STATES OF JERSEY



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

Lodged au Greffe on 8th September 2009 by the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

STATES GREFFE

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

1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(iii) –

After the words "report pages 17 to 20", insert the words –

"except that in Objective 2 on page 18, after success criterion (viii) there shall be inserted a new success criterion (ix) as follows –

'(ix) Review and report on the options available for the Island's secondary education system by April 2010, in order to ensure it is fit for purpose and cost effective.' ".

2 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(iii) –

After the words "report pages 17 to 20", insert the words –

"except that in success criterion (v) of Objective 8 on page 19, after the words "monitored and reviewed" insert the words "with a fully-costed plan showing the total cost of implementation prepared and presented to the States by April 2010.".

3 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(iii) –

After the words "report pages 17 to 20", insert the words –

"except that in Objective 9 on page 20, after success criterion (vii) there shall be inserted a new success criterion (viii) as follows –

'(viii) Review of management structure of ESC Department undertaken by April 2010 to ensure it is fit for purpose and cost effective.' ".

4 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a)(v) –

After the words "report pages 24 to 25", insert the words –

"except that after Objective 6 on page 25 there shall be inserted a new Objective 7 as follows –

'Objective 7 — To take the necessary steps to introduce discrimination legislation by 1st January 2011

Success criteria

- (i) All necessary legislation debated and approved during 2010
- (ii) Appropriate training and other practical measures to enable introduction of discrimination legislation undertaken

Strategic Plan Priority: 8".

5 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After the words "withdrawn from the consolidated fund in 2010", insert the words -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 Home Affairs Department shall be increased by £250,000 provide funding for the introduction of discrimination legislation".

6 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (d) –

After the words "the consolidated fund", insert the words –

"except that in Summary Table D, page 97, there be inserted the following item -

		Proposed allocation
		£'000s
T&R (with ESC)	Demolition of Fort Regent Swimming Pool	500

with an increase in the amount to be withdrawn from the consolidated fund from £34,587,000 to £35,087,000".

EDUCATION AND HOME AFFAIRS SCRUTINY PANEL

REPORT

Amendment (1) - Review of the Secondary Education System

There is currently a very fragmented provision of secondary education on the Island, which does not fully develop the skills and talents of students and allow them to develop to their full potential. Furthermore, the Panel believes that it is vital that any review undertaken of the secondary education system should also analyse to what extent the current provision of sixth form education is cost effective.

Financial and manpower implications

The Panel believes that this review should be undertaken in house by the Education, Sport and Culture Department as part of its normal ongoing work, which the Panel believes should involve keeping all matters of its remit under regular review. As such, the Panel does not believe there are any additional financial and manpower implications.

Amendment (2) – Education, Sport and Culture Cultural Strategy

As a result of recent funding issues with the Jersey Heritage Trust, the Panel has ongoing concerns regarding the funding that is provided to the Island's cultural sectors. The Panel is concerned that the States approved a new Cultural Strategy in September 2005, but the full financial implications of implementing the Strategy have never been clearly set out. The Panel therefore believes it is vital that a fully costed plan for the Strategy is prepared and presented to the States, in order that members can be kept fully informed of the costs involved at the earliest opportunity and make informed decisions about how it can be taken forward.

Financial and manpower implications

The Panel would expect that the Department's Cultural Development Officer has undertaken work to fully cost the implementation of the Cultural Strategy, and this could therefore be presented to the States relatively easily. If the work has not yet been undertaken, the Panel believes it should be done in house, as this should be very much an essential part of the work of the Department.

Amendment (3) - Education, Sport and Culture Management Review

The structure and numbers of senior management have been a continuing cause of concern, both to the Public and States members. The Panel believes that it is vital that organisations review these matters periodically, and particularly in the light of current financial difficulties. It would be churlish to propose cuts in services without having first examined management costs.

Financial and manpower implications

The Panel believes that this review should be undertaken in house by the Education, Sport and Culture Department as part of its normal ongoing work, which the Panel believes should involve keeping all matters of its remit under review. The internal review should then be subject to peer review by a person(s) of repute in the field of educational management. The costs should be met by the Department's budget.

Amendments (4) and (5) – Home Affairs discrimination legislation

The Panel has discussed the draft discrimination legislation with the Minister for Home Affairs several times during the Minister's attendance at Public Hearings. As a result of these discussions, the Panel is aware that the reason for the delay in bringing forward the discrimination legislation is due to a lack of Law Drafting time for this legislation in 2010, in addition to the £250,000 that was allocated for the implementation of this legislation being withdrawn from the 2010 Draft Annual Business Plan as part of the corporate savings initiatives.

Despite these issues the Panel remains concerned at the delays in bringing forward this legislation. The Strategic Plan 2006 – 2011 included a commitment for the Home Affairs Department to develop and implement anti-discrimination legislation commencing in 2007. The Home Affairs Department's Annual Business Plans have subsequently included a commitment to progress this legislation each year; however the proposed removal of the funding for this legislation would represent yet further delays.

The Panel considers the implementation of this legislation to be a priority, and has therefore lodged this amendment accordingly, in order to prevent the legislation being delayed further until 2011.

Financial and manpower implications

Following correspondence with the Home Affairs Department, the Panel understands that the Department would not require dedicated funding during the Law Drafting process, but would require some funding in advance of the Law coming into force in order to – set up the administrative support; recruit a Discrimination Officer; provide for a mediation facility; implement a training programme; and publicity and awareness. The Department further confirmed that should the Law be ready to be brought into force from 1st January 2011, then funding would be needed in 2010 for the aforementioned purposes. The Panel therefore considers that the previously allocated £250,000 should be restored to the Home Affairs Department's budget.

Amendment (5) – Fort Regent Swimming Pool Site

The structure is a blot on the landscape. The current structure is a hazard and is frustrating future planning of the site. At present there is a policy drift in relation to this site, and by bringing about the demolition this will focus minds on its future use.

Financial and manpower implications

The stated cost of this demolition is £500,000, and this amendment has the effect of increasing the overall capital expenditure of the States by this amount. However, the Panel hopes that the cost can be offset by the ongoing asset disposal programme. The work will be done by outside contractors, and there are therefore no manpower implications other than the in house commissioning of the work.