

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN ADDITION FOR 2017 – 2019 (P.68/2016) – THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 13th September 2016
by the Connétable of St. Saviour

STATES GREFFE

DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN ADDITION FOR 2017 – 2019
(P.68/2016) – THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT

1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(i) –

After the words “**Summary Table B**,” insert the words –

“except that the revenue head of expenditure of the Education Department shall be increased by £156,000 in 2017, 2018 and 2019 to support the teaching of Jèrriais”.

2 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(ii) –

After the words “**Summary Table C**” insert the words –

“except that the total proposed contingency expenditure shall be reduced by £156,000 in 2017”.

3 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(iii) –

After the words “**Summary Table D**” insert the words –

“except that the proposed growth expenditure in 2018 and 2019 shall be reduced by £156,000”.

CONNÉTABLE OF ST. SAVIOUR

REPORT

Victor Hugo

O, vous tous! braves Normands des Iles de la Manche – sachez-le – votre patois est vénérable; votre patois est sacré – car c’est de votre patois qu’est sortie, comme une fleur de la racine, cette belle langue, la langue française.

(translation)

O you brave Normans of the Channel Islands – know ye that your dialect is a venerable one – and sacred – for it is from your dialect that has sprung, as a flower from the root, that beautiful tongue, the French language.

In the absence of any other member proposing to find a solution for Jèrriais I am making this amendment to secure the resources needed to teach Jèrriais.

Jèrriais is a language in which Jersey people have exchanged poetry, stories, scandals, beliefs and business. It is a language of lullabies and laughs: and so much Jersey history is recorded only in Jèrriais.

Before the summer break, the first and inaugural annual “Semaine de Jèrri” [Jersey-Norman French week] consisted of a number of informative and inspirational presentations held at the Société Jersiaise.

Many members of the Assembly and people from all walks of life across the Island learnt perhaps for the first time facts about both the historical importance of Jèrriais and why it is equally important to keep the language alive today.

Many detected that there is now a growing recognition that we have a crisis.

I believe the States have a responsibility to keep our language – within the boundaries of the possible – alive today and for tomorrow.

Whilst fewer and fewer people speak it today, Jèrriais is part of our Island DNA. To lose it would be like losing part of our soul, our culture and who we are as an island community.

Language teaching of Jèrriais started in 1998. Before that no teaching was available in our schools.

Since that initiative started in 1998, much has been done by the Office de Jèrriais. Their staff should be commended for all they have done. Similarly, the Don Balleine Will Trust should be recognised for the work they have done.

However more needs to be done.

This amendment should be, in my opinion, only part of the response necessary to stop Jèrriais dying forever. Much of the solution is non-financial.

However, at the heart of saving Jèrriais is teaching.

Much has been learnt about how endangered languages can and should be taught.

I have moved to propose this amendment to put in place the funding for 3 permanent professional teachers into the Education Department.

This will ensure Jèrriais can be properly taught in our primary, secondary and adult education service.

This is only part of the solution, and more information will be provided on other initiatives before the MTFP Addition debate.

I would like to meet and discuss this amendment with the Council of Ministers and seek their support.

I would particularly like to discuss with Assistant Ministers Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Deputy M.J. Norton of St. Brelade and Minister for Education, Deputy R.G. Bryans of St. Helier to discuss their support for a holistic and realistic plan for Jèrriais for the future.

Jèrriais is a living language and we have a responsibility to pass it on to generations to come.

Further information will be provided well in advance of the MTFP Addition debate.

Financial and manpower implications

The Contingency Fund will be reduced in 2017 by £52k and the unallocated growth available in 2018 and 2019 will be reduced by the corresponding amounts.