of the sixth floor centres has been removed. I understand the Bill cost is only some £6.2 million of the original scope of £111 million. Building costs will rise considerably; a point very well made by Deputy Haskins.

Interim provisions have been put in place which will incur cost in the medium and longer terms. Sir, I am struggling to see the fourth case for phasing the project to the extent set out. Please could I, therefore, ask the President P&R to assuage any cynicism that the phasing of the project is more of a political deployment to appeal to the detractors of the concept of the TEP, who might still be holding out for their preferred model of education. If P&R are seeking compromise I would really like them, again, to say so and provide that assurance.

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Sir, I again genuinely thank P&R for bringing this proposal to the Assembly and for doing so very quickly. It does allow for significant progress and that is to be applauded and very welcome. I shall be voting for the amendment and, in particular, I will be voting at the appropriate time for Option 1.

1345

Thank you, sir.

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The Bailiff: Deputy de Lisle.

Deputy de Lisle: Sir, I have reservations with respect to this amendment. P&R are proposing £88 million for the new campus build at the former St Peter Port school site, of which £55 million is to be raised through borrowing. I am not one for borrowing and neither am I one for turning. But I am particularly worried about the borrowing here and I would like to ask a few questions with it.

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Setting up the bond, at what cost? As I understand it, the last one, the £330 million of borrowing, cost about £12 million to £14 million to set up. What is this one going to cost to set up because I do not think that is indicated here? All we have got here is that the estimated cost of servicing £55 million of borrowing is £3.2 million per year in interest and capital repayments, but that is assuming a 40-year term and an interest rate of 5%.

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We do not know what the interest rate is going to be when this is set up. Apparently it is not going to be set up until next time, and that is another question. Can we, here, commit the next States to £55 million of borrowing? So what is all this about? The other question is, when I look at the third bullet point under funding it seems to be talking about £100 million, £200 million, £55 million. When this goes ahead is it just going to be for £55 million or is it going to be for £100 million? Because what is said there is that financial modelling has shown that the estimated borrowing requirement to fund the current agreed portfolio is £100 million. So the addition of £55 million remains within the borrowing authority. True, it is within the borrowing authority but the fact is when it comes to be will the borrowing just be for £55 million or will it be for more?

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So I am questioning, first of all, the bond setup cost, I am questioning the fact whether we can commit the next Assembly to the £55 million of borrowing and, thirdly, I am concerned about what rate will be prevalent at that particular time when this is done, which is not now? We could well be at war, in the future if we listen to what is coming out of the United States and other areas and NATO.

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So what would the interest rate be at that time? Well, nobody can tell us. So there are different questions here with regard to borrowing and to be quite honest with the current state of the world and the instability that we find at the current time, in reality taking on any more debt is, essentially, not what I would advise at the current time because we do not know where we are going to be in the next little while, or in the medium term. So I cannot support borrowing £55 million at this time.

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Moving also to the sixth form centre, I am very concerned about the unsettlement that all this movement is going to bring forward. One cannot move a sixth form centre that is well respected currently to another location. First to La Mare then, after five years, bring it to a second location at the proposed St Peter Port school site. This is unsettling for students and for teachers. In fact, teachers have objected. They maintain that the quality of education is at stake and for myself, I see that some of the teachers will definitely not want to actually transfer to La Mare for five years.

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Deputy Haskins: Point of order, sir.

The Bailiff: Point of order, Deputy Haskins.

1390 **Deputy Haskins:** Sir, I apologise for doing this, but the amendment is on the TGI and the lock campus, at no point is La Mare mentioned in it.

The Bailiff: So I think, for the time being, Deputy de Lisle, we are just deciding whether or not this amendment should be carried or not, rather than debating the content of it. Can you concentrate on what is proposed in this amendment.
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Deputy de Lisle: There is reference actually in the amendment to this particular aspect of moving the sixth form centre and dealing with foundations and so on, on this new site. And then there must be unease with regard to the OECD Pillar Two rules and the corporate tax take that may be something that Guernsey will benefit from in the future.
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We were told over and over again that it was going to be probably £10 million, we are now being told £30 million. There is no certainty with regard to the numbers; the numbers to offset, if you like, the costs of borrowing. We do not know if, we do not know when that international agreement will take place. In fact, the States' Treasurer has just emailed all Members and from her email it appears that she has some uncertainty with regard to if and when this particular OECD Pillar Two ruling will come to be and come to pass.
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So all in all, what have we got here? We have got so many uncertainties within this particular amendment that I certainly will not be supporting it and I turn to Members and say take a very close look at the amendment, be confident, if you like, with the way the numbers are placed before supporting it. But I recommend that Members turn it down.
1410

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Roffey.

1415 **Deputy Roffey:** Thank you, sir.

I am going to start with the housing implications of this compromise plan being put forward by Policy & Resources. And I do thank the Policy & Resources for replacing Amendment 4 with Amendment 5 and taking out the aspiration to absolutely maximise the capital returns on the Coutanchez site. Not because I do not want the States to make money, because I do, but we know that to absolutely maximise the financial returns the implication is that there would be little or no affordable housing on that site and the Coutanchez site has absolutely being a key part of the medium term planning for the affordable housing programme in the Island. So it would be a real kick in the teeth if there was to be no affordable housing on that site.
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I think Deputy Trott went a little bit too far by saying that by making this move and replacing 4 with 5, it guaranteed five votes from ESS. I think both the President and Vice-President may have indicated, personally, on that point of view and I am sure it will make it much easier for the other members, but I cannot speak on behalf of Deputy Falla, Deputy Bury and certainly not Deputy Queripel about how they feel about the educational element of this plan.
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But what I would say about the Coutanchez site is that it is designated for housing, is inside States' ownership and my view is that if either version of this amendment is passed today, which means that the construction of the Guernsey Institute can commence later this year, there is absolutely no need to wait for the site to be vacated before moving on with planning and actually getting things you know.
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I would hope that ESS, P&R maybe the DHA can look at whether there needs to be a mixed tenure development, maybe a joint venture, maybe not and actually be doing the planning and getting things into DPA while the College of FE is still operating from that site so that the second it is vacated, because we know that the most frustrating thing about this term has been that pregnant pause between obtaining a site, going and getting the financing, getting the planning. I do not think we need to do that, if we know it is coming in two or three years' time, then that work can be done and move on.
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1445 And I would go further, I would say, I am not sure, I am always totally confused about the arrangements for Delancey. I think it would revert to St Sampson's parish if this happens. So, in case anybody from St Sampson's parish is listening, please, if you are wondering what to do with it and I realise I want to do the best for their ratepayers, also speak to my Committee because I believe that a housing element of anything that goes on that that site would be extremely useful for Guernsey as well.

1450 And I am now going to turn to the educational side of this, which is obviously the heart of it, and I am partially, but not completely, with Deputy de Lisle, because I think the Deputy Haskins was wrong in saying we can afford it, it needs to be done, so what is the blocker? My dichotomy all along is I do not think we can afford it, it absolutely desperately needs to be done, so how do you square that circle?

1455 Obviously this is less unaffordable than doing the whole shooting match at one go. But be in no mistake, be no under any false apprehension, even with this compromise we will have voted to spend round about £200 million between the Hospital and Phase 1 of the TEP, out of a mixture of reserves and borrowing after having utterly failed to bring about any significant fund raising measures in the tax debates.

1460 So it is to my way of thinking, even this limited phased approach, reckless in some ways because we are committing a lot of spending on items that will not generate any income. Yes, they will indirectly, skills based, I know, health is important for the economy. I take all of that, but as far as direct revenue raising, it is not happening. But in particular the Guernsey Institute they are operating the constituent parts, some of them are absolutely fine but some of the constituent parts are operating out of facilities that we should be absolutely ashamed of and, therefore, I have been looking ever since that, what to me was a failure of the tax debate, to find a compromise and a way forward.

1465 And Deputy Trott said, opening up, this is not about the school model. And he is right and I do not approve of the school model as Members will probably well aware, but having lost that debate in this Assembly I would, had the States voted for significant tax raising measures in the tax debate, have voted to do the whole shooting match now and to move forward because that is democracy, I would have been in a minority in this Assembly. But that is not what happened.

1470 I have been laying awake at night trying to think, how do we square the circle, that this is unaffordable but needs to be done and actually, this phased approach is very similar to an outline compromise proposal that myself and some Members of this Assembly put to ESC as a possible way forward back in December. So it would be churlish for me to now not support it and I do.

1475 I think there is some red herrings. Deputy de Lisle was talking about do not support this amendment because if you do, the sixth one moves to La Mare. Well I do not support moving the sixth form La Mare, but my understanding is if this amendment does not succeed, ESC's proposals are to move the sixth from to La Mare.

1480 We can have a separate debate if people feel that that is a very bad thing to do, bring a requête and say, please do not remove the sixth month of the La Mare and that debate can be had. But it is not being caused by this amendment because whether it is passed or not, that is what ESC are planning to do with the sixth form, I think from September 2025, if I am correct.

1485 Deputy Haskins is right in a way that the options between Option 1 and Option 2 are something to debate in general debate when this amendment is passed. But I would say, as he brought up the cost saving, it depends what happens. I have said this Assembly has taken a view on the Education Policy and I respect it, and I will do right until the day the next Assembly takes office in exactly the same way as the educational policy of the last Assembly was the official policy until it got changed and overhauled by this Assembly.

1490 We do not know what the next Assembly will want to do about sixth form education. It may want to do exactly what this Assembly wants to do, it may want to do something radically different and now if this amendment is passed, we know that Phase 1 of TEP will not include the construction of permanent facilities for the sixth form and therefore there must be some question mark about whether spending £1 million on foundations is wise, because if the policy continues as it is now why

not do it now? It is probably better, it would probably cost less overall, it would cause less disruption. On the other hand, if you spend £1 million doing it and the next Assembly says, oh actually, no, we do not want to put the sixth form at Le Cocq, you will have spent £1 million on foundations and do not think that that amount of sunk money would be enough to influence them and say, we have got to do it because £1 million will not be.

1495 So I am going to be interested in the debate about that, but I will perhaps elucidate further on that at that occasion. So in a way, I am apologising to the community here in the sense that I know some people have said if we can afford to do this, why not do the whole lot? I do not think we can afford to do this, but that is the point. Some people think we can afford to do the lot. I do not think we can afford, really, to do this.

1500 But as Deputy Trott says, that is where compromise comes in you try to meet in the middle. I think we are stretching the amount that we are borrowing and spending from reserves without having put in place that fundraising that, I backed the previous honours package. And yes it is great there may be an extra £20 million from Pillar Two but in some ways you could say every penny of that money is needed to contribute towards the revenue deficit that is stacking up due to our changing demographics.

1505 So I am going to be reckless to a point, because I do not believe that the Guernsey Institute can continue in some of the facilities that are in at the moment. But I say this to those who say no new taxes ever, I think many of them will vote in favour of this today. You are absolutely nailing on, it is only a few million pounds a year to service this debt. It is an extra £3 million a year on the challenge we already face, you are absolutely nailing on the need for significant tax increases in future. It is there anyway, this is ratcheting it up a little bit further. I am going to vote for this compromise with that firmly in mind, but please do not have the sort of oh, I am going to vote for this, but I do not believe it will ever need to pay for it through extra revenues because we will.

The Bailiff: Deputy Le Tocq, is it your wish to be relevé?

1520 **Deputy Le Tocq:** Yes, please sir. Thank you.

The Bailiff: We will deal with that one first. Deputy Mahoney.

Deputy Mahoney: Thank you, sir.

1525 I had suspected I was going to be in a minority of one, but it sounds like it might be at least minority of two with Deputy de Lisle. It may be surprising to some people, like I cannot support this amendment. Primarily for the reason that I spent a number of years in this chair saying that we should not be spending our reserves. Given the problems that the Island faces with dwindling reserves and the decisions made at the end of last year to spend £90-odd million, I think that was the number, on the Hospital Phase 2. So to add another £32 million or £33 million, depending on what the Assembly decide in the next day, just does not wash with me.

1530 I do not buy the new numbers. I would be grateful if P&R could share, at some point in the next week or so, the metrics and the calculations that magicked us from £10 million to £30 million and I would suspect, I think as alluded to by Deputy de Lisle, that if we have gone from £10 million to £30 million, I would suggest it is just as likely at some point in the future we could go from £30 million to £10 million, only on the basis that we have then agreed to borrowing, which we now suddenly cannot afford.

1535 So if P&R could share those through Treasury or whoever, how we got from £10 million to £30 million, that would be very useful. So I am more of a show me the money type of guy before I am suggesting that we do that. This extra £20 million seems to have been magicked out of thin air. And even if it is correct, there are so many variables in relation to the receipt of that £30 million that are entirely outside of the control of this Assembly that I do not think we should be relying on them.

1540 Last couple of States' meetings we have had, we had people running from the Assembly with their trousers on fire (*Laughter*) talking about unfunded borrowing, and that is exactly what this is.

1545 We think we might get £10 million to £30 million and therefore we should take out a whole bunch of borrowing. That is just unfunded borrowing to me. There is no money currently flowing into the Exchequer that we can repay any proposed borrowing from. So I do not buy that this is not effectively still unfunded borrowing.

1550 Deputy Haskins noted regarding the housing that that this moves us towards assisting housing, but I do not think it does now that 15 has been removed because unless I am reading it wrong, I cannot see anything in 13 or 14 that relates to housing and assisting housing in any way. I do not want to go too far into the housing bit; 15 I actually liked, which has been removed, because it did actually go some way to providing a nice big site that we could have actually put some housing for the general public, which was not social housing, I do not know what we are calling it now, normal housing, I do not know what we are calling it.

1555 We already have £32 million invested, committed sorry, to various huge sites in the north of the Island for social housing. None of which look like they are going to come on board. Sorry, that is not true, a substantial amount of which might not come on board for various reasons, flood related, etc.

1560 So I think I would rather we got on with that rather than then saying, let us take a big swathe of land for which there is already permissions on which to build housing, to build normal housing, just for want of an awkward phrase, that you and I and our children could buy. So my apologies to ESC for not being able to support this, I suspect I will be in a very small minority. But I am not able to support this amendment.

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The Bailiff: Deputy Falla.

Deputy Falla: Thank you, sir.

1570 This £30 million windfall, if I can call it that, does slightly concern me. It is a bit like finding some loose change down the back of the sofa that you had forgotten you had and we seem to have a sofa that keeps on giving, because it is not really the first time that we have found that our financial position was better than we thought. I think that when that happens, sadly, and I do mean this genuinely, it undermines the confidence of the community in this Assembly and also our credibility.

1575 We desperately need the Institute and it appears that the new P&R have had a lucky break. As I say I think it is unfortunate the way that that has come about and on that basis, I am likely to support this amendment, albeit I am more comfortable with Option 2 for the reasons that Deputy Roffey has outlined.

Thank you.

1580 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

Deputy Matthews: Thank you, sir.

1585 I would like to start by joining the many Members who congratulated P&R on what I think is really quite a sort of consensus approach, finding an average position that a lot of people can support. And also echoing really Deputy Ferbrache and I know Deputy Parkinson is far too modest to sort of say I told you so, but he did tell us all so. And I think that although the previous P&R, of course, were not given the briefings and it was not there, I did feel at times that some of the Treasury briefings that we were given were sort of excessively dismissive of the idea that there could be additional income from the OECD Pillar Two initiative and it turns out that that is exactly what there has been. So, of course, it is very fortunate for the Island.

1590 The amendment does support housing which is, of course, the Island's number one priority releasing the Coutanchez for housing which would be very much appreciated, desperately needed in the Island. Personally, if it were me in charge, I would have gone further and used the Les Ozouets site for housing too, but I think that is a battle that I am unlikely to win in this Assembly. But of all the things of the amendment's proposition, of course, is disappointing is that either Option 1 or 2, and I would personally support Option 2 for the reasons that various people have given including

Deputy Roffey, is because neither option avoids using La Mare de Carteret for the for the sixth form centre.

1600 At the States' Members briefing for this amendment on Monday, I can confirm that ESC has done no new work on any plan B or alternative to the current approach that would avoid using La Mare de Carteret for the sixth form. Of course, we know there are many alternatives that do exist. Deputy Cameron's approach and the 311 to 18 approach would both have avoided that eventuality and I would encourage ESC to look at alternatives which would avoid using La Mare de Carteret for the sixth form, which I think is not a great position for the Island to be in presenting itself at this time
1605 with a sixth form at La Mare de Carteret. But notwithstanding that flaw I think that this is a good attempt at bringing some consensus and for that reason, although I have reservations, I will likely support this amendment and subsequently Option 2.

Thank you, sir.

1610 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

Deputy Meerveld: Thank you, sir.

I was not planning on speaking at this stage, but Deputy Mahoney's comments prompted me to leap to my feet. I literally was the flag waver for voting against GST and Deputy Mahoney would
1615 have us believe that what we are doing here is unfunded borrowing. But that seems a bit strange because I remember proposals, let us bring in GST and let us start borrowing money and spending it based on the assumption of how much money GST would bring in and one of my issues with proposing GST, particularly late in a term, was that you could actually borrow the money, spend it, then get to the next election and have the population of Guernsey, the electorate, tell you through
1620 who they elect that they do not want GST and then you have no revenue and that would be the worst case scenario.

What we actually have here is we have an external tax regime being imposed on Guernsey. As of the 18th December we were given the rules, the new guidelines on Pillar Two that will expand the range of companies covered to banks and insurance companies, and we know pretty well what those companies earn. We pretty much know when this is going to come in 2026. This is predictable
1625 revenue. It is about as predictable as you can get. Yes, there will be some variation based on market situation.

Deputy Mahoney: Point of correction.

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The Bailiff: Point of correction, Deputy Mahoney.

Deputy Mahoney: Sir, we know when it is proposed to come in, we do not know when it is coming in. It could still be stymied by anyone for the moment. We do not know exactly when. We
1635 know proposed date. We do not know when it will actually come in.

The Bailiff: Deputy Meerveld to continue.

Deputy Meerveld: I would say that was exactly the same thing with the GST proposals. We can
1640 predict to a much greater degree the amount of money we could get from this. I would say more so than we could do with GST.

Deputy Helyar: Point of correction, sir.

1645 **The Bailiff:** Point of correction, Deputy Helyar.

Deputy Helyar: The payment of taxes under the OECD principles require companies to make a profit, that is not predictable.

The Bailiff: Deputy Meerveld to continue, please.

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Deputy Meerveld: Yes, just the same as to own GST you have to be able to have a GDP that is predictable. The same economic impact, if you had a recession would affect your GST take as it would affect your business profitability. So, again, a moot argument. At the end of the day, there was far more unpredictability, in my opinion, in the introduction of GST and its ability to raise revenue to service any debt for projects and I personally think that we are being presented with an opportunity here, a recent opportunity, 18th December, after the motion of no confidence in a new P&R has had a lucky opportunity to be able to come back to this Assembly, with what I consider as an excellent proposal to fund something that if you ask our electorate needs doing,

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We voted to do healthcare, that is very important as well, but education is equally important. We have an obligation to the next generation, just as we have for the ageing population and I wholeheartedly support these proposals and certainly will not be listening to nay saying about the funding requirements or trying to paint people black because they are voting for something that, I believe, the P&R have very clearly illustrated can be funded.

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Thank you, sir.

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The Bailiff: Deputy Cameron.

Deputy Cameron: Thank you, sir.

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I am finding it extremely challenging to support this amendment despite desperately wanting the much needed Guernsey Institute Bill to proceed. My main concerns with supporting, I am not so much what is in it, but what is not in it, because it is silent on the move of the sixth form centre to La Mare de Carteret. The use of the deteriorating La Mare de Carteret building as a sixth form centre for four years, or possibly longer, it was advised by Peter Marsh consultants that the building should not be used for longer than two years for seeing significant maintenance costs beyond this point.

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As I have said previously, the Delancey Park buildings were intended to be used as a temporary home for the College of Further Education for a couple of years, yet they are now in their 14th year on site. Both options in this amendment miss the opportunity to direct the sixth form should remain at Les Varendes High School. I still believe that it is possible to expand Les Varendes High School buildings to accommodate the temporary peak in student numbers and that investing money in a building that we intend to retain is obviously a more cost effective solution than throwing money at a building slated for demolition. I also think there are significant issues around revenue costs, staffing, logistics, transport and parking at La Mare de Carteret site.

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Deputy Haskins: Point of order.

The Bailiff: Point of order, Deputy Haskins.

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Deputy Haskins: Sir, I did try to hold this off for as long as I could, but, sir, the amendment is silent on that. This is about the funding for the TGI campus itself.

The Bailiff: I am going to rule that Deputy Cameron can continue saying what he is saying because he is articulating the reasons he is got for not supporting this amendment. Deputy Cameron, to continue please.

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Deputy Cameron: Thank you, sir.

Our independent consultants still sees expanding the site Les Varendes as a viable option, one that they state as a less costly option than housing the sixth form centre at Les Ozouets Campus. I am uneasy about imposing financial responsibility on next terms Education, Sport & Culture Committee to relocate the sixth form from the deteriorating La Mare de Carteret structures, most

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likely relocating to the planned building of the sixth form centre at Les Ozouets campus, even if it is proven over the next four years that a standalone sixth form performs poorly compared to the current sixth form integrated into an 11 to 18 school.

1705 I requested last week that Peter Marsh Consulting providing some feedback on this amendment. They have commented:

We remain of the view that the quality of teaching space at La Mare de Carteret and the overall age and condition of the building means that it is not a suitable permanent location for the sixth form provision. Accordingly, we recommend that contingency plans as an alternative to the new build at Les Ozouets Campus are considered to ensure the La Mare de Carteret Campus does not become a semi-permanent home for the Sixth Form cohort in the event that the new sixth form at Les Ozouets campus is not progressed. It would, in our view, be appropriate to develop alternative plans to RIBA Stage 2 in order to inform the decision that a future Committee will need to make in this regard.

1710 These alternative plans will incur additional costs. These, together with additional revenue costs of continuing to run La Mare de Carteret building as a school and significant structural maintenance costs need to be reviewed robustly before making a decision on relocating the sixth form centre. However, as this amendment is apparently about compromise, I am prepared to compromise on my decision not to support this amendment, but I seek reassurance from the proposer and seconder that they will ensure a cost effective solution for the location of the sixth form centre that does not compromise on educational outcomes. If Deputy Trott and Deputy Soulsby can provide an assurance that they will scrutinise the cost effectiveness of the arrangements around the sixth form, 1715 I will be prepared to support Option 2 of their amendment.

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Aldwell.

1720 **Deputy Aldwell:** Thank you, sir.

I would have liked to have replied to Deputy Cameron because it just seems incredibly strange to me that we have had information from Peter Marsh in a statement yesterday that said the building could not be used for long term but it can certainly be used to the short to medium term and we have actually had a great deal of money spent on that school as I said in the meeting we had Monday afternoon. 1725

We have had new ceilings, new flooring, we have had the staff accommodation all refurbished, we have had all the classrooms painted, the corridors painted and all there is left for and the sixth form to have to move into the building is some work done within the science labs and also the art area, £141,000, we have been told it will cost several million to get the accommodation which is needed on Les Varendes. So I refute that and I am sure Deputy Dudley-Owen will elaborate later. 1730

But what I wanted to say on this was it is not often that the unions come out in support, but today they most certainly have. They have asked us to move on and the States to back Option 1. The importance of the completion of the Transforming of Education Programme of secondary education and post-16 for all our young people and our future's economy agreed by this Assembly back in September 2021, is not in question. And I can say, from the heart, that, of course, I am not wholeheartedly happy with this compromise, but as an Honourable Deputy I will put my emotions aside, will agree with Option 1. I cannot let our young people or Guernsey down. Option one still allows our teachers and students to have the promise of a completed post-16 campus in the near future with foundations laid for the sixth form. And so I will agree to this compromise and I would 1735 ask all Deputies to put their emotions aside and vote for Option 1. 1740

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Members of the States, we will now stand adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

*The Assembly adjourned at 12.30 p.m.
and will resume its sitting at 2.30 p.m.*

**Government Work Plan 2023-25 –
Debate continued –
Propositions carried**

1745 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

Deputy Vermeulen: Thank you, sir.

1750 I will keep it short, sharp and sweet. I really welcome this amendment. When it landed on my desk last week, or in my inbox, I was delighted to read it and the more I read, the more I liked. The more I recognised it was the right language, it was the right approach. So, I think we should be prioritising education and I realise that those amongst us today for some of them doing the sixth form might be too much building the whole sixth form as well, it might be too much, but it is a stepping stone in the right direction.

1755 For me, I would do the whole lot and I voted to do the whole lot with the Hospital as well, but that was not successful. So, I was delighted to see this catchall or this save all, if you like, and the new P&R seems to have hit the ground running with this get it done, this positive approach and a phased approach to. It was music to my ears and that is the way any commercial business would do it. You know, we do not build massive hotels in one go; you build a block at a time and some wings over there.

1760 So, yes, I applaud the approach. The one concern I have is people have talked about it being a compromise and it is an expensive one, if it is a compromise, because we will have approximately half a billion invested in education. So the States have been pretty serious about what they want from their estate, from the education. So we must not have low morale; we have got to be positive, we have got to try and do the best that we can in Education and as States' Members I would urge
1765 all Members to support Option 1. The fact that you might not build a slab at the same time to save £1 million, well, I can tell you labour is going up still; it is going up. Cement, sand, even water it is all going up, so it will not get any cheaper. I am going for Option 1 and I would urge you all to do the same too.

Thank you, sir.

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The Bailiff: Alderney Representative Snowdon, is it your wish to be relevé?

Alderney Representative Snowdon: Yes please, sir.

Thank you.

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The Bailiff: I see you past Deputy Vermeulen, sir. *(Laughter)* Deputy de Sausmarez.

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you, sir.

1780 I think it is always worth taking that high level look about what the amendment is actually asking us to do and, of course, what it is asking us to do is not decide between Options 1 and 2 at this stage, but it is asking us whether we are minded, as an Assembly, to insert the new Propositions and within those Propositions, obviously, if assuming the amendment is carried the Assembly will then be given the choice as to whether to support either Option 1 or Option 2, or indeed neither, if people are that way inclined.

1785 But at the moment, in terms of the debate on the amendment itself, it is whether or not to give the Assembly those options when it comes to voting on the substantive Propositions and I certainly welcome the opportunity to do that. So I will be supporting the amendment to insert those

Propositions. I do have views on the difference between Options 1 and 2 but I think general debate is probably the more appropriate place to discuss that.

1790 There is just one thing that I would like to clarify, though, and that is a point that was made by Deputy Haskins and then a few people responded to it, including Deputy Mahoney and a couple of others about whether this frees up land for housing and I would just like to clarify that, certainly, as far as ESS is concerned, that land absolutely will be used to facilitate housing.

1795 The reason we had objections to the original wording of Proposition 15 was because it actually very much jeopardised the provision of any affordable housing on that site. So yes, this is very supportive of using that land at the first available opportunity to facilitate housing. It was just the specific wording of that amendment which we felt was actually premature because there is obviously a bit of work to do to look at the site and in the round in terms of tenures, etc.

1800 So Deputy Haskins is quite right, that is one of the advantages of this amendment, as well as the very obvious advantage of being able to move forward with the Guernsey Institute, which I am sure enjoys unanimous support, you know that aspect because I am sure people recognise quite how long that can have been kicked down the road to a shameful extent.

1805 So, while I do share some of Deputy Mahoney's qualms about borrowing, that has always been the case to me, I think given the circumstances and weighing up the advantages and the potential benefits versus the dis-benefits I do think, that unless I hear anything that gives me further cause for concern on the financial side of things, I am very likely to support this amendment and we will talk about the difference between the two options in general debate.

1810 But just on the theme of borrowing and deficit and all the rest of it, I do think we just need to be very wary of signing up with great enthusiasm to expenditure without also being prepared to make some brave decisions in terms of the other side of that equation. I know that, even in this term, I know the major decision has been kicked to 2026 but there will be proposals brought forward in the remainder of this term and I just hope that the States' Assembly remembers that we can only responsibly deliver on really good progress such as this amendment is suggesting if we also are prepared to raise some additional income as well.

1815 So notwithstanding the fact that I share Deputy Cameron's concerns over the interim arrangements for the sixth form which this amendment does not affect, I am provisionally very happy to support this amendment notwithstanding anything that might come up in debate that gives me cause to reignite the qualms that I have about borrowing.

Thank you.

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Deputy Inder: Rule 26(1), sir.

The Bailiff: Can I invite those Members who wish to speak in debate on Amendment 5 to stand in their places? Deputy Inder, is it still your wish? Exactly. All right. Who wishes to speak? Deputy Queripel.

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Deputy Queripel: Sir, thank you.

1830 I have always been of the view that drastic situations need drastic measures but having said that, though, I have never been a fan of borrowing. The irony is, of course, that I borrowed throughout my life, on occasion, to make progress. I am sure most of us have borrowed at some time in our lives to make some kind of progress.

1835 Businesses borrow in order to make progress. Clubs and organisations borrow in order to make progress. We borrow to buy cars and houses and go on holiday. We borrow to send our children to university. We borrow to buy businesses. So, I am contradicting myself when I have said I have been opposed to borrowing, what I really mean is I am opposed to the States borrowing, because it is always a gamble, borrowing is always a gamble.

But I am thinking though, on this particular occasion, the only way we are going to get out of the hole we are in, and have been in for several years now, in relation to education is borrow. If we

1840 do not, then we are not going to make any progress and that will add more demoralisation to our children, their parents, teachers, teaching staff, etc.

As the words often say on children's school reports, needs to do better and in this respect, this Government needs to do, and can do, better. To state the obvious, not only are our children our future but so are our teachers, surely, and staff who work in education must be all be pretty demoralised by now.

1845 Every Assembly, I think it is fair to say, wants what is best for our children. The problem is the majority have never been able to decide what is best and how we pay for it. Well the irony, of course, is the taxpayer in general, the ones that I speak to and I have spoken to for many years, do not want to have to pay any proposed increases in taxes. They do not want any more increases in taxes and charges. Yet the vast majority of those same taxpayers say they want what is best for our children.
1850 So, as Deputy Gollop often says in his speeches we cannot have the penny and the bun.

So something really does have to give and in my case, it is me being pragmatic and realising the time has come when I have to give in to borrowing in order for us to make any progress. I would still be very concerned about the fact that we have borrowed. I referred to clubs and organisations a few moments ago, when I look at football clubs, massive football clubs like Manchester United
1855 and Barcelona, they are hundreds of millions of pounds in debt and yet they still survive.

If a club like Manchester United were ever to go bankrupt, sir, then millions of United fans worldwide would be absolutely devastated. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) I am not a United fan, sir, but the Chief Minister is a Tottenham Hotspur fan, as we know (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) I am afraid I have not had time to look into whether Spurs are hundreds of millions of pounds in debt or not,
1860 well, maybe he can respond. (*Interjection*) I hear him say they are, sir, and yet they keep going. Life goes on. The sky does not fall in. The world does not come to an end.

Bringing the whole issue back into the political arena, America is trillions of dollars in debt. In theory, they should have sunk years ago; trillions of dollars in debt for many, many years. But do not seem to be at all concerned about it, why should they be when they are one of the most
1865 powerful countries in the world.

Sir, with that thought uppermost in my mind, I asked myself, is it really such a major issue to go into debt? Well, it certainly does not appear to be in light of all I have just said about clubs and America. But I did listen very closely to what Deputy de Lisle said when he spoke and Deputy Mahoney and Deputy Cameron.

1870 So I am still kind of in a dilemma about this. But on the issue of our using money from the rainy day fund; it is raining. What is the point of having a rainy day fund in place if you are not actually going to use it when it is raining? Now, maybe I am missing a fundamental point here, sir, I am sure somebody will put me right if I am but I think I am veering towards voting in favour of this amendment unless one of my colleagues can convince me that I am totally off beam.

1875 Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: Thank you.

1880 I am in a new place now, but interesting to hear, Deputy Queripel because I have probably borrowed now and then and maybe I did not progress, maybe it was a gamble that did not pay off sometimes. But, of course, gambling, as Deputy Queripel has pointed out, is very different for nations, especially powerful ones, and Guernsey in its own way as a powerful state.

We heard today at the excellent presentation that Guernsey Finance had, and will have tomorrow
1885 for States' Members, of the strengths of Guernsey, still winning new business, holding its head up and challenging new markets in places as diverse as Argentina and Saudi Arabia. I mentioned that because Deputy Trott tries to persuade me, but he has got far more knowledge on these things, that you can actually, if you really understand, make money through borrowing, it is possible that if loans are taken out from the right people at the right time, on the right contract, and paid back
1890 over time in at a different point, maybe with inflation having occurred and growth and so on, that

you could actually be better off. I had better not try that for myself, but nevertheless that might be part of the conversation and part of the summing up.

1895 I joined Policy & Resources, not as a disruptive element really, but as somebody who wants to work with the team and get all the good work that the previous Committee and, of course some of those Members are still with us, to completion with maybe a new twist here and there and to get things done and therefore to sort of stand up against the cynics who might say we might not achieve very much. I think we can achieve a lot and today is an example of that; Deputy Vermeulen is right about the mood music.

1900 Not everyone will get what they want out of this and I, for one, I could philosophise about the best systems of education for a long time, but that would not get us anywhere, and I expressed disappointment in the Committee meetings that the sports centre is not in phase one, for example.

1905 But it has to be said that Beau Séjour may provide a constructive alternative and I asked some questions I still have not asked them yet and they have to be restructured into a letter, about Beau Séjour and the exciting work, Education, Sport & Culture are doing there and, to be honest, now you are on Policy & Resources you hear more about that anyway.

As I said here, if you look at the text of the amendment somebody has said:

the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture has undertaken, if necessary, to amend the terms of reference of the review to reflect the outcome of debate on this Amendment. Initial analysis has shown that the works required to equip Beau Séjour to be a permanent home for post-16 education sport provision would cost up to £4.9 million. Interim changes to make Beau Séjour suitable would be £0.3 million

1910 They are provisional estimates, but again, we do not need to spend the money at that stage. I have got a certain sympathy with the arguments that Deputy Ferbrache put over that if you are going for spending over £3 million in a year, you could go higher to £4 million. But we also hear that many Members are cautious about elements of the model and certainly about the borrowing and we had to come up with something that we feel everybody, or nearly everybody, could support.

1915 Deputy de Sausmarez was right about perhaps the issues about housing, but from my point of view, much as I would prefer social housing or a substantial amount of social key worker or share ownership housing on the Coutanchez site, the reality is whatever kind of housing it would have on it, whether it be so-called normal housing, as Deputy Mahoney mentioned, would be a blessing.

1920 Housing is, arguably, our number one priority as a society, whether it be for social workers or for financial workers. Deputy Moakes and others have been saying this for a long time. When we talked about this in the Committee it was not just education delivery that was at the forefront, it was the need to get action across the piece, including housing and that is one of the reasons for borrowing the money, as I understand it, because you are actually adding to Guernsey's assets. You are freeing up a States' asset and you will add constructively with the housing and the knock on social impact, as we heard today in the finance presentation, it is an enormous social impact from spend and this will be an example of that and will enable, actually, Guernsey Finance and other things to grow as well, maybe.

1930 So we are not just talking about education and the skills that Deputy Vermeulen so passionately supports. Sir, that is one reason I prefer Option 1 to Option 2, but another objective we had as a Committee was not to reopen, however interesting it might be, an education debate. I walked around La Mare de Carteret Campus but I think you, sir, as Presiding Officer, were right in saying that is not really part of this amendment. It is usable, might not be ideal, but it is certainly usable.

1935 But that is not where this is at. This is at delivering on those Les Ozouets, on the site, getting things done. The technical buildings, engineering, catering, many other things for the care, for the 16-plus, the vocational, that is the crucial part and to actually make buildings work was a promise that me and Deputy Trott and Deputy Le Tocq, and I think Deputy Ferbrache, were around the first time when it was being suggested in the late 1990s, early millennium.

So I might speak on the Government Work Plan more generally later, but for goodness' sake let us vote for this, preferably Option 1, but if not Option 2 and deliver a victory that will also not only increase maybe our skills as well, we need investment in human resources and skills for the

1940 population, but also directly, of course, in the construction sector. Stop talking about this. I have got theories on education but they may be 10-20 years off beam; get this done today.

The Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: Thank you, sir.

1945 Members have rightly given credit to Policy & Resources in leading the development of this amendment as a compromise to seek consensus and bring it to this Assembly so quickly after their election just a little over a month ago. Now I share those observations, however, I think we do not want to ladle too much praise upon them all. We do not want their heads to get too big quite so early in their in their tenure. *(Laughter)*

1950 I actually do think that we ought to acknowledge, because I do not think anybody has yet, credit to the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture, led by Deputy Dudley-Owen, and also obviously with Deputy Haskins, Deputy Aldwell, Alderney Representative Roberts and Deputy Cameron for their part in seeking compromise, because I certainly participated in a meeting during the recess of the last States' Meeting and I was concerned whether there would be the appetite from the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture to compromise in a way that was clearly necessary in order to move forward.

1955 So I think it is worth acknowledging and giving credit to the Committee under the leadership of Deputy Dudley-Owen for that. **(A Member:** Hear, hear.) But I think we should also acknowledge Deputy Cameron's position. It is very difficult being in a minority of one **(A Member:** Hear, hear.) *(Laughter)* on a Committee and consistently holding your position if you feel very strongly about it and you feel that that is a position that you ought to adopt. But Deputy Cameron has himself said that he is compromising, willing to allow this amendment to be inserted into the final Propositions.

1960 So, I think the other comments and concerns which have been raised by Members have already been made so I will not use Member's time to repeat those. However, having highlighted and given credit where it is due, I think it is perhaps just worth acknowledging how we got here. Again, as I have said before, sir, during this term that sometimes I consider it my role to just bring a little bit of a history onto the floor of the Assembly so we acknowledge how we got here, because, of course, in 2018 the previous Assembly had approved the development of the Guernsey Institute and, of course, all of that was put on hold by the Pause and Review requête, which, of course, was led by Deputy Dudley-Owen and indeed was supported by the President of Policy & Resources, Deputy Trott.

1965 So although they are responsible for helping lead us out of the quagmire that we have got ourselves into during this term we should also acknowledge their part in perhaps getting us into it with that process at the end of the last term because if that had not happened the Institute would now have been built and been occupied. So effectively, what we are now doing through this amendment is decoupling the Institute from the Sixth Form centre, at least for the purposes of the Capital Project and getting the Capital Project going and that has enabled us to put us back on track to, in essence, where we were nearly six years ago.

1970 So I make that point and I think it is also worth acknowledging the failure of the States to borrow at a time when it would have been much less costly to do. It is a point I have made before the States, the previous States, had the opportunity to borrow up to £500 million in 2020 when interest rates were on the floor. They did not take that and the new P&R Committee did not use the borrowing authority that they had earlier in the term before interest rates had climbed. So I think we should acknowledge those issues as well. I think Deputy Mahoney's concerns about the cost of borrowing are, of course, very valid. But the history is interesting; we should merely acknowledge that that has placed us where we are and this is a route that helps emerges from that situation.

1980 Sir, before I sit down, I do have one question for Deputy Trott to respond to in replying to debate. The amendment or the Proposition makes clear in little d. that it will be funded by up to £33 million from General Revenue Reserve and up to £55 million of borrowing. Now, of course, that totals 1985 £88 million, which is the anticipated indicative cost of Option 1 and similarly reflected in Option 2 1990

and, of course, it has been phrased in that way to acknowledge that total expected upper limit of the cost.

1995 However, my question is this, and this really goes back to some of Deputy Trott's comments during the tax debate where he acknowledged that the growth rate in 2021 had substantially exceeded anyone's expectations, 4% from memory, and that was likely to feed through to greater tax receipts and indeed, the early indications from the previous Committee in 2023, as reflected in the budget, were the tax receipts were stronger than budgeted and the new Committee may or may not yet have the outturn for 2023.

2000 But my question for Deputy Trott is actually if he is right and his Tigger-ish optimism feeds through to stronger tax receipts over the next three years, 2024, 2025, 2026 and, therefore, the Revenue Reserve position is stronger than anticipated, is there the flexibility and the willingness within Policy & Resources to consider, for example, funding a greater proportion out of reserves and less out of borrowing?

2005 So it could be £45 million out of reserves and £43 million out of borrowing. Now, the Propositions as currently drafted theoretically do not permit that but I am interested to understand the philosophy and thinking behind P&R if faced with that situation. So that is my one question, sir, but I too will be supporting the amendments.

Thank you.

2010 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby.

Deputy Soulsby: Thank you, sir.

2015 I will not be terribly long. I think it has been a very heartening to hear some of the speeches this morning and early this afternoon. I think I will just comment on what people have said and firstly, Deputy Ferbrache, and I would like to thank him for his gracious speech. I thought it was very statesmanlike speech. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) I totally understand where he is coming from. I think if I were in his place hearing the differences that have come out I would feel it the same as he had.

2020 In terms of the experts, I do not think the experts ever said the £10 million. I think the only time it was referenced was in the E&Y report, where they actually quoted what the Treasury had told them that their estimates were at the time and we have heard all about the problems with estimates and everything, but it does look like a lot of work has been done now. More details have come through; a lot of data came through from the taxes, as Deputy Trott said, also from better understanding about how the system would work and the Pillar Two, which has worked in our favour, which was not expected at the time. I think as many things you get to a certain stage in information which can mature your thinking. So that is where we are.

2025 Deputy Queripel just referenced football clubs and were Spurs in debt, yes they are, seriously in debt, not helped by their building a brand new fantastic stadium which I recommend anybody go to because it is absolutely brilliant, but it has not helped them. But, of course, building that stadium was all part of a plan to improve income, generate more revenue for the future so it can thrive and be a business that is fit for the 21st century. So that is why they are doing that. They still need to do better on the pitch, but that was the aim.

2030 In terms of Deputy Cameron, I totally understand his concerns and I agree with Deputy St Pier. Yes, it is always difficult when you when you are a lone voice on a Committee and he has provided challenge and he provided challenge as we were putting this amendment together and we did listen and understood and tried to get to the bottom of what we were trying to do. But from our perspective, from a P&R's perspective, our role is not to change the model it is to try and find a way through to get the funding to actually take things forward.

2035 Hopefully that is what Members see that we have done and that it has been possible, through compromise and consensus, and I do thank all Members of ESC, actually, for working with us and listening to why and how we have got to where we are. It has been a joint approach and we have listened to each other and got to what we have done today.

As Deputy Trott said, when we compromise, nobody gets all that they want but certainly in my case that might be true, but we all do get something and I think key, and particularly for me, was just getting the Guernsey Institute started. We have let generations of students and teachers down and that really has to change for our community. The longer we leave it, it does not help that the whole community by staying in this status that we have been.

So, no, I do not think anybody was happy with where we finished last year, and I certainly was not and we needed to deal. It was a priority, as soon as the new Committee got our feet under the desk to see what we could do on that front. Deputy Cameron did ask whether we could consider cost effectiveness and what we are looking at. Well yes, absolutely, that that is our job, that is P&R's job and it does not mean that we are going to make it easy for ESC, of course, they will be coming to us to release funding and we will challenge and make sure that what we are releasing, although this gives us the authority to release it, we have to be satisfied that what we are doing makes sense in terms of value for money. Actually, I hope we can do that very soon. I will look forward to those papers coming to P&R so we can start making progress and people can see something being built out of the ground at Les Ozouets.

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Dudley-Owen.

Deputy Dudley-Owen: Thank you, sir.

I have waited and held back just in case there were any comments that I felt it was appropriate for me to sweep up rather than Deputy Trott who might be looking my way if I had left them for him. First of all, I wanted to thank all Members this has been, obviously, a day of gratitude and I genuinely am appreciative that Members have continued their engagement with us and actually enhanced their engagement with us, because if anything was to go by the turnout for our recent governance session at Beau Séjour it was really pleasing.

So I am very grateful to Members renewing their vigour and interest in education for 2024 and in addition to that the P&R presentation was really well attended as well. So it is really helpful that Members are engaged and I think it demonstrates an open mindedness and a collective determination to find a solution to this particular issue, which I know has been a great source of consternation to everyone, not least of all to the Committee Members and officers and staff alike and the general community because, obviously, our decisions are deliberations in this particular Chamber the output of which none of us were satisfied with, clearly, which is why we are back here so quickly.

I also must express my gratitude and thanks to the previous iteration of P&R for having been consistently supportive of our efforts to get this over the line. I have respected all of their decisions along the way though, of course, some of them have been difficult in terms of bringing all of this back to the States. But I also thank the current iteration of P&R for putting this back into the States so quickly and also, along with previous Members, for recognising the importance of the programme.

As Members have said, the insertion of the amendment to the GWP provides us with a mechanism to getting this programme of works, which is so sorely needed, partially delivered before the end of term and approving the amendment for inclusion as a Proposition enables us to discuss the funding for the programme in more detail in general debate and that, especially, is important in light of the new financing proposals that we understand have come forward from the Treasury Department.

Now I noticed that Deputy Parkinson is not wearing his 'I told you so' t-shirt today, but he could well be and it does help, I think, that we have individuals in the Assembly who are willing to challenge to that level to allow us all to maintain our trust in each other, that sometimes we are saying the right thing and that we should all be given a chance to, to be able to challenge and see what comes of it. So I do thank him, also, for his engagement with me in December on this particular matter.

2095 I do not think that there is really a huge amount more that I want to cover in relation to the amendment and Deputy Trott was open very clearly on this, and I support the comments made by my colleagues, Deputy Haskins and Deputy Aldwell, in relation to the amendment. But I will, at this juncture, stray slightly because I would rather do it now whilst this is fresh in people's minds and I will pick this up again if any more comments are made in general debate.

2100 Deputy de Lisle, he talked about staff unsettlement that the movement would cause from the sixth form. I need to reassure Members that a huge amount of time, a significant amount of time and effort, has been put into designing the change management and support that is needed for the reorganisation and transition for the delivery of the secondary school and post-16 environment.

2105 Of course, we have three 11 to 16 schools and a separate sixth form and that needs a significant amount of support and that support has gone in to the most affected schools, as you would imagine, and that support has been very well used. So I hope to reassure Deputy de Lisle, because we know that unsettled staff gives them far more stress than they need and their focus is our students in the classroom and we do not want them to be distracted by bad management of change or, at least, the decisions that we make in this Chamber. We need to mitigate that distraction and disruption at all costs.

2110 Deputy Roffey has spoken about putting the slab in for the sixth woman and how that could bind a future States. I must admit to sitting quizzically when he was talking about this scratching my temple because I thought, well if we followed that logic we would make absolutely no decisions in this Chamber whatsoever because we would be so fearful of those being overturned by the next Assembly.

2115 You know, we have got to have some courage here and certainly if we are serious about safeguarding the educational outcomes for our students and also giving value to our taxpayers and using every single one of their pounds, not our pounds, their taxpayer pounds, very wisely, then the best option is to put the slab down, because the prices will increase and the disruption to our students will be real and will be significant.

2120 So I could not countenance the idea that any States that just comes in in 2025, I think, is that the date of our next election it is not something that is on my radar the date of the next election so please correct me if I am wrong, but that any States would be coming in on a ticket to change the delivery model for Education after everything that we have been through, this term and all the long awaited certainty. So I am afraid that that that argument just holds no weight for me though, of course, other people may come up with stronger arguments than that.

2125 Another comment, Deputy Cameron my colleague on Committee, who yes, absolutely has been very consistent in his challenge and opposition to the model, but I cannot let it go when it is consistently asserting misinformation. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) It is really important that we are not misleading and those who were present at the presentation online and in person earlier in the week, will recall that Deputy Cameron was corrected when he asserted the same information that there was a some sort of perceived drop-dead date or cliff edge that after two years La Mare de Carteret would expire, I am not quite sure what happens then maybe it falls into some sort of rubble, or actually that there is an increase in capital risk but there is an increase in risk in everything that we do and this is what we do in this Chamber. We discuss and we debate the risk that we are willing to take.

2135 Now, I would need to assure Members that the Committee, that officers undertook an options appraisal and that was supported by an external consultant, an independent consultant, who actually advised the previous Education, Sport & Culture Committee on the two-school model. Now we use people who we think are good and add value and this particular consultancy has been able to add a lot of value to the plans. Their job is to give us unbiased, factual information based on their technical expertise and that is what they do.

2140 That information has been sent to Policy & Resources for their assurance. Deputy Murray is the representative for the Transforming Education Programme Board, he knows a lot of the inside work that goes on there. Deputy Heidi Soulsby is his alternate for that, so the Committee will also see the business cases coming forward. They are able to look at the information coming forward that we

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2150 have been given, which demonstrates that La Mare de Carteret is the better of the two options than building out at Les Varendes, which was the other option as well. We take this work really seriously. We use individuals who are appropriately qualified and experienced to give us this advice. So the two year drop-dead date has never been explicitly or implicitly delivered as part of a written or spoken explanation by our consultant.

Deputy Cameron: Point of correction, sir.

2155 **The Bailiff:** Point of correction, Deputy Cameron.

Deputy Cameron: The two-year period was expressed verbally to me by Peter Marsh Consultants and it was in an Education, Sport & Culture meeting.
Thank you.

2160 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

Deputy Dudley-Owen: Thank you, sir.

2165 It has never been explicitly or implicitly written or spoken that there is a two-year drop-dead date that, after that particular period, La Mare de Carteret will become unusable. So there is clearly some misunderstanding. The information that we have been given, which has been reassured for the four-year period, is that we remain of the view that the quality of teaching space at La Mare de Carteret and the overall age and condition of the building means that it is not suitable for a permanent location and that is not what we are doing. We are recommending this for a temporary interim position and my advice and my request to Members is that the shorter period of time we can let the sixth form stay in that interim position, the better.

2170 So please get behind Option 1 in the amendment. If we can get the amendment through now, I am sorry Deputy Soulsby, I am not going to give away I am afraid, we can please vote for Option one1, if it comes through, and then we can give staff, students and the community that certainty and get that organisation out of its interim home as quickly as possible. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)
2175 Thank you, sir.

Deputy Dudley-Owen: Deputy Gabriel.

Deputy Gabriel: Thank you, sir.

2180 I welcome this amendment, as many other Members have said already, and I like the compromise arrangement of it. However, I have just got a couple of points, maybe even questions that perhaps, when summing up, either Deputy Trott or Deputy Murray, whoever is going to do it could help me out with and I bow to Deputy Trott's more senior financial services experience and knowledge than mine.

2185 We have the new forecast for Pillar Two to bring in £30 million, potentially, which is a £20 million increase per annum for the new tax and my question is, why then are we borrowing £55 million when we could draw on our reserves for that £55 million and then repay that out of the new tax, the £30 million per annum, quite comfortably? Whereas the amendment says that we will be going into a 40-year term to borrow £55 million and repayment of capital interest comes up to £3.2 million per annum. My crude math makes that about £120 million over 40 years saddling our future community over that 40 years with that debt.

2190 I do not normally sanction unfunded borrowing and clearly this has not got a direct stream attached to it but you could argue that, of course, it has an indirect stream because the students who we will be educating will, of course, be providing an income to our Island and be part of a useful and worthwhile community and the long game that they could well be funding that borrowing. But if, of course, we have the savings already in hand then why aren't we using those in

total rather than saddling ourselves with this debt and with the horizon that we do have a repayment mechanism?

2200 I am minded to vote for the amendment because I like the thrust of it. I am still not sure which way I will be voting in general debate for either Option 1 or Option 2 because I still cannot equate, in my mind, again, saddling ourselves with the slab that that option one puts in. The only difference then, of course, settling us in for the relocation of the sixth form centre there and I still cannot get that straight in my head about the, in my view, the inequitable arrangements for the sixth form centre, be it two years, four years or whatever period of time.

2205 Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Murray.

Deputy Murray: Thank you, sir.

2210 I just want to raise a point that perhaps has not been touched on and I am very comfortable that there seems to be a lot of support for this amendment, which I think is terrific. I probably, in response to Deputy de Lisle, and to some extent Deputy Queripel, who had some concerns about actually supporting the amendment.

2215 What I really wanted to draw attention to was where we are today and then what our options are if this does not go through. I think, it is fair to say, I probably scared the Assembly somewhat at the end of last year when I mentioned how much money it would cost to maintain all the settings that we currently have, which would be unavoidable because we were talking of sums of about £22 million to £26 million, which would have to be verified, of course, before the Assembly could take any action on it.

2220 But I am quite comfortable that that is the sort of scale that we are talking about and unfortunately, about half of that would probably be nugatory as well, which means it would be a sunk cost money that actually we would never see a benefit from in the long term and we would still, obviously, have the difficulties that we have got.

2225 So if we do not support this amendment, our situation is actually even worse because we have nothing today for ESC, ESC has no funding, so it will have to come back, but that would be the direction of travel it would have to be. We would be looking at something, certainly north of £20 million, that we would have to find for a period of time and I think that was based on, about, a five year horizon. It would get much worse, obviously, the longer that went on.

2230 I have even been sent pictures this morning, we have got water pouring through the roof at, I think it is, Delancy which is really unfortunate, but this is the situation we are confronted with. So not voting for this amendment today leaves us in a very precarious position but there is no no-cost option for moving forward.

2235 Even the £7.5 million, which is part of this amendment, which is necessary for us to maintain anything at Les Varendes High School, which actually seems to be a favoured approach of Deputy de Lisle, would not be there. We would have to get that money funded from the Assembly in due course if we do not succeed with this amendment. So, I would wish you to bear in mind the alternative to not supporting this amendment today and really encourage you to support the amendment and we can debate it further, obviously, in general debate.

2240 Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Dyke.

Deputy Dyke: Thank you, sir.

2245 Well, first I will say how pleased I am that P&R and Education have got this proposal together. I think it is a wonderful thing that we are not left where we were before Christmas. And so progress is being made. I will certainly vote for the amendment and then I guess we will discuss the foundations later.

2250 Just a couple of points of observations I would make. It is curious that Education has come under this intense scrutiny and spotlight, whereas back in December we just whizzed through £150 million for social housing, another £150-odd million for the Hospital extension, without really any debate or analysis at all. So it has all gone on to Education and I think they have handled it very well. So congratulations to Deputy Dudley-Owen on that.

2255 One point that has been raised by a couple of Deputies, Deputy Gabriel raised it and I think Deputy de Lisle made the point. I have slightly mixed views; it does not affect my vote on this, as to whether it would not be better to fund more of this out of reserves rather than borrowing. But I guess since the actual payment schedule is not going to start for a couple of years, we may well have more reserves anyway, out of which we can take the money.

2260 Although Deputy St Pier did raise the maths point that we may not quite have that flexibility, but I guess that can be sorted as we go along. I just wanted to flag that I am slightly happier with using reserves and adding to borrowing, given the costs and uncertainties; it is the more conservative thing to do, in my view. I did have one other point, but I seem to have reached that age where I have forgotten it. I guess I cannot reserve the right to pop up later, but anyway.

Thank you, sir.

2265 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

Deputy Kazantseva-Miller: Thank you, sir.

2270 I am equally very pleased that we are continuing to pursue at least some closure on the education debate and hopefully I think it is looking very positive that we are going to make it happen, at least in this format. I want to comment on this miraculous turnaround situation that we have experienced in a matter of a couple of weeks because it is now taking the package that we originally agreed in November, December of a £35 million core package to a £55 million core package of savings and revenue raising measures.

2275 That is pretty much the equivalent to the revenue raising package that the original GST debate, that we saw 12 months ago, was on the table. So I do find it is miraculous that we have been within a year, a period of 12 months, been able to turn around the situation from a pure GST package to a completely different package and, again, as we said something that has changed just in a matter of a couple of weeks.

2280 I think this puts into light the real issue around forecasting, especially long-term forecasting, and I think the challenges many of us had and the community had in trusting some of the longer-term deficit forecasts because as we have seen through the figures that have come in through corporate, the Pillar Two tax packages, that we just simply do not know because there are so many moving pieces, the global and local situations are changing very quickly, is that it is very difficult for us as a Government to undertake any long term forecasting to come up with precise numbers like on
2285 £100 million deficit or whatever, because it is just it is just assumptions and they could be challenged and they could change very quickly, like what has happened in this case.

So I think this speaks to the importance of really being conscious to the fact that whatever forecasting we are doing is as likely to be incorrect, (**A Member:** It always is.) it always is and it is about the strengths of the assumptions, but being able to challenge them.

2290 I think, to me, it continues to speak to the importance of taking a phased approach with whatever we are doing and trying to solve some of the bigger, longer, term issues we have. In this case, we are undertaking a phased approach with Education, which is not ideal but at least we are moving somewhere.

2295 One of the reasons that have been given for the stronger forecasting figures that we have had and what we can raise from the corporate sector is the strength of our economy. We were told that companies have submitted their 2022 accounts, or more companies have submitted their accounts in December and over the back of those accounts, and some of the technical recommendations on Pillar Two, we have a better picture on what we can raise.

2300 But, again, I think we need to be really careful what kind of figures we look into because 2022
accounts and we obviously know that the banking sector is now in scope and will be paying a higher
global Corporate Income Tax of 15% instead of 10%, banking profits is what has been driving our
GDP growth last year.

2305 You know, we are all very happy with our GDP growth last year, but we need to be very careful
when we look at what has been driving this GDP growth and one of the key drivers have been
banking profits. Well, the banks are racking such amazing profits because, as a reminder, we are at
the times of the highest interest rates our communities and businesses have had for the last 10, 15,
or more years, 20 years and which has been one of the reasons that is causing the cost of living
crisis with the highest level of mortgage interest payments that our households have had to fork
out of their disposable income.

2310 So when we talk about the strength of our economies, which have been driven by banking
profits, one of the key reasons, we just need to be careful because it could be, obviously, the interest
rate situation is reversing, but it is also coming at a huge cost to our community and this is the cost
of the cost of living crisis.

2315 So, again, when we are starting to be very optimistic about forecasting some of the revenues,
and I think this is what Deputy Mahoney and others have been speaking to, again, we just need to
be quite careful because this forecast could also change quite quickly and overnight. But I will, of
course, be supporting this amendment and I thank everyone involved in bringing this to the
Assembly in such a quick fashion.

Thank you.

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The Bailiff: Deputy Taylor.

Deputy Taylor: Thank you, sir.

2325 When I was at primary school I was a, I think nowadays you would call it a side hustle, but I was
a chicken farmer. It was a great way of earning pocket money and learning the basics of business
and I think it was literally a way my parents were teaching me to not count your chickens before
they have hatched.

2330 That is a bit of what is going around in my head when I have heard this debate and when the
amendments were first proposed. But also another phrase that my mother would always use from
that money derived from chicken farming was she would always tell me 'that money is burning a
hole in your pocket'. I just could not wait to spend it, before I had even got it and I was already
planning what it would be going on.

2335 I get that, those are the two phrases that are just in my head here. I sound like I am a bit of a
downer but I just feel like this is a little bit rushed. There has been a whiff of some extra money
coming in and at the first opportunity we are revisiting a decision that we made only a couple of
weeks ago and as much as I would want to see the Guernsey Institute go ahead, that just does not
sit right with me and it is principally for that reason that I will not be supporting this amendment.

2340 The secondary reason and I accept it is possibly not part of what this amendment is seeking and
Deputy Roffey has rightly pointed out that irrespective of this amendment sixth form students will
be moving to La Mare de Carteret from the current sixth form centre and that, for me, is accepting
either way that is going to happen, irrespective of which way I vote on this amendment.

2345 But it does not sit right with me that we, as a Government, would be committing over £80 million
of expenditure and we will still be moving our sixth form students to a substandard educational
setting (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) without an actual plan. It is all very well to say that well do not
worry, phase two, they will have the foundations, do not worry they will have the foundations. That
is great and phase two will worry about that because we are not deciding here and now on phase
two and I am not prepared to put my name to leaving that in limbo. So I will be voting against this
amendment, sir.

Thank you.

2350

The Bailiff: Alderney Representative Roberts.

Alderney Representative Roberts: Thank you, sir.

2355 Education is an integral part of the Bailiwick's future; its future population and its wellbeing. But I am disappointed at the slow progress of many capital projects, the stumbles, the potholes that they have encountered over the many years now. This is a positive move forward and I feel I am bound to give support going forward to P&R on initiatives like this.

2360 Borrowing is not a bad option for any essential project given the knowledge that the new Assembly will have to find new taxation tools to finance and refurbish a new, prosperous Bailiwick in the future, almost certainly, post-election. Compromise was, indeed, sorely needed and core compromise can be extended in a future fiscally temperate climate armed with these tools.

2365 My old school, St Anne's, where the museum is now will benefit from this indirectly and I am happy about that very fact. St Anne's is now down in Newtown. It is very different to the school I attended, I could tell you a lot of stories about that, but I am not going to, where all my teachers never moved, same people for years, some scary ones but good, dedicated teachers. St Anne's is now a school of the 21st century, with the 21st century problems like the rest. It is now doing well, but it needs support going forward and I support P&R in this amendment.

2370 **The Bailiff:** I will turn back to the proposer of the amendment, Deputy Trott, to reply to the debate, please.

2375 **Deputy Trott:** Sir, what a good debate. I have welcomed every single question that has been put to us because I think, without exception, they were genuine and sincere and worthwhile. I am going to start towards the end of the debate with some comments made by Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, and others, because we have had a fantastic piece of good fortune and that is some information about our tax receipts which the Policy & Resources Committee believes to be absolutely genuine.

2380 But other issues have not gone away. Let us just analyse, for a moment, the geo-political risks. There is going to be a UK election this year. We could see some substantial changes in UK policy, potentially following the UK election, potentially towards the Channel Islands. I cannot see any reason why, but what I do know is that that the long-term trends show, the historical data shows, that the Crown Dependencies prosper under a Labour administration to a greater extent than they do under a Conservative administration.

2385 So what looks like a risk initially may possibly even turn out to be a benefit. Who knows? There is going to be a lot of 'who knows' from me because as Deputy Ferbrache remarked in his speech this morning, he asked me a question and I gave him an answer via email, that I do not have a crystal ball. I have to make educated guesses like the rest of us.

2390 There could be a change in the US policy following the presidential election later this year. It is possible, I think it is unlikely, but it is possible, that you could see a substantial change of attitude from the US administration with regard to Pillar Two. We have got the challenges of Moneyval. But the point is risks always exist, they do not go away, they are ever present and we need to understand them and manage them and debates like this enable us to do precisely that.

2395 But there are other domestic risks we must not forget. Like the risks associated with an under-skilled, inadequately educated workforce. I would argue they are probably even greater because we only have one substantial natural resource and that is our human resource and it must be flexed.

Now, I said I welcomed every single question and I thought they were all directed towards us fairly and I am going to start with Deputy Ferbrache because I, too, want to compliment him on what I thought was a very statesmanlike speech and he commends the amendment and he is reassured that 80% of the ESC Committee support Option 1 and 20% support Option 2.

2400 The entire Committee is satisfied that progressing the Institute is the right thing to do and we have already heard Deputy Cameron commended by Deputy St Pier. But I think we are right, he

stuck to his principles but those principles, in his view, should not stop the development of the Institute.

2405 Now Deputy Ferbrache is, in my view, justifiably unhappy at the advice he was given on Pillar Two; justifiably unhappy because he thinks that the advice could have been better. The advice he got was the advice that the staff believed at the time, based on the information they had on the performance of these larger corporations in 2021.

2410 Now, 2022 has been a strong year and it has been partly fuelled, as Deputy Kazantseva-Miller said, on rising interest rates which have increased banking margins and correspondingly banking profits. Now the market is not expected to fall out overnight, interest rates are likely to track down, to our benefit, but they are very unlikely to go back to anything like the rates we saw a few years ago. So those margins are likely to be maintained.

2415 The insurance sector has done particularly well and that is particularly pleasing because it is, of course, the insurance sector for which we are not only one of the leaders in the world, but we are the largest provider of certain insurance activities in the whole of Europe, a recognised centre of excellence.

2420 But I know he heard my initial remarks, opening remarks, but I think I am going to repeat them for the benefit of all Members because this is what the staff at the Revenue Service told us 'the latest review picked up that some in-scope companies had filed their 2022 tax returns, which could then be fed into the Pillar Two analysis'. Then in December, after he had left office, more detailed information became available on the approach of other jurisdictions, including the USA, which allowed the forecasting to evolve and this has led to the revised estimate of an average of £30 million in a year.

2425 Now, I am surprised that more Members have not picked up on that particular use of language, an average of £30 million a year. That is a conservative estimate, a conservative estimate. It might be a little bit lower; it will probably be quite a lot higher. That is the sort of language that I hope not to use, but I hope it will reassure Members that these are conservative, sensible, conservative numbers. I went on to say that our confidence in the numbers is driven by the fact that issues around behavioural change, based on historic behavioural change, have been factored into these numbers. 2430 Now only time will tell whether these numbers are accurate, but right now, all the best advice suggests that they are. But like everything in life, there is an element of risk.

2435 Now Deputy Prow asked if P&R sought a financial compromise. Well, the answer is yes, we did because our starting point was this. We said to the staff at Treasury, who of course work with these numbers on a daily basis, what is affordable, particularly having regard to the cash flow and the current States' Resolutions and it was they that came back and said, 'you can do this, this is deliverable, this is affordable, this is manageable taking all things into account' and that is when we went to the Education, Sport & Culture Committee and said 'would this be acceptable to you, because if it is, we think it can be delivered' and thankfully they were very sensible in their response.

2440 Now Deputy de Lisle said we will need to set up a bond and at what cost? Well, that is an interesting question for a number of reasons because we may not need to set up a bond and I will come back to that in a moment. But first, some facts around what the previous bond incurred. The previous bond incurred set up costs of £1.5 million, not the much larger figure he referred to. The much larger figure was as a consequence of us taking a decision to insure to hedge that rate so that if the market moved against us the rate would have remained the same and that insurance policy 2445 cost a lot of money.

Now with interest rates falling if we did need to take out a bond in 2026, in a falling interest rate environment, the requirement for that security around the interest rate is far less important than in a rising interest rate environment because you do not have the fear that rates are going to go against you on the upside when they may even work to your advantage on the downside.

2450 But the reason I say we may not even need to issue a bond, there are marketable sizes so unless our debt was at a level of £250 million or above, it would not be practical to issue a bond in the traditional sense. What we would need to do is go for a private placement or have some sort of a long-term facility with one of our existing lenders. So it is those sorts of treasury management issues

2455 that are difficult to be certain of because we do not know, at this stage, precisely whether the amounts required will get to the levels where we have a number of different options.

Deputy Roffey is going to vote for this amendment because it is a compromise for him as well and I do think, as I said in my opening remarks, that this has been the success of the debate today because I think we have had a mature, balanced, respectful and pleasant debate because at the end of the day everyone in this Assembly wants the same objective and that is to deliver, to the best of our ability and affordability, for our community and there is no question that our community wants this Institute built. We all recognise that.

2460 Now Deputy Mahoney, in my view, took, again, an entirely reasonable position. He simply does not believe in the number and I think that is a legitimate position to take. But I do believe the number because I have worked with these people within the Revenue Service now for quite some time, many of them were working for the Revenue Service when I was Treasury Minister back in the period between 2004 and 2008. I know them to be highly analytical, highly professional and, importantly, highly conservative individuals; that is the point. If they did not believe this number, they would not have told the Treasury team, the Revenue Service would not have told the Treasury team. That is the sort of people that they are, they are almost ultra conservative.

2470 He was also concerned that there will not be a mix of housing on the Coutanchez site. Well, of course, there could still be because the planning brief does permit a mix of both affordable housing and private housing. We have heard the strongly held views of the President and Vice-President of ESS, entirely legitimate concerns, but quite how that will play out in terms of the Housing Association's commitment, capacity and appetite for risk only time will tell. But just because that particular Proposition is not in the amendment does not change the fact that it is currently zoned for a mix of housing issues. So that flexibility exists, even though if we are to, and I do, believe the words of the President of ESS much more likely to see the Housing Association develop it.

2475 Now, Deputy Cameron needs P&R to confirm that the Committee will scrutinise the cost effectiveness of the arrangement around the sixth form and I can give him that assurance because that is what happens. The staff have a responsibility to do that as a matter of business as usual, so it is easy for me to give him that commitment, because that will happen now.

2480 Deputy Gollop, I think, made an important point because whilst he confesses to not be an expert in this area, he talked about the importance of careful treasury management and how that can maximise the benefit of liabilities and our balance sheet and our previous bond is a perfect example of that because the benefits of that bond, in terms of the rate that we got it away at over the rate of inflation that followed, has meant that the benefits to this community have been enormous and continue to be enormous and there has also, of course, been the positive consequences of not having lent all of that money and the benefits that we have had through investments in other fixed interest instruments and equities as well.

2490 So that really was an absolute stroke of genius and I have said that in this Assembly on many occasions and it neatly takes me to Deputy St Pier because he rightly complimented the ESC Committee for their flexibility and Deputy Cameron too for that matter. He said that borrowing needs, I do not know what he said because I cannot read my writing, (*Laughter*) I know it would have been sensible. No, I think the thrust of Deputy St Pier's question was, would flexibility exist around the use of the General Revenue Reserve and borrowing? The answer to that question, it was extremely helpful because he knows that is actually precisely what the team will do and they are professionally advised, remember, by people who really do know what they are talking about in terms of that balance. So that flexibility does exist now and will continue to exist.

2495 He is also as aware as everyone else about the importance of managing our reserves and that leads me, very neatly, to a question that was put to us by Deputy Gabriel. He says 'why not simply use our reserves?' Again, a completely understandable question, the answer is our reserves need to be managed carefully. I mean how many times did the previous Policy & Resources Committee tell us this? It needs to be managed carefully in order to satisfy the international scrutiny that comes, not least from the likes of Standard & Poor's, but also it is a lot cheaper when you come to borrow

2505 money if you have got money in the bank and it is a lot more expensive if you need to borrow money and you have not.

So keeping a sustainable amount of reserves has significant long term benefits for our community. Running reserves down to low is not good at treasury management. That is why, I am delighted to say, that we leave those sorts of things to professionals. Sir, I do genuinely believe that this debate has been a credit to all Members and it has genuinely felt, I do not know if it is because it is a new year, but it really has felt as if our glasses are half full. We have had that real stimulus with regard Pillar Two tax, but it feels different, it feels as if this Assembly who wants to get things done.

2515 Now, it has been a pleasure at working with all colleagues, both elected and the permanent Civil Service. Very often we forget just how important the advice, the input, the guidance that we get from our staff and whether that's been the staff at ESC or the staff at the Policy & Resources commitment, it has felt, genuinely felt, like teamwork and it shows, I think, so much more can be achieved when we are both pragmatic and optimistic.

2520 Let us not forget our major industry because our major industry is performing strongly but we can all take some credit for that, because when the previous Policy & Resources Committee and the Economic Development Committee asked this Assembly to approve additional funding for our promotional agency this Assembly did not balk at that at all, it supported it and you are seeing the rewards from that because our financial services economy is growing in a demonstrable way but that is not a miracle, as I said in my speech in front of the industry this morning. That is because we are promoting ourselves properly and we are winning awards along the way as the best international financial services centre. Success breeds success, optimism drives optimism. I think we are in a really good place in January 2024 and I very much hope it lasts.

Thank you, sir.

2530 **The Bailiff:** Members of the States, can I take this opportunity to remind all Members that if they have devices with them, they should be put to silent so that they do not interrupt any Member who might be speaking. It is now time to vote on Amendment 5, proposed by Deputy Trott, seconded by Deputy Soulsby and I will invite the Greffier to open the voting, please.

2535 *There was a recorded vote.*

Carried – Pour 35, Contre 3, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 1, Absent 1

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Aldwell, Sue	De Lisle, David	None	Helyar, Mark	Burford, Yvonne
Blin, Chris	Mahoney, David			
Brouard, Al	Taylor, Andrew			
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tissier, Chris				

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Roberts, Steve				
Roffey, Peter				
Snowdon, Alexander				
Soulsby, Heidi				
St Pier, Gavin				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

2540 **The Bailiff:** So in respect of Amendment 5 proposed by Deputy Trott, seconded by Deputy Soulsby there voted in favour 35 Members, 3 Members voted against, no Member abstained, 2 Members did not participate in the vote and therefore I would declare Amendment 5 duly carried. Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, am I right in thinking that you have no wish now to lay Amendment 1?

2545 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Yes, no, sir. *(Laughter)*

The Bailiff: Thank you very much. So we will move swiftly on. Amendment 3, Deputy Meerveld, is that your wish to lay Amendment 3?

2550 **Deputy Meerveld:** No, sir.

The Bailiff: Very good. Deputy Dudley-Owen, is it your wish to lay Amendment 2?

Deputy Dudley-Owen: No, thank you, sir.

2555

The Bailiff: There we go. *(Laughter)* So we move into general debate, without further ado. Nobody is standing so, Deputy Prow.

Deputy Prow: Thank you, sir.

2560

This morning when Deputy Murray, very ably, opened the Government Work Plan debate he mentioned, of course, that the Government Work Plan is the Work Plan which also includes the work plans of all the Committees of the States. So, sir, I think it is important for me, as President of Home Affairs to speak on behalf of our Committee around the subject of the Government Work Plan.

2565

Sir, we, as a Committee, support the principles of the Government Work Plan reset, the need to focus on priorities that are established and progressing well in the efficient delivery of public services. The Committee assumes that as it has not yet had a discussion with the new Policy & Resources Committee that those principles, and the Committee's understanding of them, have not changed.

2570

In discussions the Committee took a holistic approach to reviewing GWP priorities and its own mandated responsibilities. During this process, the Committee identified over 100 work streams

that are either politically or operationally necessary to maintain public services, address deficiencies and improve outcomes for the community.

2575 Sir, I am convinced that I could have presented this Assembly with a persuasive argument for progressing each of them. However, as a Committee, we have accepted that the resources, both in terms of people and funding, simply do not exist to deliver and that we must prioritise and phase work. Whilst Home Affairs accepts the need to be realistic around what can be achieved for the remainder of this term, the nature of its safe and secure mandate means that there is a political and operational desire to ensure that we have services that are fit for purpose. This is reinforced by the
2580 increasingly high expectations of the public.

To add to this, its services are demand led responding to local and external pressures, threats and risks, creating new unforeseen work and costs which the Committee is mandated, by this Assembly, to respond to. The Committee is pleased that this iteration of the Government Work Plan begins to acknowledge the pressures that stem from business as usual responsibilities and talks
2585 about balance in delivering strategic aims alongside Government's bread and butter public services. However, there is a need to progress more meat on that particular bone.

The Home Affairs Work Plan, as set out in the Government Work Plan, sets out the Committee's priorities and is an accurate reflection of the pressures, as mandated, and captures the links with cross-Government strategic initiatives. However, it certainly does not reflect the Committee's
2590 ambition or public and political expectation of what the Committee should be delivering.

I have alluded previously, amongst other things, the need to update and develop key legislation, review the Police Complaints Law and progress the justice framework further than outlined, such as looking at sentencing policy in an appropriate way. The GWP does not, currently, provide us any assistance with that except, perhaps, to acknowledge that these things need to be done.
2595

So, sir, I can give the Assembly an assurance that despite the delay in debating the Government Work Plan there has been no impact in the progress and pace of the Committee's work. Indeed, most commentators agree that the Committee has already successfully progressed much important work this time with a very significant number of policy letters, high volumes of underpinning legislation around our financial crime and domestic and sexual violence strategies.
2600

Whilst Home Affairs is supportive of a streamlined GWP it, therefore, does consider that there needs to be some flex to ensure that we have the ability to invest in providing, and I quote, 'sustainable public services to a safe and secure community in the context of today's global pressures', as outlined in 2.1 of the policy letter.

Sir, as said, the Committee is determined to develop the Justice Work Plan and is looking to see that flex. The Committee is progressing specific initiatives such as the Domestic Abuse Law, as
2605 resources allow. The Committee will focus on work that improves our criminal justice framework and outcomes for the community in delivering fit for purpose public services.

Whilst the Committee's strategic policy for this term continues to be preparing for the Moneyval evaluation, it feels strongly that there needs to be consistent and sustained commitment to
2610 investing in the delivery of business as usual so that its international obligations are maintained through delivering upon the recent published AML National Strategy and indeed, all the vital public services continue to evolve and are effective and sustainable.

Thank you, sir.

2615 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

Deputy Inder: Hopefully fairly briefly, sir. I think the decision we made only a few minutes ago has quite clearly helped an important part of the Government Work Plan, which is the Human Capital Development Plan & Skills Strategy. It has actually got somewhere to land in a building, so that
2620 really is quite good news.

The HCDP has been a joint project from between CFED and ESC. I can happily inform you that we were going to come back in quarter four, I think it was, 2023, like everything life gets in the way of good work but I can inform the Assembly that something is likely to be published by the middle

2625 of the year and I would like to thank Deputy Haskins, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller and, obviously, the other President involved in this and the officers for the work that they have done so far. It is actually a very good news story.

2630 Importantly, and to maintain the theme of the half glass full, it is worth mentioning, Members, and for the record, the implementation of the approach to the enhanced digital infrastructure. We have invested, or are investing, £12.5 million to accelerate the rollout of fibre broadband. That is 30,000 premises in Guernsey should be connected to the fibre network by 2026 and Members will remember that there was a lot of mention of the benefit that would be to the Island, if nothing else, but not getting the same complaints that we used to do regarding the flakiness of the broadband network.

2635 Now at the end of July 2023, there was just under 13,000 properties fibre ready. That is really quite a good news story. We are now screaming, if not already, to over half of the properties and that is 5061 premises connected and using fibre broadband and the SOG has spent £3.2 million to date. Again, like I said to you before, and I will make reference to this in the Deputy St Pier and Deputy Ferbrache amendment, it is you as the States, who have actually delivered that. We gave the policy, you voted it and I think it is one of the most sensible decisions this this States has made, 2640 led by the former Policy & Resources and ourselves at Economic Development and I would like to thank the previous P&R and my Committee for supporting that and your States' Members.

2645 Now invest in air route development. we have implemented, and again I think that money has been allocated already, in fact I know it has, for a Guernsey-Paris route which starts fairly shortly and I think it is the end of the first quarter of this year. By all accounts bookings are looking good. We are hearing that bookings are coming in as well. So, this is another good a good news story and we are developing our air routes. We will be landing aircraft in an international hub. That is again another good news story.

2650 Of course Deputy Trott has mentioned the additional funding in promoting Guernsey's international finance sector. We submitted the bid for an additional £3 million for funding for Guernsey Finance to promote the Island's international finance sector from 2024 to 2027. I see nothing in terms of amendments to find any pushback from that.

2655 So I would thank our Assembly, Treasury and the original authors of the Government Work Plan for their work in that regard and backing our most significant industry that pays for absolutely everything. Again, another good news story, more funding through this term continuing the good work well into 2027, what happens after that will be a matter for a future Assembly, but I would be very surprised if anyone would be daft enough to go back on that, it would become 2027-28.

2660 Also, and really finally, scoping the work has been completed for the Guernsey Enterprise Investment Scheme. I think Policy & Resources have generally agreed, in fact, we have asked for a draw down, all they have done really is ask us to come back for a little bit more detail and I am fairly sure fairly quickly will provide Treasury a little bit more detail on how it is going to work. Criteria, usual stuff, just because it is in the Government Work Plan, it is not unreasonable for Policy & Resources to try and put a little bit of challenge into the Committee and we are fairly happy we can get that through as well.

2665 So all in all, Members, that is a fairly short update on what Economic Development has been doing along with all the other work that we have been doing in regulations wrapped around Moneyval, all the other work. But I will give a little fair warning to Members and it is something myself and Deputy Prow have identified and I think that is really embedded.

2670 There is this is sort of a general idea that you can cut the Civil Service; we need to de-layer the Civil Service. What we are finding, as two of the most significant Committees in terms of actually doing the really quite boring work, the regulatory work, the stuff that keeps this Island ticking, the Moneyval all of that work the public do not see, is there are significant stresses within the Civil Service right now and we are extremely concerned about key man risk. It would not take much and we have potentially identified, and I will not name them, seven or eight members of the staff that if they decided to leave, broke a leg, got a bit ill, took some leave, there are significant issues that we 2675 have got coming down the tracks.

Now, I know it plays well out in the world that there are too many civil servants and they are all paid too much, but I can say now, as someone who counts every penny, we have got concerns, significant concerns and I think we are making a – *(Interjection)* Thank you, Deputy St Pier, *(Laughter)* for ... It does come to something when Deputy St Pier actually watches a video of himself in my speech. *(Laughter)* Do not worry, he has got an amendment coming. But, importantly, sir, we will give fair warning to all of those people that do not see what we see, I have got concerns about the future risks in this Island and they are wrapped around key men and women and myself and Deputy Prow will be making representations to P&R on that matter.

I did not really want to leave on a sour note, but that is the reality of the work that we have to do. Real people, doing real jobs and we have we have considerable concerns about the amount of people wrapped around the myriad of hats they appear to be wearing. But apart from that very happy and great work for previous P&R and a thank you for this P&R for assisting us as well.

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

Deputy Kazantseva-Miller: Sir, very briefly, I wanted to speak to the funding that is being allocated for the Active Age Strategy because the funding that is allocated in the Government Work Plan was not ideal and Deputy Dudley-Owen and Deputy Cameron had brought an amendment, which has not been laid.

My understanding is that it is because P&R has agreed a package of funding and has presented the proposals back to the Sports Commission this week, however, seeing from some of the media reports I think there is either some communication or misunderstanding about what was agreed and it seems to differ from the intentions behind the amendments.

So I would like to ask P&R and Education colleagues that they communicate back to the Assembly exactly what has been agreed to be funded, so that we know what is happening because my understanding is that the Sports Commission is not quite happy with what has been proposed and is different from the intentions of the amendment.

The second very quick point I wanted to make, which I forgot to make in my previous speech on the amendments, is that the Coutanchez Campus is central to unlocking the Les Varendes site as well as the adjacent Pitronnerie Road site and at the DPA we saw the development frameworks that are being developed for the two sites and I just want to reiterate, and again back to the glass being half full, how exciting and important that both of those sites are to our housing allocation capacity, but also how transformational they could be to that part of town.

So I just want to say that we all should be very excited about the opportunity around Les Varendes and Pitronnerie. I suspect we will be releasing those development frameworks reasonably soon and I will ask that we have some presentations to Deputies and that it would be exciting to see developers coming forward with proposals, but also working with the States in partnership to unlock that whole site.

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: Thank you, sir.

Of course, I suppose the praise for this particular report should go, of course really to the previous Policy & Resources Committee and Deputy Murray was a component part of that as well. So he will take that up in the summing up. Deputy Kazantseva-Miller names the abortive Sports Commission activate amendment. I remember going to a presentation on that and supporting, with Deputy Cameron and others, the aims of the Sports Commission but I understand that that Education, Sport & Culture were working in a different way to accommodate some, but not necessarily all, of their desires but maybe that can be followed up because, of course, there is not a magic money tree at the moment it has to be said.

2730 I enjoyed Deputy Inder's speech about key people, essential important women, important men who function in an organisation, but I do not think I will comment whether they are underpaid or overpaid as public sector servants because that would embroil me in a different debate. But we certainly do need to maintain, motivate and not just recruitment but retention and ensure that we have exactly the right people in the right jobs.

2735 Deputy St Pier wrote a rather witty article about the nature of Government work plans and the, if you like, the jargon that sometimes goes into them, the sentence construction and so on. But the Government Work Plan is important to us because in the absence of real parties or party conferences or clear manifestos even, the Government Work Plan is the nearest we come to something we all collectively own in terms of the direction of travel that we are going in and I welcome that some of the amendments that were placed were not placed in the end because, I think, indications are that the needs will be worked on.

2740 I think my main point, though today, relates to the Government's Strategic Policy Portfolios because effectively we now have free public sector resilience, security and governance, sustainable health and care services, housing infrastructure and economy and we need to work on those with the resources that we have.

2745 They include many things from key worker housing to Alderney Care, to participation in work and everything we do needs to revolve around that and we need to be nimble and agile, but also work through this year what changes we may need to make to our functions and Machinery of Government to ensure that we have that public sector resilience, security and governance and a model that has sustainable health care services and that balances housing, infrastructure and economy because, as Deputy Prow reminded us, we have statutory responsibilities but we also have
2750 to have operational delivery and respond to external pressures and I think the next stage of the Government Work Plan really will be looking at its machinery, maybe, and also looking at the resources that we will need to put in in both in this term and the next.

The Bailiff: Okay, well, Deputy de Sausmarez, thank you.

2755

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you, sir.

Yes, so I have been taking slightly on the hop as I was still in the process of making some notes about what to say, in what order, so this might come out as a little bit of a scramble. But actually, I would like to pick up on a point that Deputy Inder raised which was about resilience within our Civil Service.

2760

This is something I have long been flagging concerns about. I think those of us in E&I have been on the front line of these concerns throughout this political term and indeed before that, we feel those stresses very acutely. We seem to be very thinly resourced, even compared to other parts of the States and I know that other parts of the States are feeling similar pressures. So, I would echo Deputy Inder concerns on that and I know that there is a much sharper focus now on resilience and making sure that those issues are being addressed.

2765

But the other thing that Deputy Inder mentioned was he sort of, I am going to paraphrase, there is a section of a news magazine that I read called The Week called Boring but Important and I love it and there is a lot of the work that is in the Government Work Plan, I think, falls into that category. It is not very exciting, it is not very prominent, in terms of public awareness, it is probably not even terribly prominent in terms of States' Members awareness, but it is absolutely essential and there are all kinds of work streams that we need to make happen, irrespective of any lack of fanfare, you know, for very important reasons such as ensuring that we can make trade agreements and meet our international obligations.

2770

2775 So there has been an awful lot of work that I think has probably gone underappreciated and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers that have been progressing this work in a tricky environment with, probably, not enough resource to get that work done in as timely a manner as possible.

2780 Obviously there are lots of parts of the Government Work Plan which are particularly pertinent to E&I, I am not going to go through every single one and itemise them, but some of the obvious areas are around housing, which I am really glad to see has been sustained and recognised as an absolute top priority for the States. We have obviously brought the States' Strategic Housing Indicator to the States and we have now published and are busy implementing the Guernsey Housing Plan alongside other Committees, notably ESS and P&R in particular. So, there is a huge amount of work that is going into that and if anyone has not yet had the opportunity to read the Guernsey Housing Plan, I really would advise they do that. The Plan itself is actually relatively accessible and short. All the detail is contained in the reports that underpin it by Arc 4, but I hope that Members will be reassured by the amount of work and the type of work that is going in to address this very complex but very important issue.

2790 We have obviously also been quite prominently progressing work on our energy resilience and security through the Electricity Strategy, in particular, which is now also in implementation phase and there is all kinds of work going on in that respect as well. An important facet that feeds into that is the Blue Economy Support Plan, so particularly around marine spatial planning, which is an important element underpinning our aspirations for marine renewable energy in future. The Paris Agreement is a recent achievement as well, which is fundamentally important to some of those international trade agreements as well, so that is a really good forward step.

2800 Just on the contents of the options that we have just voted through via Amendment 5, I mentioned briefly in debate on that amendment that I was not going to go into the detail of which option I preferred, at that point, because I thought that general debate was more appropriate. So I would just like to quickly outline why I will not be voting in support of Option 1, but will be voting in support of Option 2.

2805 When we are dealing with large numbers it is tempting to think that £1 million, it can feel like quite a small number, but I think it is worth a reality check; it is £1 million. It is still a lot of money and I think that, actually, not only is it £1 million, but it also very much reduces agility and flexibility and reduces options that may be more appropriate to take in a few years' time because I find it inconceivable that there would be no adjustment to the plans, or at least review of the plans, to make sure that what was considered to be the right spec when they were first drawn up, however many years ago, are still appropriate for when they are implemented in 2029 or whenever it is going to be.

2810 So I do think that it would be very premature to set in stone, almost literally set in concrete, the ground works for plans that have not been reviewed to make sure they remain appropriate and remain the appropriate spec. But I think there are other considerations as well and, actually, over lunch I was having an interesting conversation with Deputy Leadbeater, who is far better versed in this kind of thing, but he was explaining to me that actually, in terms of the construction itself it is not a very helpful thing to have those ground works going on, it precludes how you use the site optimally while that construction work on the actual Guernsey Institute buildings would be taking place.

2820 But also, one of the reasons that has been put forward to us, which I think might have been valid had it held water, would be that well, we do not want to disrupt people's learning by having the piling going on. But of course, the piling is a very short part of that period it is not going to be 12 weeks of piling. So, I am pretty sure that with a little bit of basic organisation it can be arranged that the piling, which is the disruptive aspect of those works, can be done in the summer holidays when there are no learners around.

2825 **Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Point of correction, sir.

The Bailiff: Point of correction, Deputy Dudley-Owen.

2830 **Deputy Dudley-Owen:** The piling at time frame is a 12-week course of works. It cannot be taken during a six week summer holiday.

The Bailiff: Deputy de Sausmarez.

2835 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Okay, well, I think that is a very compelling reason why the plans may
want to be reviewed in that case. As I say this, this is not my main area of expertise and actually
Deputy Dudley-Owen has reminded me, it is possibly slightly tangential, but she did say that there
had been nothing definitive from Peter Marsh, but I spoke with him at the very kind facilitation of
Deputy Dudley-Owen's Committee, in person along with Deputy Roffey and he did explain to us
that the reason that the recommendation had been limited to two years, which I think was from
2840 about a year ago, was because of concerns around the structural integrity of the facade at the La
Mare de Carteret. So I just wanted to take this opportunity as Deputy Dudley-Owen did not see fit
to give way at that time.

So yes, I think that Option 2 is great it gives us the benefits of being able to move on with the
vitaly important Guernsey Institute, but without locking us into the additional expenditure and
locking us into a far less flexible approach that Option 1 would bind us to. So that is why I think that
2845 Option 2 is by far the preferable option.

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Roffey.

2850 **Deputy Roffey:** Thank you, sir.

ESS have absolutely no problems at all with the Government Work Plan but I would make the
point that the work schedule that we have been given is going to stretch us, and our policy officers,
to the limit over the next 15 months. So I give warning now to people who have not brought any
amendments to add things that ESS should do and, therefore, give us the ability to make a case to
2855 P&R for non-existent additional resources, that we will be, in terms of major policy work, pretty
much limited to what is in the Government Work Plan.

That is our guidance; that is what the States is telling us to do. So if Deputy St Pier asks us again
when we are going to do a major review of Carer's Allowance, or somebody else says, what about
no statutory redundancy rights in Guernsey, or somebody else comes forward and the answer is
2860 not that these are not very good things, but simply this Assembly will have decided what our
priorities should be and we will have to use our limited resources in doing just that. So I am just
getting that warning out early.

On the question of 1 or 2, I thought we had a number of Propositions going through, but okay
little 1 or little 2 I guess. *(Interjection)* Yes, okay on the question of Option 1 or Option 2, I think
2865 everybody knows what I am talking about I am just going to get on. Deputy Dudley-Owen said, well
she was not really quite aware when the election was coming up, I really commend her for having
her nose so much to the grindstone she is not aware that it is next year, but it is next year.

I think there has to be some reality check that Assemblies sometimes absolutely adopt the policy
of the previous Assembly and sometimes radically depart from it. Now, she said if you took that
2870 view you would do nothing. Well, I understand, yes, we passed the Hospital Phase 2 and nobody
would suggest not cracking on with it because what if the next Assembly took a different point of
view. I hope that, maybe later today, we are going to agree to replace the Castle Bridge and nobody
would suggest not cracking on with it because the next Assembly would take a different view.

This project, I think, is slightly different. We have got a capital programme and we have taken
2875 the sixth form college out of it. We have not passed that, we have said that will be a matter for the
next Assembly. So we have passed a limited TEP which does involve the IT project, it does involve
the creation of a new Guernsey Institute minus the sports facilities. But we have said whether or not
to proceed and how to proceed with the sixth form college would be a matter for the next Assembly.
So, obviously, we have a policy now that has been adopted by the States, but we have not financed
2880 it.

So I do think we have to be careful about spending £1 million on something which may
absolutely be acceptable to the next Assembly and they will be able to do that, or may not and if

2885 people are thinking that by spending a million you are actually almost guaranteeing they are going to carry on and do that and, therefore, let us do it because we think this is the right policy so we want to make sure they do that, I would say two words. Those two words are Lurgi and Suez (*Laughter*) because the States at the time were absolutely sure what they were doing was the right thing and they committed money up front and the next States then decided that that is not exactly what they wanted to do and as a result the taxpayer paid a lot of money for absolutely nothing whatsoever.

2890 So I am not saying that there should be a change. I do not support the current policy, people know that. I am not saying that that will not go ahead but I just think it is unwise, given that we have decided that in this Assembly our Capital Portfolio will not include a sixth form college, to start putting down foundations that the next Assembly may or may not, and they may do it but a rather different design, they may decide that the pupil numbers have changed. There could be
2895 any sorts of things. Now, if we built it that would have to adapt to that situation because you build a building and things change, but we will not build it. But we are trying to actually lock down the exact plan and the design for it in this Assembly. To me, that is really foolish.

If it goes through, I do not think it will guarantee anything. I think £1 million of sunk funds looking at Lurgi and Suez will not be the deal maker with the next Assembly if they want to go in
2900 a different direction. If they do not then they will go ahead anyway and yet I accept there will be some disturbance but as I said to one of the senior officers from the Guernsey Institute or the College of FE in their brand spanking new building that we are going to build and agree today with a bit of noise outside for a few weeks, how does that compare with actually teaching at the moment in the Delancey campus? And she said there was absolutely no comparison. She would
2905 rather that the foundations were put down, but she did not want to over gild the lily it would not really be anything like as bad as what they have at the moment. I think flexibility if we are not going to fund it, leave the flexibility open for the next lot to decide exactly how to proceed with this.

2910 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

Deputy Meerveld: Thank you, sir.

I am driven to my feet again. I spent the majority of my working career in Hong Kong, and we used to joke that the national anthem was ka thunk, ka thunk, ka thunk. (*Laughter*) The sound of
2915 pile drivers going down or going on around you, your entire building jumping up and down and we are talking about 40-, 50-, 60-storey buildings and the pile drivers being a considerable distance away.

We are looking here at a building site where you will be piling driving for 12 weeks, continuously, and you will be doing it within a few metres of classrooms with students and adult guests to their
2920 hair salons, etc. and the catering facilities. Unless you have experienced it, you do not know how disruptive it is and what an impact it has on your life having pile drivers close to either your home or to your offices. Again, there were rules, like there are in Guernsey, where they were not allowed to pile drive at night, thank goodness, but still having them start up over breakfast and then having another set of them going near your office was something I would not wish on anybody.

2925 As far as the sixth form location is concerned. I started working on this in 2016, looked very closely at all the Education options and we talk about wasting money, the original plan from Paul Le Pelley's Committee for the redevelopment of the primary school, secondary school and sixth form centre, including the college FE, was £108 million. The latest prices from ESC are £148 million.

2930 So, by taking a diversion from making a decision to get rid of selection, go to a three-school model, then to consider a two-school model, then to go back to a three-school model. Yes, we politically, have wasted probably about £40 million. We have also done an enormous amount of damage to our education system.

We have caused massive anxiety amongst students and teachers. We have undermined our teaching profession, we have lost good teachers because of the uncertainties and the changes and,

2935 yes, we are always striving to try and make the best decision but the problem is, with something like Education, there are so many diverse opinions we are in danger of dithering forever and just causing an immense amount of cost and expense.

Now, as far as the sixth form at the grammar school, I looked at that personally, extensively back in 2016 onwards. It cannot be done economically and feasibly. That building has narrow corridors, you cannot build on the playing fields they are owned by somebody else under a covenant to only be used as playing fields. There was a suggestion of sticking some extra classrooms in the swimming pool, but if you are going down to a three school model and moving students from that fourth school and spreading it amongst three as well as the sixth form, you just do not have capacity there. And to do it inside a building that is 50 years old and to try and remodel it, you would have to almost move all the students out to remodel that building and do the building works required to try and cram those extra students in.

Again, let us look at this at a practical and pragmatic basis sixth form, in an existing 50-year-old building, or one 150 metres-200 metres away. There are campuses in the UK, you go to a university in the UK, they have minibuses to shuttle you around the campus. You have 30-40 minute walks on campus. Deputy McKenna was telling me of the day he went to Kent and he had a 40-minute walk across the campus from one building to another. We are talking about three, four, five minutes across, down a lane to another building. It could almost be the same campus. So let us get practical, let us get real.

The sixth form centre will end up being built at the Les Ozouets site because it is the only practical, pragmatic solution. It is within spitting distance of the existing school. I know some people are ideologically married to the idea of 11 to 18 schools, but repeatedly this Assembly has made decisions that they are not going with that and we want the parity of esteem of locating a sixth form centre next to the College of FE, having shared facilities, shared sporting and catering facilities and having those people mix, having the older age group.

There is an argument that ah well, the younger students need the aspirational older students in their view. Well, sorry, I have got a 15- and a 16-year-old, they are separated by 15 months, they are in two separate terms. The two terms do not associate with each other. My younger son and his older son's friends are two separate peer groups. They do not really associate. How can the average 11- or 12-year-old relate to those large, hairy, smelly creatures in their suits, who are looking much more like adults than children, who are taller than me? (**A Member:** Yeah, well.) Yes, okay, not much of a challenge there, but I do keep on telling my wife if you want to keep them small and cute stop feeding them.

But no, I understand there is a great desire for some people to maintain that 11 to 18. We have made repeated decisions to go away from it. Please, this is a practical decision. I personally would have loved to have seen the full £148 million funded and the project put on track to get the whole thing done. It will get done eventually and I am glad that we are making this first step to make it happen in this term and getting it finally underway.

But please do not compromise this plan and negatively impact all the students at the new Les Ozouets site who will have to live next to pile drivers for three months, as well as a construction site ongoing from then onwards, that cannot be avoided but that is far less disruptive than pile drivers, and the fact you might end up with a sixth formers having to stay at La Mare de Carteret, which we all know is a compromise, for an extra year or two if you try and do that pile driving during school holidays.

So it is only practical and pragmatic to say there is an additional cost, but do that disruptive work at the same time. I am not so much worried about the cost as the impact on the students, both on that site and at La Mare de Carteret. So please, I would encourage the Members to support Option 1 and let us just get on with this.

We can get spades on the ground and we can start work on this, this term. Now, if it had not been for R G Falla going out of business, these buildings would already be going up. Let us not second guess decisions again, let us not cause further delays, let us not compromise any further than we have to. We have made the difficult decision, I think, by approving, by overwhelming

majority, to support the amendment being inserted. I expect that to carry through to votes on the options. I expect the options to pass today. Let us not compromise on Option 2. Let us please approve Option 1.

2990 Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Dyke.

Deputy Dyke: Thank you, sir.

2995 I agree with everything that Deputy Meerveld has said. There are also a couple of other points to bear in mind. I am going to vote in favour of Option 1. With regard to doing the foundations, it is actually easier to do the two sets all at once and therefore cheaper so as well as the noise issue, there is a cost issue. It is cheaper to do it all at once when everything is set up and the equipment is all in there than it is splitting it up, so there is a saving there.

3000 The other point is that, logically, as and when the sixth form must leave La Mare de Carteret, I am not quite sure if it is this drop-dead issue of two years or four years or whatever when it disappears down a sinkhole, but at some point, whether it is three years, four years, two years, five years or whatever, it is going to have to move from La Mare de Carteret.

3005 So the only logical site for it to go to is the one that is already set up and bought for it and also bear in mind that the plans have been done for that site. There is a huge cost to doing plans and it has got planning permission. So if you if you throw all that away, you are throwing quite a few million pounds away on a wasted effort of putting a sixth form on a different random site. There just does not seem any point in doing that.

3010 So, I think we should do Option 1. We do not want to get into the sort of thing they have got into in Jersey with their new mega hospital, where they have already spent £100 million on plans and inquiries and not put a spade in the ground. I do not think we will be as bad as that but we do not want to go that way. We have got something set up, we are pausing it now, we voted to pause it now as a compromise, but I think we should leave the trajectory in place because that will save quite a lot of money.

3015 Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Leadbeater.

Deputy Leadbeater: Thank you, sir.

3020 I am not going to say much. I am just going to speak on the same topic as Deputy Meerveld and Deputy Dyke have just done. I completely disagree. When I first saw this amendment I thought, yes great, we have got something to go with and I still feel the same thing. I still feel that this is what we have needed to get us out of the rut that we have got into, but I cannot support putting foundations down now for a building that we are not going to be building in the near future for, for a few reasons.

3025 Number one, that building, I have got no doubt in my mind that that sixth form centre is going to be built on that site but there is various different methods of construction and there could be a method of construction, or a slightly different variation to how the sixth room is, that comes forward, that if we go and lay these foundations down now they will be unsuitable for.

3030 So, I am looking at it from a practical construction point of view. Deputy de Sausmarez has always touched on the point that I mentioned to you at lunchtime, if you are going to be building two phases on a project, you do not build part of that phase and all of that phase and then go back and build that phase. It does not make sense. It does not make sense whatsoever and I just want to reiterate, I have got no intention of changing the model of education, no intention of seeing the sixth form built anywhere else. But from a construction point of view, it makes no sense whatsoever.

3035 Twelve weeks for piling, I do not think is accurate. I think, potentially, 12 weeks for piling for the entire two phases, if we are splitting it to two, is probably fairly accurate and the piling does not have to be done all at once. You could do a bit of piling in the half term, a bit at Easter, a bit in the

3040 summer holidays if you wanted to break it up. I am not going to give way. If he wanted to break it up like that, because the next Assembly is going to come along and there will be a decision if there is funding in place, that project will go ahead, but that project in itself will be phased.

3045 So we are going to have other projects, capital projects, going on, Phase 2 of the Hospital Modernisation for example and I think we need to put a bit of faith in our construction industry to be able to fathom out these things. They can say, okay yes, well we will look at, exactly the same as they are doing with the Hospital. We have got a live Hospital and we have got piling going on at the Hospital. We have got people working, construction teams, working on site 100% of the time, but they work with the Hospital team and they manage things and it is working extremely well.

3050 We have got some very experienced construction companies in Guernsey that are used to delivering on capital projects, schools and hospitals and I have got no reason to believe that they would not deliver on this one and I have got no reason to believe they cannot manage the piling and the foundation works for the sixth form without putting undue annoyance onto the students that will be in the College of FC. I have got there is no doubt in my mind whatsoever.

3055 So I think it is just paranoia really, it is paranoia. I think about the model changing for insisting on these on these on these foundations to be included within this Proposition that we have got before us today. I have not heard one argument that can say to me, a realistic argument, practically, of why we should include this million pound on these foundations at this point. It just does not make sense in any way, shape or form.

3060 So unless somebody can show me, because I have heard nothing so far, explicitly why we have to do this now and spend this money on putting this lump of concrete and this piling in the ground there now, that is just going to sit there doing nothing for how many years, and bearing in mind we do realise this is the States of Guernsey and this is Education we are talking about. Things change consistently over a period of time so to think that everything on that site that is planned is going to stay exactly as it is, is very optimistic I feel.

3065 I would urge Members please do not, because you are worried about the Education model changing or whatever it may be, or you are or you are worried about the piling annoying, the odd carpenter doing his course down at Les Ozouets, it is not going to happen. It is actually not going to happen. So please do not go and waste taxpayers' money by chucking £1 million at these foundations at this point when we really do not have to. But I would urge everybody to support the other option. Let us crack on and get some headway on our education system.

3070 Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Haskins.

Deputy Haskins: Thank you, sir.

3075 So I am not going to speak to the GWP in its entirety, I am going to give you the benefit of just my thoughts on this on this topic, the Option 1 or 2, because Deputy Leadbeater started with 'well, I disagree', so I am going to start with exactly the same. I disagree, with him. So Deputy Leadbeater said, I have no doubt, there is no doubt in my mind that the sixth form will be built. Well, why then would you not complete the groundworks that are going to cost you hundreds of thousands of pounds extra when you have got, there's no doubt –

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Deputy Leadbeater: Point of correction, sir.

The Bailiff: Point of correction, Deputy Leadbeater.

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Deputy Leadbeater: Deputy Haskins is assuming that the groundworks will be costing hundreds of thousands of pounds extra if they are left at this point. But that is just an assumption. That is not correct, sir.

3090 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Haskins.

Deputy Haskins: Thank you, sir.

Well, I am afraid I am going to have to say I disagree because we have actually had that verified by our construction partners so, hence why I disagree. Sir, it has been mentioned already that the plans are already in place and they have been done, right. So if we do not, if it does not, then there are, they will be a new cost. So, it is just something that I think we should be aware of.

One of the other things that I would like to highlight is the TGI, The Guernsey Institute itself, has also been designed with shared spaces for sixth form students as well. So it is larger than it needs to be. So, if it did not go ahead then we have got an increase in revenue costs for that building. So it does not really make sense and as Deputy Leadbeater said, there is no doubt there, is no doubt in his mind that this will go ahead.

So in my mind, sir, Option 1 should be supported and really it is about saving taxpayers' money. It was not, as Deputy Leadbeater suggested, inferred that ESC was insisting, well, this was actually a recommendation from Policy and Resources because they are looking at it from a financial point of view and quite rightly, sir, and I support Option 1.

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Matthews.

Deputy Matthews: Thank you, sir.

I was not going to speak to the GWP in general. I think it has been a debated and discussed in great length over the time, although I congratulate P&R for having brought it out. But the main decision, I think, that we are left with is the options introduced by Amendment 5 for Option 1 or Option 2 on the building. So, whether or not to spend £1 million building the foundations for a sixth form block that may never actually be built, because we know with absolute certainty that there are other options that would avoid having to build that there because we have been through them all and discussed them all.

Members will know very well that I supported the three 11 to 18 model, which I still think is the best option, along with Deputy Le Tocq and Deputy Brouard and a few others and, of course, Deputy Cameron's option has been through at length about how his alternatives could work just as well.

So it is clear there are much better alternatives than simply putting the sixth form to La Mare and what a terrible thing for the Island to do at the time when we are trying to sell the Island, when we are trying to encourage our young families to stay here, at a time when we are trying to encourage Islanders, maybe, or perhaps Guernsey people abroad to relocate or other people to relocate to have this disaster of the sixth form at La Mare de Carteret and it just seems as if this Education Committee has this term simply lurched from one disaster to another.

Now some of those, of course, have, or many of those, have not been of their making. The R G Falla collapse was difficult to predict. All of the increases in costs and decreases in what we thought we would get through revenue were difficult to predict. But some of them are of their own making and it is simply due to this dogmatic sticking to the separate sixth form model that has led to this inflexibility to be able to be fleet of foot and agile and change your plans as things are not working and it just seems that there is clearly very little in the way of a practical reason to do this foundation and piling work immediately.

We have heard from Deputy Leadbeater, well there is no particular construction reason to go ahead with that. There are lots of options around it and it just looks like it is just a case of wanting to wedge a foot in the door to spend £1 million and then to put the handcuffs on the next Assembly or the next ESC to be able to say, well, look, you have got this big concrete slab here, now you are going to have to go ahead with it, aren't you? You know, and it would not work.

A new ESC that will come in and wanted to do a different model would just do a different model and they would leave the million pound white elephant slab sat there. It would be a car park. So, it is a pointless expenditure, the most sensible thing by far to do is to vote for Option 2 to get this to go ahead and to give the flexibility, the agility to be able to then look at what our available options are and not have this, and there are many options available to not have this move to La Mare and

3145 separate sixth form and all the other things that have been insisted upon. You know, there are many, many other options, several other options that would avoid that and be much better for the Island, for our students, for our future. So that is by far the best option to support and that is what I urge other Members to support as well.

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Queripel.

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Deputy Queripel: Thank you, sir.

Just a couple of things, paragraph 3.10 focuses on the cost of living and it reads as follows:

The last few years have brought unprecedented challenges to jurisdictions around the globe and Guernsey has been no exception. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lockdowns, Brexit demands and the conflict in Ukraine remain. These challenges combined have led to high inflation rates which have had a material impact on the affordability of basic goods for Islanders which the States cannot directly influence.

3155 On that point, a press columnist recently headed up his article something along the lines of, 'Asking the new Chief Minister to make Guernsey affordable again', and I think he set that as a challenge, I might be wrong there. I need clarification on that point because the last few words of the paragraph say 'which the States cannot directly influence'.

3160 So, how is it possible to make Guernsey affordable again? We need to stop kidding ourselves. We need to bear in mind traders in the Island have to pay the going rate for goods they import, they cannot afford to sell them for less than what they pay for them. So, with that in mind I would like to hear Deputy Murray's opinion on that, please, when he responds. How can the States possibly make Guernsey affordable again?

3165 Just one more thing, in paragraph 3.12 we see the phrase demographic time bomb. I was shocked to see that because I thought, I may have dreamt this, I thought, quite some time ago now, we agreed to not use that phrase. I might be wrong, I stand to be corrected, but I do not think it is appropriate to use a phrase like demographic time bomb. So I ask, please, that we remove that phrase and we do not use that phrase in any future policy letters because it makes pensioners feel like –

3170 I give way to Deputy Matthews.

Deputy Matthews: I was just going to say to Deputy Queripel I do not remember when that might have been agreed but I certainly have not ever agreed not to use that phrase. I do agree it is not always appropriate but there is a very serious problem with demographics and I think people need to be aware that that it is there.

3175 There is a growing awareness of it and although it might, occasionally, offend people it should not do, it is just a fact, it is a fact of life. It was just to say to Deputy Queripel, I do not remember ever agreeing to anything like not using the phrase and why would I because if you want to be able to describe something, sometimes you might want to use a phrase that is evocative, so makes sense to me.

3180 Thank you.

Deputy Queripel: Sir, I thank Deputy Matthews for that intervention. In that case, perhaps I will use more evocative phrases in my speeches from now on, which I refrain from doing so because, as I have said before, I often write two speeches; one I know I am not going to make to get my anger out and the second one I know that I can make. (*Laughter*)

3185 I think I will leave it there, sir. But I do object to seeing the phrase demographic time bomb. There are other ways, softer ways, inferring that the bomb has not yet gone off, but it is going to go off sometime soon. (*Interjection*) If that is the case, then surely the reality is the bomb went off a long time ago. So it is incorrect to refer to it as a time bomb.

3190 Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: As I do not see any other Member rising to speak

Deputy Taylor: I will stay standing, sir

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The Bailiff: On these Propositions –
Oh, Deputy Taylor, you snuck in there. Deputy Taylor.

Deputy Taylor: Thank you, sir.

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It is five months since this policy letter was published and as we all know, five months is a very long time in politics, and my glasses keep falling off my face so I am going to have to pick my laptop up. But there does not seem to be any material updates on Proposition 2, which is surprising given the policy letter itself contains very little information anyway.

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Now, we have already agreed, within the Funding Investment Plan, that we would allocate £35 million, or ring fence, £35 million for bridge regeneration linked with Proposition 2 but there is still much more information than that. So, it is an interesting figure because £35 million allocated to bridge redevelopment that exceeds the dip that we would be making into our General Reserves, under the now approved Amendment 5, I am not sure what the Proposition number would be.

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Another way of looking at it, again looking back to Amendment 5, £35 million is about 60% of the maximum borrowing that is being proposed to fund the Transforming Education Project. Or the final way, most importantly, that £35 million that is being ring fenced, or allocated, is more than enough to construct the Transforming Education Project completely. Meaning it would cover the gap to build the sixth form centre on the Les Ozouets site, which is the actual proposal that has been agreed by this Assembly and the benefit of that is that, as explained in Amendment 5, not only would it free up Coutanchez for housing, it would also free up the site of La Mare de Carteret as that would, fairly soon, be unneeded for Education estate, I think.

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So, sir, if we are making significant compromises in the future of our children's education off the back of Proposition 2, I sincerely hope that someone in this room will put some meat on the bone because there is very little for us to actually agree, even five months after we were warned about this.

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Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Dudley-Owen.

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Deputy Dudley-Owen: Yes, sir.

Well, there seems to be quite a bit for me to cover and what I am going to suggest that I do is I just do an update on the matters within the GWP via email for Members so that they can understand what the work streams in our progress, which I am sure they will be interested in and also to know that our annual report against the Education Strategy is going to be coming out towards the end of this month, early next. So, I am sure that Members will be pleased to see that.

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A lot of debate, obviously, has centred so far on Option 1 or Option 2 as it will materialise and we have just had a little bit of round robin emails, started off by Deputy Inder, who, I think, was wanting to respond to some of the points that were raised by Deputy Leadbeater just now. I sent an email to States' Members last evening and I went into quite some detail and, understandably, I am sure that not all States' Members managed to read that. I think that it would be really helpful, given that this debate now has really condensed down to this Option 1 or Option 2, to address some of the issues therein and then I will go in some detail about the disruption that we are very concerned about.

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Deputy de Sausmarez, Deputy Roffey and Deputy Matthews really have centred on well £1 million is a lot of money and the agility and the flexibility and, again, that has been a common theme running through from Members who are very opposed to this model, very opposed, consistently, and I respect the consistency, however, the acceptance that the debate on the model has gone. It seems to me, as there is an absolute dogged determination and insistence to keep that

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3245 going, because with the talk about agility and flexibility is that agility and flexibility for the sixth form to be reattached to an 11 to 16 to continue with that model, to bring back a two school model, because these are the sort of things that Members need to be concerned about.

3250 If Members in this Chamber stood on the ticket of not having a two-school model because they listened to the thousands and thousands of Islanders who said, we do not want big schools, they listened to staff Members who said, we do not want schools of more than 800, listened to staff members who said that the sixth form is an integral part and it needs to be kept together then those Members need to be understanding that this is the model of delivery that we have approved and that Deputy de Sausmarez, Deputy Roffey, Deputy Matthews, Deputy Cameron are determined to get another model in. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

3255 Now, the folly of doing that, to add yet more uncertainty, heaping uncertainty over uncertainty, for an already demoralised, exhausted workforce just desperate for some stability. We have gone a very long way down the road to reorganising staff into a new structure and then, what, in a year's time we are going to say, sorry, the new States have said we are going to go back to a two-school model? What will that do to the community? What will that do to the attractiveness of Guernsey then?

3260 Deputy Matthews is concerned about the attractiveness of keeping staff with their students at a sixth form to be moved temporarily to an interim home, which is fit for the purpose for which they need it to be temporarily, but my goodness, breaking it all up and redesigning it again, that is what is going to impact the attractiveness.

3265 This is an attempt to keep open the door to yet another attempt to disrupt the model that has been agreed by this States on multiple occasions now. So, in terms of the technical advice that we have been given, I will read this out for the record because, as I say, I sent it last night and I think that it is helpful for those who are listening and for the record because the proposal in Option 1 approves laying the slab for the sixth form centre block and it is very important we believe that this happens in this way because amongst key considerations is to mitigate disruption, to reduce both
3270 cost and delay and to give stability.

So, I have confirmed that I have received technical advice on this and can share this information and that piling is required to support the foundation slab and the slab itself, to support the load of the building that will become the sixth form centre and this will take about 12 weeks to complete.

3275 So, if we are talking to the disruption point, we cannot accommodate those works around the academic year and with 12 weeks of work required completing this in the summer holidays is not an option. If the slab is put down once the TGI block is functioning and open, we will have to work on a live education site where we are delivering lectures and practical teaching to hundreds of students, not just a handful, not just one or two apprentices, to hundreds of students every day.

3280 The above ground construction will be disruptive but nothing like if we have to do groundworks with them on the site because the proximity to the TGI block and the sixth form block forms the external side of a rectangle which is very close and between the two buildings is a quadrangle for social and recreational space.

3285 The noise, reverberation and impact will be significant for the college community but that extends also to members of the public who will be using and involved in the college services, such as for hair and beauty, for childcare, for the refectory, for the theatre. This will be a significant impact for all college users for a considerable amount of time.

3290 So the cost impact, and this is from QS estimates quantity surveyor estimates, and I am no construction expert and I know that people in this room have got years of experience but these are quantity surveyors estimates that laying the sixth form centre slabs in Phase 1 will cost just under £1 million, which explains the cost difference between Options 1 and 1a 1b of the additional Propositions inserted by the amendment.

3295 If we delay these ground works to Phase 2, the piling rig necessary for groundworks will need to be remobilized and would subsequently increase the cost inflation, and that goes up by, approximately, £350,000 and the cost will continue to run if we delay it further. So, future costs will also be subject to inflationary rises and that is why it is more cost effective to lay the slab now

(**Several Member:** Hear, hear.) because if we delay it there will be inflationary rises but there also will be resourcing issues because we will run in to the Hospital Modernisation Programme then, and that is a very important factor, especially for Members of Health & Social Care because this particular project has been, we have got a window of opportunity to dovetail it properly with the Hospital Modernisation Project. So that is a really important consideration for Members who want the two to go ahead and be started in the next few years.

Let us talk about the delay. The impact of not approving groundworks and foundations for the sixth form centre block could impact the time to get the sixth form building out of the ground and built and this could result in the delayed exit from the interim accommodation for the sixth form

awe do not want to risk any avoidable delays for these staff or the students in moving as quickly as possible into their new permanent building.

Now the irony here, the big irony is that we have got colleagues who have been in consistent opposition saying that they do not like the idea of sixth formers moving to the interim temporary facilities at La Mare de Carteret and they do not want them there for a long time, yet they do not want to put the groundworks in in order to expedite their exit (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) and give them a drop-dead date of being in that particular facility. Do not we all want to give this group some certainty (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) that they also are going to benefit from new, updated facilities co-located to get the benefits of co-location with Les Ozouets in Les Ozouets campus amongst their peers? Would not we all want to give that? Why not?

And that talks to the stability that I have mentioned just before because staff have been in turmoil for so long now and by passing the amendment, along with the groundworks, will reassure our workforce that we understand the critical need for the Transforming Education Programme to continue and again, to bypass those few avoidable delays.

We have heard from unions today, we have heard from senior leaders within the Sixth Form Centre about the need to move on, to give certainty. You know, this is not our ideal and I must admit I am disappointed, to a degree, about the compromise but I have taken it, I have taken the compromise on the chin and it is about time that those Members who have been in the minority and opposing this model since day one also took it on the chin and allowed Education to move forward rather than constantly pulling it back (**Several Members:** Hear, hear.) because, as Deputy Dyke says, this particular Committee has been under siege since the day that we took our seats and it is about time it stopped (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) because those particular Deputies are putting more disruption, more nervousness, more uncertainty around our ability to be able to deliver Education and make the necessary improvements that are so necessary. We are making great strides and I ask the Assembly to put their weight behind Option 1, please.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: I invite Deputy Murray on behalf of the Committee to reply to the debate, please.

Deputy Murray: Thank you, sir.

I guess two fairly consistent themes have come out of the debate, which has been very helpful. I do appreciate the support that the GWP seems to have, despite its age. If I may, I think those two themes were probably, and quite pleasingly to some extent, a recognition that the resources that we have are extremely finite and are under extreme pressure and everybody, generally, does seem to recognise that and hence the focus of the priorities and the portfolios that are actually in the GWP would appear to be well supported.

The other, of course, is the education element, which I cannot add a lot to, but I will try to answer some of the specifics that were made by individuals along the way. Clearly you have heard a very impassioned plea from Deputy Dudley-Owen, which would be hardly surprising if she had not.

But let me just go through, very quickly because I realise time is marching on this evening. Deputy Prow, yes, efficient delivery of public service is really important. He mentioned 100 work streams and I know that, actually, Home Affairs went through an extensive period of looking at

everything that was actually under their remit at the moment and, very thankfully, just focused on those that were critical for them, but he mentioned clearly that there is a lot more.

3350 If you look at page 14 on the GWP you will see a whole list of things that, unfortunately, have had to go by the by, for the time being, but those were agreed, obviously, by Committees as we went through the process of preparing the GWP. But we must prioritise, he said, and I completely agree with that. We are out of time, we are out of resources, we must prioritise.

3355 He also mentioned about quite a lot of the legal initiatives that actually are not, at the moment, moving as fast as we would like. Every six months we have a Legislative Sub-Committee that I myself, and it will be now, obviously, the current President of P&R, we sit with the Law Officers and we go through, and here is 51 that we actually have that still need work at this point. They are all at various stages of completion or otherwise, some actually do sit with Committees and they are waiting for updates from Committees to move some of them forward. So it is a little bit of a two-way street.

3360 Three actually, that we have approved, prior approved, given fast track. I think one was the appearance of eyesores and so forth that the DPA wanted, we have moved that forward. Another was to move what you might call the difficulties of becoming bankrupt, I think that was Economic Development brought that through and the third was the legislation required to move our Discrimination Legislation forward as well. So, they have all been fast tracked and will be coming through very quickly. But as I say there are still 51 here that, they are working and they are doing their best for. But I am afraid the more policies we approve, the more legislation that unfortunately comes at the end of it.

3370 One final thing that Deputy Prow mentioned was our international obligations and the staff, and the specialist staff, that we require and have but not sufficiently to deal with the tsunami of international obligations that we keep coming through and I think probably then to pick up on where Deputy Inder actually entered the fray, the succession planning that we have because of our lack of resources, specialist resources, is of concern.

3375 I think the international area is certainly one of those. They do a fantastic job but unfortunately they are getting swamped because we are getting more and more requirements. Plus, of course we are responding to Brexit and we now actually have to make individual, or under the auspices of the UK, a lot more trade agreements, which is to our benefit ultimately obviously, but there is work involved in doing that. It is not five minutes, it takes a lot of work and I think it is done pretty much under the radar most of the time but I think they do need to be patted on the back because they do a heck of a lot of work (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) but we need more and that will not change, we will carry on, unfortunately.

3380 I am very pleased to hear Deputy Inder mention the Skills Strategy that is moving forward. I know it is a joint approach with ESC and certainly if we are now able to prioritise getting the TGI built, that will move us on enormously. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) We will benefit from all manner of things from that point of view not just, if you like, in terms of the efficiencies it will bring but all of the training and the re-skilling and it is not just our young students there, that is the re-skilling that actually our existing workforce is going to need to do and one of the drivers for that is going to be the move towards digital.

3390 He mentioned that the fibre network continues to roll out, which thankfully, is certainly one of the big benefits that we have had this term because it enables that digital strategy for things like home working, you can work internationally from home if you have actually got that level of broadband to your home. So it is really important and it is certainly, I think it is actually ahead of schedule, which is good news that we can actually report on.

3395 He talked about, obviously, connectivity for the Island in this particular respect, Paris, that is an amazing opportunity that we seem to have got there and I am sure we are going to milk it for all it is worth. But it is certainly our international links and our connectivity which is fundamental to us as an Island. Therefore, we have got to do our very best to try to maximise our opportunities there and there are threats, as I am sure everybody realises.

Yes, certainly P&R support for Guernsey Finance and I think, as Deputy Trott has mentioned, we are already seeing benefits from that (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) and I think we cannot afford not to

3400 invest in our finance sector, clearly. Very pleased to hear also mentioned the Enterprise Investment Scheme that we have also actually initialised that came from Economic Development. I think that is a brilliant initiative. One of the things that we want to do, obviously, is to incentivise new business and if we can find a means to actually help them get off the ground, then that is absolutely fantastic. And again, as I say, he mentioned Civil Service stresses. He is very concerned about that, I think, as we all are.

3405 Deputy Kazantseva-Miller: Active 8 Strategy. As far as I know, at the moment, the state of play is that we have approved £124,000 for 2024 which is on schedule, but negotiations actually have gone on between ESC and the Sports Commission and I think their intention is to come back, or certainly ESC will come back, with an update on where those negotiations get to for beyond 2024.

3410 She also mentioned the Coutanchez central for unlocking Les Varendes. Well, absolutely. We are talking about that whole area there and as I recall from my time on DPA, 400-600 properties, potentially, in that whole area. That is a huge amount of properties that that site is a gateway for. So the sooner we can release it, for whoever is going to use it, the better, because we can do nothing but good from actually releasing that site for more housing.

3415 Deputy Gollop, also concerned about sports. I hope I am addressing some of those concerns with what I just said he is. He was also quite right to mention about Civil Service retention. This is something, I think, that clearly the Civil Service do not complain but I think for those of us who may have been on a number of Committees, I think we see it right across the piece; they are struggling and that is a problem, because that will be a barrier for us to be able to move forward as an Assembly and what I would say in the circumstances, clearly, they do deserve a round of applause, frankly, because they do put a lot of effort in. They do not get a lot of actually thanks for doing it, but they continue to, deliver for us and so I do try and actually make sure that what you want to get done is absolutely a key priority for your Committee and yourself, because the last thing we want to do is to have them running round in circles or doing work time and time again.

3425 Deputy Gollop also mentioned the portfolios focus. Well, that is exactly the point of the GWP. We have extracted, with Committees, what they believe are the things that they can and must get done. These are the not the nice to haves. These are the things that we must do and it is P&R's role to actually co-ordinate that and the Committees, because these are cross Committee activities that we are talking about here and that is what we will be focusing upon.

3430 Machinery of Government that he also mentioned, we are hopeful that we will be bringing back, or that it will be brought back, to the Assembly this term. where we have got to on the Machinery of Government. It is a complex area, it is a very sensitive area but a lot of work has been done but at the moment, unfortunately, we have not yet been able to get a policy letter to the States and we are obviously still trying to ensure that we do that this time.

3435 Deputy de Sausmarez, could not agree more, Civil Service resilience again and I know she has mentioned on several occasions, certainly in here and elsewhere I am not sure if she has special difficulties in her Committee with it, but clearly everybody is busy, but it is absolutely the problem that we have. We have limitations on what we can achieve. Therefore, what we wish to achieve must be agreed but must be the most important focus that we have.

3440 E&I housing importance, yes, absolutely, big strides there, obviously a lot of work has been done on housing. We still, obviously, not getting as many houses built at all. Hopefully, the dam is about to burst there and I will just jump to Deputy Taylor. I think he has some concerns whether or not it is the right sort of level of investment in Lille's yard, possibly, but in terms of an update, all that I am aware of at the moment is that, as far as our Property Unit is concerned, they are in negotiations because it is a different type of build and there are a lot of technical details that they actually would like to see satisfactorily dealt with before anything moves forward. So, at the moment it is still being discussed, it has not stopped but the work is going on and clearly there was, as far as I recall, an amendment to bring all of that information back for approval from the Assembly in due course. But if he has concerns that it is the wrong focus, then I suggest you bring an amendment in due course.

3450 Deputy Roffey, again, emphasising your work schedule will be stretched in ESS and thankfully, again, focusing on exactly what is the most important thing to do. Very nice of him to have made

the point, and I think it was to Deputy St Pier, you know, if you keep asking for updates on various types of very important, but at this point in time not essential updates to what ESS is actually able to deliver or work towards that. It will not be delivered. They have to focus on the most important things and I fully support them in doing that.

3455 I will not touch on anything other than what he said in terms of the Education, except for the parking disruption that will be caused. It is very difficult, I understand this is a very sensitive subject, the whole sixth form at Les Ozouets. I am not really at all in agreement with the approach taken by Deputy Leadbeater. I also do have a building experience. I am not going to be so dogmatic about suggesting that I know everything that there is to know about building, but I do know a bit and I
3460 have been with this project for three years.

I do not think, for a moment, that we should underestimate the disruption that will be caused if we try to do this after the event. It is going to be very difficult. There will be disruption, even if we do have the foundations, the drainage, all of the groundworks that would be required. But I think the point that Deputy Dudley-Owen made about the proximity to come OHM2, Our Hospital
3465 Modernisation 2, is a very critical one because we have talked extensively with the current potential main contractor, it will not necessarily be them, and if they have to run the two projects together, which they believe that they can, the timing is very important because the nature of what they will do and the people they will have available for various parts of those two plans can dovetail.

If we actually have to take them back afterwards, as far as I have been told, we only have one set
3470 of piling kit in Guernsey at the moment and however long we believe it is going to take, it will have to be placed within a time frame with all the other work that is going on on the Island, not just those two major projects that require piling.

So I do not know that we can be too cautious about saying it is not a problem we will just drop it in when we want. I am afraid, I think, that projects of this size, compared to everything else that
3475 we are also doing and Housing, hopefully, will be moving forward, we cannot just think, well we will just drop in some piling now and again when we feel like it.

It is unfortunately a major part of actually producing a building of this size, or buildings of this size. So we need to be cognisant of what the building trade is telling us, what the professionals are telling us, what our advisors are telling us is practical and feasible. But if we do not do that slab the
3480 area in front of it is all parking.

So, what we are talking about is the disruption to the parking that will be required whilst we then bring more heavy kit in to put all of that slab back in place. I accept that there may be difference of opinions on what that final sixth form might look like. It is very pleasing to hear Deputy Leadbeater actually mention that he actually approves the model of a separate sixth form, but at
3485 the moment we have spent.

Deputy Leadbeater: Point of correction.

The Bailiff: Point of correction, Deputy Leadbeater.

3490

Deputy Leadbeater: It is not that I approve the model, I have got no interest in changing it at this point.

Deputy Murray: I beg your pardon, I will accept that. Nevertheless, what we are in a position of
3495 doing, obviously, is we have got plans that have taken three years to come to fruition and I cannot remember who made the point that obviously had it not been for the demise of R G Falla we would not even be having this conversation at this point in time.

Deputy Meerveld seems to be having difficulty with piles in Hong Kong. *(Laughter)* Sorry, piling
3500 in Hong Kong. I do take his point, that delay is going to add cost. Whatever the rationale behind it any delay in the inflationary environment that we are currently in is going to add cost. If you listen to any of the pundits, we are not going to be going back to a sort of 1% inflation, 2% inflation, 4% to 5% inflation is probably here for quite a long time.

3505 I do not think it is going to climb, but nevertheless, that does not mean things get cheaper and it does not mean because it is not climbing it is not costing more money, it is costing more money because that inflation is there all the time and it keeps actually adding cost. So the more you can do in one fell swoop is absolutely the best way to go forward.

3510 I also agree with his approach in terms of the peer groups, because we are talking about now a campus for adults. Adults, when we are talking about leaving the sixth form *in situ* at this point in time, you do actually now have 16-year-olds who are adults, 16 to 18, occupying the same space as young people, 11 to 16. They are different animals, they are far more aware and street wise than I ever was at that age. (*Laughter*) I do not think we are doing them a service to actually hold them back. I think it is more important that we treat them as adults and give them the space and their peer groups and give them the choice of opportunity they have as young adults to further and enter their careers. But that is my own personal view on that.

3515 Deputy Dyke, easier to do foundations together, could not agree more. Deputy Leadbeater, I think I have talked to. Deputy Haskins, of course, disagrees with Deputy Leadbeater, I think we understood that and the saving money, of course, is the point that he is making, and I think that is a very valid one.

3520 Deputy Matthews, he seems very concerned that I think Education, Sport & Culture have been too dogmatic and inflexible. But it does cut both ways, because, as he said again to us, he disagrees and he disagrees with us every time we have this debate. He also is being dogmatic and inflexible because he believes, and he is perfectly entitled to, but he has a view of what Education should look like. The point is that actually this Assembly has agreed a model of Education. It is not being inflexible not to want to try to deliver it, particularly when you have invested three years. I think that is the point that we have to try to grasp. So whilst I do completely respect his view, I would also say he is being dogmatic and inflexible.

3525 Deputy Queripel, make Guernsey affordable again. I have only got four minutes, it is going to take a while, but the reality is, and I completely understand why he has asked a question. The reason it is unaffordable, by and large, is because we import just about everything that we have and we do not have a lot of control over, obviously, the cost of that. We try to buy in bulk, you can do things like that to try and minimise the cost, but the major contributor to our current unaffordability is our cost of housing. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

3530 Deputy Trott said before, in terms of the ratio to average earnings or median earnings, and it is not going to come down an awful lot, it is not, and I think he has mentioned one in 10, I think one to 10, even that, frankly, for a lot of people is unaffordable. But it is a reflection, unfortunately, of wanting to live in a popular Island that is doing, generally, quite well which does not necessarily mean that everybody is doing very well. But we noticed during COVID that we were extremely attractive to people either to come back to the Island or to come and live in the Island because they recognised that we were a great place to live and I think we all agree with that. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) but the more demand there is for limited space is always actually going to push the envelope and unfortunately we cannot make much of a difference on that.

3540 The States must do what it can for those who, obviously, are struggling but at the end of the day this is an expensive jurisdiction in which to live and the best we can do is to hope to minimise it for those who cannot do it for themselves. Demographic time bomb, I had not heard the concern that he had, but he is quite right, it has already gone off.

3545 I mentioned in my introduction earlier this afternoon that actually the enemy is at the gate because we are actually running out of bed space and will do by the end of the year and that is going to cause a major problem and in five years it will be much worse if we do not actually get some care homes actually built. Consequently, that is not going to get any less, it will just get worse. So I am quite happy not to mention a demographic time bomb. I do not think I referred to it as a demographic time bomb, but the reality is it is here with us now and it can only go in one direction.

3550 So we actually have to make preparation and the SLAWS initiative, that I touched on this morning, which will come back to the Assembly in the next six months, will give us some options and we desperately need those options, but it will mean yet more housing, housing for those

3555 residents who actually might want to move out of their existing homes and be cared for at home. Housing for the people that will be caring for them, housing, housing, housing.

It is not just the economy, economy, economy, it is housing, housing, housing here and we need to get on with building (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) and I hope as a consequence of all of the work that we have all done the Housing Plan that we actually already have, the fact that we are well aware
 3560 this is a problem, we will find ways to get spades in the ground sooner rather than later and that Amendment 5 is definitely a step in the right direction to make that happen.

Deputy Taylor, I think, I have already answered and I will not say further on Deputy Dudley-Owen, I think she made her own case there quite plainly. So thank you very much for your input, everybody, I have just finished on time, but I think we have still got time for a vote.

3565 Thank you.

The Bailiff: Well, Members of the States, it is time to adjourn but is it your wish that you vote on these Propositions? So I will put the motion to you. (**Several Members:** Pour.) I will not even bother putting the motion then as you have already voted. There has to be a discrete vote on
 3570 Proposition 13, but I have not heard anyone in debate asking for any of Propositions 1 to 12 to be voted on separately. So are you content, Members, that I simply put all, yes, Deputy Taylor.

Deputy Taylor: Could I request Proposition 2 be taken separately, sir?

3575 **The Bailiff:** All right. Are there any other requests for any of Propositions 3 to 12 to be taken discreetly? I would have a vote, first of all Greffier, please, on Proposition 1 on its own and then we will do Proposition 2, then we will do Propositions 3 to 12 collectively and then 13 and if necessary, 14. I will invite the Greffier to open the voting in respect of Proposition 1 only, please.

3580 *There was a recorded vote.*

Proposition 1

Carried – Pour 38, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 1, Absent 1

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Aldwell, Sue	None	None	Helyar, Mark	Burford, Yvonne
Blin, Chris				
Brouard, Al				
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Mahoney, David				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				

Meerveld, Carl
 Moakes, Nick
 Murray, Bob
 Oliver, Victoria
 Parkinson, Charles
 Prow, Robert
 Queripel, Lester
 Roberts, Steve
 Roffey, Peter
 Snowdon, Alexander
 Soulsby, Heidi
 St Pier, Gavin
 Taylor, Andrew
 Trott, Lyndon
 Vermeulen, Simon

3585

The Bailiff: In respect of Proposition 1, there voted in favour 38 Members, no Member voted against, no Member abstained, 2 Members did not participate in the vote and, therefore, I declare Proposition 1 duly carried. Proposition 2 on its own next, please Greffier. I invite the Greffier to open the voting in respect of Proposition 2 please.

3590

There was a recorded vote.

Proposition 2

Carried – Pour 38, Contre 2, Ne vote pas 2, Did not vote 1, Absent 1

3595

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Aldwell, Sue	De Lisle, David	Roberts, Steve	Helyar, Mark	Burford, Yvonne
Blin, Chris	Taylor, Andrew	Snowdon, Alexander		
Brouard, Al				
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Mahoney, David				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				

Roffey, Peter
 Soulsby, Heidi
 St Pier, Gavin
 Trott, Lyndon
 Vermeulen, Simon

The Bailiff: In respect of Proposition 2, there voted in favour 34 Members, 2 Members voted against, 2 Members abstained and 2 Members did not participate in the vote, but I will still declare it duly carried. We will take Propositions 3 to 12, collectively. Will you now please open the voting, Greffier, on Propositions 3 to 12.

3600

There was a recorded vote.

Propositions 3-12

Carried – Pour 38, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 1, Absent 1

3605

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Aldwell, Sue	None	None	Helyar, Mark	Burford, Yvonne
Blin, Chris				
Brouard, Al				
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Mahoney, David				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Roberts, Steve				
Roffey, Peter				
Snowdon, Alexander				
Soulsby, Heidi				
St Pier, Gavin				
Taylor, Andrew				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

3610 **The Bailiff:** So in respect of Propositions 3 to 12, inclusive, there voted in favour 38 Members, no Member voted against, no Member abstained, 2 Members did not participate and, therefore, all of those Propositions are duly carried, which means that you can adjust your diaries for later in the year as a meeting has been vacated. We will now have a vote on Proposition 13 only, we will call it option A shall we or option one? (*Laughter*) This is the first part of the successful amendment and I will ask the Greffier to open the voting on Proposition 13, please.

3615 *There was a recorded vote.*

Proposition 13

Carried – Pour 26, Contre 11, Ne vote pas 1, Did not vote 1, Absent 1

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Aldwell, Sue	Brouard, Al	Mahoney, David	Helyar, Mark	Burford, Yvonne
Blin, Chris	Bury, Tina			
Dudley-Owen, Andrea	Cameron, Andy			
Dyke, John	De Lisle, David			
Fairclough, Simon	De Sausmarez, Lindsay			
Ferbrache, Peter	Falla, Steve			
Gollop, John	Gabriel, Adrian			
Haskins, Sam	Matthews, Aidan			
Inder, Neil	Roffey, Peter			
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha	St Pier, Gavin			
Le Tissier, Chris	Taylor, Andrew			
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Leadbeater, Marc				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Roberts, Steve				
Snowdon, Alexander				
Soulsby, Heidi				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

3620 **The Bailiff:** So in respect of Proposition 13, they voted in favour 26 Members, 11 Members voted against, 1 Member abstained and 2 Members did not participate in the vote and, therefore, I will declare Proposition 13 duly carried, which means that there is no need to have a vote on Proposition 14 and that will conclude the voting on the Government Work Plan 2023 to 2025. All Propositions up to and including Proposition 13, are duly carried and we will now stand adjourned until 9.30am in the morning.

3625

The Assembly adjourned at 5.30 p.m.