

2.4 Deputy G.P. Southern of the Chief Minister regarding progress with the development of a population model for the Island:

Will the Chief Minister advise Members what progress, if any, has been made in the development of a population model for the Island, when these population scenarios will be presented for public consultation and when he will be lodging a population policy for consideration by the States?

Senator F.H. Walker (The Chief Minister):

As stated when I answered the Deputy's question on 27th March, the findings of the officer group reviewing population issues will be made public. As I also stated, at that time, the initial work of the officer group has been discussed by the Council of Ministers. This work has included the development of a population model which enables different population scenarios to be modelled and analysed. I expect that the Council of Ministers will consider a further report in July and will launch a full consultation process running through September and October. Following this consultation process the Council of Ministers will identify the policy issues to be brought to the States and I expect proposals to be lodged at the turn of the year.

2.4.1 Deputy G.P. Southern:

Will the Minister inform Members what part the 500 job growth attached to economic growth will play in the new consultation process?

Senator F.H. Walker:

It will be one of many factors in a very complex population modelling exercise that will be taken fully into account.

2.4.2 Deputy J.A. Martin:

While we are on the development of population, could the Minister inform us if the 20 days put aside for law drafting on the population register will be used in 2007?

Senator F.H. Walker:

I sincerely hope so, Sir. That is very much the plan. We are on target here. This is a major piece of work and I believe the House will welcome the report when they receive it. I look forward to a constructive and detailed debate after the proposals have been thoroughly scrutinised and plenty of time, I do assure the House, will be made available for Scrutiny to do their necessary work in that respect.