

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

17th October, 2023

Proposition No. P.2023/96

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT WORK PLAN 2023-25

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy A C Dudley-Owen

Seconded by: Deputy A Cameron

1. To add the following at the end of proposition 10:-

“, with the addition of a further £1.485m over the period 2024-30 inclusive, in order to enable the ongoing effective delivery of the 10-year Active 8 strategy for sport and physical activity agreed by the States of Deliberation in March 2020.”

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The proposition contributes to the States’ objectives and policy plans by enabling the effective delivery of the Active 8 strategy in respect of health in all policies, confirmed in paragraph 6.6 of the Policy Letter.
- b) In preparing the proposition, consultation has been undertaken with the Policy & Resources Committee, the Guernsey Sports Commission and the Health Improvement Commission.
- c) The proposition has been submitted to His Majesty’s Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- d) The financial implications to the States of carrying the proposal into effect are £1.485m over the period 2024-30 inclusive.

Explanatory note

This Amendment, if agreed by the States of Deliberation, will confirm the total funding for the Active 8 strategy for sport and physical activity to £2.1m over seven years from 2024-30. This is annual of funding of £300k per annum, and it is an increase of £1.485m over the remaining seven years of the initiatives that deliver the outcomes set out in the strategy for Active 8.

Active 8 is a ten-year plan for sport agreed by the previous Assembly which had established funding for only the first three years. In its previous GWP policy letter the Policy & Resources Committee recommended accepting the request from the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture for additional funding. The strategy aligns strongly with the early intervention policy/health in all policies strategy necessary to mitigate the demand on future health services. In July 2023, when considering the Policy & Resources Committee's proposals for the GWP, the Assembly expressed concern at the potential reduced level of funding for Active 8.

The strategy for sport and physical activity was developed following significant public consultation in 2018 via which many referenced the value of sport and physical activity in terms of physical health, leadership, and mental wellbeing. 87% of respondents stated that any strategy should include sport and general physical activity (such as walking, or leisure and active lifestyle pursuits such as fitness classes, or riding a bike to work).

As a result, and in consultation with both the Guernsey Sports Commission and Health Improvement Commission, objectives and actions in relation to these areas were developed, and included within the Strategy's eight objectives:

1. Encourage more islanders to be more active, more often;
2. Inspire all generations to get 'Active for Life';
3. Use sport and physical activity to improve health, mental health and wellbeing;
4. Maintain, develop and improve accessible facilities;
5. Support the provision of safe and secure Club environments;
6. Make accessible open spaces;
7. Support high performance athletes;
8. Inspire community engagement through volunteering.

Individual actions under these objectives were allocated to three lead partners:

- i. The Guernsey Sports Commission is responsible for leading on actions relating to Sport and PE (in its 'truest' sense), including governance and safeguarding;
- ii. The Health Improvement Commission leads on actions relating to generalised physical activity, and health and wellness related opportunities; and

- iii. Actions relating to policies, processes, events and government facilities are delivered by staff and resources within the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture.

This provides a 'joined up' approach, gaining the most benefit from actions which may also link with and complement other States-endorsed strategies, such as the Healthy Weight Strategy, and the Supported Living and Ageing Well Strategy (SLAWS).

Early discussions with the Guernsey Sports Commission focused on actions for which it is responsible, where it is acknowledged that a reduced level of funding for Active 8 will significantly curtail the provision of sport and physical activity in secondary schools, the provision of sport for children of vulnerable families outside of school, of safeguarding initiatives, and of physical activity initiatives for adults.

The Committee also recognises the impact of reduced funding on important initiatives supporting physical health and wellbeing being undertaken by the Health Improvement Commission. These include the Island Games Legacy Grant scheme; the embedding of physical activity and physical function programmes for older adults; the development of the Moving Medicine Programme; workplace physical activity interventions; and the continuation of inclusive physical activity opportunities (such as cycling), should future funding for these not be agreed.

To ensure the delivery of Active 8 can continue, the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture is requesting that overall provision is made in the Funding and Investment Plan for:

- £55,000 per annum for the HIC for the ongoing delivery of the Strategy's actions and overarching objectives;
- £45,000 per annum is ring-fenced for the Committee to continue supporting the work of both the GSC and HIC, as well as progressing further opportunities; and
- £200,000 per annum grant to the Guernsey Sports Commission.

This makes a total of £300,000 per annum funding provision for the delivery of the strategy for sports and physical activity actions for the period 2024 to 2030 (seven years). Prior to any funding being 'drawn down', full details as to what the funds will be delivering and how their impact will be assessed, will be provided.

In addition, the Committee is steadfast in its approach to continuously review the Strategy, adapting it where necessary in light of these challenging times. This approach will ensure it continues to deliver valuable outcomes to complement States objectives and remains value for money to the taxpayer.

In submitting this Amendment the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture understands the current fiscal pressures on budgets, but also acknowledges the

strength of public support for sport and physical activity shown through the engagement and participation with the Island Games events in 2023, as well as the views of the Assembly during the July 2023 GWP debate.