WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES BY DEPUTY T.M. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 30th JUNE 2009

Question

Following on from the Strategic Plan, what sector, if any, in his department's service delivery does the Minister plan to privatise or outsource and how many jobs will this effect; further still, what savings are planned?"

Answer

As stated by the Chief Minister on 16th June 2009, in response to an oral question from Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier, all organisations change and adapt as technological improvements, economic conditions and other innovative opportunities arise. This applies equally to the public sector which must change and adapt, particularly in the current economic conditions. All departments need to keep the provision of their services under constant review, which must include whether there are more commercial ways of working or opportunities for wider private sector involvement. As such opportunities arise Departments will be expected to implement them as a means of improving efficiency and keeping costs down.

In the past the Chief Minister has informed States members of a good example of this in the recent exercise tendering for the improvement and upgrading of the States website in his own department. As a result a consortium of private companies successfully bid for and are now undertaking not only the development but also future provision of web facilities.

The strategic plan states that Transport and Technical Services (TTS) and Treasury and Resources will investigate alternative ways to fund and deliver key infrastructure services, such as disposing of liquid and inert waste. TTS will review all services to make sure that the existing business model of states funded and operated utility is the best value approach. To avoid limiting this review the department will challenge all the historical and social assumptions to provide defendable and un biased options for the best decision to be made whilst guaranteeing a sustainable future for the islands infrastructure.

To directly answer the question the answer is that this could affect all TTS workers and managers. Any savings planned will need to be utilised to support the aging infrastructure and long term maintenance needs of Islands critical assets.