



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATES OF DELIBERATION

OF THE

ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

HANSARD

Royal Court House, Guernsey, Thursday, 20th August 2020

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Present:

R. J. McMahon, Q.C., Bailiff and Presiding Officer

Law Officers

R. M. Titterington, Q.C. (H.M. Comptroller)

People's Deputies

St Peter Port South

Deputies P. T. R. Ferbrache, D. A. Tindall,
B. L. Brehaut, R. H. Tooley

St Peter Port North

Deputies, J. A. B. Gollop, C. N. K. Parkinson, L. C. Queripel, M. K. Le Clerc,
J. I. Mooney

St Sampson

Deputies L. S. Trott, P. R. Le Pelley, J. S. Merrett, G. A. St Pier,
T. J. Stephens, C. P. Meerveld

The Vale

Deputies M. J. Fallaize, N. R. Inder, M. M. Lowe,
J. C. S. F. Smithies, S. T. Hansmann Rouxel

The Castel

Deputies R. Graham L.V.O, M. B. E, C. J. Green, B. J. E. Paint,
M. H. Dorey, J. P. Le Tocq

The West

Deputies A. H. Brouard, A. C. Dudley-Owen, E. A. McSwiggan,
D. de G. de Lisle, S. L. Langlois

The South-East

Deputies H. J. R. Soulsby, H. L. de Sausmarez, P. J. Roffey,
R. G. Prow, V. S. Oliver

Representatives of the Island of Alderney

Alderney Representatives S. Roberts and A. Snowdon

The Clerk to the States of Deliberation

S. M. D. Ross, Esq. (The States' Greffier)

Absent at the Evocation

Miss M. M. E. Pullum, Q.C. (H.M. Procureur),
Deputy M. P. Leadbeater (*relevé à 15h 11*); Deputy L. B. Queripel (*indisposé*) (*relevé à 14h 30*);

Business transacted

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States of Deliberation

The States met at 9.30 a.m.

[THE BAILIFF *in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

The States' Greffier

EVOCATION

Billet d'État XVI

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE

XI. Active 8: A Plan for Sport – 2021-2030 – Propositions carried

Article XI

The States are asked to decide:

Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled "Active 8: A Plan for Sport – 2021-2030" dated 2nd March, 2020 they are of the opinion:

- 1. To approve the objectives of "Active 8: A Plan for Sport – 2021-2030" as set out in the policy letter, acknowledging that the estimated cost of meeting these objectives is £1,150,000.*
- 2. To approve the transfer of £130,000 from the Budget Reserve to the 2020 revenue expenditure budget of the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture to allow for the development of baseline measures and key performance indicators which will allow effective monitoring of progress towards the objectives in "Active 8: A Plan for Sport – 2021-2030"; and to direct the Policy & Resources Committee to include recommendations in the 2021 Budget Report to provide the funding necessary to commence delivery of the Plan; and to direct the Policy & Resources Committee to include recommendations in subsequent Budget Reports to allow the full delivery of the Plan; and to direct that such recommendations will reflect how much progress has been made by the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture in developing targets and measures and prioritising work streams and expenditure to support the detail of the Plan.*
- 3. To authorise that, on receipt of written requests from the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture, the Policy & Resources Committee may make available loans of a maximum amount of £1,000,000 to sporting organisations or playing field authorities to support the provision of sporting facilities as set out in section 7 of the policy letter, from such source including from the proceeds of the States of Guernsey bond issue and on such terms as the Policy & Resources Committee may determine.*

The States' Greffier: Billet d'État XVI – Article XI – Committee for Education, Sport & Culture – Active 8: A Plan for Sport – 2021-2030.

The Bailiff: I invite the President of the Committee, Deputy Fallaize, to open debate on this matter.

5 Deputy Fallaize.

Deputy Fallaize: Thank you, sir.

On behalf of the Committee I am very pleased to be laying this Plan for Sport before the States. It is the first of its kind, the first time the Island has had or hopefully will have had a comprehensive
10 Plan for Sport. Sport and physical activity are an integral part of our community life. They are part of our local culture and identity whether from riding a bike in the park to Island representation at the Island Games or Commonwealth Games, or even National representation at a World Championship. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

It is also essential to recognise the significant health and wellbeing benefits of sport and physical
15 activity. With appropriate and adequate funding in sport and physical activity we will work with partners inside and outside of Government to change lives for the better. Our overarching aspiration is that everyone, regardless of their age, background or level of ability has the opportunity and pathways available to them to be active and to participate in sport at whatever level they wish.

Sir, this policy letter is the result of two Resolutions made by successive States: first in 2015 by
20 the previous States; then in 2017 by the present States directing the Committee to present a sports strategy in this term. When the Committee was elected early in 2018 we put sport and physical activity at the centre of our policy agenda and, sir, I think we have made considerable progress. We have invested £1.2 million over a six-year period in our PE in Schools programme funded by reprioritising our existing budget. We have delivered on time and on budget the first phase of the
25 refurbishment of Footes Lane, including installing the Channel Islands' only 400-metre, eight-lane athletics track.

But even then public investment in sport in the Bailiwick is still around only 30% of the funding provided in the other Crown Dependencies. The Plan which is before the States today, which would
30 unlock around £1.15 million over a period of several years, will still not raise funding to the level of the other Crown Dependencies but it would make a significant difference at all levels of sport and physical activity, from increasing participation to improving support for elite athletes.

Our Committee recognises the multiple competing demands on States' finances especially at the present time and that is why the Propositions we are asking the States to support provide the Policy & Resources Committee with flexibility in the allocation of funding on an annual basis during
35 the life of the Plan, which is 2021-2030. We have worked with the Policy & Resources Committee to refine the Propositions, which I understand Policy & Resources now support in full, and we are grateful for that support.

The use of the word 'plan' is deliberate. This is not a vague strategy it is a Plan with specific actions for delivery from next year alongside the development of key performance indicators
40 against which progress can be properly measured. The actions in this Plan were informed by an extensive consultation exercise which generated nearly 1,000 individual responses and 23 responses from sports clubs or associations. The overwhelming majority of respondents were strongly supportive of what we are trying to achieve, but to realise the ambitions of our community we now need this Assembly to approve this Plan for Sport.

We are calling this Plan 'Active 8' and the actions envisaged are set out in eight clear objectives. They are: Encourage more Islanders to be more active, more often; Inspire all generations to get
45 'Active for Life'; Use sport and physical activity to improve health, mental health and wellbeing; Maintain, develop and improve accessible facilities; Support the provision of safe and secure Club environments; Make accessible open spaces; Support high performance athletes; and, Inspire
50 community engagement through volunteering.

We have provided indicative expenditure of the various actions and initiatives which are likely to be necessary to fulfil each of the eight objectives. The eight objectives are consistent with the new strategic planning document recently adopted by the States' 'Revive and Thrive'.

Sir, much of the work in this Plan will be delivered in partnership with the Guernsey Sports Commission. The relationship between the Committee and the Commission has never been stronger than it is today. When our Committee was elected we pledged that sport would not be a Cinderella part of our mandate. As I have said, we reprioritised existing budgets and we are now investing £200,000 annually in the PE in Schools programme. This is in addition to the regular baseline grant received by the Guernsey Sports Commission.

When we put in this additional investment annually the Guernsey Sports Commission pledged to raise additional private money for sport of at least the same amount, and Jon Ravenscroft and his team at the Commission have been true to their word. So by modestly increasing public investment we have unlocked substantially more private investment too and therefore the Commission is now delivering substantially more to our community on our behalf; and if ever there was a public-private partnership which is doing more together than either could do alone, this is it.

I am confident that this Plan for Sport will encourage even more private sponsorship allowing the Commission to do even more than is outlined in this Plan.

Sir, last month the Commission wrote to States' Members and they said this:

The Island's sporting community has waited a long time for a comprehensive Government-backed sports strategy which recognises the value of sport to Guernsey's community. Funding unlocked through the approval of the Committee's Active 8 Plan for Sport will enable us to achieve our vision that everyone in Guernsey should have the opportunity and support to participate and compete, and fulfil their potential no matter what their background, age or level of ability in a safe and supportive environment.

Sir, through this Plan we also look forward to developing a partnership which is as strong with the Health Improvement Commission, which will be another key provider of many of the actions which are set out in the Plan. Although sport is not strictly a transferred service we have included Alderney in the remit of this Plan. We recognise that by doing so both of our Islands will benefit; for example, through improved individual and community health, and by unlocking new private sponsorship which is available in Alderney if we are prepared as a public sector to invest modestly in sporting opportunities and facilities in the Northern Isle. We have a very good working relationship both with the States of Alderney and with people who are in a good position to unlock that private sponsorship and that needs to be progressed in the years ahead.

Finally, sir, in terms of the Propositions I want to refer to sport's loans which are the subject of Proposition 3. There is a States' backed sports loans scheme in place today but for various reasons it is no longer suitable and is barely utilised. Following discussions with the Treasury it is proposed that new arrangements are introduced for making loans available to support new and enhanced sporting facilities by sporting organisations. The existing unsuitable Sports Loans Fund would be closed and in its place the Policy & Resources Committee will be authorised to make available loans of a maximum of £1 million to support the development of sporting facilities.

Where loans have been made available in the past, sporting associations and clubs have a superb record of putting them to good use and in each and every case as far as we can tell of repaying the loans in full. We want to make more of the States' Reserves available to develop sporting facilities on a financially secure basis for the States, to the benefit of our whole community.

Sir, with the support of the States today this Plan will help release the potential and support the ambitions of our fantastic sporting community and I urge all Members to support all three Propositions.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Le Clerc.

Deputy Le Clerc: Sir, I just wish to declare an interest that I am a patron of the Health Improvement Commission.

The Bailiff: Deputy Prow.

100 **Deputy Prow:** Thank you, Mr Bailiff.

Sir, I rise to give the Assembly a brief overview of the relationship between sports and the Committee for Health & Social Care. I do this, sir, as Deputy Soulsby, my President, has been appointed as a Trustee of the Sports Commission and she therefore did not take part in any of the HSC Committee discussions on this.

105 Sir, a more active community is a healthier community. Lifestyle factors play a significant role in health outcomes. Put simply, the best person to prevent long-term conditions developing is not the doctor it is each and every individual. By encouraging and facilitating active lifestyles we can improve the experience and outcomes of the community. Not only does this apply to physical activity it improves health and wellbeing but also confidence, and can be done at comparatively low cost. Most important on the question of value for money, as Professor Jeremy Morris points out, one of the leading figures in public health, second only to Dr Brink, describes this as the best buy in public health for the west.

110 Sir, it is therefore central in our commitment towards moving towards prevention and early intervention. In other words, if exercise was a drug it is safe to say that people would be queuing up to benefit from it. Whilst we are very lucky to live in a community where there are many opportunities for individuals, and I recall a very memorable speech made by Deputy Lester Queripel where despite some challenges from the former Bailiff he managed to list a huge number of local sporting heroes. *(Interjections)*

115 Sir, we do know that we need to increase these opportunities even further for all within our community, particularly those with limited incomes. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) HSC therefore welcomes these opportunities as outlined in the policy letter presented in the development of Active 8: A Plan for Sport 2021-2030 to build upon existing foundations to foster a commitment towards health in all policies and the development of the appropriate environment for health, and closer working between Committees.

120 HSC is grateful to the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture and also is thankful for the engagement between the Committees, its officers and the Health Improvement Commission in developing these proposals.

125 Thank you, sir.

130 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Lester Queripel.

Deputy Lester Queripel: Sir, thank you.

135 I need to declare an interest, seeing as I am the President of the Guernsey Walking Football Club and as such I was absolutely delighted when I saw this Plan for Sport features photographs of some of our players. Front page, right bang in the middle of the page, photograph of two of our best female players Jackie Wheatley, who is the wife of our coach Paul Wheatley, and their daughter Kay, sandwiched between them is Roger Eborall, one of our trickiest players, who on this occasion seems to have had the ball taken off of him.

140 One page 9 there is a photograph of Derek Smith, one of the players who loves the social side of the club and plays for the sheer fun of it. Finally, on page 35, a photograph of the main man himself, Mr Paul Wheatley, Guernsey's own Mr Walking Football. If it was not for him there would not be a Guernsey Walking Football Club and we are extremely proud of everything we have done in the four years since we first started out as a club.

145 Like every other sporting club we have an extremely hard-working committee. It is because of all the hard work undertaken by our committee that we have almost 70 players on our books now, ages ranging from 20 years to 74 years old and like every sports club we have an ethos, we have a strategy, we have a long-term goal, and we have a whole list of aspirations. But, just like any sporting club, we are limited in what we can do, which is why we wholeheartedly support this Plan for Sport. Primarily, of course, because we resonate completely with the intention behind it which is to make sport accessible for every member of our community and that of course is absolutely vital that sport is accessible for every member of our community regardless of their abilities.

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I appreciate and I hope I am pushing at an open door, but that last sentence may sound a little bit ridiculous bearing in mind that the vast majority of sport is extremely competitive and every team and individual wants to win the competitions that they enter, but of course it is not all about winning it is also about the taking part. The key pillar of this Plan is inclusion for people of all abilities who want to participate in sport and that includes of course the vulnerable people of all ages and all abilities, and who need as much support and encouragement as we can possibly provide for them

The reality of course is that because sport can be extremely competitive and it is incredibly emotive, it often reflects in a somewhat elite approach. But this Plan for Sport is firmly rooted in all aspects of physical activity and ability right across the whole community, which will ensure that everyone is included. That aspiration is relayed to us all in paragraph 4.8.2. on page 20; and I ask my colleagues, sir, through the Chair, to turn to page 20 and look at paragraph 4.8.2 to remind themselves of what it says. Because that is an absolutely vital paragraph for us all to bear in mind come the time to vote, and for the benefit of the people listening on the radio who might not have actually seen that paragraph, I am just going to read what it says, and it says this – and I will get my teeth fixed one of these days:

Inclusivity and participation for all in Physical Activity and Sport is a key part of inclusion and disability, and remains one of the key overarching pieces of work required to support the Plan objectives.

I am sure we all resonate with that, sir, and if we move down the page to paragraph 4.9.1 we see that at core objective b) under the actual heading of 'Inclusion' we are told the following:

Helping Guernsey offer a broad range of sports options catering for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds in the most appropriate manner possible;

So inclusion is very much the primary focus all the way through this Plan for Sport and surely in this modern day and age when we all talk about an inclusive society we need to be mindful of that come the time to vote. As we all know, sir, Guernsey has always punched about its weight when it comes to sport and it could be argued that seeing as that is the case, then why do we need the Plan for Sport? Well, the answer to that question of course is that we can do a lot better and we need to do a lot better if we are to be competitive in national and international arenas. That is why I take great comfort from what we are told in core objective f) of paragraph 4.9.1 where under the heading of 'Guernsey Institute of Sport' we are told the intention is:

Applying a structured high performance sport framework to ... support and optimise the potential of Guernsey athletes in order that they can achieve success at the highest levels of sport;

Of course when they actually make it big on the international stage, Guernsey athletes become ambassadors for Guernsey all over the world. Venturing into the realms of tedious repetition for a moment, picking up on Deputy Prow's point, I will just name a few of the Guernsey athletes who have become ambassadors for Guernsey all over the world because they have become household names all over the world.

My previous list was about 27 but I has just got a handful here starting with Heather Watson, not only been the UK Junior Tennis Champion but also ranked as number one senior female tennis player in the UK until recently; moving on to Andy Priaulx who is the FIA World Touring Car Champion in 2005, 2006 and 2007; we produced not one but two world-class squash players with Lisa Opie MBE becoming the British Open Squash Champion in 1991 and Martine Le Moignan MBE becoming the World Squash Champion in 1989; and of course Alison Merrien has been the World Bowls Champion on more than one occasion; and of course we produced Matt Le Tissier who played football for Southampton for several years where he became known as *Le God* he was valued that much by the fans, and played eight times for England.

So why do we need a Plan for Sport when we can produce athletes of that calibre? Well I think what we all need to bear in mind is that with the exception of Alison Merrien we have not produced athletes of that calibre for several years, so the reality is we are falling behind and what we need to

195 do now is raise our focus and get ahead. The way in which we can actually do that, is by passing this Plan for Sport in this Chamber today, because we really do need to do a lot better to enable us to produce athletes of the highest calibre to compete at the highest level of sport, and at the same time making sport more accessible and more enjoyable for everyone who participates.

200 As I said earlier, it is not always about winning it is about the joy of taking part, feeling included and feeling valued for who you are and for the efforts you make in your chosen sport.

Just to focus on the funds for a moment I presume by the way that Proposition 1 is laid out:

To approve the objectives of ... A Plan for Sport – 2021-2030 ... acknowledging that the estimated cost of meeting these objectives is £1,150,000.

205 But that breaks down to £115,000 a year. I presume I am right in assuming that, which is nothing really in the great scheme of things. It breaks down to £9,583 a month, £2,211 a week, divided by 44,500 taxpayers – which I have clarified with Head of Income Tax, that is approximately in the Island at the moment we have 44,500 taxpayers, individual taxpayers not the businesses – that breaks down to 49p a week per taxpayer, 7p a day. Now surely that ticks all the boxes when we are talking about value for money.

210 Of course sport is also an economic enabler and how many times do we say we need to pursue economic enablers? I do not expect you to answer that question, sir. I am going to answer it. Dozens of times we have heard that said in this Chamber over this term.

215 So just to give an example of sport being an economic enabler I will cite one example which happened last year when the Guernsey Walking Football Club staged a walking football club tournament here in the Island, and six teams came over from the UK to take part and two teams came up from Jersey. Over 60 people stayed in local hotels, they spent money in local restaurants, then spent money on taxis and they spent money in local public houses, etc. For a tournament that cost us £4,000 to stage we estimate we brought in £15,000 into the economy from one tournament, one club, one weekend. When we multiply that by all the other sports clubs who bring teams over to the Island throughout the year, we are talking about a lot of money coming into the Island because of these sporting events.

220 As we all know, sir, every aspiration comes at a cost and the cost that I think I have got right, when I mentioned just 7p a day for every taxpayer is very little cost at all. But I ask colleagues to bear in mind that if they are concerned about adding cost to taxpayers, we are told in paragraph 6.1 on page 24 that:

... physical inactivity is responsible for one in six UK deaths ... and is estimated to cost the UK £7.4 billion annually ...

225 And just under a billion of that is attributed to the National Health. Bear in mind in paragraph 3.1.2 on page 6 we are told absence from work due to sickness can often be minimised by ensuring the workforce is fit and healthy, and that long-term sickness and absence comes at an enormous cost to the economy with a cost of a staggering £425,000 a month being attributed to our Civil Service alone. So it is going to cost an awful lot more than just 7p a day for the taxpayer if these proposals are rejected in this Chamber today.

230 In a nutshell, passing this Plan for Sport today will cost £115,000 a year over 10 years and sickness absence in our Civil Service alone costs the taxpayer over £5 million a year. If that is not a point we need to bear in mind, sir, when we come to vote, then why is it in the policy letter?

So I ask my colleagues to seriously consider those figures.

235 I will move towards a close by saying that what the members of our community need in their lives now more than ever is fun – fun and fulfilment. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) (*Interjections*) That is what we are here for: to improve the quality of lives for our fellow Islanders and we can do that by passing this Plan for Sport today. Sport provides both of those in abundance.

240 So with that in mind and to employ the services of a couple of clichés, we have here in front of us an opportunity to rekindle the feel-good factor out in our community and put smiles back on the faces of the people. (*Interjections*) I hear a few groans there, sir, but that to me is why we are here: we are here to improve the quality of life for fellow Islanders and a big part of that is helping

to put smiles back on the faces of the people and provide facilities and opportunities for them to have fun.

Sir, bearing in mind sport does all of that: it creates and supports the feel-good factor and it puts smiles on the faces of the people. And, bearing in mind that sport builds bridges between people that consequently builds bridges between countries; and, bearing in mind that sport along with the arts and our culture and our heritage underpins our very social fabric; and, bearing in mind that one of our aspirations is to make the Bailiwick one of the healthiest and happiest jurisdictions in the world; and, bearing in mind that on top of all that sport is an economic enabler – I am going to take a leaf out of my good friend Deputy Trott's book, it is a shame he is not in the Chamber at the moment – (*Interjection*) he must have known I was going to be speaking, sir. So to take a leaf out of my good friend Deputy Trott's book I will say this: can we afford *not* to support this Plan for Sport?

In closing I ask for a recorded vote, sir, please when we go to the vote.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Inder.

Deputy Inder: Sir, I am going to invoke 26(1) after that. (*Interjection*)

A Member: Hear, hear.

The Bailiff: I am going to invite those Members who are eligible to speak in debate, who wish to speak in debate, to stand in their places first, please.

Deputy Inder, are you still minded to move the motion bearing in mind that both of the Alderney Reps stood?

Deputy Inder: Yes.

The Bailiff: In that case I will put the motion to Members of the States that debate on this Item be terminated subject to the usual winding-up Rules. Those in favour; those against.

Members voted Contre.

The Bailiff: I will declare that lost.
Alderney Representative Snowdon.

Alderney Representative Snowdon: Thank you, sir.

Firstly, I would just like to thank this policy paper coming to the States of Deliberation. I think it is really important. Touching on the opening speech I think it is important that I also highlight what the Alderney Sports Foundation is doing. Alderney has worked very closely with Guernsey Education and in the past 26 months it has donated £150,000 to sports in Alderney. I think that is spread over quite a lot of different areas and sporting activities in Alderney. So I think this is really important.

I talked with the Alderney Foundation actually yesterday and they believe this is a stepping stone for them bringing their own paper potentially to the States of Alderney and the community for endorsement as well along the same sort of lines. So just to emphasise, the States of Alderney I think is very supportive, the Alderney Foundation is fully supportive and St Anne's School is fully supportive.

We have got obviously the swimming pool, which is quite an issue in Alderney, but I think it just shows you how we have had the sea swimming recently, with a young boy that was actually saved by two students in Alderney from being swept out to sea. But for a small island, sports is so important also for the mental health and wellbeing of those students as well as the physical wellbeing of those students.

It gives them something to be part of, it is something to be part of the community and it is something to actually get a target, put something in the diary and go out and enjoy that activity and that wellbeing. It also builds the communities together and brings those young people together. So I think it is *really* important that we support this and send a strong message to the community that we are fully supporting these different aspects.

Another thing which is quite new in Alderney is actually the Alderney Rugby Club. That is actually for grown-ups but also they have started the Alderney Rugby Club for younger students as well, which I think is a bit more touch rugby. I think it is really encouraging to see that new sporting activities are happening in Alderney and funding is being made available actually from very generous donations on the Island for these different parties.

So I hope the message that is sent to the community if this is passed, and I am very much hoping that Alderney can work together with Education to find different areas where we can build different opportunities for those young people. I am encouraged to see that there hopefully will be opportunities. One of the key things for Alderney is it is hard for parents that may be on a limited income to actually cover the cost for the students to go to sporting events. You have got the table tennis which has done really well, but hopefully there can be some opportunities where covering the cost for those students to travel off Island for games is essential and opens those doors.

Also looking at the facilities that Alderney provides, I think is really important so hopefully we can work with Guernsey on that one as well.

So I would just like to say I fully support this and I think Alderney fully supports this. I think this is the start of a stepping stone to something much bigger and really so important that we invest in the future with our children.

So, thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: Thank you very much.

I am pleased to follow Mr Snowdon there because a little group that I became – I would not say *involved* with, but I met a few times, were the Swim Gym Trust who very much were committed perhaps with a slightly watery business plan at times, but they really put the effort into creating a swimming pool which Alderney lacked, despite its hotels and a gymnasium. Now, I know it is a very small community but of course we as a society want Alderney to succeed and have as far as is feasible parallel facilities to Guernsey.

So of course I support the Sports strategy and the Sports Plan because it builds on what the Sports Commission has already done. In a past life I sat on Culture & Leisure for four years and it is fair to say that although the Committee's personnel and staff were astonishingly committed to both leisure and sports we were going through a time – as came up yesterday, actually – the FTP, the Financial Transformation Programme, whereby more minor Departments – if I can be forgiven for saying that – like Culture & Leisure, were under particular pressure from Treasury & Resources' Members to cut their cloth. And I think that is still the case today a bit.

We therefore missed opportunities at the time and we need to make up for lost time because way back in 2004 I think the Sports Commission was formed, and so was the Arts Commission, and a lot of dreams were out that they would be magnets for attracting private sector investment, sponsorship; and to a certain extent that has happened and to a certain extent it has not. I do not think we should have an elitist sports environment where only those who can gain sponsorship or have well-off families can really participate at the highest levels. I entirely endorse everything Deputy Lester Queripel said about sporting ambassadors, and that includes disabled sports people who need facilities.

Let's get to the politics of this. Deputy Fallaize was saying that to a degree if we pass this, and I hope we will, we will be unlocking money, but really that money should have been there all along, and I think maybe we have got too much bureaucracy in our system that means we have to cope with this kind of process. That is my first point.

The second point is, I would agree –
I will give way to Deputy Merrett.

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Deputy Merrett: Thank you, Deputy Gollop, for giving way.

Deputy Gollop, sir, was just mentioning money and this is the one point I potentially wanted to bring up in debate because the letter of comment from P&R regards money and even if we agree today it appears quite clear to me that Policy & Resources have stated in this letter that:

... it may not be possible to fully fund all of the expenditure increases required for new or expanded initiatives which have been approved by the States.

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So even if we approve this today, sir, I would like to know Deputy Gollop's opinion on whether this will even mean there will actually be money going forward. I am sure the President of P&R will advise us of the intent, but I wonder what Deputy Gollop thought regarding that little comment in regard to the funding of these initiatives.

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Deputy Gollop: I thank Deputy Merrett for giving me Question Time and almost completing my speech for me. I will come on to those points in just a tick.

One of the Resolutions we will be voting on any time soon is to authorise that on receipt of written requests from ESC, P&R may make available loans of a maximum amount of £1 million and it is implied – I wish Deputy Laurie Queripel was here – that it may come from the Bond issue. Now,

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I support that as far as it goes but again that is not quite the same thing as ongoing revenue issues. But going back to the excellent points Deputy Merrett has just made, although there will be obviously about a quarter of the Members of the States, maybe more, who have not even wanted to debate this because they think it is so obviously probably merits support and will go through on the nod. But actually it is not just another strategy or plan that is ticking the boxes.

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The letter of comment that Deputy Merrett has alluded to from Policy & Resources is not that positive, despite we are living in an era of building back better and community support and all the rest of it; because although – it is not very long:

The Policy & Resources Committee fully supports the principle of having a Plan for Sport which includes clear objectives and a mechanism to measure the success of the Plan and the value delivered from resources invested therein.

They fully support the principle and:

[Members] acknowledge the contribution of sport to positive mental health and wellbeing ...

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– which, as Deputy Prow says, is actually potentially very financially beneficial to a much higher-spending Department, but then:

Policy & Resources notes that, despite the [Guernsey] Sports Commission having been operational for many years, it has not been able to establish baseline measures and key performance indicators, nor is it able to develop those by temporarily reprioritising use of its existing resources ...

So we are having scepticism from the centre: the centre that controls officers, data, statistics, economics and measurement criticising a branch of Government, a semi-detached branch, for not having enough key performance indicators and baseline measures.

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Maybe there is an element of truth in that, maybe they need a student to help them with work but surely, as Deputy Lester Queripel and many other Members could say, the success of sport has been our fantastic achievements in Island Games, in world sport on the Island. You only need to pick up *The Guernsey Press* every day or watch the television to know of the impact the Sports Commission and sports are making. So I am disappointed by that rather research-methodological approach, especially when we look at it in another context. There is a lot of private sector power going into sport as well.

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Then we have the critique, as Deputy Merrett points out:

It is unsustainable for the States to continue to incrementally direct increases in the size of the States' expenditure budget in order to fund new initiatives; the aggregate of which is substantial.

Like 7p times a thousand, which is quite a lot:

It has to be recognised that funding for expanding or developing services is severely limited and its allocation should not be following approval of a proposal in isolation ...

Now, effectively, Policy & Resources are acting as a kind of cabinet here, a kind of States, because they are then saying:

... the Policy & Resources Committee will have to carefully consider ... the amount of budget that it is possible to make available to fund new or expanded initiatives; increases ... In these circumstances, it may not be possible to fully fund all of the expenditure increases required for new or expanded initiatives which have been approved by the States.

385 Well, that puts it all in one paragraph because firstly, as Deputy Merrett asks me, will it happen? I do not know, because Policy & Resources does not know. It may not happen, we have an Election, two or three Elections, over the next 10-year period and one States cannot bind its successor. So with all the best will in the world the Plan for Sport is flawed unless there is a greater commitment from the States to make money and resources available to it to ensure that the Plan can be delivered.

390 So, as much as I support the Plan moving forward, I think that the political governance of it is flawed. And Deputy Prow has even put another element into the mix. He was saying that Deputy Soulsby, because of her role on the Health Improvement Commission, the Sports Commission could not participate in these debates. That is crazy. That is not how other Governments would work. Somebody with real insight and drive and ability to move things forward would be the powerhouse at the table; not excluded. So we have really got to sharpen our collective act.

395 If we are serious about funding sport we need to see it actually as health and community resonant. I do not go along with every word of the economic development argument because we heard a report from a Member of Economic Development which questioned the value of sport and arts, and that was overturned of course back three years ago. I remember Economic Development regarded food, ironically enough, as being more likely to bring tourists. I think sports tourism is important especially for bigger events and may be round the corner, but the real value is in terms of health community, society and psychological wellbeing.

The Bailiff: Deputy Graham.

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Deputy Graham: Thank you, Mr Bailiff.

I was not going to speak because I thought I was basking in the pleasure as Vice-President of Education, Sport & Culture of being able to be part of the policy letter coming to the States. It was not controversial and divisive but Deputy Gollop has raised an interesting point which I think we ought to talk through. That is the criticism implicit really in the P&R letter of comment about, for example, the lack of detailed achievement or justification on the part of the Sports Commission a number of years into its existence.

415 I think this does reveal a bureaucratic instinct in P&R that still lingers, which I am sure Deputy St Pier is aware has got to be really overcome in order for Revive and Thrive to be meaningful. But I will give the Members of the States an example of what I am talking about really, where you just cannot measure the value of the money that you have spent.

420 Deputy Fallaize mentioned the £200,000 a year that the Committee has committed to getting sport trainers from the Sports Commission into the primary schools. We have been doing that for two years now. To be frank, within these four walls, nobody is listening. *(Laughter)* When Jon Ravenscroft and Jeremy Frith came to the Committee early in 2018 and said, 'Look, this is the scheme. The situation we have got in the primary schools is that these days it is unfair to expect every primary school teacher to be an expert at teaching physical education; they need some help. The best way to do this is to get trained sports trainers into the primary schools not only to take a few lessons' – which we have been privileged to see happening – 'but also to pass on to the ordinary,

standard primary school teacher the best way or improved ways of delivering physical education at that level’.

The outcome of that was, we were asked for £200,000 and they would match that pound for pound from private sources. At the time to be frank we did not know where the £200,000 might come from, but we committed to it and we found it and you cannot measure the value of that from the number of champions we produce on the sports field or anything like that. You measure it by going into the schools themselves and seeing it in action.

We have now got trained sports instructors in each of the primary schools for on average two and a half days in a week. *That* is the measure of it. If you want to see it on the ground and if Members of P&R want to see it on the ground they are welcome to go in and see it, never mind performance indicators or whatever the modern jargon is. That is where the money is going, that is where the benefit is; and you just see it on the faces and, one would say, in the ability of the kids to respond to it at the level that it really counts. So performance indicators do not really cut too much ice with me.

While I am on my feet I think yesterday I may have been a little bit kinder on the vision thing, when I was the lone non-supporter of raising living standards and, if I was, I apologise. The key point I was making is that really it is so much better for the States to be faced with Propositions that embrace clear objectives. This policy letter has eight clear objectives, it tells you how it is going to be achieved, it tells you what the benefits are going to be and it tells you how much it is going to cost and where the money goes. You either like it or you do not like it, but at least you know where we are going or trying to get to and how we are going to get there. I would emphasise the merits of the policy letter on those grounds.

On a more cheerful note in terms of P&R, I did note, and I gave them a bit of a hard time when the Revive and Thrive high-level stuff came out, that the word ‘sport’ was not even included in it anywhere, and at least we got assurances then that actually that was not so much an oversight but it was almost taken for granted that sport would play a role in the Revive and Thrive and I am sure it does. This, coincidentally, is coming just at the right time for that, and I do hope that the caution expressed in the P&R letter of comment does not translate itself when push comes to shove, and that the push coming to shove is in the next States when the money is going to be required to be spent. I have given you some idea of how it is spent and what the benefits of it are; let’s have the guts to stick with it into the next Assembly and see it through.

Two Members: Hear, hear.

The Bailiff: Deputy Hansmann Rouxel.

Deputy Hansmann Rouxel: Thank you, sir.

This is a slight continuation but I look at it from a different perspective. The parallels between sports and arts, which fall under the Committee’s mandate, are in that they both have Commissions.

Now, this policy letter is an excellent piece of work in structuring how we fund a part of Government that we have siphoned off. Both the Arts Commission and the Sports Commission I think came at a time where Government was moving from having those parts of the Civil Service within the Civil Service and hiving them off to Commissions as a vehicle to deliver this. But what was missing, and this policy letter addresses for sport, is a framework for that Commission to operate in. It is the part that Government needs to do.

I bring this up because I have had several meetings and conversations with the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture about the Arts Strategy which is a similar orphan ... similar to the Sports Strategy. There are obviously different pressures but they are similar in how we have chosen to structure them within our policy-making.

Now although the comments from P&R in their letter of comment, if you then look at the policy work that we are creating, the policy framework for us to then deliver money to different areas, that piece of work has now been done. So although I understand the criticism of the Guernsey Sports

Commission I think it is unfair for us as Government to expect them to have gotten all their cards in order and ticked all these governance boxes when we, as Government, have not created the right policy framework for them to then action and deliver all of these different areas.

480 That is what we have in this policy letter, and I commend the Committee *for Sport & Culture* for actually creating a clear framework that the Commission can work within to deliver these objectives. Obviously not just the Commission but also across the States, all of our mandates, as demonstrated by the health initiatives.

485 Objective 4 is particularly close to my heart because of the improvement in accessible facilities. Although ironically I think more needs to be done to remove the barriers of smaller organisations that are providing accessible sporting activities, for instance, Go Mobility which has reached a point where they are seeking funding to pay for insurance. Now, that is you are raising money to pay for insurance instead of raising money to actually deliver the services, so that is a piece of work that is a barrier to people, volunteers delivering some of these accessible facilities, and it makes it very
490 difficult for these small organisations to access and set up if there is not a broad umbrella.

Again, when speaking to these small organisations they say, 'Well, we cannot hire the States' sport facility because they need to run a profit ...'. That might not be the case in how we have structured Beau Sejour, but if that is the barrier that is then presented by small organisations asking to set up services and use these States' facilities then that needs to be addressed in how, as part of
495 the strategy.

That is not necessarily the Sports Commission, that is us as Government to look at what those barriers are within our own facilities and whether our objectives, as we set our objectives for Beau Sejour to run with zero profit, whether that is actually having a negative effect on those smaller agencies.

500 I know it happens on the Arts side where people are looking for a rehearsal venue or performance venue that cost is a barrier, because they are not a commercial entity and they are not going to make profit out of it, and therefore paying commercial rates presents a barrier. The value that sports and the arts brings is not only a monetary value it is an intangible value, so therefore it is difficult to just ask them to pay the same rates as a commercial provider.

505 I think those are the two key points. I absolutely am so glad this has come to the States and it is unfortunate that it has come right at the end and the Arts Strategy will be for a future States and a future ESC Committee. I hope that they look at this policy letter and use it as a template to then engage the Arts Strategy and make that part of the Arts Strategy more tangible with objectives like this in this policy letter.

510 **The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts.

Alderney Representative Roberts: Thank you, sir.

515 Just to follow on from my Alderney Representative colleague Mr Snowden, moving forward this deserves support. We have punched harder than our weight in relation to our small size in sporting achievements and we need to commit to this initiative.

Our rebirth post-Covid has to receive confidence, particularly to our younger people. This has the backing of the Alderney Sports Foundation, this integral part to Sport & Culture that would benefit both Islands.

520 We all know you follow the Nomads in the Priaux Leagues, all of you. B J Le Poullain who was not mentioned before, the boxer, has really excelled, I think he was sportsman of the year. He is from Alderney, perhaps that is why Deputy Queripel did not mention him and omitted him from his list! (*Interjection*) Well, you did.

Just bear with me, sir. I do beg your pardon, sir.

525 We are delighted to see this partnership between Alderney is included in this matter. Challenges abound for us all in the future in every walk of life perhaps sport and recovery will also be part of that, sir.

I would just like to take this opportunity and with your permission, sir, just to say thank you to all within this Assembly that visited Alderney for the States' occasion and witnessed some sports in Alderney. Alderney loved having you and we received many nice comments from the Alderney visitors and this can only bode well for the future between us, some have even purchased houses. So I give this my full support.

You never know, sir, one day we may win the Muratti; but you might say 'when Nelson gets his eye back'!

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Brouard.

Deputy Brouard: Thank you, sir.

Not being a great sportsman at all really, I am now holding the second fastest time for running from my house to the Gouffre – I lost being the first with the fastest time to my daughter, who took that away from me as well.

But what I am particularly pleased about in this report is at last we are starting to look a little bit wider than just the elite of the Island which is really good, because in 1.2 where we talk about the 'overarching aspirations' that is for everyone regardless of age or your sporting ability. So it is not just the list that Deputy Lester Queripel read out, it is for everyone in this room and for everyone listening no matter what their sport is or their particular prowess is, it is trying to raise people's potential and giving them the opportunity.

So I would also ask through the States to the Education Committee, please also look at some of the Cinderella sports rather than those that just get that very high profile. There are a lot of other Cinderella sports that, with a little bit of coercion and a bit of funding, can make a big difference to a lot of people. It is not just about the elite, and I will try and hang on to my second place if I can.

The Bailiff: Deputy Roffey.

Deputy Roffey: Thank you, sir. Just a few points to add if I may.

First of all, as a Member of ESC, can I say through you to the Assembly really I do regret that we were not able to bring a strategy for the Arts ahead of this Election that is coming up, because we are very much committed to that part of our mandate.

When we sat down early on as a Committee we were determined that there would be no Cinderella parts of our mandate and that all parts were to be given equal attention. For some reason the media like to focus particularly on the education side. I suppose it is a more political and controversial area of what we do, but certainly inside our own debates we are really focused on every aspect.

The second thing I want to say is I actually understand completely why P&R put in their policy letter, I think we have to look at it through their eyes, the fact that money is limited. It is very easy for this Assembly to pass motherhood and apple pie and every other great thing, and just expect them somehow to actually make the books balance; and it ain't that easy.

But I do hope, I join with Deputy Graham in hoping, that they will see that particularly in the Revive and Thrive atmosphere, and particularly given the payback that we know encouraging physical activity has in areas like health – which is probably the biggest problem area of spending going forward, because health is going to be a huge issue and always has been, but it is going to be with the demographics an even bigger issue going forward. I hope they will realise that actually this is a fairly modest investment.

I like doing Government on the cheap – I have probably been in the States off and on since the 1980's and it is a tradition of doing Government on a shoestring – but, as Deputy Fallaize said, compared with just about everywhere else in terms of investment in sport and physical activity we really are way below the benchmark. So I hope that that will go forward.

I echo what Deputy Graham said about the investment in primary schools. I have to say we sat round that table and if we were obsessed with corporate governance we would have universally and unanimously voted against the request for the extra funding, because we did not really know where it was coming from. But Deputy Ferbrache is fond of saying things in this States, sometimes this is just right, the right thing to do, or this is just the wrong thing to do. In this case we just knew it was the right thing to do. We had to jump off the cliff and somehow we would have to find the savings elsewhere to actually make it happen.

What is going on out there is absolutely superb. It is not going to win us any votes or elections, because the real benefit of what is going on there will not be felt for – well, not only from when we are long gone from this States, but long gone from this mortal coil. Because it is when those primary school children are in their 50's and 60's that the real health benefits will actually come through. It is real, obviously long-term, thinking.

While I am on my feet I just want to praise the Sports Commission. I think they are an exemplar of a professional approach to a third sector organisation doing something for our community. **(Several Members:** Hear, hear.)

The last thing I want to say is I was slightly disappointed with Deputy Lester Queripel because in his list of sporting achievement he did not mention that at the Grammar School Sports Day of 1974 I broke the world record for the 100 metres. My then sports teacher, Mr Ian Cole, even announced it over the tannoy. *(Laughter)* I went up to him in his little booth with the speakers on the top and said, 'I am really pleased to have done that, sir, but it does not quite feel right'. I hate to say this because I am now on the Board of States' Works but when they re-measured the track to find out, it was very considerably shorter ... *(Laughter)* But still, that was my moment of glory and I wanted to get it in!

The Bailiff: Deputy Ferbrache.

Deputy Ferbrache: Sir, Brown, Baker Henry, Mackay, Blanchflower, Norman, Dyson, White, Smith, Les Allen and Cliff Jones: those are the kind of memories that are created by sport. Hostage to fortune really with an Arsenal supporter making the closing speech, but we still won the double first in the 20th century. Jimmy Greaves, the great Jimmy Greaves did not come along until the following year.

Putting it in more local terms, because that is what sport does, it creates memories. The first time I went to Jersey was my 11-plus year and my mum said to Mr Le Poidevin who was the Headmaster at Amherst school at the time, 'Peter is going to go to Jersey'. He said, 'I do not think it will do his 11-plus prospects any good, but if he wants go, you are the parent, he can go.' So I went with my friend, Michael, his Uncle Wally and Uncle Wally's son, Colin and off we went to Springfield. Les Collins scored the first goal but we still lost 2-1 to Jersey, and it established the camaraderie that I have had with Jersey over the years, because Jersey people were sitting in our seats and we said, 'Would you move please?' and they said no! *(Laughter)* I do not need a senior politician to apologise for those remarks later on as may have happened in the past because I regard that ill-discipline and that unfortunate thing as spent. But sport creates memories.

Now, I am on a three-line whip with one of my sons-in-law because one of my grandsons, eight years old, plays for Rangers, plays for Aztecs. So 'Remy is playing football this Saturday, you had better be there'. So I go and watch Remy play football and he is fantastic. My other daughter's son is a Chelsea supporter, he comes round and he is the quietest 12-year-old you will ever see until he sees Chelsea on the television and then, 'It is not a free, granddad – I do not know why the referee has done that, it is a terrible decision', and we have that conversation for an hour and a half. Neither of my sons and none of my grandsons are Spurs supporters, so I have not taught them very well! But sport creates memories.

This is magnificent. I do not think Deputy Graham needs to fear; I do not think Deputy Lester Queripel ... This is going to go through unanimously, it is nothing to do with the Election because, as Deputy Roffey said, it is the right thing to do. Sport is so valuable to our community in so many

ways. The Sports Commission are an exemplar of a third party body. This is truly magnificent. This has made me smile. I started with a black gown two days ago, it got a bit better yesterday, and it has got a lot better today.

I commend this to the States.

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The Bailiff: Deputy Paint.

Deputy Paint: Thank you, sir.

Deputy Ferbrache spoke about memories. Well, I have some.

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At school I was forced to play football. I hated it then and I hate it to this day. (*Laughter*) (**Several Members:** Hear, hear.) In fact every time sport comes on the television at home I change channels.

But, saying that, I did do quite a bit of shooting when I was a younger man and I quite enjoyed it. I did do about two years of karate as well in my early 20's (*Laughter*) and I got a belt. I played one game of rugby and I could not walk for three days afterwards, (*Laughter*) so that was the end of that. I am afraid. But I will be supporting this because I am mostly in a minority again.

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Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Dudley-Owen.

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Deputy Dudley-Owen: Thank you, sir.

I am afraid I am not a competitive sports fan and it does not bring such a great smile or great memories to me because competitive sporting is not something I am particularly good at. However, I do love running, I do love keeping fit and I think this is a brilliant policy letter. It is really well laid out and something that I am definitely going to support.

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But I am going to bring people back down to earth slightly because I am concerned about the funding. I am concerned about the letter that is written from P&R and there seems to be a lack of commitment about how this is going to go forward.

It is really the Bond actually that I am concerned about, the use of the Bond, and I would really like to know more from the President of Education, Sport & Culture when he sums up exactly how it is envisaged that will work. I have just written to the States' Treasurer and she very kindly reminded me of the restrictions currently placed on borrowings from the Bond proceeds, and it is that you can only lend to States' owned entities, trading accounts and funds – the GHA, Guernsey HE and/or Ladies' College terms to be decided by P&R, and repayment has to be from a secure income stream without recourse to General Revenue.

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So I would really appreciate a little bit of detail about how that could look in a scenario where Education, Sport & Culture are putting into the Sports Loan Fund terms obviously to be renewed to be more flexible and affordable, and then going down to an underlying sports association or club and how they would then apply to that Fund to take those Bond proceeds and then the repayment terms, given that there has to be an income stream.

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So if we could go into a little bit of deep-dive detail on that I would be reassured, though I am going to support this, but I think that it needs to be on record because the Bond has obviously been subject to an awful lot of scrutiny in the past.

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Thank you very much, sir.

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The Bailiff: Deputy Merrett.

Deputy Merrett: Thank you, sir.

I will start because I think it has quite so far been a warm and fluffy debate and I will do something warm and fluffy because I am very proud mother. My sporting memories from my childhood were – I will not go into those – but I remember vividly when as a young child aged three or four at a sports day, off they go. One member of her class fell over and rather than run over or around this child she actually stopped and helped that child up and then took off and, guess what?

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She came second. In my world she came first because she had actually done the right thing and I was very proud. I will say that because we are dealing with memories, for some reason, so let's say that, because I am very proud of my daughter. So well done you, young lady.

Right now then I will stay with warm and fluffy because we are good at platitudes, marvellous. We all seem to support this, marvellous. I am very pleased for Deputy Gollop giving way to me, because if indeed there is a political will then there is a political way. After four and half years or four and whatever years of serving in this Assembly, I do not doubt that for one moment. Whereas I believe Deputy Dudley-Owen and Deputy Gollop have spoken slightly to this, the point is it is not just down to PRC because, as Members know, I have great joy in amending the Budget to try to find different revenue streams if necessary to try to fulfil social policy as far as I see this.

So I urge Members who are intending to re-stand that, if there is a political will or the political way from the future PRC, then actually do what needs to be done and try to amend the Budget and find a revenue stream to do so.

But I put this to you, sir, and to this Assembly and to anybody listening: I have not got a crystal ball, but I am reasonably confident that we now know some of the Members that have determined they are going to re-stand, and I am fairly confident that some of the existing Members of PRC will get re-elected. I am fairly confident that they may get on to PRC, so with all that fairly confident scenario I think it would be ...

I would like those Members to actually stand up and say, 'Yes, we will support this policy paper and we have the political will to deliver the funding for it. We will find this revenue stream, it is important and it not just giving you platitudes today. We are not just saying in one letter of comment we actually are giving a warning shot' ... And again, if I was on PRC I would probably do exactly the same but, if I did agree to the policy paper, I would then have the political will and find the way to provide the funding.

So I started off warm and fluffy. I throw the gauntlet down. I do not expect it will be picked up but if it is, fantastic. I just think it would be more open and transparent to our community to say 'Yes, if we agree to this and if we are re-elected; yes we will make the political will and commitment to find the funding'.

Now, I do not think that is unreasonable, maybe other Members do but I do not. So I throw the gauntlet down, pick it up if you wish – you do not have to do it if you do not wish to. Clearly that is the freedom of democracy, but I will support these Propositions. As I think Deputy Graham said yesterday, we have the platitudes, that is fantastic, and warm and fluffy is nice, but actually have we really got the political will? Will we really find the funding?

I hate to be pessimistic but what the four and a half years has taught me, sir, is to be realistic. I am trying to be diplomatic, it is really difficult for me. To be realistic – and I think if we have something on *Hansard* that members of our community can refer to, and we honour the words said in this Assembly – then I think that could be helpful. I certainly think it is about that it would be open and honest, and actually it would help us – 'us' being myself and our community – to hold existing States' Members who are highly likely to get re-elected, to account.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Soulsby.

Deputy Soulsby: Thank you, sir.

Just to confirm as Deputy Prow advised earlier that I have to declare an interest as Trustee of the Sports Commission.

I am absolutely delighted to support this policy letter, but what really drove me to my feet was Deputy Paint who said how he hated having to play football at school, because I really hated the fact that I was not allowed to play football at school. (*Interjections*) I campaigned, as a really irritating child at the time, saying 'Why can't girls play football?' As a lifetime Spurs fan who is football mad since I was five, not being able to play the sport that I loved was really discriminatory and it was amazing how long it took for girls to be able to play football. I am really glad that they can, and as

has been proved by the England Team and others, they really play world-class sport and I think how delighted I am that times have changed.

And to say, the only reason why I ended up being a Spurs fan was since about five was when I had to go with my mum and dad to try and find a bag for school and there was one bag left in the shop and it had Tottenham Hotspur on it. I said to my dad, 'Well, are they a good team?' He said, 'Oh yeah, yeah, they are great'. So that is how I ended up having this bag and I supported Spurs. But that was back in the early 1970's and they were really rubbish then, and I think it was another decade before they actually got the FA Cup in that absolutely wonderful final, But I will not ... *(Interjections)* Absolutely fantastic! But I am waffling on, I admit.

I give way to Deputy Merrett.

Deputy Merrett: I am very grateful to Deputy Soulsby for giving way, and I am very interested and support what she is saying. But I was just wondering, as Deputy Soulsby is on the Board of Governors of Ladies' College where they cannot play football, where they cannot play basketball, if she is actively encouraging that as a member of the Board of Governors of that school?

Deputy Soulsby: Yes, do not worry, Deputy Merrett, that is on the agenda. *(Interjections)* But of course girls can play football on the Island and there are various clubs – and it is a small school and it cannot really do everything, as you are well aware.

But I think for me, yes, I play and Deputy Merrett makes a good point there because I played sport at school, I played netball and hockey because I had to and I was on the team – I was on those teams for the school, but I did not enjoy sport at school very much. Our sports teacher had that rather vindictive streak so the games that you would think you would play in the summer when it was warm you would play in the winter. We had an outdoor swimming pool much like Ladies' College, as Deputy Merrett is aware, but we only did swimming in the winter when it was a freezing cold swimming pool, and we had to run across a gravel path to get there. So that did not really encourage me to ever like swimming very much.

But actually, and I think this is what goes to the heart of this, a lot of people have got bad memories of sport at school. They were having to do sports they did not want to do, and after that they leave school get a job or go to university. A lot of people think, 'I don't want to do that any more' and it brings back horrible memories, and that is what we have really got to get people away from and understand that there is a sport for everyone.

It is since then that I got interested in running, doing half marathons and cycling in particular were things I had never really properly did at school. There are so many sports available now that really the importance of encouraging people into them but also making it inclusive, because there are many sports that people cannot do because they have not got the money for the equipment or they do not know where to go. It is all about trying to get people aware of what they can do and making the time and enabling them to have the time to do it. This is absolutely key.

So, although, just following up what Deputy Prow said on behalf of HSC, I was not involved in the discussions around this policy letter but I have to say I do fully endorse what was said. The importance of sport and exercise for a future for the sustainability of our health and care services and for the mental health, as well as physical health for the whole community, and that is the reason why I fully support this policy letter.

The Bailiff: Deputy de Lisle.

Deputy de Lisle: Yes, sir.

I thank the Committee for bringing this policy letter and I strongly support the policy letter.

This particular Chamber has been quite active actually in sport, what with the cricket matches against Jersey that Deputy le Clerc has organised for us and also the football against the media each year. Now of course it is table tennis and that sort of thing against Jersey as well. So sport is very much a thing with respect to this States.

Now following up on that, I had been a Member of the States of Guernsey cricket team since the early match against the States of Jersey in 2007 and, as Deputy Ferbrache says, sport creates memories. It gave me a great thrill a few years ago to score 30 runs against Jersey thereby contributing to a successful result for Guernsey. (**Several Members:** Hear, hear.) I think Deputy Trott was bowled out for a duck (*Laughter and interjections*) but I must say he made many a good contribution both in his bowling and also in his batting in other years.

So, sir, I again thank the Committee for bringing this forward in a timely way and also I just hope that all Members will support the policy letter.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Tooley.

Deputy Tooley: Thank you, sir.

We have reached this point in the term just over four years in and this might be the first serious disagreement between myself and the President of Health & Social Care, because I grew up in a household that was dominated by football. My father hated football, my mother had been a season ticket holder at Maine Road since she was very young, and I remember that final with Ardiles and Villa very differently indeed. (*Interjection and laughter*) There is something you possibly need to tell everybody, Deputy Trott.

I grew up watching sport, playing sport. I was a county swimmer, I still hold the high jump record at my secondary school, although that might be because they started allowing people to do the Fosbury flop the next year, so the scissor kick is no longer recorded as a record and therefore I am the record holder. My brother went on from our combined sporting activities and he is still part of the Great Britain Masters Team for swimming. When you start an active and sporting lifestyle, as we are hoping this will lead to our children and young people doing, very often you continue that throughout your life and that has great benefits.

But, as I say, you might find it hard to tell now that I was as competitive a sportswoman as I was when I was younger, because *many* people stop participating in sport when they have big life changes, when they settle down, when they have children. One of the things that this Plan will do, and one of the reasons why if we were not bringing this from Education, Sport & Culture I would want to be bringing it from Health & Social Care, one of the things that this Plan will allow us to do is encourage people back into sport, because it is never too late to get back into sport. There is never a point where now it is too late for you to make health improvements and changes, because you have made your lifestyle more active.

So this Plan is not just about the children, it is not just about the elite, it is about absolutely everybody whose lifestyle and whose life and whose health prospects can be improved by becoming more active and becoming more involved in sport. I wanted to raise that.

There is one other thing I want to say and it harking back to that same meeting that has been mentioned several times already when the Sports Commission came and said we want to do this in schools. We sat and we talked about: yes, but the budget is really tight, but it is the right thing to do ... but the budget is really tight, but it is the right thing to do. I think it was Deputy Fallaize who said, 'If this was already in the budget and we needed to cut this amount of money, is this what we would cut?' And for absolutely every one of us, 'No, if we were spending this money on sport now it is *not* what we would choose to cut if we had to make a cut'.

That is my request of the Assembly today. This is not money we should ever choose to cut from our Budget and therefore it is money we should put in.

I hear and I am very pleased to hear Deputy Inder say no one is trying to ... nobody wants to ... everybody wants to put this in. Well, that is great, and maybe we did not need to have this debate, which is fine. But sometimes there needs to be a verbal commitment and not just a nodded-through and I think this is one of those times.

So thank you for your indulgence, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Le Tocq.

840 **Deputy Le Tocq:** Thank you, sir. I will be very brief.

We have heard lots of anecdotes today and I will start with one that has a serious point to make. Some have said how they love certain sports, perhaps watching or engaging in certain sports. I certainly was not one of those as a young person. I tried to like football but I never liked it. I had a bit more interest in rugby and cricket, but I was never very good at any of those sorts of sports.
845 For me, competitiveness came more to do with music and performing and those sorts of things.

Nevertheless, it did affect my health, and for many years the only sport I played was snooker – I did used to argue that there was a lot of walking involved in snooker – or Pétanque. There is a lot of advantages in playing Pétanque, particularly when you are travelling around France perhaps with a ball in your car, you normally can find some people and make some friends very quickly in any village in France, and get a free *pastis* thrown in as well, which is great value. But that meant that I
850 certainly put on a lot of weight and looking back now I think if I had been encouraged, not so much towards sports that I did not enjoy, but to take more interest in activity it would have been far more to my benefit and also to the benefit of the health generally in those around me.

Since the end of last year, sir, I have taken up going to the gym. As a result of that and a slightly
855 changed diet but not a massively changed diet, I have lost 18 kilos and I really enjoy it. I have found an activity that I really enjoy and I have persuaded myself as a result that this is something that is motivating. I feel better about myself. Actually it is costing me a little bit more, because I have to buy some new clothes now, but having lost effectively nearly one bag of hold luggage – if you can remember what that used to be when you travel – it is quite remarkable to me how easy that is to
860 do, and what a difference it makes to my sense of wellbeing and also my energy levels in my mid-50's.

So I am totally supportive of this. It is not just about sport and it is not just about elitism as others have mentioned, but it is about finding new ways and ensuring that as soon as possible we encourage every member of our community to be more active and, as a result of that, to be healthier
865 and fitter.

Now, I do want to address the issue of sustainability that has been raised by a couple of Members in the Assembly, sir. I think it is important because irrespective ... I am not sure, obviously I am standing for re-election, whether I will get re-elected, or whether I will get back into P&R. I am not sure if I want to be back in P&R to be honest. (*Laughter*) But nevertheless I think it is incumbent
870 upon all of us, and perhaps those listening and becoming candidates, to deal with the issue of sustainability. It is not just a matter for P&R.

P&R will be constrained by the decisions that this Assembly makes, particularly when it comes to Budgets, and the difficulty is you can say, 'Well, it is down to you, P&R, to find it from somewhere'. But if this Assembly then prevents or constrains P&R from using other funds because of its other
875 commitments then that becomes an impossible task. It is easy to point the finger and blame, but that has often been the case and it will be continually the case as far as I can see over the next term, that there will be pressure to find savings and cuts elsewhere and particularly where that involves employing people or supporting the employment of people.

Now, Deputy Tooley I think perhaps referring to her President, raised the very good point, a
880 question that not only is it important to ask in a Committee sense but when we consider all the funding that is necessary to achieve the things that we want in the round, and that is when it comes to making cuts, if we were already spending this money is this an area where we would start or make some changes? Because in prioritisation it is absolutely essential we do that.

All I am saying is that I would be committed to do this and to continue to do this if we were
885 already doing it, because in my mind the benefits particularly aligning with Revive and Thrive, and the fact that we need a healthier community generally, means that this sort of thing ... I fully take the point, the issues that Deputy Graham has raised with regard to KPIs being not only very difficult but very difficult to measure if you set them here, but there are clearly with issues such as this, benefits which: (1) cannot be ascertained fully for quite a long period of time. So the question is: is

890 it worthwhile trying to find a way of measuring them in the short term? Probably not, because they
we will not do that.

The second thing is: can we say now for certain that there will be, even if they are not measurable
immediately, benefits that affect other parts of our spending that in the long term are likely to
895 produce other benefits that will enable us to reduce spending elsewhere? Clearly, that is the case
here.

So, sir, I am fully supportive and I hope that goes some way to explaining my position with regard
to some of the questions that have been asked.

Thank you.

900 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Le Clerc.

Deputy Le Clerc: Thank you, sir.

Sir, I do apologise because I was not expecting to speak again, but hopefully it will be the only
flip-flop decision I make this term. *(Laughter)*

905 I do feel, first of all I think Deputy de Lisle omitted his thanks to Deputy Lowe about the Inter-
Island cricket, because Deputy Lowe also contributed a significant amount of time and energy to
the Inter-Island cricket, so I think we just need to get that on the table.

I have played hockey for many years and I think hockey is one of those sports on the Island that
has really thrived. If you go down to Footes Lane on a Sunday through the winter season you will
910 see probably over 100 children on a Sunday morning playing hockey. It is absolutely fantastic. But
if it had not been for the vision and the support of Deputy Carol Steere at the time when the hockey
club needed the funding for that astro-pitch, I do not think we would have that resource. So I think,
I hear what Deputy Le Tocq is saying about outcomes and KPIs, sometimes these things do take
time to mature, but actually that is a success story and that was the belief of one politician in putting
915 that money into that resource. So that is a bit selfish, because I am a hockey player.

The reason I have stood up is because what I like about this is the safeguarding aspect, the club
mark. We know that many of our sporting organisations are really struggling at the moment with
volunteers and some of it is because of what one perceives as the onerous responsibilities of
safeguarding. Now, safeguarding is really important and every now and again we have an incident
920 that crops up that reminds us that safeguarding is important, but it also can put off those volunteers.
Again, I do not think I would have been the woman I am today, I do not think I would have been
the sportsperson that I was without the volunteers that encouraged me – the people that come
down on a Saturday and a Sunday to volunteer for those sporting activities, that give their time in
the evenings, really important.

925 So I think probably the thing that has been hidden in this is the fact that this sports governance
and safeguarding will be improved, and there will be that club mark which will hopefully still be as
robust as some of the things we have got in place now, but hopefully will make it easier. Easier
perhaps to volunteer from one sport to the next, because at the moment you might have to do
your safeguarding for football but it means you have still go to do your safeguarding for hockey,
930 and you have got to do your safeguarding for Scouting, and it does not cross over. So I really like
this idea and I think this is really important. I will be supporting it.

It is interesting that two Members of P&R have already stood up and seemed very supportive. I
know Deputy Le Tocq had caveats in his speech but I will be really interested to hear what the other
Members of P&R think, considering the negativity that seemed to come across in their letter of
935 comment.

But I will be supporting this. I think it is really important and I do not believe I would be the
woman I am today without having that support from people throughout my life in encouraging me
to take up sport.

Thank you, sir. *(Interjection)*

940

A Member: Hear, hear.

The Bailiff: Deputy Dorey.

Deputy Dorey: Thank you, Mr Bailiff.

945 When we had the first inaugural meeting of the Crown Dependency Network in the Isle of Man last year we had the opportunity to visit various facilities and talk to the people in the particular area where we had political responsibility. Being on Education, Sport & Culture they took me to show me their sports facilities and they were very extensive.

950 One thing they highlighted to me was the Manx Youth Games which happened in May of each year and there are over 1,000 children that take part from years 2-10. The Island is divided into five regions and it covers 15 different sports and it is really a major event in the Isle of Man.

The children train from January each year up to May for their particular sport and they said what happens is that parents initially take their children along to the training facilities and then they start helping with the training and they gradually do the various qualifications to become coaches. So in fact it does not just get children involved, it gets the parents involved as well. And how successful it is.

960 They also showed us their academy and I think it was partly inspired by the success of Mark Cavendish; and they have a significant building dedicated to that where they have all the facilities, they have all the various professions working with the children who show the ability. They say it is a benefit to their economy that these people are becoming the ambassadors for their Island.

I will be short. They said that sport is so important to the Isle of Man that they said no politician would ever cut expenditure on sport because they would just lose their political position.

965 This is a step along the way but we have far to go still to get to perhaps where the Isle of Man is. I think that is where we want to be, because they know the benefit of sport as has been highlighted not just to health and the economy but to their whole Island.

So I encourage people to support this.

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Tindall.

970

Deputy Tindall: Thank you, sir.

Again, probably the second time this term I want to say I was not intending to speak in this debate but there is one aspect of this that reminds me of my youth with all of these stories of youth. I do not normally mention this, in fact I do not think I have ever mentioned this.

975 When I was young I was bullied incredibly badly because I had eczema, I had red hair, and I had buck teeth, and I was a bit of a swot. But I loved sport. When my dad – who is not the Ronald Tindall who played with Greavsie by the way, that is his cousin, he played for Crystal Palace – but he used to teach me how to play cricket and as a result I was asked to play for Surrey Juniors Ladies. I chose badminton instead, I was quite good in other words, but I was not just bullied at school by the kids I was bullied at school by my sports teacher. I was actually appointed as the rounders' captain of my school and the very next day the teacher changed that and did not even include me in the team. When I asked why that was the case I was actually told with a shrug, 'Oh, you know what he is like'.

980 For me the moral of this story is that girls are very susceptible to bullying, they are very susceptible to body image, they need all the encouragement they can get to play sport, and they also need to be assisted. Clearly for me, being on Health & Social Care, it is extremely important for the ability for *all* people to be involved in sport and make it easy and accessible in such ways that you do not have to worry about what you are wearing necessarily or what you look like, but to get those health improvements that it comes through.

990 So I rise obviously to support this policy letter and to say again, from the fact people are calling out, of course we need to find the money not just because of all of the reasons given but, as I say for me, it is about the health of people and the ability to work both in school and otherwise, when you have had a bit of exercise – especially in this Chamber, because it is very uncomfortable, but that is a minor point.

I should end on the fact that there is a good outcome to this story. Unfortunately I never got a county shirt in the sports that I tried out when I was young, but when I did move to Wales I was actually awarded a county shirt that I am extremely proud of, in darts.

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Trott.

Deputy Trott: Thank you, sir.

Sir, I was very sorry to hear that Deputy Tindall had some unpleasant experiences in sport. I have had a few myself. Sport is good for body and mind and I think sometimes we forget the mind side of it.

I remember how proud I felt putting on a rugby shirt and playing for Guernsey schoolboys against Jersey, although we did lose by some considerable margin. I remember how depressed I was for a few minutes after I missed out by one point on becoming the European powerboat racing champion in 1990; and I remember *incredibly fondly*, sir, getting bowled for a golden duck by the Chief Minister of Jersey in the cricket match that Deputy de Lisle was referring to – not for the humiliation of being bowled first ball, but for the merry dance that Senator Frank Walker undertook immediately afterwards. It was quite extraordinary, caught on camera and shown to the Channel Television audience that evening. It was extraordinary on one leg, it was sort of a cross between, I do not know, sort of Morris dancing and ... Well it was extraordinary, absolutely extraordinary.

But, even though it is end of term time for anecdotes, that is not why I rose, sir. I rose to dispel a myth, because my wife believes that I am so obsessed with sport and particularly with football that I do not recall our wedding day. Well, it is not true, sir, because I remember vividly, Spurs beat Arsenal 3-1 (*Laughter*) and I will never forget it.

The Bailiff: Deputy de Sausmarez.

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you, sir.

I really welcome that this Plan has taken the broad approach that it has and includes physical activity in general, and does not have a narrower focus on sports. So I think that is absolutely to be commended and I really thank the Committee for that.

One very small element I did find slightly frustrating is, in terms of our data, the data that we have comes from our Young People's Survey and it does not quite match up with the physical activity recommendations that are referenced.

So according to the Guernsey 2019 Young People's Survey, 57% of secondary students are physically active four times a week or more for a minimum of 60 minutes at a time. But when you actually look at what the recommendation is, that refers to children and young people should engage in moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week. This can include all forms of activity such as physical education, active travel, after-school activities, play and sports. So there is a bit of a discrepancy there in the data, which means that we do not know how many, if indeed any, secondary school children are meeting the minimum recommendations; and that is potentially none. I would like to think it is not, and it is also worth noting that the recommendations are a minimum.

So this does not sound too bad when we put it at 57% but what I am saying is actually when you look at the data it could be significantly worse. If we look to the UK for any sort of benchmark, only 21% of boys between 5 and 15 – and that is a broader parameter, of course younger children do tend to be more active – and only 16% of girls in the same age group meet those minimum recommendations. So while it is feasible that our rates are higher it is unlikely, I think, that they are very much higher. I am optimistic, but I am not that optimistic. I think many of our other trends do reflect that. What we can say for sure from our data is that 43% of children and young people get nowhere near the recommended minimum levels of physical activity and that is quite sobering, which just underscores the importance of this.

The difference between boys and girls is important and it is well documented that this discrepancy is not a one off, it is a trend, and it is a trend that is getting worse. A November 2019 study from the University of Bristol, which we have got good links to here, has revealed a dramatic drop in children's physical activity levels by the time they finish primary school. Between the ages of 6 and 11 children lost on average more than an hour of exercise in the week with an even greater fall on weekends.

Girls are less active than boys at all ages. English girls, this is obviously looking at UK data, are amongst some of the least active in the world with only 16%. As I said, meeting those UK physical activity guidelines that means that most girls miss out on the important social and health benefits of regular physical activity. Research suggests that the changes girls experience during transition from primary to secondary school in perceived competence, friendship groups and peer support, for example, may contribute to this decline.

I have tried looking for specific data – data is always a bit of a challenge in Guernsey, I find – but I think this trend has been constantly reflected in the Guernsey Young People's Survey where, every three years, pupils in years 6, 8 and 10 self-report their perceptions of physical activity. I do think that this does point to something that I really hope the Plan for Sport will address.

This is a topic that has actually long interested me. Deputy Tindall just now alluded to her experience and Deputy Soulsby pointed to hers, there are really significant differences in how boys and girls engage, or indeed *can* engage, with physical activity. Actually I am quite surprised I have beaten Deputy Tindall to this because one of those is how we plan our communities. One of the best ways we can incorporate physical activity into everyday life and increase those physical activity levels is through play, particularly obviously when we are talking about young children.

It is well known that girls and boys show different preferences both in terms of the types of activities and the locations of play, and boys tend to, as a very generalised rule, prefer non-formal open spaces which allow them to play in larger groups and engage in activities that involve more freedom of movement. Typically, their preferred activities are football and social games that involve lots of running around, so hide-and-seek and the Attorney General, and variations on that theme.

Girls by contrast, and this disparity is something that becomes increasingly evident, tend to occupy more intimate spaces and play in smaller groups, preferring games related to social activities such as rhythmic hand-clapping, singing and dancing.

There is a quote from a planning document that is really interesting, which I thought was quite relevant, and it talks about designing playgrounds. It says:

While designing playgrounds, the age differences are often taken into account. But the different needs of boys and girls are completely forgotten. The reason? Boys are more buoyant in their play and can cause a nuisance when they are bored. On average, the quieter girls tend to be overlooked. Besides, most urban designers are men and they design from their own perspective. It's not surprising that they let themselves be inspired by what they would have liked as a young boy. They have a blind spot for the girls' wishes. And so the girls stay away.

It was something that Deputy Soulsby mentioned when she spoke that reminded me, when my oldest started playing football, the best child in his group by a country mile was a girl, and she was a really stunning talent. She continued to shine above her male peers for some years, and my son stopped playing football and all that. I have not kept in touch with what was going on, but I actually bumped into this girl's mum relatively recently, at a football-themed party in fact, and I asked her if her daughter was still playing. Her mum said no, she told me that she had stuck it out as the only girl for some time and at first it had not bothered her at all, but as the years went on it really did get harder and harder, and eventually it just got too hard and so she gave up. I think that is such a shame, especially when we look to people like Maya Le Tissier, who is of course absolutely someone Guernsey can be so proud of.

So there was obviously no intention – I was really interested by this – to keep girls out, but the system I think was just by virtue of its historical legacy designed by men for boys around boys. There is no malice in that, there is no intention, it is not anything conscious, no one wants or means to leave girls out but I think it does show that we need to make a really conscious effort to

proactively include them. Which is what initiatives like 'This Girl Can', of course, are focused on and it has been really fantastic to see those kinds of initiatives in our schools and wider community.

1095 I am also really pleased that inclusion was specifically referenced in the Plan for Sport, particularly the standout quote was:

Inclusion doesn't just happen, we must take an informed targeted approach.

1100 I would just like a reassurance from the President when he replies to debate, that girls will be specifically included and there will be an effort made, because I think we cannot let this disparity get any worse. In fact it would be really great to redress that disparity and see if we can even things out. Obviously make everything more accessible for everyone, but certainly not let that disparity between boys and girls get any worse than it already is.

1105 Still on the topic of equality of access more generally, I was really pleased this was one of the elements of the Plan that I thought was excellent to see in there. There have always been inequalities in accessing sport and indeed just physical activity and as this policy letter acknowledges some children in particular struggle to access the extensive opportunities that others have to enjoy sport and be active, especially in our Island environment. It has been exacerbated by the recent lockdown experience. Of course we saw lots of families taking full advantage of the allotted time for exercise and many taking advantage of the quieter roads, and we saw a big uptake in people walking, running and riding; but that was not the case for everyone and there were people of course who had to self-isolate, who had to juggle jobs and children and home schooling, and there were people
1110 we know who became less active. Again, we need to make sure that this is something we keep an eye on, we do need to reduce these inequalities but also make sure any existing inequalities do not get worse.

1115 Many people do find it harder to fit physical activity in and I think if we are looking at any potential rises – I hope not, in unemployment, or lower incomes housing concerns – these things could become worse quite easily, so it is just about being aware of them and doing what we can to create a post-lockdown environment where physical activity is easy to fit into our daily lives and routines.

1120 That brings me on to one of my favourite topics of course which is active travel. I will not spend too long on it because I think it is hopefully fairly obvious, but health bodies everywhere recognise that one of the most effective ways to increase levels of physical activity in a community is to make it easier to move around under your own steam. So initiatives like 'the daily mile' are absolutely fantastic, I am really supportive of them. I can see the difference they make in our schools, so really strongly supportive. But frankly we should not need initiatives like that, and there is an easier and more effective way, once we have sorted out an environment in which people feel that it is safe and
1125 convenient for them to travel under their own steam. So really I hope that the Plan for Sport and future Committees *for* Education, Sport & Culture work very closely with future Committees *for the* Environment & Infrastructure and Committees *for* Health & Social Care to bring these elements together and to really do something to address that environment and make it easier for everyone.

1130 Just finally touching on an issue mentioned by a couple of people, most pertinently Deputy Hansmann Rouxel, and that is looking at the barriers. This is kind of touched upon in the policy letter and the Plan fairly often, but I could not really see – maybe I missed it and I do apologise, if so – any particular actions to address it, and that is the issues around public liability and the cost of accessing States' venues for charitable or community organisations. So people that are not trying to run things as a commercial enterprise and I am aware – I am reluctant to go into too much
1135 detail – of a situation that is very live at the moment, where we have an absolutely incredible community initiative that has been running very successfully. Sponsorship has become more problematic since the Covid crisis and now they are facing the harsh reality of how they are going to raise the funds, whether they will be able to raise the funds to be able to deal with issues around public liability insurance and the cost of hiring out Beau Sejour or other venues, even for just a very
1140 short time per week.

These are obviously all the super-volunteers that are referenced in the report that we are talking about, people who give so much of their own time and really make all the difference to the lives of many people. So I really hope that is something that this Plan can actively tackle, and the sooner the better.

1145 Finally, I think I said finally before, sorry, false horizon there, this really is the last bit. I was also really pleased to see the category, it was a new phrase to me actually, the 'Green Exercise' aims; and it really does make sense. I mean, one of the things we are absolutely blessed with here in Guernsey is an incredible natural environment, and people like me are very keen to get people out. Yesterday we were debating the strategy for nature as part of the climate change policy and one of the big
1150 aims is to connect the community with nature. It has got so many health benefits and wider social benefits as well and indeed, further down the line, economic benefits too.

But yes, I am so glad to see this in there, really welcome it. We have got a wonderful environment, let's get out there and make the most of it; but make sure that as many people as possible can as well.

1155 So I thank the Committee for an excellent Plan and I just hope that it will be supported and we will see these things in action as soon as possible.

Thank you.

The Bailiff: Well, Members of the States, there is no one else – oh, Deputy St Pier.
1160

Deputy St Pier: Thank you very much, sir.

Just briefly in relation to Policy & Resources, and much of this has already been covered I think by Deputy Le Tocq.

The Policy & Resources letter is clear that it does fully support the principle of the Plan and has
1165 worked closely with the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture. The question of funding was always very clearly the challenge and a problem to be considered pre-Covid, and that was the engagement we had with the President and the Committee. We welcomed that engagement and I hope the President will confirm that when he sums up, that that engagement was of value to both committees.

1170 But as I think Deputy Roffey was the first one to identify the challenge, when it is all very well saying when push comes to shove will Policy & Resources ensure that the resources are available? If only it were so simple, that this were the only thing when push comes to shove, because there will be another 15 issues presented in exactly the same terms. When push comes to shove we need to fund this, we need to fund that, and that is all that this letter of comment is saying. It is making
1175 that point clear, and exactly as Deputy Le Tocq expressed, if the States are determined ... If we the States collectively, and our successors are collectively determined to fund this particular stream of work, then they need to do so in the knowledge that there will implications, either for other budget lines or for revenue. The mathematics are really very simple: it can only come from either reducing expenditure elsewhere or by finding additional revenue, which means from taxpayers.

1180 That is all that the letter of comment makes clear, and there will be some significant challenges as we know in the post-Covid world, given the impact on public finances with these sorts of decisions. But the Policy & Resources Committee is supporting the Propositions.

The Bailiff: Members of the States, no other Member is seeking to speak in the debate.

1185 If I were able to call myself, I would potentially call myself at this point to speak because it would reflect my experience at school of being the last to be picked (*Laughter*) but, instead, I will turn to Deputy Fallaize to reply to the debate.

Deputy Fallaize.

1190 **Deputy Fallaize:** Thank you, sir. At least you have made up for it in your professional career! (*Laughter*)

Now, Deputy Prow was the first Member to speak after I had opened debate and I thank him and other Members of Health & Social Care for their support and of course he is right: the single best thing to improve community health and save the costs to the Health Service are for people to live active and healthy lifestyles in the first place; and the links between this Plan and our Committee's work and his Committee's work clearly are very important in that area.

Deputy Lester Queripel talked about elite athletes and Deputy Brouard talked about mass participation and for everybody being able to access physical activity. I think, and I hope this comes through in this Plan, that we consider these are two sides of the same coin; in fact when we started to put this Plan together there was some question about whether to place emphasis on mass participation and physical activity or competitive sport, and we were really quite insistent that we needed the Plan to cover both of these things.

The more mass participation there is the healthier the community will be, but if those people who are participating are supported and encouraged some of them will emerge as elite competitive athletes. I do not think that being very competitive in sport is a bad thing. I think that encouraging mass participation for the sake of it, for the sake of the health of the individual and the community is a good thing, and encouraging those who want to be very competitive at sport to achieve their best and to develop into elite athletes is also a good thing and should not be discouraged.

Among Deputy Lester Queripel's list of famous athletes was Matt Le Tissier. I think that was perhaps going a bit far Matt Le Tissier, I do not think would even refer to himself as an athlete. He was, however, probably the most gifted footballer in the British Isles over the last 20 or 30 years, and to have somebody like that as an example to young Guernsey children of what can be achieved at the elite level of sport is very important. But he is correct in saying that although we do still produce some sports people at an elite level, certainly in some sports we do not produce as many as we did at one time. So that is why the Plan needs to focus on the elite level and at the level of mass participation and physical activity.

Alderney Representative Snowden talked about £150,000 having been invested in Alderney over the last couple of years. That is an incredible effort in Alderney on a *per capita* basis it would be like investing £5 million in sport and physical activity in Guernsey over two years. The Alderney Sports Foundation is doing some fantastic work in putting together, in conjunction with the States of Alderney and our Committee, a Plan for Sport for Alderney. I hope our successor Committee will be fully supportive because there are excellent things that can be done in that community with relatively small amounts of investment, which can be to their benefit and to the benefit of the Guernsey Exchequer in the end.

Now, in relation to funding, the Policy & Resources Committee came in for some criticism over their letter of comment and I want to explain our Committee's perspective on this. I understood where their letter of comment was coming from, in fact I did not really expect a letter of comment to read differently from the way it did.

There was very close engagement between the two Committees in putting the Propositions together, which was very helpful. I went to a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee a couple of weeks ago and we talked about their view of this policy letter and the Propositions and the sense I got was 'Look, we are going to have to remind the States that when there are new services to fund there has got to be an element of prioritisation, because clearly the Exchequer cannot support every new initiative that every Committee would wish to develop ...'. But they were very supportive of the Plan and they I think Deputy Trott went as far as saying that the prospects are exceptionally good for a future Policy & Resources Committee being able to fund the initiatives that are set out in this Plan, bearing in mind there is quite a lot of flexibility in the timing of the funding allowed in the terms of the Propositions. So I did not take the letter of comment as being negative.

The Policy & Resources Committee has a job to do and part of its job is to remind the States about financial discipline and spending Committees have a job to do, which some of the time is to give Policy & Resources Committee a good kicking and remind them of the need to fund essential and necessary services. I think there should be some friction between the Policy & Resources Committee and spending Committees, and I do not think that tension is negative, I think that has

come through a bit in their letter of comment, but I am very confident ... This Plan is going to get through the States, clearly, and I am grateful for Members support this morning.

I think there will be enough enthusiasm in the next States to ensure that the Policy & Resources Committee, whoever its Members are, will fund the Plan for Sport.

If I have anything to do with it, and I do not know whether I will be here, none of us do, and I expect if several other Members who are present today have anything to do with it, we will keep our foot on the neck of the Policy & Resources Committee if that is not a slightly unfortunate – that is a slightly unfortunate analogy – but we will keep up pressure on the Policy & Resources Committee to ensure that this Plan for Sport is funded. Ultimately it is a matter for the States, because it is the States that set budgets –

I will give way to Deputy Trott.

Deputy Trott: I am grateful to my friend because although the moment has passed, I should mention that when he was referring to a good kicking I thought that was demonstrative of the Arsenal back four for generations.

Deputy Fallaize: Well, I might come on to that. But ultimately it will be for the Assembly to determine budgets of Committees and I think the next Assembly will fund this Plan and certainly it should.

The Policy & Resources Committee was a bit unfair on the Guernsey Sports Commission in its comments around key performance indicators because the Guernsey Sports Commission, as Deputy Gollop referred to, their origins, actually they were not provided with any additional funding at that time and there were not any requirements for key performance indicators set out. This Plan helps us, to use a phrase, to shift the dial to significantly increase investment in sport but also strengthen accountability for how that money is being spent. That is why the key performance indicators are necessary, but it would have been a bit rich for the States to demand them previously when there was so little investment going in, and certainly no additional investment from the early days of the Sports Commission.

I will give way to Deputy Lowe.

Deputy Lowe: Thank you Deputy Fallaize.

I think we need to remember that the Guernsey Sports Commission was set up so that they could receive more funding, but from the private sector, because the Chairman at the time believed that having States' involvement was actually prohibiting money being raised through the private sector, so hence it was set up away from the States and would be self-funding at that time.

Deputy Fallaize: Yes, I thank Deputy Lowe for that. That is absolutely true and I think in recent times the Guernsey Sports Commission has been more equipped to raise more money from private sponsorship, and we now have this kind of *quid pro quo* relationship where the more money the public sector puts in, the Sports Commission is in a very good place to raise more private money and obviously sport benefits from that.

Deputy Hansmann Rouxel raised arts in passing. I agree with Deputy Roffey about an Arts' strategy, and hopefully the next Committee as one of its early tasks will be able to develop and then put before the States a Plan for the Arts not dissimilar to this Plan for Sport, and it now has a template which I hope will be used.

Deputy Hansmann Rouxel and Deputy de Sausmarez both raised the issue of cost of hiring facilities, and I think this is a very good point because actually the cost of hiring some States' facilities is prohibitive to sports clubs and associations. It comes down to the extent to which we are prepared as a Government to subsidise the use of our facilities. There is not really any other way of trying to overcome that problem.

There is scope within the facilities section of this Plan to address that and actually we have been doing some things. We have run a pilot programme in the primary school sector being able to

access use of Beau Sejour facilities outside of peak hours at very much reduced costs, which has been a success; and only very recently we sanctioned the extension of that pilot programme. But if it is going to happen on a big scale it is obviously going to need greater levels of subsidy or income foregone.

1300 Deputy Ferbrache said sport creates memories which I think was an exceptionally good phrase and in many ways that underpins a lot of the thinking behind this Plan. He talked about happy memories that were created in 1961 for him – he would have been even happier 10 years later when Arsenal did the double more recently than Spurs have, and even happier in 2004 which is a year he will remember fondly when Arsenal became the first division team since Preston to go a whole
1305 season unbeaten and won the league – I do not think with a points record at the time but certainly did go unbeaten.

Now, my experiences with sport, I mean, when I was growing up I was completely obsessed with football to the exclusion of everything else – not just every other sport but every other activity in life, and all of my interest in education up to until I was probably about 14 came out of football. The
1310 only reason I was interested in geography was because it allowed me to know where places were and where football teams came from. The only reason I was interested in history was because I was interested in football history. Actually my mum and dad were so concerned about it they went up to my school and said 'We know this is a problem because every time Matt is asked to do anything he always relates it to football, and if he has to write a story about something it is only about
1315 football'. The teacher said, 'Well, that doesn't matter because if he is using sport to access various parts of education then that is something to be encouraged'.

I think sport can play a positive role in education, not just because there is a lot of data which shows that the more active children are the more successful they are in the classroom, they find accessing the curriculum easier. But I also think that the links that sport has with education can lead
1320 children to opportunities and excellence in education, and I think that should be encouraged.

Sport also teaches children about how to win with grace and to lose with some humility. *(Laughter)* That last lesson is particularly useful in politics, *(Laughter)* particularly for anybody who wants to sit on Education, Sport & Culture. But, no, I do seriously think that sport can have all those sorts of advantages as well as the physical advantages.

1325 But there is another side to it, and Deputy Paint and Deputy Le Tocq drew this out, and to some extent Deputy Tindall, because there are people who dislike sport or find that there are barriers to participating in sport. Deputy Paint told a slightly amusing story about football but, actually he had a good point because part of the ... This has happened in recent times, and this Plan for Sport can take this further. But there was a time when, if Deputy Paint did not want to play football, then he
1330 would not have done sport if he was a boy at school, because it was football or nothing, or possibly cricket in the summer. What has happened in recent years, and as I say this Plan can extend this further, is to have introduced more children to a greater range of sport.

I mean, I know from my involvement and my family's involvement in football now, that it is much harder now to find volunteers for football and to encourage children to continue to play football
1335 for longer than it was 30 or 40 years ago. The reason for that is there are so many more sports available and more sporting opportunities. A big part of this Plan is trying to sustain the breadth of opportunity so that for children who do not wish to participate in the more popular sports there are still sporting opportunities. I think that is critical.

I thank Deputy Dudley-Owen for her support and she raised the point about the Bond. Now, Guernsey Sports Commission is a States' owned entity, so if any of the money was to be routed through the Sports Commission I think it qualifies in relation to that criteria. It also does in relation to the income-stream qualification in the policy that underpins the Bond, because the sporting clubs and associations can demonstrate that they have an income stream which can pay back the Bond.

1340 Where she has a very good point is that sporting clubs and associations which are not owned
1345 by the States, so probably completely in the third sector, I do not think under the current terms of the Bond would be able to access that money, so it may be that it would be necessary to change the terms under which the Bond could be lent. Now, that might be politically controversial but I

think that is a good point and that may need to be done. But certainly the States have very considerable reserves, and sport is an area where we can put these reserves to very good use by loaning out to clubs and associations and allowing them to develop facilities. I think this could be a significant growth area in the years ahead.

Deputy Le Clerc was right to highlight safeguarding and club mark, that is an important part of this Plan and probably the most essential urgent area of funding that will be unlocked by the States supporting these Propositions. Associations and clubs in many areas of sport need the help of the States. It is very hard to find volunteers who are prepared to give up their time, partly because of the demands that are now placed upon them in relation to the kind of safe and secure environment which needs to be provided for children which of course was not ... Well, it ought to have been a concern but it was not something that was paid as much attention some years ago, so by supporting this Plan the States will be ensuring that in future more children will have access to more sporting opportunities in environments which are safe and secure than would otherwise be the case without this Plan.

I am sorry that Deputy Trott, in his year, Guernsey lost rugby to Jersey. He will be pleased to know that in my year we beat Jersey 3-0 in the schoolboy Muratti in Jersey, and he will also be pleased to know that on my Wedding Anniversary Arsenal were beating Everton, and were continuing their unbeaten run which had run through the previous season. I think I may have mentioned that a little earlier. We can jest, but we now both support football teams which are quite rubbish actually but we will see what happens next season.

Deputy de Sausmarez talked about the significant drop-off rate in participation rates. In early teens this is a significant problem and there is a gender dimension to this because the problem is more significant among girls than boys, and it happens from about the age of 12. If you look at participation rates around 12 compared to 15 and 16 there is a significant drop-off; and anything we can do to address that, we should.

But I accept completely her analysis of a gender dimension in that and therefore even more effort has to be placed on trying to encourage girls to continue to participate. It is to do with body image and it is to do with not having the same slightly older girls and young women as sporting role models. The Committee understands that, and that will be reflected in the work that is put into effect off the back of this Plan.

We do live in a community which has a very rich sporting heritage but the data is quite stark. There are thousands of young children who clearly need more encouragement and more support and in some cases financial assistance to participate, where 43% of secondary school pupils are not physically active for at least 60 minutes at least four days a week. I think that is quite stark.

We live in a society where for many of us in our daily lives just ordinarily there is not as much physical activity as there once was, for all sorts of economic and social reasons. I think we have to step in for no other reason even if not for the benefit of the individual, even if we do not value sport on a community-wide basis, if for no other reason than because the costs to our health service of a sedentary life style are so significant that they demand Government action.

Now, sir, finally this Assembly gets lots of criticism, sometimes from the people in it –

Oh, I will give way to Deputy Lester Queripel.

Deputy Lester Queripel: Sir, I thank Deputy Fallaize for giving way.

I am a bit concerned that what I said in my speech has been completely misinterpreted as focusing exclusively on the elite few who make it big on the international and national arena, as was wrongly inferred by Deputy Brouard when he spoke. I let him get away with it, but is Deputy Fallaize please able to give me an assurance that he recognises I also focused on sport being accessible for everyone in our community regardless of their abilities? And to remind him of what I said, sir, if I may just for a second, I said on more than one occasion in my speech I think it is absolutely vital that sport is accessible for every member of our community regardless of their abilities. I said it is not just about winning, it is about taking part. I said it is all about putting smiles on the faces of the people and bringing fun into their lives, and this Plan for Sport is firmly rooted in all aspects of

1400 physical activity and ability right across our whole community, which will ensure that everyone is included. I said all of that as well as listing half a dozen members of the Island who went on to make it big in the international area.

I really wish people would listen to what I say in my speeches, sir, and not just take a part of it and misinterpret what I said. So that is why I am asking the question: is Deputy Fallaize able to give me an assurance, please, he recognises I focused on this Plan for everyone for Sport not just the elite few?

Thank you, sir.

Deputy Fallaize: Yes, thank you, sir, I feel as though I have been told off. I have.

1410 What I was trying to do was to draw links between elite sport and mass participation because Deputy Queripel referenced elite sport and Deputy Brouard referenced mass participation. I just mentioned them in drawing those links. But of course I accept that Deputy Queripel made the comments he made about mass participation and encouraging as many people as possible to take part in lower levels of non-competitive physical activity, and I acknowledge that and I do not think I implied anything other than that.

Now, as I was saying, this Assembly has its critics, many of them are in it and clearly this States, this Assembly has got some things wrong. But I think where it gets things right it ought not to be afraid to say so, and we have become so conditioned probably to criticism that we are sometimes not quick enough to explain where things have been done well.

1420 This particular Assembly this term has a good record on sport, much better than any of its predecessors. It is interesting that this Plan for Sport may even pass unanimously, I do not know, clearly it will have a big majority. I think there is a strong possibility that in previous Assemblies it would not have got through the States. I think that P&R's predecessors would have turned up and said, 'Oh, we have got to be very careful about prioritising expenditure and we cannot measure any KPIs, and we are not sure there is a strategic evidence base so we are not going to provide the funding'.

I do not think Culture & Leisure, which was a tiny Committee, would ever really have been able to put together a Plan like this; and I do not think it would have been able to secure the support of the States. So the passage of this Plan for Sport I think is a significant achievement which this Assembly should be proud to own, and I think the significant additional investment in PE in schools, the significant investment in refurbishing Footes Lane, including the Channel Islands' only eight-lane athletic track, and the significant additional private sponsorship which the Guernsey Sports Commission is now raising ... It has happened because of their hard work and their leadership, but it would not have happened without the support of this Assembly.

1435 I think, sir, in closing I just wanted to congratulate this Assembly for putting its money where its mouth is in relation to sport and for having a very good track record on sport. I hope that is maintained by the next Committee which will succeed this one and by the next States.

Thank you, sir.

1440 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Merrett you are rising.

Deputy Merrett: I apologise, sir,

I wish to declare an interest which I should have when I spoke, I do apologise; it was actually Deputy Fallaize speaking that reminded me. Andrew Merrett, as a director of Lovell Ozanne, has assisted sports and clubs and associations. He has been associated I believe with Footes Lane and therefore I do feel I should declare an interest, sir.

The Bailiff: Thank you very much. Deputy Lester – just a minute. Deputy Tooley.

1450 **Deputy Tooley:** Sorry, just for the avoidance of doubt, I did not make clear in my speech I should have done that as a Member of Education, Sport & Culture I did not participate in the Health & Social Care discussions about this policy paper. Thank you.

1455 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Lester Queripel, you requested a recorded vote. Is it still your wish that there be a recorded vote?

Deputy Lester Queripel: Yes, sir, please.

The Bailiff: Thank you very much.

1460 Well, in the spirit of this debate, I am sure that the President of the Committee will encourage each of you when you cast your vote to use a Thierry Henry 'Va Va Voom' when you announce it.

There was a recorded vote.

Carried – Pour 36, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 0, Absent 3

POUR	CONTRE	NE VOTE PAS	ABSENT
Deputy Fallaize	None	None	Deputy Inder
Deputy Lowe			Deputy Laurie Queripel
Deputy Smithies			Deputy Leadbeater
Deputy Hansmann Rouxel			
Deputy Graham			
Deputy Green			
Deputy Paint			
Deputy Dorey			
Deputy Le Tocq			
Deputy Brouard			
Deputy Dudley-Owen			
Deputy McSwiggan			
Deputy De Lisle			
Deputy Langlois			
Deputy Soulsby			
Deputy de Sausmarez			
Deputy Roffey			
Deputy Prow			
Deputy Oliver			
Alderney Rep. Roberts			
Alderney Rep. Snowdon			
Deputy Ferbrache			
Deputy Tindall			
Deputy Brehaut			
Deputy Tooley			
Deputy Gollop			
Deputy Parkinson			
Deputy Lester Queripel			
Deputy Le Clerc			
Deputy Mooney			
Deputy Trott			
Deputy Le Pelley			
Deputy Merrett			
Deputy St Pier			
Deputy Stephens			
Deputy Meerveld			

The Bailiff: Well, Members of the States, there voted in respect of these three Propositions: 36 Members voted *Pour*, there were 3 absentees, and therefore I declare that carried unanimously. *(Applause)*

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**XII. The King George the Fifth Memorial Playing Fields Trust –
Propositions carried**

Article XII.

The States are asked to decide:

Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled 'The King George the Fifth Memorial Playing Field Trust' of the Policy & Resources Committee, they are of the opinion:

1. To agree that a revised or new statutory trust is created by Projet de Loi in order to:

*Consolidate the King George the Fifth Memorial Playing Field Trust and The Friends of KGV Trust;
Alter the definition of 'King George's Fields' so as to allow the commercial parts of the trust property
to be used as security;*

*Remove the Bailiff as a trustee, retaining a power of trustee appointment and removal; and
Make all necessary and ancillary amendments to the King George the Fifth Memorial Playing Field
Trust.*

*2. To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above
decision.*

1465 **The States' Greffier:** Article XII – Policy & Resources Committee – The King George the Fifth
Memorial Playing Fields Trust.

The Bailiff: I invite the President of the Policy & Resources Committee, Deputy St Pier, to open
debate.

1470 **Deputy St Pier:** Sir, I have nothing to add to open the debate, other than suggest that Members
read the Propositions which make it very clear what the purpose of this policy letter is, and I will
respond to debate, sir.

1475 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Lester Queripel.

Deputy Lester Queripel: Sir, I rise merely to declare an interest. As I said in the earlier speech
of A Plan for Sport I am President of the Guernsey Walking Football Club. I need to declare an
interest because we use the all-weather pitch at KGV three times a week and we have done for the
last five and a quarter years. Sir, having said that, I fully support the proposals on the grounds that
consolidating the Trust will be for the benefit of the public and the Bailiwick of Guernsey as we are
told in paragraph 2.7 on page 3.

Thank you, sir.

1485 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Tindall.

Deputy Tindall: Thank you, sir.

1490 Seeing a policy letter about trusts gets my attention and this one was no different. As a result I
have asked a variety of nerdy questions of the Law Officers and I thank the Crown Advocate for her
responses. I repeat them briefly as I believe they are important in the context of trusts which have
the benefit of public money.

1495 My first question was: why is a statutory trust being recommended when a non-statutory trust
would be more cost effective? I was told there is a statutory trust at present, the King George the
Fifth Memorial Playing Field (Guernsey) Law 1985 which was created due to the nature of the public
interest in the Trust, and this remains in force. It is appropriate that a statutory trust remains, given
the public interest, and there is no increased cost to the Trustees and the administration of the
statutory trust to the best of their knowledge.

Personally I do not think there is sufficient knowledge of the difference to retain public interest in keeping it as a statutory trust. There may not be extra expense for the Trustees but there is for the States, not least the preparation of legislation which perhaps, not necessarily this time round but if the legislation ended, the statutory trust transferring the Trust property to the current private Trust now. But if it does not, it will be in the future when changes are needed. Whilst keeping a statutory trust might be the best approach, sir, in your opinion, which is what I have been informed is the case and that of the current Trustees and P&R, it would have been good to have read the reasons for this in the policy letter.

My second question was: why is the definition of the King George Playing Field being widened and not being able to be used as security? This seems to restrict the ability to obtain finance further. For example, are the areas which are not now included in the exclusion as used as security making it easier for the remainder to be used? The reply was that there is land under the non-statutory trust that has been included and land used for the commercial purposes that is being excluded. This preserves the original intention of the statutory trust by allowing commercial parts of the land to be used for security.

I also asked for confirmation if we were tacitly approving the new Trustees, but it was confirmed that whilst the Trustees named in the accompanying letter to the policy letter were the same five men who were Trustees of the current non-statutory trust, the names of the new Trustees will be affirmed in the new Projet.

Finally, I asked for a copy of the latest accounts and the 1937 conveyance, but was told the Crown Advocate did not have the accounts, nor do they have the conveyance. But that they were satisfied the modifications proposed to the existing statutory trust were appropriate. The Crown Advocate noted also that whilst there was a public interest element in the Trust this does not mean that the accounts are public, and advised I would have to ask the existing Trustees if I wanted to see the accounts, although they would be under no obligation to provide them.

I should add, sir, that this I do not consider to be legal advice and therefore not subject to privilege, because of course these answers are basic, but I felt in the time that I had allowed myself to deal with this policy letter for which the delay was, my apologies, I felt that that was the best source of getting the answers to my queries. I hope that those questions were of some assistance. Personally, if that is what the Trustees feel is the appropriate approach I have no objection. But I do feel that there should have been a few more bits of information along those lines in the policy letter.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: Thank you very much, sir.

This policy letter, which is brief and to the point and introduced, not exactly brusquely but tautly by Deputy St Pier, makes me go a bit nostalgic in some respects. Because, first of all, longer-serving Members of the States will remember that back in the late 1990's early millennium period, when the States was a different sort of place, we used to have Billets of 32 items, but they usually took about 10 minutes each, if that, and they were full of this kind of thing. The Board of Administration would put something highly technical, which nowadays has been delegated more within Departments, Committees and, to be honest, amongst our professional officers and this is kind of a blast from the past of the 1930's.

It also makes me nostalgic from when I sat on the Culture & Leisure Board. I mentioned that already, when we actually spent a lot of time and thinking about the world of the King George the Fifth structure. At the time it needed a degree of revitalisation and that revitalisation has occurred on many levels. I used to go there to the old pavilion and do some psychic work, strangely enough, I did not know we had to predict the future. No. But moving on from that a lot of great work was done there from dyslexia to high-level sports, social and community activities.

But my two points on the item are: a crucial point that possibly has a greater meaning than just within itself is you, sir, the Bailiff, and the Bailiff's role. The Bailiff is *ex officio* a trustee of the body

1550 and that would be changed, but he or she will still be able to have some say over Trustees. But it was considered in the words of the policy letter, off the top of my head, that there may be seen as a conflict with a judicial role. I wondered why they had come to that conclusion, because I know the Bailiff as an institution is hugely respected in Guernsey, as well as the people who fulfil that role and are often patrons or presidents of charitable trusts and endeavours. So I would like a bit more clarification and elucidation on that point.

1555 The other point is relating really to what Deputy Dudley-Owen and other Members said about the nature of financing sport and community events. There is a hint here that the current structure does not easily allow the Trust to borrow on the more commercial side of activities and the change will facilitate that. But of course there is a risk to doing so and one wants to know how far Education, Sport & Culture and Policy & Resources have seen whether the ideas and visions of the organisation
1560 fulfil their mandate and are robust in terms of what it is likely to achieve. We would not want to be trying to unpick a difficult situation in the future because maybe money was borrowed that could not be easily repaid.

Thanking you, sir.

1565 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Merrett.

Deputy Merrett: Thank you, sir.

I will be brief. Obviously Mr Merrett is very busy keeping the economy going and working very hard because he has not responded to my text. I do not know whether or not there is any association
1570 with the King George Playing Field but I just think I ought to declare. I will just declare an interest just in case there is, I do not want there to be any grey areas. Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: As no one else is rising I will invite the President Deputy St Pier to reply to that short debate please.

1575 **Deputy St Pier:** Sir, briefly I think I should respond to Deputy Gollop's point of concern in relation to borrowing. Of course it would be a matter for the Trustees to determine the risk they are prepared to take on with any borrowing. It would not be a matter for Policy & Resources or indeed the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture. Policy & Resources' role here is simply in relation to
1580 the statutory trust which is why we have brought the matter. So it is not a matter for the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture although obviously they have an interest in the use of the site as they would with any sporting facility in the Island.

We hope that is obviously consistent now with Active 8 and the Plan for Sport across the Island; they need to be aware of these facilities and beyond that they would not have a role in this matter.

1585 **The Bailiff:** Members of the States, there are two Propositions. I propose to put both of them to you together. Those in favour; those against.

Members voted Pour.

1590 **The Bailiff:** I declare both Propositions carried.

**COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY,
COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE AND
COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE**

**XIII. Building a Better Future: Children's Health & Education –
Debate commenced**

Article XIII

The States are asked to decide:

Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter entitled 'Building a Better Future: Children's Health and Education', dated 29th June 2020, they are of the opinion:

To agree that the States will subsidise the cost of primary care appointments, and will revise its own charges for Emergency Department visits, for children up to the age of 18, such that:

- a. The charge for a visit to the GP will be £25;*
- b. The charge for a visit to a practice nurse will be £15; and*
- c. The charge for a visit to the Emergency Department will be £25;*

subject to the Committee for Health & Social Care negotiating an appropriate funding arrangement with each GP practice in order to facilitate this.

2. To note that the estimated total cost of subsidising primary care GP and nurse appointments as set out in Proposition 1 is anticipated to be in the region of £820,000 per annum, and the estimated income foregone from Emergency Department charges is expected to be approximately £380,000 per annum.

3. To agree that children, up to the age of 18, will be entitled to a free annual dental check-up, including fluoride varnish treatment, from a General Dental Practitioner, at an estimated cost of £270,000 per annum, subject to the Committee for Health & Social Care negotiating an appropriate funding arrangement with each private dental practice in order to facilitate this.

4. To agree that a supervised toothbrushing programme ('Super Smiles') will be provided for children at pre-school, and that children at primary and secondary school will receive regular dental health education, provided by the Children's Dental Service, at an estimated cost of £110,000 annually. 5. To agree that children in primary school will receive additional cultural enrichment activities, at an estimated cost of £150,000 annually.

6. In order to fund the services set out at Propositions 1 to 5 above: a. to agree that families with a gross household income of £120,000 or more shall not be entitled to receive Family Allowance (resulting in an estimated saving of £1,580,000);

b. to reaffirm the importance of Family Allowance, and to agree that it shall continue to be paid to families with gross household income of less than £120,000; and

c. to agree that Family Allowance shall only be payable in respect of children up to the date of their eighteenth birthday (resulting in an additional estimated saving of £320,000).

7. To direct the Policy & Resources Committee to recommend Cash Limits for the Committee for Health & Social Care for 2021 and subsequent years which include specific funding for the services in propositions 1 to 4 (an estimated full-year costs of approximately £1,580,000, or £525,000 pro rata for four months in 2021).

8. To direct the Policy & Resources Committee to recommend Cash Limits for the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture for 2021 and subsequent years which include specific funding for the services in Proposition 5 (an estimated full-year cost of approximately £150,000, or £50,000 pro rata for one school term in 2021).

9. Only if propositions 6(a) to 6(c) are approved:

a. to note that the Committee for Employment & Social Security's formula-led expenditure on Family Allowance will decrease by approximately £1,900,000 per annum;

b. to direct the Committee for Employment & Social Security to write to all households in receipt of Family Allowance informing them that they will cease to receive Family Allowance unless a

declaration is returned stating that they anticipate that their gross household income will be less than £120,000; and

c. to note that the Committee for Employment & Social Security, in conjunction with the Revenue Service, will implement a mechanism for verifying a sample of the declarations referred to in subparagraph (a) for the purpose of preventing fraud.

10. To agree that the above propositions, if approved by the States, shall be implemented from 1st September 2021, and to direct the Committee for Employment & Social Security to communicate the changes to affected households well in advance of that date.

11. To direct the Committee for Health & Social Care and the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture jointly to publish evidence of the impact of these changes two years after their introduction.

12. To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above decisions.

The States' Greffier: Article XIII – The Committee for Employment & Social Security, the Committee for Health & Social Care and the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture – Building a Better Future: Children's Health & Education.

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The Bailiff: I invite Deputy McSwiggan on behalf of the Committee for Employment & Social Security to open the debate.

Deputy McSwiggan, please.

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Deputy McSwiggan: Thank you, sir. I will keep it short, sir, in the hope of getting to the vote before lunchtime.

Sir, I am delighted to present what we think are a set of really exciting and positive proposals for the States to agree. (**Several Members:** Hear, hear.) If these proposals are approved, no family will have to pay more than £25 to see a doctor or for a trip to A&E with a poorly child. No child will have to suffer toothache or gum decay because regular dental care is unaffordable to their family. Every child will have opportunities to build up rich cultural capital in primary school helping to counter the effects and break the generational cycle of the deprivation that some children currently face in our community. Examples of that were given yesterday in the climate change debate when we talked of children who had not even been to the beach here, and there is so much more that we could be doing to address that.

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Sir, these are proposals that have their origin in the PTBR, the Pensions, Tax and Benefits Review which thankfully this States has not had to wrestle with but its predecessor did. It was a review carried out by the previous Social Security Department and Treasury & Resources Department looking at how the Island's tax and benefits system should change. Sound familiar to anyone perhaps?

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If that review had been successful in all that it had recommended initially, then Family Allowance would have been gone completely with nothing to replace it. But thankfully Deputy Dorey and Deputy Fallaize stepped in with an amendment which asked the States to explore, not just getting rid of Family Allowance and absorbing the difference but thinking about what the original purpose of Family Allowance was, which is to provide support to families and to promote the welfare of children; and to think about, if we are moving on from an era of universal benefits, which was certainly the message from the review at the time, how else can we do that more effectively? What services can we provide that target families and children that absolutely address the cornerstones of children's welfare and development?

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The reason why ESS and HSC and ESC have been working so closely on this is because of course the answer to that lies in education and health care, in universal access to primary care and in getting the building blocks of primary education right. So the terms of that amendment are exactly what the Committees set out to fulfil and I hope Members will agree that the proposals in front of us today do exactly that.

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1630 In addition to responding to that amendment, the proposals respond to issues identified through the Scrutiny Management Committee's work on in-work poverty, through the Committee for Health & Social Care's work to address the affordability of health care, and through the Partnership of Purpose. And importantly, and perhaps most fundamentally of all, they seek to implement the principles of the Children & Young People's Plan that our children's welfare comes first and foremost.

1635 So, sir, if these proposals are approved within the course of the next year we will see affordable GP appointments and dentistry put in place as well as enrichment in primary education. The proposals will start, we recommend, in September of 2021, so the start of the next school year after this one. It gives everybody a year to adjust to it and to do the things that have to be done to put these proposals in place. But also I should stress, sir, we have been quite clear that although the States approve the direction of travel today, the implementation of these proposals is subject to negotiation with the private providers who are needed to deliver them, to ensure that there are appropriate terms around the subsidies that we put in place.

1640 We did not really get stuck into it in yesterday's debate on SLAWS because there were other burning issues that we were preoccupying Members, but in the field of long-term care we put £20 million of Government money into private businesses without any terms and conditions around the way in which that subsidy is used. We hope it will be used to ensure the affordability of long-term care and we use what powers we have to ensure the quality of that care. But the powers that we have are very limited and, sir, I think that Members will agree with me that the age of Government subsidies without conditions has to be behind us. If we are going to be using taxpayers' money to deliver outcomes for our community then we have to be up front about what those outcomes are, and we have to be certain that we are reaching agreement with providers that ensures those outcomes are achieved.

1645 There was an indication, a commitment in yesterday's paper. It was one of the Propositions that was not voted out that moved us towards more of a commissioning relationship in respect of long-term care, and here too I think I just need to say that it will be vital for the next HSC. It probably will not be us, we will not have much time to do it, to sit down with the providers of health care and dentistry and make sure that the States' aims for our community are able to be achieved in a way that is appropriate and cost effective for all parties involved.

1650 Sir, there was a question I think from the Policy & Resources Committee about us showing our working. In effect, is this the only solution that was possible in the wake of Deputy Dorey's amendment? What else could have been done? Just to answer that question, of course when the Committees first sat down together having been given the brief of how would you use Family Allowance effectively to meet the needs of children and families? There was, what Deputy Le Clerc called a shopping list as long as your arm, and of course not all of that was prioritised. The fact that there were three Committees in a room together trying to deal with this issue meant that everything was subject to really quite rigorous peer review and scrutiny; and what we have got are the things that everybody, after mutual discussion and engagement, agreed could have a really beneficial effect and are really important to do now in order to improve the welfare of children and families.

1660 Sir, in order to achieve what we think are these very important aims, we are recommending some changes to Family Allowance. We are not recommending going as far as the PTBR would have done and phasing the whole thing out. In fact if the States approve the proposals in front of us today that will put an end to that direction of travel from the PTBR, or a new States would have to reinvigorate that. There would be no proposal to go further in phasing out Family Allowance than what is proposed here. What is proposed here is that families with an income of above £120,000 should no longer be entitled to receive Family Allowance, and Family Allowance should stop payment when a child reaches the age of majority.

1675 The argument to the second, to start back-to-front, is in effect that if we are going to be providing services from funding that is redirected from Family Allowance, we should really be providing everything on the same basis. Now, we cannot really – it would be all but impossible to administer, for example, saying 'Oh, you can have a GP appointment at £25 up to the age of 18, or

until you are 19½ if you are still in full time education'. That would not be very doable at the front desk of the GP office, and it is quite normal for things to change when children become adults when they reach the age of 18 – well, it happens at various stages when children graduate from children to teenagers and then again to adults. It is not a welcome household expense that you expect prices to change and so on, but parents expect that to happen and they take it into account. So we thought the cut off at 18 was straightforward and in line with what happens around a wide range of services that are available to children and that cease to be available when they cease to be children.

Deputy Roffey was not on board with the Committee on that, but not so far off board that he dissented from the final proposals. I will mention that as a courtesy to him and maybe just save him a speech or half a speech. But you never know ...

But the other side of it was, if we are going to cut Family Allowance somehow in order to make these services available to families – and again remember that is the pre-existing direction of travel, the PTBR, which has phased out Family Allowance altogether, so the question is to the Committees: how far would you phase this out for, and why, and how? Because you have options. We could have said okay we will reduce the overall rate of Family Allowance a bit for everybody. But if you are going to continue paying Family Allowance at all you have to be paying it for a reason, and the reason is that for some households it is a very important addition to their income to enable them to meet the needs of their children; especially households on lower incomes.

If you think that purpose is valid then you need to be paying enough Family Allowance to make it worthwhile. So cutting the rate of Family Allowance for families who need it is not a very sensible proposition. But obviously there is a point somewhere up the income scale where you really do not need Family Allowance to be able to meet the needs of your children, you have quite enough income coming into the household to be able to do that independently.

I suspect that the point at which you do not really need Family Allowance is actually quite a lot lower than £120,000 of combined household income. But the great thing is we did not need to go any lower. This is the point at which we could stop, at which we could bring in an income cap and still be able to deliver much more affordable GP appointments, much more affordable emergency care, much more affordable dentistry and much better educational opportunities. So why be more mean than we would have to be? We drew the income cut-off at the point where we knew we could deliver the right kind of services to children and families and still be able to provide families with a small contingency – and still be able to make Family Allowance available to the rest of the community as and when they needed it.

So, sir, these proposals, I hope Members will recognise are positive all around. There is a long overdue need being met here. We have spoken time and time again in this Assembly about in-work poverty and improving living standards – it feels very recent in fact that we had our last conversation on that – and addressing the costs of health care and providing good quality education is central to meeting that need.

Unlike most of the other proposals before us today, and in recent meetings there is no net new cost to the States associated within these proposals. **(A Member: Hear, hear.)** We are taking a benefit which we recognise does have value and needs to continue to exist for some families, but which can be more effectively targeted; and targeting it appropriately and using the gap between what it was before and what it is after, that targeting to deliver some really important services to our community. It is a wholly appropriate balance between the principles of universalism and targeting.

These are proposals which have the support of the three Committees bringing them; they are proposals which meet the aims of the Children and Young People's Plan adopted by this Assembly; the Revive and Thrive Strategy adopted by this Assembly; the Partnership of Purpose adopted by this Assembly; the commitment to improving living standards adopted by this Assembly; and fundamentally, sir, they are proposals which put the welfare of our children and young people first and foremost, and will help to make a really positive change for children and families in this Island.

I ask States' Members to support them.

Several Members: Hear, hear.

1735 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby, as the President of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care, do you wish to say anything in opening?

Deputy Soulsby: Yes I think I will, sir. It is going to take longer than two minutes.

1740 **The Bailiff:** That is all right. On that basis what we will do now is adjourn until 2.30 p.m. when it will be Deputy Soulsby and thereafter Deputy Fallaize, if he wishes to open; and then we will run in reverse at the end of the debate, a bit like a requête.
So we will now adjourn until 2.30 p.m.

*The Assembly adjourned at 12.29 p.m.
and resumed its sitting at 2.30 p.m.*

**Building a Better Future: Children's Health & Education –
Debate continued –
Propositions carried**

1745 **Deputy Laurie Queripel:** May I be relevé, please, madam?

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, Deputy Laurie Queripel, you may be relevé.

Deputy Laurie Queripel: Thank you very much.

1750 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Merrett, I understood that Deputy Soulsby was going to –

Deputy Merrett: I beg your pardon ...

1755 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby.

Deputy Soulsby: Thank you, madam. Thank you for reminding me.

1760 Okay, so while HSC is pleased that these proposals are being considered by the Assembly today, recognising the positive impact that such changes will have on the Island's children and families, it is important to stress that this is just one stage in ensuring that all Islanders are able to access good quality health care when they need it and at rates they can afford, and it is a core vision of the Partnership of Purpose.

1765 We know that there are Islanders who face barriers in accessing primary care services. In the Guernsey and Alderney Wellbeing Survey 2018, 47% of people reported that they were being prevented from accessing one or more primary care services for reasons of cost; and this figure rose to 61% for people living in households with one or more children under the age of 16. Adult dentist appointments were the type of service most likely to be foregone due to cost; the second most likely service to be foregone was an adult GP appointment. So it is clear that some Islanders are having to make choices to prioritise care for their children to the detriment of their own ability to access health service.

1770 Current perverse incentives and the role of the GP as a gatekeeper of the health and care system compound these challenges. The current health benefit grants are outdated and do little to improve affordability; but these wider challenges which are being addressed should not prevent us taking positive steps today. These proposals should both support children accessing the care that they

need, helping us to fulfil the international obligations under the Universal Declaration of Rights of the Child, but also support their wider families to lead healthier lives.

The intention had been that HSC would, at this same meeting that these proposals are presented today, be able to submit our own complementary proposals on the future model of and funding for primary care in Guernsey. This wider context is important. HSC's policy letter would have provided a package of measures focused on three key areas: integration, affordability and accessibility which would over time expand the benefits that young people will experience through this policy letter to the entire population.

The need to review primary care had been highlighted within the Partnership of Purpose policy letter, recognising that in order to improve health outcomes and to reduce the escalating costs of health and care services it would be necessary to shift focus towards prevention and early intervention through primary care. This principle has already been agreed by the Assembly and this was one of the reasons why, when considering a range of health and care initiatives which could be supported by repurposed funds from Family Allowance, it was considered that improving access to care best fulfilled the States' strategic aims and would most improve health and care outcomes. It recognised that the current grants within primary care could be better targeted to ensure health equity, and through the revision of care pathways it would be possible to provide Islanders with direct access to the care they require.

The development of these proposals had been a key priority for the Committee over the last two years, with particular progress made over the last quarter of 2019, to develop a mature set of proposals which we had anticipated being debated this term. Consultation took place with primary care providers and with fellow States' Committees early this year. However, in March due to the escalating situation with Covid-19 a decision was made not to submit the then finalised policy letter. Instead, it was recognised that the primary objectives of the Partnership of Purpose achieving a sustainable health and care system centred round the needs of Islanders would be brought into ever sharper focus by Covid, and it would be necessary and appropriate to reassess the pace of change seeking to accelerate proposals to ensure primary care services are accessible and affordable to all for a comprehensive review of the current grant system and the fee structure.

The principles of this policy letter on Family Allowance are fully aligned to this equally important work and therefore serves as a helpful first step towards a wider necessary transformation. The repurposing of existing funds to provide lower-cost appointments to people who need to use primary care more frequently is very similar to the model the Committee wished to propose for the future of the medical benefit grant.

Now, approximately £4 million per year is spent on medical grants and that is a significant sum of money which ought to be spent wisely. As Deputy McSwiggan mentioned just before lunch it is currently paid with no conditions attached in terms of GPs' performance in exchange for payment, and given the significant decline in the percentage of the cost of the appointment covered by the grant does little to improve affordability. Rather than a universal subsidy, the Committee therefore considered it could be targeted more effectively by identifying patient groups who use primary care services more frequently, and using the money to provide an agreed number of low-cost GP visits per year.

As well as approval by the Assembly, it would also require careful negotiation with providers, to incorporate a light-touch set of conditions for payment, such as agreed standard charges to patients, low-cost appointments for designated patient groups, data sharing and maintaining the lower tariff for income support patients. This highlights that accessibility cannot be considered in isolation. If we wish to make a big difference to Islanders' over all experience of primary care and to their health outcomes, equal consideration needs also to be given to the role of primary care, and specifically GPs, within the overall health and care system to ensure appropriate integration and sharing of information on both an individual and population basis.

The solution is not simple, there is creating insurance schemes and certainly not increasing the medical grant. If it was we would probably have sorted it by now; well, if the States were willing to approve up to an extra £20 million a year we could.

For children and young people a key aspect of this integration will hopefully be the co-location of the health services within the secondary schools. As recognised by the World Health Organisation, at its heart primary health care is about caring for people rather than simply treating specific diseases or conditions. The 2015 CICRA report on primary health care in Guernsey recognised the need to set objectives within primary care relating to health gain, in quality of care and broader social and economic benefits, noting that:

... the absence of a clear accountability framework that sets targets or objectives for the mix of valued outcomes sought by the primary healthcare market presents challenges in considering effectiveness and efficiency in their provision. This is an area policy can address.

That is a quote taken from the CICRA report. The negotiations required with primary care, should this policy letter be approved, will enable the Committee to start to collaboratively develop this framework; but much more work will be needed if we truly want a primary care system that contributes to achieving the best possible health outcomes for Islanders.

Now Members will be aware of discussions which took place with primary care during Covid-19. The Committee's position has been well set out in our recently published letter to the Scrutiny Management Committee which it published in the interests of transparency, and there is no need to repeat the detail of that process. It is important to stress that, in common with these early discussions, HSC will seek to engage constructively and openly with primary care to develop a payment structure which, while fair to primary care, puts the needs of Islanders and taxpayers first and which supports the strategic direction set by this Assembly in approving the Partnership of Purpose.

There is no intention that primary care will see a reduction in their income as a result of these changes. Primary care were engaged in the development of this policy letter and it has been a long-standing workstream; and primary care have been kept appraised both formally and informally over this time and their views actively sought. I am conscious that questions have been raised as to whether the funds could be repurposed in a more targeted way, like excluding those who are already covered by insurance or those from wealthier families, and P&R have noted in their letter the support already available to those families in receipt of income support.

Now, these proposals are not perfect nor should they be seen as a permanent solution. They are, however, considered the fairest way at this time to repurpose a currently universal benefit and provide the same cohort with practice and positive support. If we wish to improve health and care outcomes at a population level then at this stage the support needs to be universal. Over time, as we develop the Partnership of Purpose more widely, and the underlying funding arrangements, and in particular the care passport, we will be able to develop more nuanced ways of providing the targeted support that individuals may need. But we are not there yet.

We will continue to consider ways to incentivise private insurance, noting that the 2018 Welfare Survey saw a decrease in the number of respondents who had insurance. It is also worth bearing in mind that people may have insurance that goes with their work, but then when they retire that insurance falls away, so often it is the people that probably most need the insurance are the ones most likely to be unable to afford it. Importantly, the proposals enable the Assembly to make a clear commitment to the care and support that we want all Island children to have, creating a culture where there is a universal expectation that all children will have the ability to access health and dental care without financial barriers.

P&R has highlighted possible financial risks associated with the proposals. While annual demand may vary, the Committee is confident that its wider work to address the affordability of primary will, by reducing the costs of receiving care and providing more ways for individuals to access the care they need, mitigate against the need for the subsidy payable by the States to rise in real terms.

HSC has prepared a comprehensive package of work and clear recommendations in respect of primary care to hand over to its successor with the hope that the wider recommendations will be able to return to the Assembly very early in the new term. This will set in train a programme of work which, while safeguarding all the positives of primary care in Guernsey, will see primary care evolve

1875 and adapt to best meet the Island's needs. Proposals in respect of Family Allowance are an important step in realising these aspirations of primary care and I do ask the Assembly to support them.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Fallaize.

1880 **Deputy Fallaize:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

I think around about 8% of the funding that is proposed in these proposals would be allocated to what we are calling 'cultural enrichment activities' in primary school and I think I ought to explain the thinking that is behind that element of the proposals. I also at this stage want to say something briefly about the funding arrangements. All schools in Guernsey and Alderney currently offer additional activities, what we would sometimes know as extracurricular activities, and they are normally offered during the lunch break and after school, and the majority of them are run on a voluntary basis mostly by teachers, but sometimes by outside organisations.

1890 Access to these activities is not universal and that is because there are lots of factors which affect whether a child is able to participate in activities which happen outside of normal school hours. Sometimes there is reliance on school buses, which means children are not able to attend after-school activities and others require the support of parents to transport them to and from after-school activities, which clearly creates difficulties for some families. The activities are constrained at some schools by the geography of school sites because obviously our schools are on a vast array of different sites in terms of size and configuration and there are constraints on what can be provided.

1895 Now, when we talk about enrichment – and this is set out in the policy letter where we have included some examples:

... bringing established authors, musicians, artists, actors and sports people to the Island to run workshops for students; enhanced outdoor adventure learning; creating 'pop-up' museums and galleries in schools; showcasing students' work through its formal publication; running STEM workshops; off-Island visits to museums, sporting events and places of historic or cultural significance; and gifting students high-quality books focused on expanding their cultural knowledge.

1900 These are the kinds of things if we are able to apply this level of investment on a whole school system basis – although it is only £38 per student on an individual basis – the investment is significant enough to make a very positive difference in those areas. What the Committee is trying to achieve is the provision of enrichment activities to primary-age students so that those who might otherwise be denied new experiences are provided to them through school. That is why it is proposed to divert the funds, a very small portion of the funds. If you think of all the people in receipt of family allowance, a very small portion of the funds that will be diverted would be applied to these enrichment activities.

1905 The Committee proposes that enrichment activities should focus on cultural enrichment with the expressed aim of improving each child's cultural capital. That is to say the essential knowledge that children need to be educated citizens helping to engender an appreciation of creativity and achievement. In our society not all children enjoy these experiences. Not all children and young people have a rich cultural diet. For many families, financial and time constraints are limiting factors and the proposed investment, though limited, would ensure that all children have access to a reasonable range of cultural enrichment activities through schools.

1915 Sir, that will be of benefit to the individuals, it will be of benefit to their families and it will be of benefit to our wider society. I think it might have been yesterday or possibly the day before we had a debate on a policy letter entitled Improving Living Standards which was full of warm words. Deputy McSwiggan referred to this when we debated the policy letter, but putting into effect the lofty ambitions in that report requires the States to introduce the kinds of policies and initiatives set out in this policy letter.

1920 I think Deputy Graham may have been the only Member to vote against those Propositions, for reasons he explained. I was nearly the second because I did not think the States in the end would be prepared to take the actions and initiatives necessary to realise the ambitions.

Well, today there is an opportunity to do that and at no additional cost to public finances, at no additional cost to the Exchequer. We are talking here about the redirection of Family Allowance from families where there is a household income in excess of £120,000 per year. That may not be a lot of money by the standards of some people, but it is actually a relatively small percentage of the households in Guernsey. If you look at household distribution of income, we are talking about a small percentage of households. Certainly nowhere near the majority. So I think this is preferable to top-slicing Family Allowance for everybody, though that would have been another option.

1930 We will hear a lot in the debate about waiting for a review, a wider review of taxes and benefits before making these sorts of changes to Family Allowance, and about anomalies in the distribution of taxes and benefits that this may cause, and there is some logic to those arguments. However, the disadvantages of accepting those arguments as they are set out in the Policy & Resources Committee's letter of comment are far too great. I would much rather create anomalies in the tax and benefits system for families with a household income of more than £120,000 than I would continue to see children denied access to GPs because their parents cannot afford £50 or £60 or whatever it costs.

1940 This is actually, to use the word that is often used in this Assembly, really about prioritisation, this is prioritisation, this is what it looks like. There is a choice, a very simple choice today between Family Allowance for households with an income of more than £120,000 a year or substantially reducing the costs of GP and dental visits for children and improving their enrichment experiences in primary school.

That is it, there is nothing else to this debate. It is a very simple choice and I hope, sir, the overwhelming majority of Members support the Propositions.

1945 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Merrett.

Deputy Merrett: Thank you.

1950 I will just wait for Members to take their seats, all around me. They all rushed in to hear my speech. I think that is marvellous, really good, thank you for coming.

1955 Firstly it is really good to see these three Principal Committees of the States working collaboratively, and constructively together for the benefit of our children's health and education. I thank them for doing so. I consider this it is a policy step, in my opinion, in the right direction; although as in the policy paper maybe I will be told that I just read the letter of comment wrong again. It does seem to be a little bit begrudged step by some, and I think it was Deputy Soulsby who said, madam, that it is not perfect. Well, I agree, I do not think it is perfect. I mean, the policy paper is really well written and I think the policy direction and intent is perfect but the actual solution may not be perfect. But then I doubt to be honest that it ever will be.

1960 But they are saying that if anybody does know the perfect solution, if anybody does know where Utopia is then please could they let me know? I might be tempted to buy a one-way ticket, but then saying that, I love Guernsey too much so I probably would not.

1965 But there are still some questions I just wish to raise and I am very pleased that the Deputy who opened this is the Deputy whose name is Deputy McSwiggan, because I have got every confidence that she will be able to answer these for me. Most notably I should say is that the Government will need to subsidise this if we ever in my opinion make access to visit a GP more inclusive to all, and that is children at this juncture, and it is good step in the right direction.

1970 But the bit I do not understand, and I have been asking questions on this to a representative of the practice, but I will also ask again. What I have never really understood is that Jersey, for example, with a Government subsidy, I believe is about £20 where practice charges may vary, but they do actually differentiate between different age groups. Okay, I appreciate Jersey has GST and I appreciate all of that but I do not often look at Jersey's policies ever, I am jealous. I do not, I can

assure you. But I have done some research as we are meant to do, and some practices across the water charge £15 for patients aged from birth to 13; £30 between the ages of 13 and 18; and £44 for those of over 18. But of course our practices have this flat rate, regardless. So, I do not often compare ourselves less favourably with other jurisdictions, or our little sister Island, but on this I have done so and I am obviously disappointed.

Sir, the propositions that concern me, perhaps less so, are that we appear to be asked to agree a charge rate fixed at £20 ... But is that meant to be fixed permanently? I mean, are we going to try and hold that price *ad infinitum* or is it just ...? It is just odd to see in the Propositions that it says it will be x amount.

But more concerning I think is the caveat that these Propositions have and I will read it:

... subject to [the Committee for Health & Social Care] negotiating an appropriate funding arrangement with each GP practice in order to facilitate this.

Members may know by now, I do not wish to give false hope and then it all falls down and we are not able to deliver it, so I think the message going out if this debate is successful and I hope that this policy paper is successful. I would not doubt if it is, is that from 2021 you can expect to pay this rate and there is a caveat in there. So I would like to ask in the summing up – well, that is a good way to avoid the name, isn't it, madam? How confident is the Committee for HSC that they will be able to negotiate this? I appreciate we brought this end of States' term forward – well, backwards and forwards – but, arguably, better to have had that negotiation done, so that it could actually come with a confirmed Proposition to the States, so we actually knew this was a reality rather than – I have used hope far too many times in the States of Deliberation – but I do not want to do it in hope.

Now, my correspondence, as I have said with some of the parties has not left me feeling, to be honest, very positive about this, so I am hoping that potentially the negotiations are under way and they are positive, and some reassurance of that would be really appreciated.

So Proposition 3 is the free annual dental check-up, which is a really good Government preventative measure, but again there is the same worrying caveat which I will not repeat.

Proposition 4 in my opinion is more likely to be enacted as it will be provided by an existing provider, namely the Children's Dental Service, so I have less concerns over that.

Proposition 5: this one okay. This one is about the primary school children who could receive additional – did not have it when I was at primary school obviously – 'cultural enrichment activities'. Now I think it is unfortunate that Deputy Fallaize used the words of 'rich cultural diet' so for the avoidance of doubt I can absolutely see the merit in this, I understand that. But I am little bit confused or disappointed – I wrote 'dumfounded' but maybe that is a little bit strong – that this is before us without any mention of provision of potential or otherwise of a nutritional offer, talking about diet, actually like a 'diet diet' for our primary school children. I am talking about breakfast clubs, I am talking about provision of school meals, even the mention of any intent in this area. So I think this is arguably a very important part of our primary age children's day.

I mentioned this at a recent Scrutiny Panel hearing and I have spoken to teachers during my research on this paper in our primary sector. They have advised me, and they are working with these children so this is experience of what we had to the end of the term and certain aspects of the last nine to 12 months, so this is not historical, this is happening now and will presumably happen in September. We have children in our community who are sent to school with no breakfast; we have children sent to school with a packet of crisps and a chocolate bar for lunch. How can we expect our children to then be in a position to learn to engage with an educational provision without anything nutritional to eat or fed on, basically, fat and sugar?

There is no mention of that in this policy paper and there is no mention of the children ... I have said this before because I had the fortunate or unfortunate – whichever way you want to look at it – experience of being a constituent Deputy of being contacted by families where the children go to the cupboard or the fridge and it is literally empty, so they cannot take anything into school. It just obviously really concerns me, and this is at this primary age which I think is such an important part

of their development, the nutritional offer; and, just for clarity nutrition, I mean food and drink, I am not just talking about everything.

2025 So I have asked before and I will ask again and I would have done some Rule 14s if I was given the chance, but this is about provision for primary children, and as I say it was unfortunate I think that the 'rich cultural diet' because I just think a 'rich diet' or a 'diet' would be also something that was really important, and it was unfortunate.

2030 I know it is not in the Rules, madam, and I was not expecting you to do it, although I must admit ... Before, you did say Deputy Soulsby, because I wanted to ask this of Deputy Fallaize, but now because he has spoken he cannot speak again, but I just was wondering what – I can give way obviously – but I was just wondering what consideration had been given to this area that I am discussing now –?

I give way.

Deputy Dudley-Owen: Thank you to Deputy Merrett for giving way.

2035 Madam, can you please confirm, because I thought it was said earlier before our lunch break that actually we would go in reverse order to sum up ... of the Presidents –?

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, that is right. So it is going to be Deputies Fallaize, Soulsby and then Deputy McSwiggan in that order at the end.

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Deputy Merrett: That is marvellous so I can ask my questions and hopefully I will get an answer.

2045 So I have met with – I am rubbish with names, not only Deputies, I know who the Deputies are but pronunciation – Healthy Eating Exchange or something like that ... I have met with these people, they are absolutely going to schools and they advising children of families they are doing this work, but some primary school children, because of their age potentially, I do not know but they cannot access they advise bringing some fruit to this. I am led to believe that for example some local companies were providing free fruit to schools, pre-Covid, and I am led to believe that is what will happen in September, so whereas those some of those children were having free fruit from a company because ... Honestly, it beggar's belief in our community, in the year 2020 this is happening, but I am advised this is happening, I have met families this is happening to.

2050 So I am really hopeful that the President of ESC could just give me an update on the thoughts of their Committee: if we are talking about primary school care and *enriching* the school environment I just think – I am surprised it was not in there.

2055 Then lastly, because I am hopeful that Deputy Green is going to speak potentially – he will? That is good, so I am not going to steal his thunder. But again I am hoping in the summing up by the representative from HSC – what was his name again? In the paper it does allude under page 10, 3.12 it does allude to and this was actually I will give the officer for scrutiny the absolute due because they brought this to my attention, that basically it was about addressing not just the primary care and it is in this policy paper, but it is also about addressing how people with chronic ongoing conditions going forward would be able to help access primary care.

2060 Clearly, if you – I think I paid £56, but I only go when and I start at my toes and finish at my head and I literally wait until I have got three or four things and I go and my 10 minutes or five minutes is a very worthwhile five minutes because I literally go ... I wait for ages until I go, because I have not got an acute or chronic ongoing condition, but if ever I did, and if ever I had to visit my GP every week, that would be a *massive* amount out of my disposable income.

2065 So it is alluded to in the paper, so if we want to get some direction of travel, shall we say, from I am going to say it, Deputy McSwiggan, I would be very appreciative because it is in the policy paper. And I thank the scrutiny officer for pointing that out to me, because whereas we are concentrating on children it has been recognised by HSC, ESS and ESC, so it is on the radar, it is recognised, but there is nothing in here that is advising us of how that could possibly have a solution. I am assuming the Committees have discussed this and I think I would be very appreciative

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if somebody could just give me some sort of indication of any consideration they have been given and any solutions they have considered.

Thank you.

2075

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Stephens.

Deputy Stephens: Thank you, madam.

2080 Deputy Soulsby said these proposals are not perfect and Deputy Fallaize said that they might create anomalies.

So as I look at section 1.5, bullet point 1 which reads:

Family Allowance payments should stop after the child's 18th birthday ...

I can think of at least two categories of young people and families who may lose out. The first are the youngsters who attend special schools until their 19th birthday and so I am interested to know: will their Family Allowance end at 18 years?

2085 The second category of youngsters for whom the loss of Family Allowance at 18 years might impact seriously are those where the loss of that money to the household income might impact on their ability to remain in education. Now, I would accept that this category of young people will not be very many but there may well be some.

2090 So I do agree with those people who have said there are a lot of positives in these proposals but I am looking for some reassurance on those two issues that I raised.

Thank you, madam.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Ferbrache.

2095 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Thank you, madam.

2100 My sanguinity must be coming upon me in my old age because this is the third time in two days I have praised States' Committees, and this is a really good piece of work by three States' Committees. This is where we should be redistributing funds to make those applicable to people who are in need. So all I can say is I do not know why it needs long speeches, it just needs people to say in acclamation, let's approve these proposals because they are fair and it is the right thing to do.

Several Members: Hear, hear.

2105 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

Deputy Inder: Sir, I move Rule 26(1).

2110 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Sorry?

Deputy Inder: I am moving Rule 26(1) please, madam.

2115 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Those who wish to speak stand in their place.
Do you still wish to proceed Deputy Inder?

Deputy Inder: Absolutely.

The Deputy Bailiff: Those who support the motion please say *Pour*; those against.

Members voted Contre.

The Deputy Bailiff: I think the *Contre* wins.

2120 Who is next to speak? Deputy Dorey.

Deputy Dorey: Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

It was me who, with Deputy Fallaize, we proposed the original amendment and therefore I welcome and I fully support these proposals.

2125 It has been frustrating reading the various operating reports since the amendment was approved in 2015, referring to the work that was going to be done and it had not been completed. So I congratulate ESS and HSC and also the Committee I sit on (*Laughter*) but I think the majority of the work was done in ESS. I thank Deputy McSwiggan especially, who I think was the force behind pushing this forward and for the work they have done to bring it forward. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

2130 It is that debate between targeted and universal benefits, it has always been a problem for the States and any universal benefit is always challenged as being a not good use of public money, but the problem is then when you try and target it you get administration expenses and it can very well eat away any savings. I think this is a very significant change and it is a good compromise between the problems of targeted and universal benefits.

2135 There is a history, and it is mentioned in the report, going back to 2007 when just after I joined what was then Social Security Department where they had gone out to consultation on increasing Family Allowance for lower-income families and clawing it back through Income Tax. That proved to be expensive when it was looked into more and there was resistance from the consultation. Then we faced leading up to the tax and benefits debate in 2015 – the Family Allowance had not been
2140 increased for a couple of years, and there was a proposal which was then changed to note about phasing out Family Allowances. So this is a way of trying to target it and I welcome it.

There was in my amendment a menu of many different proposals and it has been referred to in debate which included breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, school meals, holiday clubs, opticians, etc. I fully accept that with the money available you cannot achieve everything and there
2145 is availability of staff, availability of facilities, and I think this is a good compromise. The primary areas which were medical and particularly dental have been achieved; we have also included cultural activities.

It is interesting to look back at the Medical Benefit Grant. When it was introduced in 1991 it was £8 and that was 50% of the primary care consultation, and it was not increased until 2003 when it
2150 had fallen to 25% of consultation and it was increased to £12. Today we are told that the full cost of consultation is between £65 and £70, and the £12 consultation which many people do not realise when they go to a dental surgery, that is what they are signing up for when the reception asks them to sign the form. It only represents between 17% and 18%. So this effectively takes us back to where we were for children at least in 1991 to where you effectively get 50% or about paid-for by the Fund. This is coming out effectively of General Revenue as opposed to the Health Care Fund. We
2155 have known for many years that dental charges are high and that the cost of them puts many people off using them, so again this is an important step forward.

These proposals I think, the beauty of them is this group of people, because we have the group of people on income support who have got access to free medical services, but it is the group who
2160 are just above that who perhaps struggle to afford the cost, this is the group which we often say suffer from any proposals, this is the group which will benefit most from them because they will still be getting their Family Allowance but they will also get these benefits. So I think it is a very good way of targeting that particular group who would feel the greatest benefit from the proposals.

I know a parishioner who spoke to me at one point, saying that they had a self-harming child and the cost of going to A&E often on a Saturday night or Sunday night, was extremely expensive.
2165 I think those people will benefit greatly from these proposals, which basically control the cost of going to A&E. So I do welcome them.

There is one criticism in the letter of comment but actually I think it is a strength which is about the difference and it says:

The proposed limit of gross household income of £120,000 is different to both the £150,000 limit applied for access to pre-school education and the £100,000 threshold at which the withdrawal of personal income tax allowances commences.

2170 But actually I think that is a strength of it, because the worse thing is as you reach a particular income everything falls away, so actually you have got at £100,000 one thing happens, £120,000 another, £150,000. So I think this is an actual strength of these proposals that it does not all happen at one income level.

2175 So I urge Members as they did back in 2015 – you supported my amendment then – to support this. I think it is a step forward in terms of helping those who struggle in our society. It does not go as far as I envisaged but it is a significant change, so please support it.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Leadbeater, do you wish to be relevé?

2180

Deputy Leadbeater: Yes please, madam.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

Deputy Green.

2185

Deputy Green: Madam, thank you very much.

I can be brief. I will be supporting these proposals I think they do go in the right direction.

2190 I was going to ask whether this was actually going to be it in terms of the solution but I was grateful for the speech that Deputy Soulsby made earlier on this afternoon in terms of explaining the wider picture and the fact that there will be hopefully a policy letter early next term, in terms of a more thorough going solution as it were, but this is nonetheless a helpful first step.

2195 I do think there are a few issues that do need just to be teased out and I associate myself with what my Scrutiny Management Committee colleague, Deputy Merrett, said a moment ago, about the wording in two of the Propositions or in terms at least of subject to the Committee negotiating an appropriate funding arrangement. Obviously, there is no 100% confirmation that if we pass these Propositions today and they become Resolutions that it is necessarily going to be enacted unless there is that agreement. I think that is a point worthy of mention.

2200 But there are some other issues, and in no way am I saying that these are points that invalidate the whole thing, but I think they are worth marking at the very least. The whole principle of this policy letter, madam, is that we are deciding to means test Family Allowance to claw back that money to create some new benefits that will not be means tested. That might well be entirely appropriate given that this is a *pro tem* solution, we are not talking about the final picture. But it does mean I think that when the tax review gets properly going on this, it has probably started already, but when it gets into its real momentum which also certainly will be in the next political term, these issues are going to have to be looked at again with some real focus.

2205 I disagreed with what Deputy Dorey just said, he tried to make a virtue out of the fairly obvious inconsistency I think is how I would see it, which is in the P&R letter of comment about the differentials. Why is this set at £120,000? It is a figure that has been plucked out of the air. And £150,000 in terms of the means test for pre-school education is a figure that was plucked out of the air; and £100,000 also in terms of the withdrawal of personal income tax allowances was a figure plucked out of the air.

2210 I give way to my colleague Deputy Merrett.

Deputy Merrett: I am very grateful to Deputy Green.

2215 I am very aware that Deputy Fallaize is not in the Assembly I have asked Deputy Fallaize this question, as I am prone to. I am led to believe that was the figure that was needed to release enough money from Child Support to enable the funds that will be needed if this is passed before us today.

So I am led to believe that is the reason. If Deputy Fallaize returns or any of its Committee can clearly speak to ... but I am pretty sure that was my understanding of our brief conversation.

2220

Deputy Green: I am grateful for that intervention but the fact remains I do not think it is satisfactory to have so much inconsistency in the system. I think it is something that is worth mentioning.

2225

The other point I wanted to make, madam, was that my Committee was greatly exercised by the lack of access to health care for certain people in the community. We know that an awful lot of people in our community have private health insurance – not an issue there; we know that an awful lot of people have access via income support, therefore not an issue there. But I think it was Deputy Dorey or Deputy Fallaize who was making the point, that it is those people who are just above the income support threshold, they are the ones, they are the just-about-managing, the struggling middle, and many of these people of course are in in-work poverty.

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But the point I am driving at is this, which is: where is the evidence to say a charge of £55 or so for a doctor's appointment is a barrier to health care, but at £25 it is not a barrier? We do not have any evidence of that; that is the point.

2235

I welcome these proposals in the round because as Deputy Soulsby said it is not the final stage it is a *pro tem* solution on the road to a better, more thorough going solution. But let's absolutely make it clear that this is not perfect and there are problems that are going to have to be revisited here if we want to actually have the real equity in terms of access to health care in the future.

2240

Finally, madam, just in terms of the point about how this is very much an unsatisfactory solution, overall the policy letter at 3.12, and again Deputy Merrett made this point, it mentions the fact that there are others who would benefit in terms of those who are regular repeat users of these services, and those with chronic conditions are exactly the kind of people who should fall into the ambit of a scheme in the future.

But notwithstanding all of that, madam, I support these measures.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

2250

I was briefly a Member of Education, Sport & Culture, but not particularly when this was an issue. I am certainly a Member of SWBIC and I have been a Member of Employment & Social Security and of course I have been very supportive of, I do not know, most of this. It is perhaps Deputy McSwiggan who always see a glass half full rather than half empty. I think she would see the glass that I had drunk all of it as being maybe potentially full too, because she is a positive kind of person perhaps.

2255

But I think it has not been as easy as it might seem and looking back on it over the last few days I saw actually, weirdly enough, that we agreed this – I could not believe it, in October 2015. That shook me, that is was as long ago as that, five years, and somehow or other it has not exactly gone ... Well, it has gone at a tortoise's pace more than a hare's pace perhaps. The problem has been we have not only obviously had different senior officers come and go but we have had three Committees working together and in a sense a fourth through Policy & Resources, and their priorities and their focus has been different from time to time.

2260

I was impressed today with the speech Deputy Fallaize made about children needing cultural education as part of their enhanced curriculum, because I remember hearing those arguments in January of this year at a presentation, and although perhaps the green ribbon campaign got in the way on the two-school, three-school site issue I think the overall idea of encouraging all schools to perhaps have the same parallel facilities to the best of the independent sector and others, has to be a goal worth pursuing, and an enhanced curriculum is part of that.

2265

I do not know if Deputy Le Pelley will speak on this or maybe the Guernsey Language debate, but I think many of us here for a long time have been interested in seeing more extra-curricular activities about Guernsey arts, culture, language and things like that, as well as some of the issues

2270 Deputy Fallaize was talking about. Because I think – I usually went to school, if I got up in time, with a proper breakfast but sometimes my lunch was a little bit of the bar of chocolate, the jelly babies or the packet of crisps actually. We can all learn, and Deputy Merrett’s points were well made about the importance of wellness through children having well-adjusted family lives. In fact I would argue one goal we should be reaching towards are children having school meals in Guernsey more, and I
2275 would hope actually that the capacity is there to consider that one day. But that is not what we are talking about today.

What we are specifically talking about is the progression particularly in relation to the dental and primary care subsidies for families, and an issue that came up long before coronavirus, but it was an even bigger issue as a result of that, has been the cost accessibility and partnership with the
2280 medical practices. I know there was a degree of controversy over whether one practice received more than another and that is a different issue again, but I think as part of this slow evolution towards a new working relationship between society, Government and medicine, whether it be dentistry, therapy or general practice we need to have more focused support, and that must include helping young people.

2285 So I think we have got very worthy causes, but I do not need to speak about that. But what I said earlier about a certain negative atmosphere that was created by the letter of comment on the Sports Plan and strategy has permeated again, I would say, in this letter from Policy & Resources Committee on the three Committees’ work. It reads to me like something Sir Keir Starmer or the Liberal Democrats perhaps would reply in a lengthy debate on a UK Government policy. It is
2290 fundamentally nit-picking. It looks at detail, it looks at methodologies and it looks at outcomes. Here you have got points like:

As a general principle, the States should make decisions following consideration of a full and objective evidence-based analysis of options ...

I can imagine Sir Ed Davey saying that actually.

However, this policy letter does not detail the purpose and benefits of the current system ...

2295 They kind of want an academic essay outlining in detail the sociology of benefits. This is the point, it says:

... the Committees concerned have identified a number of initiatives which they consider to be high priority and [*have not had*] public consultation on the proposals.

Whilst the measures proposed undoubtedly have merit and will be popular, the policy letter does not define the overall policy objectives that are being pursued and what the desired outcomes and benefits are.

2300 There does seem to be an element of policy planning bubble speak there, because I think we obviously know what the benefits are. It is not easy for even middle-income families let alone lower-income families to stump up cash for dentists and doctors. We know that going to the doctor is an adventure for some people, it is a financial adventure. We know, or we have seen in the recent past, certain medical practices take people to court for non-payment.

Now we know that we do not have an NHS in the sense of other countries and I hardly think it requires a consultant’s team or project board to go out and work on that.

They do have a technical point, as Deputy Stephens has reminded us, and I accept this that:

The proposed limit of gross household income of £120,000 is different to both the £150,000 limit applied for access to pre-school education and the £100,000 threshold at which the withdrawal of personal income tax allowances commences.

2305 But they are from three different Committees: one of the Committees came from the old Education, Sport & Culture and was perhaps a way of getting it through the Chamber in the best way; £100,000 is clearly a budgetary issue; and the £120,000 was actually a second guess because I think for a while we though £100,000 was actually perhaps more rational. But £120,000 made it

even more winnable because no one in Guernsey can really argue that a couple with a joint income above that are not relatively well off in the scheme of things. It made our argument stronger.

2310 Then they go into issues about:

Unless the £25 cost for a primary care appointment or Emergency Department visit rises, the subsidy payable by the States of Guernsey will rise in real-terms in future years and this will be accelerated if fees charged by surgeries increase by in excess of inflation. The inevitable consequence of this would be a commensurate reduction in funding available for other services.

2315 Actually, Deputy Dorey, for one person has said many times over the last 15 years, I think, that the £10 or £12 medical grant was something that was losing its value in real terms. It is logical that if you reduce the cost demand will increase. Well does that possibly tell you that demand is suppressed at the moment? There is price sensitivity. So in a way they are making our case for them that there is a degree of unmet needs. I just feel, as I come back to my earlier point, Policy & Resources are operating on various levels here. They are quite diligently managing the budget and the financial commitments of the States, and reading everything that gets sent to them. I cannot deny that is a very worthy and appropriate goal. But they are also acting as a kind of scrutiny committee or a public accounts committee in addition to the existing Scrutiny Management team we have. They are also acting – in fact long before partnerships or parties came into existence – as kind of opposition. They are actually opposing boards and committees and departments, the kind of outlier, like your Sir Ed Davey or Keir Starmer pointing out in admirable tones all the things that are flaws.

2320 But what we really want are champions who will say, we are all on the same level, we all want to see improved medical services and a fair rate for a fair job but we also want to see more social equity and more of the right people, which is the less fortunate people, getting a bigger share of the subsidies. So why can we not have more positivity?

2330 Although, like Deputy Roffey, I am not particularly enamoured of this 18-plus point, because I think as Deputy Stephens has reminded us there will be anomalous cases, there always are when you do not look at social policy holistically, of lower-income families or people with special needs; and that may be something that will have to be revised. Maybe there are ways of having some form of electronic methodology whereby it would be possible to have Family Allowance in certain circumstance at the age of 18.

2335 But this is a general progressive measure. We spent five years getting to this; let's vote for this today and make more improvements in the next year or two.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oliver.

Deputy Oliver: Thank you, madam.

2340 I wholeheartedly agree with this and I think it is a great paper. But I do just have a few questions. I have noticed that many of the Propositions are actually subject to the Health & Social Care negotiating an appropriate funding arrangement with each GP practice in order to facilitate this. I know we had that email that the practices were not actually too happy about this because they had not been consulted on it, so I just want to know how much consultation has gone on? And actually, 2345 even if the States do vote for this because it is the right thing to do to vote for this, but even if the States vote for this are they actually going to be able to negotiate a contract?

I will give way to Deputy Le Clerc.

2350 **Deputy Le Clerc:** Madam, I think it would be appropriate for me to just clarify, because this question has come up at least twice now. It is because of CICRA regulations that we cannot negotiate *en bloc* with the GP services for a standard tariff. That was applicable several years ago but now it is a requirement of CICRA that the tariff is agreed with each individual practice. We are in a fortunate position at least with the GPs that there are in fact just three practices on the Island so that does make it easier. But it is a requirement of CICRA.

2355 **Deputy Oliver:** Thank you that helps.
But my question still stands: how likely is it to get through?
My next question is that I am probably going to steal Deputy de Sausmarez's –
I will give way.

2360 **Deputy Soulsby:** I do thank Deputy Oliver for giving way.
I think it is probably forgotten that the negotiations happen I think it is every year with
Employment & Social Security, that will be changing now to Health & Social Care in terms of what
payment they receive for those people on income support. So negotiations happen every year, is
what we are saying. It is not that they are facing something that is any different from what they
2365 already experience.

Deputy Oliver: Okay, but I know they all get different funds for different things, so that is why I
just want to know that it will actually get through even if we vote.

Where was I? Oh yes, data. Now, because this is a really big change and a lot of people that
2370 really struggle to pay insurance, or do not pay, or really struggle to go to the doctor, will we actually
keep data to see ...? Because, if I was a betting person, I would imagine children going to the doctor
will actually increase, because I know there are so many times where even I am to blame, one of my
children bumped their head and I kind of think 'Should I go to the doctors', or shouldn't I? Oh it's
going to cost, I will just wait'. And I imagine that will actually – wrong or right, that happens.
2375 *(Laughter)* That really happens, and even happens with yourselves. I sprain an ankle, 'Oh, I'll get on
with it!' *(Laughter)*

But anyway, I just want to know that we will be keeping some data or at least tracking to see if
there is an increase, if it stays the same, if it declines, just so we have some information on that.

My last question is: how will insurance be treated with this? Will they still be on the old rate or
2380 will insurances actually be entitled to this new £25?
Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Lowe.

2385 **Deputy Lowe:** Thank you, madam.

Sorry, just got side-tracked there because some good news has come through, we have 30,000
that have signed up on the Electoral Roll which is great, because we wanted to get to 30,000. Sorry
I now digress, madam, before you tell me it is nothing to do with the debate, but that was my
distraction.

2390 Okay, I mean this report definitely it is good, we have got three Committees working together,
absolutely. But it is almost a bit of the cart before the horse, and Deputy Oliver has just mentioned
some of the questions that I have got on here, and others have raised as well because there are a
lot of unknowns to this. A prime example with Deputy Oliver about her child, or any child, if they
fall over sometimes or if they have got a cough or a sneeze people have not taken the children
2395 necessarily to the doctor because of the cost. Well, actually they have survived; but the point being
when it is in the UK and it is lot cheaper or free, the GP services are a lot busier because people will
go a lot sooner if they have not got to pay or if it is very low. So there is that possibility of that
happening –

Would you like me to give way to you, Deputy Tooley?

2400

Deputy Tooley: Thank you Deputy Lowe.

I absolutely acknowledge that Deputy Lowe is right, there can be a useful barrier I suppose in
that it might mean there are fewer unnecessary visits to the doctor if there is a charge made. That
is of course why there remains a charge within this; why this proposal is not that these appointments
2405 will be made free, there will remain a charge.

What we see at the moment is a situation where somebody might not have a timely medical appointment because they delay it, because they think it will go away, and actually by the time they then think this is not going away it is too late to have a doctor's appointment. So this is about reducing that barrier but not taking it away completely.

2410

Deputy Lowe: Thank you.

Well, certainly if people need to see the doctor – we are not talking about the UK here, where they have got to wait a week – they will get you in straight away if you need to get in straight away. We have got a very good service here with the GPs and I thank them for that as well, to make sure that people are not left in pain or in need.

2415

So yes, as I say, I will support this but it does have an awful lot of questions for me that still need answering. Because we do not know if the GPs are going to all agree to this. We might find a situation which has happened with the Covid, which one group did and the other group did not. Where will that leave people regarding their GPs?

2420

Of course, yes, Deputy Le Clerc is absolutely right, there has always been an annual revision with the GPs fees, but we are not talking like-for-like here, this is something completely different. This is talking about a complete reduction in the fees for what is being proposed here.

So yes certainly for me there is a bit of a cart before the horse here. I would have liked some of these answers known in this report that we would have more info, because again it is sort of we have got a couple of times, subject to negotiation, and that is with the dentists as well. Which again we do not know how that is going to go down or not.

2425

Of course there is also some funding here that is required from P&R where we would normally be told prioritise your budget, but they have got it here. Well, fine, if P&R are going to agree to that, that is really good.

2430

But equally there has very much been made about the £120,000 per year and how this figure came about that £120,000 per year. It is almost sort of implying that actually if you are earning £120,000 a year between the two of you, that they are sitting there on a stack of money. These same people have a much bigger mortgage, they have to pay more in insurance and there are lots of other costs that are involved with those who are earning. So we are sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul with the Family Allowance, for what we have got before us today.

2435

I would actually like to think we could have this without actually mucking around with Family Allowance, because I know there is a States' Resolution for that. But equally there are an awful lot of people that still rely on Family Allowance, and so their Family Allowance is going to be put into areas that they might not have wanted. They would prefer to still have that money to be able run their family with the facilities and things that they actually need for the children, whether that is clothes or whether that is shoes or indeed treats that they can take them out on.

2440

So, yes, I will be supporting it, but I am disappointed it is very much the cart before the horse because there are too many unanswered questions for me. But it is great that we have got three Committees here that have taken this forward.

2445

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Roffey.

Deputy Roffey: Thank you, madam.

2450

I believe that the horse is firmly in front of the cart here. *(Laughter)* I think that if HSC had gone off to try and negotiate a deal with the three GP businesses in Guernsey with no idea whether the States would even back the concept that they were negotiating around, it would have been a surreal situation and they probably would not have made much progress. I know it is imperfect, voting for something that you then have to go out and do the hard deal afterwards, but I think that was the only way round that you could possibly do it.

2455

But I would say that we have got three businesses that should be competing with each other and if any one of them can even come to a deal with HSC the other two would be very foolish not

to do so, because if you had a family and if you are registered with this GP practice that is going to cost £25 quid to go and see a doctor, but if you are with that one and it is going to cost £50-odd, I think there would be a migration ... I know people are very loyal to their GP practices but I suspect there would be a rapid migration, so I believe that a deal will be done.

Obviously I am on two of the three Principal Committees bringing this report so you would expect me to support it and I do. The one thing I would say though, and I want to put on the record, is I do *not* support the conclusion of the previous fiscal review of the Benefit and Tax Review Committee under Deputy Langlois, I think it was at the time – not this Deputy Langlois, another Deputy Langlois – who decided that the Family Allowance should be phased out. I do not believe that. I think it should remain and this is probably pretty much as far as I will support its reform. If we got rid of it for low earners, we would only have to increase income support anyway to make up for the loss of income that was there, and requirement rates; and I do not think we should get rid of it for the middle earners either.

As somebody who does not have any dependents to support in my life at the moment, I believe in society. I am quite happy for an element of my taxation to go to the people with children because children are the next generation, and I think that is how a community and society work. I actually think that is a good thing, and I do not think we should always look at things from an actuarial point of view but we should actually be trying to hang together as a community. But I do think, at the same time, that the really better-off families do not need it to the same extent as other people and if we can use some of that money to redirect in really positive ways then that is a good thing.

The £120,000 was not dragged out of the air. The £120,000, we did a whole load of different scenarios about how we could raise the money needed for the programmes and the benefits that are in here. This is what we came up with which is why, even though I actually was with Deputy Stephens and profoundly disagreed with taking away automatically at the 18th birthday, I felt that if somebody was taking an 'A' or a level-3 qualification at the Guernsey Institute, then suddenly half way through their last year of education to say to the family that they no longer qualify for a Family Allowance was perverse. They have still no real earning capacity, they were in full-time education, and I would have supported them up to the end of the academic year in which they became 18. I take the point in the case of special needs it may be older than that. I lost that argument in Committee.

I could not have brought a simple amendment saying just do this, because it would have changed all the money coming in. I would have had to then change the level at which we withdrew it from £120,000 to maybe £110,000 to make up for the money I was giving elsewhere or trying to cut out some of these benefits. So I made that case. I lost it overall. I have absolutely no doubt that this package is hugely beneficial and things are not always perfect.

I want to talk a bit about enrichment, and Deputy Gollop is right, this is parallel to what we were trying to do in the secondary schools. The only difference is in secondary schools we were proposing a longer school day. In order to do it in primary schools, we feel that the school day extension would not be right psychologically for the children, so we are trying to do it inside the existing school day. But the drive is still very much the same. Whatever model of secondary education we end up with I hope that the enrichment is actually retained and I certainly hope that we vote to bring it into the primary sector today.

Why is it so important? Well, yesterday we were talking about living standards and Deputy Stephens talked about intergenerational poverty. Back in less politically correct times people talked about problem families, about the fact, 'Why is this family causing problems for society?' Their grandad did, and their great granddad did, and it is going on.

Let me be politically incorrect, I like it sometimes. There is sometimes a bit of a strata of society that is outside the main stream of society, and the children do not stand much of a chance straight off because they are not getting access to the same sort of stuff as everybody else. They are not going to tennis after school, or to dancing after school; they are getting on the school bus, going home on the Estate and that is it, that is their life. They get access to school but nothing beyond it. And why are we surprised that they do not perhaps grow up as well rounded as we expect?

2510 Now, I am not saying giving them access to drama and music and sport and theatre is a golden bullet – it's a 'silver bullet' isn't it, the expression – and is suddenly going to cure all that, of course it is not. It is a much bigger problem. But you start off on the back foot when you have got a bunch of children that do not have access to any of that stuff, and therefore while I agree that school meals is very important and it is something that I would in theory support, I do not think that this is something to be sniffed at. I think it is really important for all children to have access to that sort of stuff.

2515 We did look at whether this could be done for breakfast clubs and after-school clubs, and food logistically was quite difficult. We talked to all the head teachers in the primary schools and money-wise it was quite expensive. We actually felt it was right that most of this tranche of money went to HSC because for most people, I think, for two reasons: doctors' bills are incredibly important, not just at GPs but also at the Emergency Department where some of the fees can be eye-watering, I think; but secondly this is the second stage of readjustment of the Family Allowance and in the first one it all went, not to ESC in terms of their internal stuff, but in terms of their mandate of Education to the 15 free hours of –

2525 All right, I will give way.

Deputy Merrett: I thank Deputy Roffey for giving way.

I am listening intently to what he is saying, but we are trying to get to a scenario. My belief from the Partnership of Purpose of preventative measures, we are proactive rather than reactive. So 2530 whereas it is good to offer children dental and GP, if they are eating a diet of poor nutrition, if they are eating chocolate bars and crisps at lunch, then we are not acting very preventatively. We are saying you could say we – I mean the States, madam. We are saying okay you can have access to dental, you can have access to GP but we are not actually dealing with the real cause of some of the issues that might be presented to the GP or to the dentist and that I think is the bit I am a bit 2535 confused about.

So I understand what Deputy Roffey is saying but if he could try to explain to me why ... I do not believe this is the cart before the horse in the policy paper, but potentially not having a nutritional understanding or offering in primary school, maybe that is the part I would potentially consider to be the cart before the horse –

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Deputy Oliver: Point of correction.

The Deputy Bailiff: I do not believe you can do a point of correction on a give way.

2545 **Deputy Oliver:** Point of correction.

Deputy Merrett: I will sit down, if it is a point of correction to Deputy Roffey, if she feels *he* said something wrong. But anyway that is my understanding, but if Deputy Roffey could try to expand on that point before he moves on, I would be very appreciative.

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Deputy Roffey: No, I am not going to give way and I regret giving way then actually, because basically it was the same speech being made again, and there was a lot of stuff in it which I quite agree with. I was trying to explain why I do actually agree with it but why it was not possible to accommodate it now.

2555 I understand the Rules of Procedure may not allow a point of correction on a give way, but I think SACC are going to need to look at that because if we have party members in this Assembly giving way to each other on a constant basis, then presumably those that are given way to will be able to say things that are not correct and nobody will be able to interrupt them, because you cannot have a point of correction on a give way. I am not blaming you, madam, because you are 2560 imposing the Rules as they are, but I am just saying –

The Deputy Bailiff: They are not my Rules.

Deputy Roffey: – that the Rules may need to be looked at.

2565 But cracking on, I am not disagreeing one jot. I think nutrition is really important. If you cannot do everything inside an envelope of available money that is not an excuse for not doing anything.

2570 This time we thought the lion's share of the money should go to HSC, because doctors and dentists, and those sorts of things that are the most important. So we got the leavings which were a relatively small amount and we had to focus on what we could do with that, and we believe what we are doing with it is really useful, because it is actually very sad and very destructive and intergenerationally poor to have a tranche of children in Guernsey growing up without the sort of contact with cultural aspects of life that 80% or 70% probably do on a regular basis. But that a fairly significant amount do not.

2575 Finally, on Deputy Green, he knows from when I did the work on In-work poverty, I absolutely agree that this should not just be about children and access to medical bills or affordable medical care, but we are responding to a States' Resolution. I think at Scrutiny they would actually want us to respond to the States' Resolution and not ignore it. That Resolution from the Dorey amendment allows only us to focus for good reason because it was to do with Family Allowance on services for children.

2580 I totally agree with him that there is a broader piece of work that needs to be done; and done, I hope, not too far down the road. But I very strongly commend this to the States.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Lester Queripel.

Deputy Lester Queripel: Madam, thank you.

2585 I wholeheartedly support these proposals. This will probably be my last speech in this Chamber for this term, (*Interjections and laughter*) and in those four-and-a-bit years by the time I have finished this speech I will have made 339 speeches. (*Interjections*) I am the first to admit, madam, that some of those speeches were better than others (*Laughter*) but every one was a gem in its own right as I am sure my colleagues will agree. (*Laughter*)

2590 Seeing as I am going to focus on some of the words in this policy letter, I am also the first to admit that I am word man, I like words. My view is: why use a dozen words where 100 will do? (*Laughter*)

2595 I want to focus on the words written in paragraphs 6.6., 6.11 and 6.12 because I take great comfort from the words in those paragraphs. It is ironic that Deputy Ferbrache said when he spoke that we do not need any long speeches on this because I have always been tempted to try to beat his one-hour-23-minute speech on education, and once again I have resisted the temptation to do that in this speech, even though it is my last public speech in the Chamber in this term. Despite my having a reputation for making speeches that are too long, in my defence 15 of my last 20 speeches have been no longer than five minutes each.

2600 Now, of course, some colleagues might say that is five minutes too long, but as I have already said I take great comfort from the words written in paragraphs 6.6, 6.11 and 6.12. Paragraph 6.11 tells us that the provision, and Deputy Fallaize touched on this when he spoke, but it tells us that:

... the provision of enrichment activities is of significant benefit to Primary-aged students, particularly if it exposes them to new experiences that they might not otherwise be able to access. Therefore, it is proposed that funds diverted from Family Allowance should be made available to increase and diversify the range ...

Actually it says 'range' in the paragraph, but I am sure it means range, so:

... to increase and diversify the [*range*] of enrichment activities offered during the school day.

I also take great comfort from what we are told in paragraph 6.12, which tells us that:

The Committees propose that enrichment activities should focus on cultural enrichment, with the expressed aim of improving each child's 'cultural capital', that is to say, '... the essential knowledge that children need to be educated citizens ... helping to engender an appreciation of creativity and achievement.'

2605 The paragraph goes on to say:

It is this knowledge that helps prepare children for future success and is measured by indicators of participation in cultural activities, a child's reading climate, and extracurricular activities.

Now, it is because Committees display an acute and vital awareness of what is needed for the future of our children's health and education in those paragraphs that I take great comfort from them.

I seem to have lost the page, madam, I guess it is for the best, (*Laughter*) it was meant to happen.

2610 In closing, madam, bearing in mind that occasionally some of my colleagues misinterpret what I say in my speeches, as was displayed this morning, I want to make it perfectly clear I am not supporting these proposals merely because of what we are told in those three paragraphs, I take just as much comfort from what we are told in many of the other paragraphs in this policy letter. But if I had focused on all of those then this speech would have been a lot longer.

2615 Thank you, madam.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Dudley-Owen.

Deputy Dudley-Owen: Thank you, madam.

2620 This policy letter that has been presented to us feels almost like a gift, I would say, at the end of our term – a gift that has been given to us by three Committees working closely in collaboration, which is what the community wants to see from us going forward from any States that replaces us. They want to see close collaboration between Committees and I believe that can be achieved. However, what is missing for me in this gift is the wrapping paper, and the wrapping paper that
2625 keeps it all together, and I am really very concerned about the lack of consultation seemingly that has been done with the doctors' surgeries.

Deputy Roffey, who is not in the Chamber at the moment, it is his comments that got me to my feet that he feels it would be almost surreal for the doctors' surgeries to have been engaged with before the policy letter was presented and the negotiations to begin before the policy letter was
2630 presented to the States. I cannot get my head around that comment because for me it would have been the ultimate strength, it would have been the wrapping paper, it would have been the Sellotape on this gift, because I would then have known and have felt confident that the negotiations had not only started but that there was buy-in from the GP surgeries. That they were capable and able to deliver and that they felt that this was a feasible proposition going forward.

2635 The letter that we received from one of the largest practices in the Island at the beginning of August, and I have not asked permission to read out any of the sections of the letter so I will not, so it has not been made public but all Deputies are party to that letter. It was actually very concerning at the lack of consultation; it was very concerning about the comments made therein that the practice themselves felt that it was unachievable what the Propositions were trying to achieve. I really would like some deeper and more-detailed comments from the President of HSC
2640 and maybe ESS in this regard. I am happy to wait until the end in the summing-up if you want to do it all at once. No?

I will give way to Deputy Le Clerc.

2645 **Deputy Le Clerc:** Thank you.

I will not be summing up at the end, madam. I am not sure that it is very clear perhaps from the policy paper but at the moment there will not be any difference in what sum that the GP's actually receive, because £25 will come from the States of Guernsey in effect the redirected amount from Family Allowance, the child's parents will pay their £25 or whatever and there will still be the
2650 £12 grant. So the actual amount paid to the surgery will be exactly the same as it is now, but it is

just coming from a slightly different source. It will be paid probably in the same way as the grant. They will get £25 plus £12, so they will get £37 from the States of Guernsey and they will pay the difference. I think the average cost of GP visits is about £52 or £53 so the parent will pay the top-up.

2655 So it is not that we are asking the GPs' surgeries to receive any less, they will be receiving exactly the same by a slightly different route, and in fact they should be better off because very often some of them will have a debt to collect when people are paying that full £52 or £53. This way they get £37 guaranteed in their bank account, so their debt recovery should actually reduce with this Proposition.

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Deputy Dudley-Owen: I am very grateful for the explanation given by the President of Employment & Social Security, and I just wish that that sort of detail had been here in the policy letter, and that explanation had been there in order for us to make a properly informed decision. Because the letter that we received, coupled with the letter from Policy & Resources, madam, really

2665 had given me very little comfort around – I hate to use this term, but – the governance around this particular policy letter. But knowing, as I do, the fastidiousness of the individuals involved in presenting this, I know I am sure I get comfort that the work has been done. However, it really needs to be evidenced in the work that is presented before us.

2670 So I will reluctantly support the policy letter today because the aims are so laudable and it is a gift that has been given to us at the end of this term. But I really would ask in future that policy letters that are put before us really do have a little bit more evidence behind them. And also it is so important to consult with the stakeholders and let us know about that prior.

Thank you.

2675 **The Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: Thank you, madam.

Deputy Dudley-Owen's comments are I think very pertinent to and underpin Policy & Resources' letter of comment and concerns in relation to this work. It is on the face of it a good policy letter

2680 between the three Committees working together, and I know it has not been an easy conversation between the three Committees to reach a conclusion, and they are to be commended on having done so. But there are definitely loose ends, and I think Deputy Dudley-Owen identified some of them when she spoke; and I think it was Deputy Fallaize who said that P&R had called for homework to be shown. There is much homework that has probably been undertaken but which is simply not

2685 reflected in the policy letter, and that is what gives Policy & Resources its cause for concern in discharging its mandate and in terms of giving advice to the States.

Deputy Dudley-Owen has concluded that she will be reluctantly supporting. I have concluded that I will be reluctantly opposing and I cannot support, unfortunately. I think the objectives are laudable but I think there are too many loose ends for me to feel entirely comfortable with this. As

2690 the letter of comment makes clear, the policy letter does not go into any detail around the purpose and benefits of the current system and therefore what we are seeking to do by making this change. Similarly when we reaffirm the importance of Family Allowance, again we have not presented any evidence of what we are seeking, of why that is the case. It is self-evidently assumed that it is the case.

2695 I think it was Deputy Le Clerc who said that there was a shopping list as long as your arm, and that is true. I know from the conversations that P&R had around this issue that it *was* a shopping list as long as your arm and it feels like that in this policy letter it has been whittled down to the common denominator of what the various Committees can accept as being acceptable. But what it has not presented us with is a clear and logical case as to why these are the highest set of priorities

2700 for the use of those funds. That is what it feels like is missing. Now, again, that thinking may have gone on, but I am not sure that there is a clear and rational explanation contained in the policy letter.

Deputy Dudley-Owen referred to the consultation, as have others, with the GPs but of course there has been no public consultation on this either. I suspect the change will come as a surprise to many who may not be following the States as closely as some Members may imagine when the change takes effect.

So we say of course in our policy letter that whilst the measures undoubtedly may have merit and will be popular, we have not defined the objectives here. I know Deputy Graham may be feeling uncomfortable when I mention it, when we talk about key performance indicators, but we have not actually provided any indication of what are the outcomes and benefits that we expect from this. Therefore any kind of assessment in due course as to a measure of success, what it is we are expecting from this change, is going to be that much harder to judge.

There is a very serious point buried in our letter of comment here which has not been referenced at all in debate and I do want to draw it out again for the record, that Members are particularly concerned about the potential impact on families which include young people aged between 18 and 19 years old who are in full time education and living in a low-income household. Remember that these proposals will remove Family Allowance for those over the age of 18, and removal of that Family Allowance from the household income could potentially jeopardise those individuals continuing in full-time education, if you think about the pressure on the family budget. No analysis has been done of the risks around that or what mitigation might be required.

Others have made reference to the gross household income limit and it has been, as we have accepted, reverse-engineered to get to the right answer of £120,000 which releases enough to enable this to take place.

A number of people have said that there are no net costs from these proposals and on the face of it that is of course correct but I, on behalf of P&R, need to draw attention to the fact that there are a number of financial risks associated with the proposal, because there are a number of assumptions made about the extent to which there will be a demand on the services. That has not been fully tested and is not fully known. So there is an exposure potentially to the States' General Revenue Budget of these changes, which is not quantified or risk assessed.

In a sense Family Allowance is really easy to ascertain its costs, because it clearly is the number of eligible children and families multiplied by the weekly rate. What is replacing it is much more demand-led and therefore I do not think it is entirely correct to say that there is no net cost without acknowledging that there may be some risks associated with it.

I think, sir, that explains Policy & Resources views. I know that they are not necessarily going to land with great fondness within this Assembly but nonetheless it is our job to present the views and to provide the analysis that the Assembly and others would expect from us, and that explains where we are. The mood of the debate does appear to support these proposals but of course neither I nor Policy & Resources have ever been afraid to be in a minority if we think that is the right thing to do.

The Deputy Bailiff: As no one else appears to want to speak, Deputy Fallaize would you wish to reply?

Deputy Fallaize: Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

I want to just refer to a couple of speakers, if I may? Deputy St Pier is the first one and I do sort of understand his view, although I think on this occasion the Policy & Resources Committee's contribution is – to pick up a point that Deputy Gollop made – more reminiscent of a scrutiny committee than the senior Committee providing co-ordination and leadership of the States. But I do understand the point that they are making and I think that their letter of comment introduces points into this debate which it is right to take into account, which clearly the three Committees which are sponsoring these proposals were not themselves going to bring to the table.

The problem I think is there is a hint in Policy & Resources' letter of comment that anything like this needs a much broader review: what could be done instead? Is this the best way of raising the money? And essentially you get very quickly to the position I have always described as 'you cannot

do anything until you can do everything and you end up doing nothing'. And that is where we are currently. (*Interjection*)

It has been the prohibitive costs of GP visits and dentistry in particular which have been known for a long time. I mean, the subject of multiple debates in this Assembly and in previous Assemblies and yet the counter proposal to the proposals of the three Committees is not to say, no, do not do it this way, do it a different way, we can get to the same outcome and we can achieve the same objectives a different way. The counter argument is just do not do it, just do not have any change, leave things where they are with the costs of primary care access still as prohibitively expensive to many families as they are today,

I just do not think that that is good enough; that is just inaction. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) So the proposals are not perfect, there may have been another way of trying to address in particular the costs of primary care access. There may have been, but nobody has come up with a better way, and it is all right to criticise and not propose any alternative ways of fulfilling the objective. I do not disagree with much that is in the Policy & Resources Committee's letter of comment but I think they have reached the wrong conclusion.

The other speaker I wanted to refer to is Deputy Merrett who created the impression that *our* Committee – Education, Sport & Culture – in relation to its part of the policy letter had made a choice to prioritise cultural enrichment in the curriculum *ahead* of school meals and breakfast clubs and healthy nutrition in schools. That was not the case. The problem is the funding is only just over £100,000 for education activities in this policy letter. It would cost vastly more than that to provide the kind of nutritional changes in schools that Deputy Merrett is referring to. There are significant space constraints in many of our primary schools if we wanted to roll out the kinds of things that Deputy Merrett was talking about on a universal basis. It is sometimes difficult to find staff to do that before school and at lunchtimes, and doing that would be more expensive than the scheme outlined in the policy letter. Vastly more expensive. So I am afraid that she is respectfully comparing apples and pears.

The other thing, as Deputy Roffey referred to, is that the Committee has run into difficulty, admittedly in a different phase of education, in trying to extend the length of the school day. Now, extending the length of the day for primary school children would be more complicated and more challenging than it would be for secondary school children. We already have a bizarre situation where our secondary schools finish at the same time as, or in some cases earlier than, some of our primary schools. Maybe that will be addressed one day, in a future model, whatever model the next States decides to adopt. But if we were to lengthen the primary school day further we would just exacerbate that peculiarity; and it is a peculiarity of our system in Guernsey.

The other thing is because Family Allowance is a universal benefit the Committees wanted to fund universal services, and we would not be able to provide the kinds of things Deputy Merrett is talking about on a universal basis because of all of the constraints that I have referred to. So that is why this particular proposal relates to cultural enrichment rather than some of the nutritional initiatives which Deputy Merrett was referring to – very important and worthwhile though they would be – and this Committee's commitment to them was evident, because in the secondary school changes that we were proposing, we wanted to make those changes and incorporate those initiatives.

But, sir, I do not think that I have heard any, even remotely plausible argument for voting against these proposals. I note that there are some Members who will vote in favour of them reluctantly but that is good enough, and I hope they will pass by a very substantial majority.

Thank you, sir.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Soulsby.

Deputy Soulsby: Thank you, madam.

I will just pick up a few points. Deputy Oliver was asking about would we pick up the data. Yes, absolutely, that is a key requirement that we have going forward that we share data.

Deputy Lowe says: 'Isn't this the cart before the horse? Shouldn't we be negotiating?' But how can you negotiate before you have got the approval to do so? I think Deputy Roffey picked that up and we can go in there, but what would we be negotiating? It did not make any sense. (*Interjections and laughter*) Thank you, Deputy Gollop.

2810 Deputy Dudley-Owen was talking about the letter received from one individual practice, but the Committee did reply comprehensively to that letter, which sadly expressed a lot of confusion. Hopefully we have put everybody right on that. It was confusing particularly to us, because we know that the practices have been involved. I have just got a note that was presented to us in relation to this, and officers met with the Chairman and Practice Managers from the three primary care
2815 practices on 3rd April, and with representatives of the Island's dental practices on the 4th April. The focus of those two meetings was to ascertain the early views of the professionals on the options that were being proposed in respect of GP and nurse consultations and dental care. These are the proposals that we have here, so nothing has changed in that regard.

It is worth putting out it that also said no negotiating regarding fees took place at those
2820 meetings – and Deputy Lowe might be interested to hear this – as this is not allowed in a group setting under CICRA's Rules on Competition, and that was something that Deputy Le Clerc pointed out earlier. To summarise, broadly the GPs were supportive of the proposals to provide subsidised consultations for children. That was worth mentioning there.

Just finally in respect of P&R's comments I did not really dig into them in my opening speech
2825 but I will do now, (*Laughter*) bearing in mind what Deputy St Pier has just said. In terms of firstly what we have chosen, and I apologise because I have got to find my other email, but there is a whole list of other items that we did look at, I will get it in a minute – I have had so many emails today I cannot find it at the moment. Here we go. People might be interested to know what we did look at as a long list, and then we spent a lot of time deciding what was more important given the
2830 money. And also, yes, it is about getting a balance, isn't it?

Deputy Green talked about the £100,000 and the £120,000 a figure plucked out of the air; other people are saying 'Well, why didn't you pick this and why didn't you pick that?' It was about a balance, about understanding what we could do, what felt right in the current circumstances between how much we should repurpose the Family Allowance, and we should just keep the Family
2835 Allowance the same, and how many people should be entitled to what we are putting forward.

So the things we covered were free doctors consultations; free Emergency Department care; removing or subsidising ambulance services for children; removal of prescription charges for children; adoption support – now that got moved to a service development, so that is why that did not end up in the list; period products, but I think that has been picked up on a separate work
2840 stream as well so that was not included; orthoptics, this was effectively offering vouchers towards glasses for children and free tests for 8-16 year olds; equipment for children with complex needs; and support for care leavers.

There are various reasons why these did not reach the final cut and I have mentioned a few there, but some like equipment for children with complex needs, that should be more of a targeted rather
2845 than a universal benefit, and that is why we thought this probably was not the right vehicle to make that decision. Frankly, what we ended up with ... Of all the things that we considered these were far and away what we thought would be both welcomed by the community and what would make a difference to the most number of people in the community. That is how we ended up with what we did.

But speaking to the comments that Deputy St Pier made, and this is what I did not get in the letter of comment, where it talked about that we did not talk about what the benefits of the current system are. Well that is not what we are there to produce, we were there to respond to a Resolution of about five years ago, going through the debate of five years ago as to why we should have Family Allowance and why we should not, we have *done* that and we do not need to revisit it. We were just
2855 dealing with the Resolution. So that I think is an answer to that one. (*Interjections*)

Just finally I am also surprised by the policy letter because there was P&R input into this, it was not just the three Committees. I think Deputy Stephens was present for a few of those meetings, so

a Member of the Committee was aware of what was going on and could report back to that Committee, and the staff were involved in providing analysis of the data, particularly around whether the threshold should be £100,000 or £120,000 and what that would mean in practical terms. So it does seem like one part of P&R, whoever wrote the letter of comment did not know what the other part of P&R were doing there. I think probably that needs to be looked at in the future. *(Interjections)*

So I would ask Members to support this policy letter, it is a really good start and hopefully it is the start of really great things that can happen in the next term as we transform primary care.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

Deputy McSwiggan.

Deputy McSwiggan: Thank you, madam.

There are only I think a few questions arising from this debate that I need to respond to now. The theme that kept recurring is: are these proposals really deliverable? I want to give an answer that is perhaps part way between Deputy Roffey's absolute certainty that the horse is right before the cart, and the doubts that some other Members had before that.

I am much more in Deputy Roffey's camp than anyone else. I think, as Deputy Soulsby said, it would have been very difficult for HSC to open these conversations with GPs without a mandate from the States. If the States had set a direction of travel, if they had said here is something we want to achieve, actually affordable primary care is something that we think is really important for our community, then it is much easier to sit down with a group of private businesses which ultimately is what Guernsey GP services are, and say, 'Right, here is the direction. Now, how are we going to get there?'

But it is not a case that the door has been closed on GPs up to now and we are only just opening it and sitting down to have conversations. As Deputy Soulsby said, there have been conversations ongoing throughout the development of this policy letter. There was the specific consultation that Deputy Soulsby cited and the ongoing working relationships that we have with GP practices and other providers of primary care services, which in the main are positive and constructive and have been increasingly so over the course of this term.

So that is the environment in which we bring forward these proposals, in the context of which we absolutely do believe that they are achievable and are confident negotiations will work. But also explains why the letter we received came somewhat out of the blue and why it had the response it absolutely should have from Deputy Soulsby that all Members saw.

We cannot guarantee, no one can ever guarantee the future especially when there is a negotiation with a third party involved, but we are as confident as we can be that what we are proposing is not unrealistic and that there is a will there from all parties to make this happen. In fact, in respect of the proposals about dentistry, when we had early conversations with the private dentists about what we wanted to achieve, we modified this set of proposals that Members have in front of them today in light of feedback from the dentists about what and how would be most deliverable and most effective to achieve the health outcomes that we want to achieve for children through these proposals. So this is absolutely the product of a constructive conversation and we believe the Resolution will be equally constructive if the States today gives its endorsement to this direction of travel.

In terms of Deputy Merrett's question about looking at Jersey, and the way that Jersey has a tiered system of making appointments affordable for children, with a very low rate for children under 13, and a medium rate for children aged 13-18, and a higher rate for people over the age of 18, one of the reasons why that might not be an optimal approach was articulated by Jersey's Children's Commissioner. If I understood her comments, this was a tweeted conversation some while ago, but she was addressing the fact that children, particularly teenagers, may need to start seeking medical advice independently and not every teenager is raised in a happy household; not

2910 every teenager is able to go to the doctor with their parents and be able to say what they need to say. So tiering in the way that Jersey does, which makes it more expensive for teenagers relative to children, might not actually be an appropriate way of structuring a charging system for medical care if you want to make it accessible for teenagers independently, as well as making it accessible to families. But that is really a by-the-by on this. We know that whatever we do, reducing the costs of GP appointment to £25 from the £50 or more that it is right now, is going to make it more affordable for families and children in the round.

The other question that Deputy Merrett raised that has been responded to, but I hope my spin might be helpful on, is this question of why focus on cultural enrichment? Why not focus on healthy nutrition, for example?

2920 Well, Deputy Soulsby mentioned it in her long list of things that we have looked at. The equipment for children with complex needs was my baby. I absolutely wanted that on the list because, yes, it is targeted in the sense that only a few families have children with disabilities that necessitate access to equipment, but that could be *any* family and the offer would be universally available to any family that fit into that criteria; and we know that the cost of living for a person with a disability, or a family which has a child with a disability, is much higher than it is for any other family. So I made the case for a very long time that this ought to be one of our priorities for redirecting Family Allowance in order to improve the welfare of children and families.

2925 But there is another route to that solution because this States, thank goodness, has agreed to a review of the way that equipment is funded generally; and there is a target return date of 2022 on that. Hopefully the next States might be able to expedite that somewhat, but in any case within two years the States will hopefully be considering proposals to make equipment affordable in the round again. So I could let go of that because there was another solution.

2930 Deputy Merrett may be comforted to know that there are several other solutions to the particular issue that she sees, including a commitment to deliver our Healthy Weight Strategy and to focus on health improvement in schools through all manner of different routes,

2935 Deputy Fallaize has outlined particular logistical challenges of delivering school meals, both in terms of infrastructure and in terms of timing, but that does not mean that we cannot think creatively and do better in terms of improving nutrition in schools.

I guess what I am trying to say is, look, we could all make very powerful cases for things that are not on this list to be on this list. That does not detract from the importance of the three things that are in front of Members today: affordable primary healthcare, affordable dentistry, and cultural enrichment within primary schools. Those three things are all objectively good, objectively worth doing and objectively going to improve the lives of children and families in the Bailiwick.

2940 So let's not get too hung up on what is not in the list. Do not let go of it as an important idea and as something that we need to continue to put effort into realising, but take advantage of the other routes that exist to do that. Let's see through what we have set out here in this policy letter because it is going to make a really big difference to the lives of families here in the Bailiwick.

2945 A couple of people asked how HSC was going to address affordability of primary care generally, and particularly for people with chronic conditions, and probably both Deputy Merrett and Deputy Green said there was nothing in the policy letter with any hint of a solution. Well, no, because this is a policy letter about children and you are talking there generally about adults with chronic conditions, so redirecting Family Allowance would not be the right way to address that question of affordability.

2950 But these are both pieces of a jigsaw puzzle that needs to be solved and, as I think Deputy Soulsby said in opening, HSC has done a considerable amount of work on the affordability of primary care generally. The route that we have taken is similar to the approach set out in this policy letter in that the first step that we, or our successors now, have to ask ourselves is: are we getting the right value out of existing States' resources? So, in the same way as we have asked ourselves are we getting the right value out of Family Allowance? Or should we redirect some of that into direct service provision? And we have reached a point between the two.

2960

We have to ask ourselves: are we getting the right value out of the grants that go into subsidising GP visits? Because they subsidised visits on a universal basis, but if you can afford a £50 appointment you can probably afford a £60 appointment. They are not making them affordable for the people who most need to afford them, who are the people with the least disposable income or the people who are the most frequent consumers, so people with chronic conditions people who need to go back for repeat prescriptions and so on.

So the first thing that HSC will be looking at is how do we make best use of the money the States is already putting into primary care? But not closing down the question beyond that which is, 'Okay, well, if Guernsey needs to do more to make primary care affordable for its residents, what does that look like and how is that achieved?'

So part of the reason why we have not proposed free GP consultations for children, which would have been an absolute gift just before an election, (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) is because that is not fair and it is not necessarily an appropriate use of Government resources. We know the barriers that are in place right now are too high, so we need to bring those down. We are starting to bring them down and we will bring them down to £25 for families with children. But there are other people with serious health needs and where prevention is key. So where we are being able to act as primary care is going to be much more useful than waiting until you get really sick and having to go into hospital.

The next step in this dance needs to making their GP appointments more affordable, and then if we get there and things are more affordable all around and we still decide that we need to go further, that is the point at which we say 'Okay, what do we do for children and adults that makes the whole thing more affordable?' It is step-by-step, but if you never take the first step then nothing good is ever going to happen.

The same questions were raised, I think in different ways, but I hope that I have covered the main ones that people were worried about, which is the questions about consultation and engagement; and the questions about why this, rather than anything else?

But I thought it was a really sad note to end the debate on with the analysis from P&R that on balance this is not something that they can support. I think that it is too easy to get so preoccupied with policy co-ordination and getting all your ducks in a row that you forget the reason why you are keeping ducks in the first place. (*Laughter*) (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

This amendment came out of a fiscal review last term, the review of Pension Tax and Benefits. We are about to be plunged into a fiscal review next term. We have a tiny window of opportunity in this term to actually do stuff instead of rearranging the deckchairs. So, madam, let's get on and do it.

A Member: Hear, hear.

Deputy Inder: Can I have a recorded vote please, madam.

The Deputy Bailiff: Having looked at the Propositions, it seems to me there are some we can do in certain groupings. I propose we deal with Propositions 1 through 5 together; separately on Proposition 6, as it deals with the funding; Propositions 7 and 8 together; Proposition 9 separately as that relates back to Proposition 6; and Propositions 10 through to 12 together.

Does anybody wish to have votes, other than those that I have suggested?

Deputy Tindall: Madam may I just ask, I didn't know anyone actually asked for any discrete vote at all, other than that it be a recorded vote. But I may be misjudging –

Deputy Inder: I asked for the recorded vote and it is in its groupings, please.

The Deputy Bailiff: Nobody asked for a discrete vote... so we will deal with them all together So we are going to vote on Propositions 1 through to 12.

Greffier ...

There was a recorded vote.

Carried – Pour 35, Contre 3, Ne vote pas 0, Absent 1

POUR	CONTRE	NE VOTE PAS	ABSENT
Deputy Fallaize	Deputy Brouard	None	Deputy Mooney
Deputy Inder	Deputy Trott		
Deputy Lowe	Deputy St Pier		
Deputy Laurie Queripel			
Deputy Smithies			
Deputy Hansmann Rouxel			
Deputy Graham			
Deputy Green			
Deputy Paint			
Deputy Dorey			
Deputy Le Tocq			
Deputy Dudley-Owen			
Deputy McSwiggan			
Deputy De Lisle			
Deputy Langlois			
Deputy Soulsby			
Deputy de Sausmarez			
Deputy Roffey			
Deputy Prow			
Deputy Oliver			
Alderney Rep. Roberts			
Alderney Rep. Snowdon			
Deputy Ferbrache			
Deputy Tindall			
Deputy Brehaut			
Deputy Tooley			
Deputy Gollop			
Deputy Parkinson			
Deputy Lester Queripel			
Deputy Le Clerc			
Deputy Leadbeater			
Deputy Le Pelley			
Deputy Merrett			
Deputy Stephens			
Deputy Meerveld			

3015 **The Deputy Bailiff:** I declare the vote is as follows ... Actually I am going to ask the States' Greffier just to look at those figures again.

The vote is as follows: *Pour* 35; *Contre* 3, one absentee. So I declare the Propositions passed.

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE

**XIV. Funding to Support the Guernsey Language –
Debate commenced**

Article XIV

The States are asked to decide:

Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE GUERNSEY LANGUAGE dated 25th June, 2020, they are of the opinion:

1. To note the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture's intentions with respect to the Guernsey Language Commission, as detailed in sections 4 and 5 of this policy letter; and agree to the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture making a total grant of £300,000 to the Guernsey Language Commission; and direct the Policy & Resources Committee to recommend Cash Limits for the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture for 2021, 2022 and 2023 that include specific additional funding of £100,000 for each of those years for this purpose.

The States Greffier: Article XIV – the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture – Funding to Support the Guernsey Language.

3020 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Fallaize.

Deputy Fallaize: Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

Hopefully we will have the same sort of outcome on this policy letter, perhaps exactly the same outcome. *(Interjections)* Well, we will find out anyway.

3025 Right, Guernésiais is the indigenous language of Guernsey and is critically endangered. The number of fluent speakers has declined to the point that it could cease to be spoken at all within a few short years. The Committee intends to establish a Guernsey Language Commission with a mandate first to halt and then to reverse this decline, and the States are asked to approve a total grant of £300,000 to be paid over the next three years, time limited, as seed funding for this
3030 Commission.

As part of Revive and Thrive, which the States recently approved, if I have understood it correctly, which is the sole strategic planning document to guide the States in the next term, as part of that the States agreed the following:

We are blessed with a rich and diverse natural environment and a unique Anglo-Norman cultural heritage. We should nurture these to support environmental and community renewal, our economic diversification, and to promote the Bailiwick as a unique part of the world.

3035 Sir, the Committee submits that these proposals are consistent with those objectives. Guernésiais forms part of our Island's unique identity and the heritage of the people of Guernsey. In the opinion of the Committee this generation through the States must assume responsibility for maintaining the links between the Island's indigenous language and our sense of identity. As part of the commitment to recover successfully from the challenges of recent months, the States should be more cognisant than ever of how the Island's unique language can be used to help define our
3040 distinctive identity, to foster a sense of belonging and connection to the Island, and to nurture a positive sense of wellbeing in the community.

The figures in the policy letter are quite stark about the decline in use of Guernésiais in recent years. In the April 2001 Census 1,300 people reported being able to speak Guernésiais fluently and nearly 2,000 reported being able to understand it fully. But then, 20 years ago, 70% of our fluent
3045 speakers were over the age of 64. Today, although there is a lack of formal data, the current estimate of those who are language enthusiasts is that native speakers are between only 50 and 200 and many of these are aged over 80.

The language is defined by UNESCO as 'severely endangered', so the next few years are critical for our language. The decisions the States make now, today, about whether or not to provide resources to support it will determine whether the language lives or dies. Put simply, the fate of a language which has been spoken on our Island for some 2,000 years is to be decided on our watch.

Madam, I would like to refer to the Guernsey Language Commission, their terms of reference. I am not going to go through them all, or at any length at all, but at Section 4 of the policy letter the Committee sets out what would be the terms of reference or mandate of the Guernsey Language Commission, which obviously would be the new partner organisation which the Committee would envisage working with to achieve the objectives set out in this policy letter. The Commission would be funded through a combination of sponsorship, commercial activities and initially this grant from the States of £100,000 a year for three years.

I want to try to cover briefly the three-year deal that is being proposed. I mean, first of all the £300,000: £100,000 a year is a drop in the ocean compared to what some comparable jurisdictions have spent to advance their indigenous languages. We think this is the minimum amount of money that could be spent to give the Commission a group of enthusiasts and a salaried officer at least a fighting chance of halting the decline and then encouraging the further use of Guernésiais, the minimum that we could have proposed.

We think though that at the end of those three years the States will be able to come to a view about what the success of the initiative has been. If it just has not been embraced at all by the community then it probably at that moment is the right time to say this is going to become ... We need to maintain a record of the language, but there just is not any kind of enthusiasm to keep it alive in any sense of that word.

Now, we do not think that will happen. We think that by providing this funding and setting up the Commission, allowing it to get on with its initiatives targeted to enthusiasts initially, and by releasing some of the interest there is and supporting some of the interest there is in our community it will be possible for this Commission to do some of the positive things which other Commissions have done. But at least we would know; at least we would have given our language and enthusiasts for our language a fighting chance.

There is just one question here today: either the States are going to support the Propositions and provide this extremely modest amount of funding, the minimum to make this initiative viable and try to halt the decline, or halt the likely extinction in a few years of Guernésiais; *or*, we just draw a line under it and say it is not worth any public investment and then stop pretending it is something that we would like to encourage in our community.

So I think there is – I do not agree with it, but – a legitimate argument against the Propositions. I do not agree with that argument but I think there is a legitimate argument. I think the better argument is in favour of the Propositions. Anything else is just a complete fudge. It is just cosmetic. We will come on to that when we debate the amendment in the unfortunate event that it is laid.

In closing, sir, I would like to put on record our Committee's thanks to the previous Committee, in particular Deputy Inder, but not only Deputy Inder. (*Interjection by Deputy Inder*) Because I think, in fairness to Deputy Inder, when our Committee was elected Deputy Inder said, 'I do not mind what you do with all the rest of your mandate but can you please give me a pledge that you will finish the work that was started on the formation of a new Commission and trying to get some additional support for the language?' And we said, yes, we would; and this policy letter is the result of that. But actually that Committee did put quite a lot of groundwork in place which has allowed us to get this policy letter back to the States today.

So, I think sir, what the Committee is saying is: this really is the last-chance saloon; either this language is going to become extinct on our watch or we need to make very modest investment in it and support the Propositions. That is what I urge Members to do.

Thank you, sir.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

There are two amendments that have been laid or proposed to be laid. I am going to ask Deputy Le Tocq to deal with his amendment first which is actually amendment 2.

[Amendment 2](#)

To add an additional proposition as follows: '2. To resolve that both Guernésiais and Français (i.e. standard French) are recognised as official languages of Guernsey, alongside English, and to direct the Policy & Resources Committee to coordinate and take such actions as necessary to ensure that their resolution is given effect under Guernsey law and recognised internationally.'

Deputy Le Tocq: *Je demaede à Mess. Le Greffier de llière l'amendement s'i vous pllais.*
I ask the Greffier to read it please.

The States' Greffier read the amendment

Deputy Le Tocq: *Merci.*

[Speaking in Guernsey French] Madaume Le Deputé Bailli, ch't'onnaïe j'sis chinquaete aens. Je rombie pas qu'en je'tais rioqu'aen mousse, aen garçaon, que mom père oimait me dounnaïr de sa sâgesse et yeune des phrases, les dîres, les ditaons, ch'tait "Is prinrent leu temps mais les colimâchaons arrivrent à l'arche". I disait etou "Ya terrous toupoyôin à faire, i faurait daon prioritizair". Nous est ichin onîé par la perseveraence. J'sis hardi guervaï que i nous a fallu si laongtemps mais onîé nous poura faire tchiquechaose de bian pour note langue et note tchulture.

[Speaking in standard French] Madame, je voudrais bien faire la traduction en francais aussi mais je crois qu'il faut [inaudible] rentrer vite [inaudible] en anglais.

I am going to translate that into English, because I am pretty certain there were only two or three of us here that understood what I was saying. But no doubt, some of you –

Deputy Roffey: Point of order. Would that not be tedious repetition? *(Laughter)*

Deputy Le Tocq: Well, if it is for you, Deputy Roffey, then I am pretty glad because he obviously understood what I was saying!

I am very proud to be able to do that and I think that there will be certain words, judging by the laughter in certain places, that certain Members here who would not admit to knowing any Guernsey French, any Guernésiais – can we at least pronounce it properly? It is a hard 'dje' so Guernésiais and the accent is on the first syllable as it is in French with every word in Guernsey French. So just for a little point of Guernésiais.

But my point in laying this amendment is that we are making a little step today, that is what I was saying. We are making a very small step today. My father's saying that he had was 'By perseverance the snails made it to the Ark'. He also said, 'When you have got a lot to do you have got to prioritise'. Well, we are making very little steps and what I think ESC are proposing today is a small step. This amendment is another small step and one which I think will help *their* cause help *our* cause to preserve our language.

As far as I can make our, sir, and I have taken advice from the Law Officers and from historians, whilst the Royal Court made certain provisions with regard to the use of English, when French was the general language of the Court and the States, there has not ever been any official resolution by this Assembly as to an official language. It is probably not terribly surprising, madam, but I think one of the things is that the idea of official languages is quite a novel thing – Italy only chose to make Italian an official language in the 1990's. But there is a point in so doing and that is because it enables us to be recognised by other nations and international bodies who have an interest in the same things.

Secondly, it also plays to our place in the world, Guernsey's identity. And I think it is very key at this moment to differentiate ourselves from certain things that the UK is doing, both for our benefit

3140 and for the UK's benefit, but also for the future depending on how our Constitution might come under threat.

By making Guernésiais and French official languages, alongside English in that capacity I believe, sir, we are demonstrating that there is something unique about these Islands and about this Island particularly. It will help us also to be able to engage with some of the initiatives, for example, that
3145 Normandy is undertaking at the moment where, in recent years, they have set up an academy to promote the 40 or so different versions of Norman French, of which Guernésiais and Jèrriais are part of that. And it is estimated that between 65% and 75% of our language, our grammar and syntax, the phonology is the same. So we can benefit from that if we really promote it and demonstrate that by making our national language Guernésiais alongside Le Bon Français, as we
3150 would say in Guernsey French, standard French, by doing that we can demonstrate that we want to and we have something to contribute in the world and also to promote our own identity.

It is a very small step and, madam, I hope that the Members of this Assembly will unanimously support it.

3155 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Le Pelley, do you formally second the amendment?

Deputy Le Pelley: *Avec plaisir, madame.*

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Paint.

3160 **Deputy Paint:** *Merci, Madame Députée Bailli.* I will be speaking more French later.

I completely agree with this amendment, absolutely completely, and I think we would be losing a trick if we do not go along with it. There are many advantages we can have in the future by making the three languages all our languages, instead of one slowly dying, and that is what is actually
3165 happening.

One thing we would do by making French *one* of our national languages we would confirm to Normandy and France that we are trying very hard to retain the language. I was not aware there were about 40 different dialects in Normandy, but there are certainly four or five here in the Channel Islands. One actually is lost and that is the Guernsey French of St Martins. I do not believe anybody
3170 speaks it now but *Vallaise* is spoken; *Castelais* and High Parish Guernésiais is spoken. So that is three different dialects and they are slightly different, they are not a lot different, but they are slightly different, as obviously Normandy is according to Deputy Le Tocq.

What we could do with this is particularly with Normandy we can have assistance from there to generate more words in our language. I mean, very simply, in Guernsey French a crab-pot is *énne bonâde* Now, in standard French it is *casier* – nothing like it, nothing like it at all, but that is slightly
3175 different everywhere you go. Sorry – *(Interjections)*

I give way

Deputy Inder: Sorry, Deputy Paint *[Speaks Guernésiais]*

3180 **Deputy Paint:** *Madame, Députée Bailli,* Deputy Inder asked me I think to say in Guernsey French. I would like your permission to say it and also to translate it afterwards. There is a subtle part to the end of it which I will explain. Obviously there is only, as Deputy Le Tocq says, three or perhaps four of us here that can understand it, but I think it would be good to be able to illustrate the language.

3185 **The Deputy Bailiff:** I would be delighted if you would, Deputy Paint. *(Interjection)*

A Member: Hear, hear.

3190 **Deputy Paint:** Thank you, madam.
I will start straight away. It is not a poem, it is a rhyme, I would say it was, and it goes:

*Quand avert ,m'arme de Bois
Chergier douve de grand vert pies
J tirair en moin des ouaie dons Le Cotils de Mess L'Anglois
Quand Je arrivair a Le Hougue fouques Je recaoitraie Mess Langlois
Et l'm dit chic tar plundre avail te braies.
Et Je Le dit, daeux, gross ouaie Che Je tirair dos vot cortil a la Braye.*

Right, the translation: I will not go through the Guernsey French side of it.

'When I had my wooden gun, loaded with big green peas, (*Laughter*) I shot a brace of geese in Master Langlois' field. And when I arrived at Hougue over Braye I met Mr Langlois and he said to me: "What have you got hanging down the side of your trousers?" (*Laughter*) And I said to him, "It is two big geese that I shot in your field at the Braye."

The subtle part is that they were Mr Langlois' geese! So I hope you enjoyed that! (*Laughter and applause*) I thought it might be better to translate it so that everybody could understand.

Now, just one part of it. I have said this before in the States and I will say it again. I have travelled the world, always enjoyed going to places but what I try to do is always comply to their customs and ways and even their language, if I can speak it – it is not very often! So I would just like people to remember that and try to assist us in preserving the language. That would be a very good thing to do.

It is our local tradition. We are fortunate to still have a language, an indigenous language, and without a language all tradition starts to fall. If we do not preserve this language we will end up with no language at all, just speaking English; and English is not our language. Now it has come down, the patois, you have heard the patois. Do you know what patois actually means? It actually means a vulgar French, like pidgin English. But Guernésiais is a part of Norman French and it must be preserved. Norman French was spoken by William the Conqueror, Richard the Lionheart and many other famous people. Although both claimed to be British Kings, they still spoke Norman French. So please bear that in mind.

The other huge collection we have got, as it was said before, I think it was in the early 1920's where this Court would be only speaking standard French of the time. We now very rarely, just on the odd occasion, actually speak any French at all – we say the Lord's Prayer in French when we open and our votes in French, but that is standard French not Guernsey French.

Please, please let's save our language and get help from overseas, Normandy in particular, to continue this and to move this language as one of our languages. It can help us in *many* ways. Brexit is coming soon, we do not know where we are going to be. We do not know whether the English government is going to tell us, 'You are going to conform with our Laws'.

Well, if that is the case, I would say, 'But our Duke of Normandy is the Queen, not the English government. They do not rule us. It is the Queen that rules us and the Privy Council'. That is what I would be saying. We need our cousins to accept us and work with us to preserve the language, and anything else they can help us with. I think that would be wonderful to do.

Remember, I talked about my young days, when advocates in Guernsey, several of you're here are, used to have to go to Caen to learn French Law. There are still some that do today, I believe, but I do not know how many. So we have that French tradition. I do not know how many go now I am hoping a few still do, but that is all our [*inaudible*] Really, speaking, we might even be able to pull one over Jersey if we accept – (*Laughter*)

Thank you, *madame*.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you, Deputy Paint.
Deputy Merrett.

Deputy Merrett: Thank you.

First of all I think I rise to commend Deputy Paint on his excellent speech, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

3245 But on a slightly more serious note: now, I could be wrong but I think I am right, and I am sure Deputy Le Tocq will tell me if I am wrong, but I think Deputy Tocq said he would translate what he said to us, but I think he finished translating when he got to the snails and the Ark – snails going into the Ark ... I just wanted, and Deputy Paint did say this actually, he said translated so everyone can understand. Now, until we have actually given re-life or rebirth, whatever, to this I think it is really important. I am very happy to, for the avoidance of any doubt, vote *Pour* for this amendment, 3250 but I just want it explained that we do need to stand by Deputy Paint's wise words of 'we need to translate so everyone can understand'. I need to slow down so everyone can understand ...

3255 Lastly, this interesting vote in the last debate. I would have been interested to know of Deputy Le Tocq, if this amendment passes it is actually willing then to support the funding to actually make this happen. Because again we could be going on platitudes of yes, we want this to happen, but we will strangle it when it gets to the resources stage. So I think that is a fair question to ask of this amendment.

I think I am correct but if there was something that Deputy Le Tocq said that he really wants, certainly me to understand, after the snails going into the Ark, I would appreciate it if he could tell me – I cannot do it in French.

3260 I will give way to Deputy Le Tocq.

Deputy Le Tocq: I will do it now, I know that I have got the opportunity to, but I did paraphrase and jump over a little bit, she is quite right. The last bit I was saying was that it is through perseverance that we get – my father used to say. And I am upset it has taken us so long to get to this stage today but, as my father used to say, we need to prioritise. If you have got a lot to do, you need to prioritise things and that is when you revalue things. That was the point I was making. And in my mind this is something very much worth doing.

Deputy Merrett: I thank Deputy Le Tocq for advising me of that at this point in debate. That was a good response and I am appreciative of it but I will just say before I sit down, I am not trying to be naughty but I will just say that sometimes when everything is a priority nothing is a priority. Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Tooley.

3275 **Deputy Tooley:** Thank you, madam.

As many people here will know I grew up in North Wales. My father did not speak any English until he attended school and learned English at school. He grew up speaking his native language Welsh which at the time was very little spoken in Wales, and one of the things which made a difference in the resurgence of the language was the making of the language an official national language, and that definitely helped.

3285 So this is an amendment I am very sympathetic to, because it is an amendment that could make a real difference. But what I would like to hear a little bit more, please, from both the proposer and seconder when they speak, or whatever, is what they see as being potentially the practical effects of us doing this today. Because if the practical effect of this is to change some signs so that they have the way to Town written in Guernésiais as well as in English and in French, and so on, then that is great and that is probably not ridiculously expensive but perhaps does not really do ... It goes a little way, but is not doing a huge amount.

3290 If it is that in future, as Wales did, we will say that it is not possible to get a Civil Service post in this place unless you speak the language or unless you are learning the language. This is what jurisdictions where traditional languages have become official languages have done, aligned with making the languages official. I just want to know really from the proposer and seconder of the amendment where they see the practical effect of this amendment sitting if we were to vote for it into legislation, and what they see as an acceptable cost for that being.

3295 Because that is not going to come without financial cost, even if that cost is us ploughing large amounts of money into teaching the language to everybody we have working here, or making courses available to everybody who we have working for Government in the Island at the moment. That in itself would come at a cost, and it is a cost which would not be met by what we are proposing in this policy letter. What we are proposing would not cover the cost of that.

3300 So depending on exactly where the proposer and seconder of the amendment see the practical effect of this sitting, and whether or not they are prepared to add any extra money into the extra bit it is going to cost, will affect whether I can vote for this or not – sympathetic to it though I am, because I think it could make a real difference in terms of preservation of the language.

Thank you.

3305 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

Deputy Ferbrache: I am not a proposer or seconder of this amendment, but I am a supporter of it.

3310 To answer Deputy Tooley's question: this is a stepping stone; this is a beginning. I do not ever see now that patois will become the spoken language of the majority, of course not, because history has moved on. But what has happened is it has almost gone. We are going to lose from the States, I think, sadly Deputy Paint, very shortly. What I do not want to lose is our complete language. He can speak it, Deputy Le Tocq can speak it. I do not think anybody else in here can speak it, I certainly cannot speak it as a grown-up Townie.

3315 But there was a friend of mine, same age as me other than a few weeks, and he was a cousin of a former partner of mine who is now sadly deceased. He spoke with a different accent to the former partner of mine, and he spoke a different language to the former partner of mine and he grew up in the country. Until he went to school, one of the country parish schools that we used to have, he could only speak Guernsey patois and then he learned to speak English, and he speaks it in a way that is very interesting now. (*Laughter*) But in relation to that, that is just my generation.

3320 Now, Deputy Paint is talking about Caen and until I think about 1948 you could qualify as a Guernsey advocate if you had a French legal qualification. That was changed in 1948 and you then had to do a *Certificat d'Etudes de Français dans le Monde* I did that with many others and when I did it I remember I thought this is such a bugbear because I was a lawyer in England and I had at that time three children. I thought I have got to go all the way from England over to France I cannot really speak French and I found that course, it was six months – I only went for four and a half and I ended up with ... [*inaudible*] obviously. But in relation to that, I went for four and a half months and it was invaluable, absolutely invaluable – there were five subjects, your exams were oral, so you had to speak French at the end of it. The two best subjects that I learned, there were lots of subjects, histoire, etc. but the two best were a subject where you talked about international law, that was a good subject – private international law and things which I had never learned with the degree or bar exams – but the most useful of all was the *La Coutume de Normandie*.

3330 We had a *venerable* professor called Professor Carradine, he must have been about 416, so I think he probably practised *La Coutume de Normandie* before of course the Code Civil of the late 1790's or whatever it was, and the Napoleonic Code. I remember sitting there for 45 minutes because the exams were only supposed to be 15 minutes but we spoke for 45 minutes in French and it was completely invaluable. I do not want us to lose that.

3340 Caen is being gradually watered down and I think that is a sadness and I do not support that for the Guernsey Bar, and because we got more and more English lawyers coming across they find it even more tedious. Well if they find it tedious they should stay in England.

But to answer Deputy Tooley's point, if we have got to start with a few signs, that is fine; if we have got to start with a few booklets and when you come on holiday you get a little thing in the Guernsey holidays booklet ... Let it grow; it will grow.

3345 Guernsey's conveyances were not in English until the 1969 Conveyancing Law. Lots of good things came about in 1969, but one of those conventions which says after the Law you can have

your conveyances in English and almost universally since that time conveyances are in English. Guernsey people do not generally speak patois, as we have heard Deputy Fallaize say ... but in the 19th century he talked about patois being a rough language, I think it was the phrase (*Interjection*)

3350 Yes, now that phrase rang a bell with me because I remember many years ago as a lawyer, as an advocate, there was a property which had been left as a school. It was no longer a school and we were trying to find a way round so that it could still be charitable and it could be sold so the money could be used for charitable purposes, but it was no longer a school. When it had been bequeathed as a school, obviously by some English patriarch, and we still have English patriarchs we had them

3355 then ... Some English patriarch who bequeathed it and said, 'To the people that speak this *rough* language, I bequeath this so that they can have an education'.

It is a rough language, a patois, but it is a rough language and it is *our* rough language. And when you think, and I think Deputy Fallaize said it has been a 2,000 year old language, and in that 2,000 year old language that is a long, long time that is about the length of Christianity or whatever.

3360 But in relation to that it has evolved, and it was only 100 years ago that Guernsey started to not speak French or Guernsey French. Deputy Langlois and I grew up in an era where there were country parish schools, there were lots of country parish schools, St Saviour's etc. St Peter's – (*Interjection*) They have all gone now, they have all gone.

3365 **Deputy Le Pelley:** Point of correction, Forrest, St Pierre du Bois –!

Deputy Ferbrache: Don't forget, I am a Townie, I come from Charoterie, we did not have proper toilets, have I mentioned that? (*Laughter*) But in respect of that we were losing our culture. You had the Town people and you had the country people, and I can still remember the country ladies

3370 coming into Town who could not speak English, they came into Town once or twice a year at Christmas time to come and do their shopping in Town because this was like Oxford Street to them!

A Member: It was like going to Mars!

3375 **Deputy Ferbrache:** They would come into Town. We have lost all that. And even though I am very English in the way I speak, English is my natural language, I am not a linguist, I am still a Guernsey person and I do not want to be on the watch that loses our Guernsey culture.

So I thank Deputy Le Tocq, I thank Deputy Le Pelley and I particularly thank Deputy Paint for bringing and supporting this amendment.

3380 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Parkinson.

Deputy Parkinson: Thank you, sir; thank you, madam! (*Laughter*) I will get used to it.

Yes, I am concerned about the issues raised by Deputy Tooley as well. In countries that have several official languages, for example Quebec in Canada, everything has to be in both French and English. If we adopt French and Guernésiais, which I probably cannot pronounce properly, as official languages, if that has the same effect in Guernsey so that, for example, every policy letter has to be issued in three languages, then I am afraid that is just simply impractical. It would be very costly and I think that is just frankly an empty gesture.

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3390 The reality is that English is the working language of the Island. Now, if Deputy Le Tocq and Deputy Le Pelley want to do something symbolic to confirm our identity and our attachment to the local language, that is fine, in my view. But if it turns into some kind of bureaucratic nightmare ... We can talk about whether having road signs in two languages would be worth spending the money on, (*Interjections*) but if it gets much beyond that, this could become an absolute millstone.

3395 I am sorry, but unless I get complete reassurance that making these other two languages official languages of Guernsey, will not have the consequence that *all* official documents have to be issued in three languages, or similar considerations, I am not going to be able to support this.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Le Pelley.

Deputy Le Pelley: Warro. Thank you, madam.

Before I start, just to explain the Code Napoléon was 1804 – I think you asked for that information, so I am giving it to you.

I have been asked to explain exactly why I am in support of this amendment. I think we first of all have to look at the geographic position. It is just a fact that we are 120 miles from Southampton, 80 miles from Weymouth, nearly 30 miles from France. We do need to have to take a position here that we are much closer to France than we are England.

There are situations that could very well be developing where we are going to need to have relations with France as well as with England. Someone has mentioned Brexit already, but we do not know exactly where we are going to go, or where we are going to land our fish, or even if we are going to be able to fish our own waters. I think we do need to make very sure that our French cousins think we are indeed cousins, and that we do actually have some kind of rapport with them and that there is a meaning to our relationship with them

I am also very grateful – and I will say this before I forget – to the President of the ESC, Deputy Fallaize, for thanking and recognising the work that the previous Committee did, because Deputy Inder and Deputy Dudley-Owen put a lot of work into the Guernésiais as in fact, hopefully, so did I; and other Members of the Committee were very supportive.

We have tried and tried and tried over the years. In my previous life I was a curator of the Folk Museum and I used to, one day a week, have people who would come into the museum and actually would speak Guernésiais, so that people could come and actually hear the language being spoken. Not only did it engage with lots of local people, not only people who were Guernsey French speakers, but also engaged with quite a lot of French tourists. More than just French tourists, they were French linguistics people who came over, people who came over to record the language, which is very close to medieval French. There were people from Caen University who came over – I also used a French word there – to record the language, and to go back to actually try and work out how medieval French would have possibly been used in France. Because it has gone there, in many places, and we have it actually here as a language which has actually survived almost in a time loop, in a time warp.

So geographically we are very close. Yes, we have allegiance to the Crown but we have a history: a history which tells us that we are aligned more with France in history than we are with England today.

Someone mentioned before that we actually had French Kings, Norman Kings who were up until the 1600's or so who were the people that we actually still recognise as the ancestors of our current Queen. We now have a German monarch (*Interjection*) I do not think so – Deputy Gollop just to the side of me says that is naughty – no, the Queen is a member of the family Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and that is – the family may have changed the name to Windsor in 1917 or so, but the actual family the bloodline is Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, and I have no problem with that, I do not know why people should be objecting. I am just recognising the history, as I hope many people in here will recognise our links. My worry is that as Guernsey becomes too anglicised that we actually lose our French roots.

Now, Deputy Ferbrache mentioned about children out in the country parishes being taught. They used to be taught their lessons in French and they used to have extra English lessons. My father was a boy who lived and was brought up in St Pierre du Bois, born in Castel but lived in St Pierre du Bois, raised in St Pierre du Bois, went to St Pierre du Bois School. In fact I met an old lady not that long ago who remembered him from 1929 and they were patois speakers, and she could remember him quite clearly. She could also remember that they were actually caned for speaking English when they were not meant to, caned in Guernsey. They were also caned (*Interjection*) I am important Deputy Trott but not quite – Now he was actually sent off to school in England and so was his brother, and the pair of them were regularly caned if they ever tried to communicate in

3450 French, because it was seen as some kind of secret language that the teachers did not want them to say.

But they tried to keep it going and in fact I will throw all sorts of things in here, because there has been some recent research which has come to light only in the last week or so which says that people who speak more than one language, two or three languages, they will actually have the oncoming of dementia delayed by two to three years. So having the ability to speak more than two languages does have medical advantages.

I will tell you this, on my father's death bed, when nobody could make any sense talking to him, his sister-in-law came in and spoke to him in patois which he had not spoken to us in our lifetime, and he understood and responded. It tells you something that at nearly 90 years of age he could actually remember when he was six, seven, eight or nine what his language was, that he had not ... He married an English girl and this language was still there in the roots of his very being. It should be in the roots of our very being.

Okay, my family, I carry the name Le Pelley, but I have got Parsons and Clements in there as well and it just is for me because I live in Guernsey. I have always lived in Guernsey, I was born in Guernsey and my family chose to come and live in Guernsey. My father was always Guernsey going back centuries. Guernsey is in my blood. I will fight and die and live for Guernsey. I feel it very strongly and 100 years ago when all the Guernsey troops were going off to fight for King and Queen, or King and Country, and they were also fighting for Guernsey, they were fighting for what they believed in, their values and what really mattered to them. I find it very unfortunate that too many people actually will say well let's just move on, let's move on with the times, let's sort of forget the old French background, let's just move into English, that is fine. (*Interjection*)

I am sad I hear someone saying Hampshire, but I heard someone the other day saying that we should actually base our constitutional, our organisation, on some county council in Surrey. (*Interjection*) What? I would much rather – and this is going to be quite something from a Guernseyman – that we based our system on Jersey. (*Interjections*) As bad as that. I certainly would not want to be basing it on England.

A Member: There is a limit!

3480 **Deputy Le Pelley:** So I have very deep feeling for this, and I can also remember as a young boy of about 12, approximately, perhaps something like that, going actually to the Torteval ... We used to go to Torteval Youth Club and on one particular day we were in the area, we were told we had to be very quiet because there was a Douzaine meeting going on next door to us. It had actually overrun a little bit, they were usually out of the way when we came in and made a lot of noise, but instead of us making all the noise the noise was in the Douzaine room and the noise was because –

3485 I will not mention names, but I do know the names – there was an English man, with an English name, who did not understand patois or understand the Guernsey French. He had just been elected on to the Douzaine and the other 11 who had some kind of English, but probably spoke it a little bit like the friend that Deputy Ferbrache had, they decided they were going to speak patois. It went

3490 to a court action, where they actually had to go to court, and the court decided that they had to speak in English. Now that, for me, was a great shame because I think that the indigenous language should have had priority over the English, but there we go that was the ruling, and they spoke English from there on.

I was asked to talk about why I think this is important, and where are the values going to be?

3495 What have we got that we actually pick up from the patois or from the Guernsey French? Well, all our Laws are based in French. If you look at the actual way that the language has developed and how it has come towards the modern French that it is today, you have Langue d'Oc and Langue d'Oil. Langue d'Oc is the French which is more sort of classical, and Langue d'Oil is more for us. You can trace it through and you can see how Langue d'Oil becomes Burgundian, Picard, Walloon, Norman and then Anglo-Norman and into the French FrancoNorman into Jersey, Guernsey and

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Alderney. And Jersey, of course, because they actually landed and formed a colony in Sark, Sarkese is very much more related to Jèrriais than it is to Guernésiais, sadly. But there we are.

But we have them, we welcome them as friends and as fellow members of the Bailiwick. Then you have the Langue d'Oc which came down the Isle de France and into proper modern-day French.

3505 The Kings of Paris, as opposed to the Kings of Normandy.

I am sure that all the lawyers in here and those who have studied Norman Law with Coutances as the centre, you will know and the Coutume that Deputy Ferbrache mentioned before has very great significance and important things for us.

3510 When St Pierre du Bois was looking for its logo, the Senior Constable was actually sent off to Coutances to actually go through all the various bits and pieces of parchment and all the rest of it there to come up with the actual logo which is the trees. That was in Coutances and that is why St Pierre du Bois ... I remember being accused of being the Constable of the day that actually arranged for some of the signs to go up in St Pierre du Bois, which said 'St Peter's in the Wood'. That would never have happened, my father would have killed me! (*Laughter*) St Pierre du Bois was St Pierre du Bois and the people that live there are the St Pierrais; and you are Guernsey, you are not English even though I had an English mother.

3515 So we are talking about the laws, we are talking about the language and how many words do we have that we still use today in Guernsey French? We only have to look at the system around here: we have Deputies, we do not have Members of Parliament, they are Deputies. (**A Member:** That is true.) I am looking across there at the road to a Douzenier. I do not have a county councillor I have a Douzenier and I have a Vice-Doyenne, a Vice-Dean. We have the Greffier and we have a Greffe, we do not have people who are secretaries. these are the terms that mean something to Guernsey people. We have paroisse, parishes, we have cantons within those parishes. All these words and the measurements that we have. Dave Jones would have gone absolutely barmy if someone had said an acre instead of a vergée. Yes, there are people who have the Guernsey bit right through to the bone marrow.

3525 So we have our language, we have various technical terms, we have our heritage, all of our folk law, all of our fairy stories, all of them are bringing into the local Guernsey context, the local Guernsey language. As I say, there is going to be great benefit I think in us actually having the ability to be able to link up with other indigenous minority languages – and there are *many* around the world. Some of them actually have funding which we can apply for. There are certainly within Normandy and possibly in Brittany, very interested groups that want to liaise with us, a good French word – liaise; and they want to have twinnings – *jume avec* – and they also want to engage in the language study. I think that what we are looking at here are things that will be great benefactors to Guernsey.

3535 We have Maison Victor Hugo. Maison Victor Hugo is owned by the City of Paris but it was actually a very big drawer of French tourists to Guernsey, and it is also very important that they actually feel welcome when they come here. We have got one of the most beautiful little settings in the Town of St Pierre Port where people arrive and they can go into the Maison Victor Hugo and all of those things that Victor Hugo stood for can be seen in almost another time loop or another time warp.

3540 You need to remember that Victor Hugo is a much bigger person than we ever think of him in Guernsey. (**A Member:** That is true.) My brother-in-law, because I am married to a French girl, in France had a little map of Australia. It is an Australia before 1815, and you would be amazed to work out to see just how much of Australia was French. Most people here just think it was the British Captain Cook or whatever it was that went and discovered Botany Bay and he gained the lot. But you had Van Diemen's Land which was Dutch at the bottom, you had massive amounts of it that were French, and it is only when the Battle of Waterloo was fought and lost and Napoleon is ousted for the second time and he is forced to give away his territories, that Australia becomes truly British.

3550 We have got an awful lot to remember and Victor Hugo in Australia and in Canada and in many parts of the world, is a person who is regarded as a great person who fought against injustice. Two million people turned out to his funeral in Paris. Two million! This particular guy is a fantastic

economic enabler if we work it properly in Guernsey, and you are going to do that if you can engage with the French-speaking world, *far* better than if you start doing it in English.

3555 We are going to be in a situation where, as I say, from next year onwards we do not know where we are going to be as far as Brexit is concerned. What I do know is that we are going to need friends both sides, both north and east that is very important to me.

I cannot answer all of the questions that have been posed, because I cannot guarantee to you exactly what it going to happen, but I think we need to retain our language, we need to retain our culture, we need to retain our heritage, and we need to retain our identity. Because we are what we are, and we are what we have come from. Our forebears have created us, we are here because of them. Where we go from here is something else. But for me I think what we need to do is take the words of two or three politicians: 'Action this day' from Churchill; 'Let's get this done' from Boris Johnson; and 'Prevention is better than cure', so let's not lose it.

3565 We are talking about all the various things that are from Guernsey, that have a French influence. We have our local money, we have local postage stamps, we have a local Government, we have a Bailiff and a Deputy Bailiff, not a Deputy Chairman or a Deputy Mayor. We have Jurats, we have Douzeniers and Douzaines, we have a Billet d'État – although why the Billet d'État we are discussing today is numbered Billet d'État 18 and not *Billet d'État dix-huit*, I do not know. We have the Clameur de Haro. We have the Greffe and the Greffier, we have constables or *connétables*, *paroisse*, and we have *vergées*. (*Interjections*)

I just want us to make absolutely certain – I am going to look at my Alderney friends down there – that we have a Guernsey identity; and through you Madam Chairman or (*Interjections*) or Madame Députée Bailli – (*Interjections*) see, I did it for a *reason*, (*Laughter and interjections*) just in case you were nodding off. (*Laughter*) Alderney, through you, Madame Députée Bailli, how would you like to be the 11th parish of Guernsey because we decide that is what you are going to be? (*Interjection*) I do not think they are looking too happy about it! Because that is the risk we run, as Guernsey people, if we allow ourselves to be transcended into some kind of southern English county.

3580 We need to keep our Guernsey identity, our Channel Island identity. We need to make sure that we actually retain *who we are* and not be taken over by some outsider.

I was asked not that long ago, when I was a history student, what do you think it was like to be an Indian in the pre-British Raj. I said, 'Like a Guernseyman in 1970, because we were being taken over by an massive Civil Service that was no longer Guernsey, it was English trained, just like the Raj had. They had their special colleges for the Civil Service. The Civil Service were trained, they went off to India, they actually told all the locals how they were going to run things and it was very anglicised.

Now, I have no problem with English people being over here, I am half one myself. But what I am saying to you is: do not lose your identity. Do not be swamped. Do not have it all blown away.

3590 Once it is gone, it is gone for ever. You are going to have a heck of a job trying to bring it back once it has gone. Save it, before it is too late.

Thank you. (*Applause*)

The Bailiff: Deputy Meerveld.

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Deputy Meerveld: Thank you, madam.

I am just rising to address the issue raised by Deputy Parkinson, because I have spent a bit of time in Quebec and actually Canada has two official languages, English and French. The Quebec side of things were worried about losing the French dominance so in 1974 they enacted Bill 22, the Official Language Act, making French the sole language of Quebec. During 1977 they enacted the Charter of the French Language Bill 101 which put in fairly draconian measures to defend the language. It is that which Deputy Parkinson was referring to which requires all documents to be produced in two languages and that prevents companies from not hiring staff on the basis they cannot speak English. But it goes much further than that, street names have to be printed and if

3605 they are in English as well as French, the English has to be half the size of the French. And even more so, French-speaking children are prohibited from going to primary and secondary schools that speak English.

So I think I can assure Deputy Parkinson that unless future Assemblies are going to take very dramatic actions to try and reinstate – I give way to Deputy Parkinson.

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Deputy Parkinson: Madam, I believe that it is not just in Quebec that signposts have to be in French and English, this applies across the whole of Canada. If you drive around in Ontario the signs are in French and English. This is a national law not a Quebecois Law.

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Deputy Meerveld: I cannot speak to all of Canada, I have not travelled to all of Canada. But my point is their legislature, elected by their population to bring in defensive laws to defend the French against what they saw as the ingress of English, that is not what we are trying to do today.

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As has been very eloquently said by Deputy Le Pelley, Deputy Le Tocq and Deputy Paint, we are here today to try and preserve our existing heritage, our language. We do not want to, as Deputy Ferbrache mentioned, have a language dying on our watch and it could be. UNESCO, in 2009, declared the Manx language extinct and they had to work very hard to bring it back from that status. We do not want our local language following that route.

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I do not see that there is going to be any issue with declaring both good French and Guernésiais – but I have probably got the pronunciation wrong. But declaring them official languages as well, I can only see advantages and I fully support this amendment.

Deputy McSwiggan: Rule 26(1) please, madam.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Those who wish to speak, would they like to stand in their places?

Do you wish to take a vote or do you –? Yes.

Those who wish to support the motion to guillotine the debate please say *Pour*; those against.

Members voted Contre.

The Deputy Bailiff: The *Contre* wins. So we will carry on tomorrow.

The Assembly adjourned at 5.35 p.m.