

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2010 (P.117/2009): SEVENTEENTH AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 8th September 2009
by the Deputy of St. Mary**

STATES GREFFE

DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2010 (P.117/2009): SEVENTEENTH
AMENDMENT

1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(i) –

After the words “report pages 11 to 13;” insert the words –

“except that in Objective 5 on page 13, after success criterion (i) there shall be inserted a new success criterion as follows –

‘(ii) Quality and availability of advice on the impacts of climate change and peak oil on all States policies and programmes’

and renumber subsequent success criteria accordingly”.

2 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(i) –

After the words “report pages 11 to 13;” insert the words –

“except that in Objective 7 on page 13, in success criterion (iii), after the words “front line services” insert the words –

‘whilst ensuring that our public services are delivered in a way which is effective, fair and in keeping with the States’ environmental and social objectives’ ”.

3 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(ii) –

After the words “report pages 14 to 16;” insert the words –

“except that in Objective 11 on page 16, in success criterion (iii), after the words “front line services” insert the words –

‘whilst ensuring that our public services are delivered in a way which is effective, fair and in keeping with the States’ environmental and social objectives’ ”.

4 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(v) –

After the words “report pages 24 to 25;” insert the words –

“except that in Objective 6 on page 25, in success criterion (iii), after the words “front line services” insert the words –

‘whilst ensuring that our public services are delivered in a way which is effective, fair and in keeping with the States’ environmental and social objectives’ ”.

5 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(ix) –

After the words “report pages 33 to 34;” insert the words –

“except that in Objective 1 on page 33, in success criterion (iv) there shall be deleted the following words –

‘subject to the approval of Environmental Taxes by the States’ ”.

6 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (b) –

After the words “withdrawn from the consolidated fund in 2010”, insert the words –

“except that the net revenue expenditure of the States Assembly and its Services shall be increased by £100,000 for funding facilities and resources for the work of members in their capacity as private members.”.

7 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (f) –

After the words “Summary Table C, page 96, for the period 2011 to 2014” insert the words –

“except that a sum of £400,000 (increased in accordance with the appropriate non-staff inflation figure) shall be allocated in each of the years 2011 – 2014 to the proposed programme of capital projects for the funding of the rolling Urban Renewal Fund”.

8 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (f) –

After the words “Summary Table C, page 96, for the period 2011 to 2014” insert the words –

“except that total indicative expenditure of the States Assembly and its Services shall be increased by £100,000 (increased in accordance with the appropriate non-staff inflation figure) in the years 2011 to 2014 for funding facilities and resources for the work of members in their capacity as private members”.

9 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (f) –

After the words “within the total amounts” insert the words –

“or funded by additional revenue”.

10 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (f) –

After the words “within the total amounts” insert the words –

“and with any additional growth in the total programme of capital projects for the States funded bodies for 2011 to 2014 being funded by additional revenue or borrowing”.

DEPUTY OF ST. MARY

REPORT

Amendment 1

Objective 5 of the ABP states –

“Decision-making improved and debate better informed through the provision of accurate and timely professional economic and statistical advice and information on major issues.”

Climate change and peak oil will affect every aspect of Islanders’ lives. It is imperative that the States and the Council of Ministers be well-informed about the latest developments on these issues and therefore well-positioned to take whatever action is necessary.

This amendment ensures that one success criterion for the Chief Minister’s Department is the quality and availability of this information for States members, and by extension the public. It is just as vital as the “economic advice” referred to in the preceding success criterion (i).

Amendments 2, 3, 4

To have as a success criterion baldly stated in these sections of the Annual Business Plan that management costs be “minimized” is to imply that management is actually a waste of time, and of taxpayers’ money. What is the ideal – no management costs at all? And what are the likely implications of this way of thinking on the morale of our managers?

This amendment simply seeks to qualify the notion of “reducing management” by listing what the public service manager has to do on our behalf. By doing so it seeks to validate what our managers do.

Amendment 5

The Transport and Technical Services Department’s success criterion (iv) in their Objective 1 on page 33 says –

“The most harmful elements of the waste stream (e.g. TVs, electrical goods, end of life vehicles) segregated for recycling; **subject to the approval of Environmental Taxes by the States;**” (*my emphasis*)

This is quite simply unacceptable. The removal of the most harmful elements from the waste stream is non-negotiable. It does not wait on this Assembly to make up its mind on environmental taxes.

Amendments 6 and 8

This amendment has the effect of recovering the £100,000 a year cut from the Scrutiny budget and allocating it to improving the facilities and resources for members in their capacity as private members.

PPC are in the process of asking the views of members on the facilities of the House in general, and the library and research facilities in particular. This money will allow the necessary facilities and resources to be put in place to enable backbenchers to perform their duties more effectively.

One of these duties is to hold the executive to account, to challenge spending and to find better ways of doing things, all of which lead to savings. This £100,000 is an investment in robust and dedicated action by backbenchers to improve the work of the States. It will be interesting to see if the Council of Ministers recognize its importance and back the amendment, or if they would rather have less effective scrutiny than would otherwise be the case.

Amendment 7

The Connétable of St. Helier has already lodged an amendment, which I support, to restore the Urban Renewal funding for 2010 and this amendment addresses future years.

This amendment restores the Urban Renewal Fund to its former level of funding. The cut is detailed at Annual Business Plan page 74, 3rd bullet point from the foot of the page.

An example of the value of such work lies just 400 yards from the States Building in the shape of the Broad Street improvements. These improvements send the message: we the States are keeping faith with St. Helier – we are prepared to spend to improve our capital town to the benefit of all who live, work and visit there.

Are we really now saying that we cannot afford a steady programme of investment to improve the public realm in our built-up areas – in St. Saviour, St. Clement, Gorey, St. Aubin, and so on?

Are we really saying, for example, that the energy created at the St. Aubin's Community Forum should just be dissipated through lack of any commitment to improve our built-up environment?

Many of us live in some of the loveliest countryside on earth. This amendment is designed to help continue the work of bringing our built-up areas into line with the excellence of our countryside.

And again, if the Council of Ministers tell members in the debate that 'these improvements will be funded out of planning gain from the buildings on the Millennium park' then they are indeed taking the Assembly for granted and assuming they know how we think and what we are going to do.

Amendment 9

This amendment removes a nonsense. Maybe it is just a mistake, but it certainly needs correcting. Clearly this Assembly cannot tie itself down to the position that no expenditure is possible without corresponding savings elsewhere.

The pressures on the public purse are great; many services are at or beyond breaking point. The idea that savings are just lying around to be made at a scale of the millions we may need, is completely unproven. Just this year the Council of Ministers has had to find a fresh £17 million to fund new priority areas as listed on page 6 of the Annual Business Plan.

The strict position as it would stand without this amendment is that if a new funding essential arose, the States could not meet the necessary funding.

In fact this amendment merely states the position as it stands in the Strategic Plan, as quoted on page 53 of the Annual Business Plan, paragraph 4.2.

Amendment 10

This amendment is similar to Amendment 9 above, but with the addition of the possibility of borrowing, which is a mechanism we may well need to employ in any “invest to save” programme. Again, the sole purpose of the amendment is to avoid the situation in the future where we find that we have tied ourselves in knots unnecessarily.

Financial and manpower implications

Amendment 1

There are no financial or manpower implications.

Amendments 2, 3, 4

This is the only way that public services can be delivered. There are no financial or manpower implications.

Amendment 5

The financial costs are small and can be met either from the Department’s cash limit, or by making an application to the Economic Stimulus Package for funding for the necessary manpower.

Amendments 6 and 8

The financial implications are as stated. The manpower implications are possibly 1½ FTEs for research library and administrative assistance. Again, in the short term, these are white-collar posts which are much needed in this downturn and could in the short term be funded from the Economic Stimulus Package. When the economy improves, then these posts would be funded from general revenues.

Amendment 7

The financial implications are as stated. The manpower implications are that urban public realm projects, such as street improvements, are often labour-intensive. They offer diverse employment opportunities, which could be funded from general revenues or in the downturn from the Economic Stimulus Package.

Amendments 9 and 10

There are no financial or manpower implications.