WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. MARY ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 7th JUNE 2011

Question

What overall co-ordinated plan does the Council of Ministers have for creating jobs and reducing energy bills and fossil fuel dependency by stimulating the 'green energy' sector of our economy in all its different forms, and if it does not have such a plan can the Chief Minister give a date by which such a plan might be in existence and what the plan might consist of?

Answer

There is no such plan in existence. A co-ordinated plan across Departments would have to be inserted in the Business Plan cycle which would follow on from the adoption of the Energy Policy.

The Environment Department is bringing forward an Energy White Paper for consultation later this summer which will outline the actions needed to reduce energy use and move towards the long term development of off-shore renewable energy. When the Energy Policy is adopted there will be a far clearer understanding of the actions Jersey wishes to take to reduce energy use and how the 'green energy' sector might respond.

A considerable amount of work has been done in developing the Energy White Paper and increased activity in the "green energy" sector has already been witnessed. In particular

- 1. Work in the energy efficiency sector is being directly undertaken by the ECO-ACTIVE Energy Efficiency Service which has, amongst other things, secured or created local jobs in cavity wall insulation.
- 2. Business support and innovation grants are available through Jersey Enterprise and the Economic Development Department.
- 3. The Renewable Energy Commission has put in place steps to facilitate movement into the utility scale offshore energy sector. This includes working on ownership and lease arrangements and the necessary legal and environmental consenting frameworks.