

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE EDUCATION, SPORT AND
CULTURE COMMITTEE BY DEPUTY M.F. DUBRAS OF ST. LAWRENCE**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2005

Question

- “(a) How much has the preparation of the Cultural Strategy (P.154/2005 and P.172/2004) cost taxpayers to-date in each of the last five years?
- (b) Which consultants/advisors to the Committee and its predecessor(s), including reports to the Finance and Economics Committee, were the primary contributors together with their remuneration over five years and what has been the estimated cost and manpower allocation of departmental employees to this end during the same period?
- (c) What percentage of Committee cash limits is allocated in each of the next three years to activities related to ‘culture’, as opposed to sport and leisure, as opposed to education services and how does this compare with the equivalent percentages for 2004 actual and 2005 estimated?
- (d) In Appendix 1 (item) of the States Business Plan 2006-2010 (P.151/2005) no specific objective(s) related to sport and leisure are listed. Are they incorporated within Objective 9? If not, what strategy and/or strategic plan covers that facet of Island culture and when was it last published?”

Answer

- “(a) The Cultural Strategy, (P.172/2004), and the subsequent redraft, (P.154/2005), were produced by the Education, Sport and Culture Committee following a period of research and consultation undertaken by a U.K. firm of consultants, (Leisure Futures plc.), specialists in advising government departments and local authorities on cultural development.

The research undertaken by Leisure Futures plc. took account of an earlier report on Cultural Development, (the Burns Owen Report), commissioned by the Finance and Economics Committee in May 2000. For details as to the cost of that report I would refer Deputy Dubras to the President of the Finance and Economics Committee.

The costs incurred by the Education, Sport and Culture Committee in producing its Cultural Strategy were incurred over a two year period 2003 and 2004. Including fees and expenses, they amounted to £17,360.71. A further £2,100.00 cost was incurred in 2004 in fees to a local accountant to provide more detail with regard to some aspects of the Leisure Futures plc. report. A further report on the costs of the Strategy was commissioned recently, it is expected that the cost of this report will be in the region of £2,000.

- (b) The primary advisers to the Committee as described above were Leisure Futures plc. Their fees and expenses amounted to £17,360.71.

The Education, Sport and Culture Committee’s Strategy was prepared by myself, Deputy Carolyn Labey and Deputy Julian Bernstein along with officers of the Department using existing staff resources. No additional resources were utilised in this process and no record of staff time on this particular project was recorded. In total, therefore the cost incurred by the Committee in developing its strategy to date is £19,460.71 comprising the fees and expenses to Leisure Futures plc. and the local accountant as described above.

- (c) With regard to the proportion of the Education, Sport and Culture Committee budget allocated to activities within its sphere of responsibilities, for 2006 3.4 per cent of the Committee’s net cash limit has been allocated to ‘culture’ and 4.2 per cent to sport and leisure.

The equivalent percentages for 2004 (actual) are 3.9% and 4.5 per cent and for 2005 (budgeted) 3.4 per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

It will be for the new Ministry to agree the allocation of its 2007 and 2008 cash limits across all service areas within its remit.

With regard to the split in the Committee's budget between 'Culture' and 'Education', the explanation is somewhat more complicated as there are overlaps. A significant amount of the general 'spend' on education could also be described as an investment in culture. The Instrumental Music Service would be a good example of educational investment which has cultural outcomes, likewise the proportion of investment in Higher Education through student grants allocated to artistic or cultural study. It could also be argued that the teaching of history, art, music, citizenship, craft and design and religious education has a cultural impact. Given this caveat, however, the proportion of the Committee's spending on education as opposed to sport or culture will amount to the balance of 92.4 per cent in 2006 compared to 91.6 per cent of the 2004 actual spend and 92.6 per cent of the 2005 net budget.

- (d) The Sport and Leisure division objectives are not incorporated in objective 9 of the States Business Plan 2006-2010. In December 2001 the former Sport, Leisure and Recreation Committee adopted a Five Year Strategic Plan 2002 -2006 which was presented to the States as a Report and Correspondence (R.C) in 2002. This strategy has informed the subsequent Business Plans of the Sport, Leisure and Recreation Department and also the Education, Sport and Culture Department."