STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2012 (P.28/2012): AMENDMENT (P.28/2012 Amd.) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 25th April 2012 by the Council of Ministers

STATES GREFFE

Price code: A

COMMENTS

A safe and caring community, which includes family and community values, is at the heart of the draft Strategic Plan. The Priorities of providing jobs, decent homes, good healthcare and social services, keeping the population at a sustainable level and planning for future generations are fundamental to families and our community.

In its introduction to the Draft Strategic Plan 2012, the Council of Ministers makes it clear that the Priorities set out in the draft Plan are the specific areas on which Government must focus over the next 3 years. It also makes clear that the Council will continue to implement the policies agreed under the previous Strategic Plan and deliver the wide range of public services that Islanders need. These are covered in the broad vision statement that underpins the whole of the Plan.

This does not mean that, because a particular policy is not included as a Priority, that it will not be actioned. For example, the Vision emphasizes the importance of a safe and just society – however, law and order is not included as a specific Priority because strategies and policies have been agreed by previous governments and are already in place to deliver high levels of public safety. This will continue. In the case of our Priorities, robust strategies need to be developed to get people into work, manage population, provide adequate housing and sustainable healthcare for our people, and reform government and the public sector. We also need to develop a co-ordinated plan that brings together the various medium- and long-term strategies with financial plans that will shape the Island for future generations.

The Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel's Amendment picks up on themes and policies already agreed in the previous strategic plan and which are already being implemented. For example, the "Children and Young People: A Strategic Framework for Jersey" was presented to the last States Assembly and a Children's Policy Group is in place overseeing its implementation. Key actions already included in the draft Plan under the Health and Social Services reform agenda on page 11 include a 10 year Transition Plan for the development of services for children as part of this strategy. Just as important as children's services, the Transition Plan will also include developing strategies for older people and mental health services. Work is also continuing on the actions required ahead of a request for extension of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child being progressed. The draft Strategic Plan already commits to working with Parishes and the Third Sector to provide services to the public.

This Priority is an underlying principle rather than a specific action, and is therefore different from the 6 Priorities already set out in the draft Strategic Plan. However, as the Council fully supports the broader principles of family and community values and is already committed to the key actions included in the Amendment, **the Council of Ministers accepts this amendment**.