STATES OF JERSEY



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: ESTABLISHMENT (P.13/2005) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 22nd February 2005 by the Policy and Resources Committee

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Policy and Resources Committee does not consider that it would be in the interests of good government to approve Deputy Baudains' proposition.

Firstly, the States will recall that in 2002 it approved the establishment of the Environment and Public Services Committee during the transitional period leading up to the introduction of ministerial government. This decision was made on the basis that a single committee would be given 'a very clear remit to identify and separate out the functions of the 2 departments (Environment and Public Services) in a different form and in line with the principles set out in this report; so that when the move to ministerial government is made, 2 distinct departments can be created'. It is understood that good progress is being made in this respect, and it would be very disruptive to split the Committee's responsibilities at this late stage in the proceedings.

Secondly, the Committee believes that this proposition, if adopted by the States, would be extremely disruptive to the conduct of committee business at a time when committees have only 9 months left in office. There can be little benefit in establishing 2 new Committees for such a short period of time, especially as the members of the new committees would quite naturally need time in which to become accustomed to their new responsibilities.