

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

25th June, 2019

Proposition P.2019/40

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy H J R Soulsby

Seconded by: Deputy M H Dorey

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

POLICY & RESOURCE PLAN – 2018 REVIEW AND 2019 UPDATE

To insert the following Proposition:

"4. To agree:

- a) To amend the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and Their Committees by inserting, after Rule 45(1), the following Rule:

"(1A) The Policy & Resources Committee shall designate its President or one of its members as the States' lead member for Corporate Services, with responsibility for the services that are provided by the Office of the Policy & Resources Committee to or on behalf of the Principal Committees and other Committees of the States.";
- b) To direct the Policy & Resources Committee to set up a working group, involving one delegated representative of each of the six Principal Committees and the Policy & Resources Committee, to develop minimum service standards for each Corporate Service, which shall be agreed between the Committees and shared with all States Members by no later than the end of this States' term, and reported on routinely thereafter in the annual report of the Chief Executive; and
- c) To direct the Policy & Resources Committee to coordinate regular summits between itself and the Principal Committees, not less than twice a year, to be attended by two representatives of each of those seven Committees, and with other States' bodies invited where appropriate, which shall include formal consideration of:
 - i. Adequacy of resourcing, and any resourcing issues to be resolved, across the States;

- ii. Current and emerging areas of policy development, and any cross-Committee issues to be resolved;
 - iii. Performance of Corporate Services provided to all Committees (including performance against service standards, where such exist), and any performance issues to be resolved; and
 - iv. Any other matters requiring cross-Committee discussion, coordination or resolution; and
- d) That, for the purposes of this amendment, "Corporate Services" are defined as HR, ICT, Finance, Data Protection, Health & Safety and Communications, as set out on page 4 of Appendix 7 (Public Service Update 2019) of the Policy & Resource Plan."

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The current arrangements in respect of accountability for services that are provided corporately, but which are essential to all Committees in the delivery of their mandates, are generally felt to be unsatisfactory. In practice these are felt only to be answerable to the Policy & Resources Committee, rather than to be truly cross-government services.

The creation of a lead member role for Corporate Services within the Policy & Resources Committee will not resolve this single-handedly, but will provide more of a focal point for political accountability which, it is hoped, will allow for more meaningful dialogue between Committees and the Policy & Resources Committee as to the performance of centralised services.

The development of common service standards and a regular forum for evaluating performance against those standards (in the form of summits involving all Committees of the States) will further assist ensuring effective accountability.