REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF THE TREASURY AND RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY HEIDI SOULSBY

I write further to the announcement by the Education Department that it would not be able to fulfil the resolution of 27 November 2014 to lay before the States recommendations for the redevelopment of the La Mare de Carteret Schools' site by 31 March 2015.

My questions are as follows;

Question 1

The States resolved on 27 November 2014 to direct the Treasury & Resources Department to provide further interim project funding up to the 'Full Business Case' stage in order for the specialist project team to be retained. Are you able to advise the amount of funding that has been requested by the Education Department since that date and how much has been provided by the Treasury & Resources Department?

Answer

Following the States' debate in November, the Education Department indicated that it would require funding of up to £320,000. In considering the matter, the Treasury and Resources Department noted that the Education Department had an unspent balance of £100,000 from previous allocations provided for the project. It therefore decided to provide the Education Department with a further £220,000 to make up the balance of the funds required.

These funds were sufficient for the Education Department's specialist project team to continue work until the end of January. On the assumption that no significant changes were then made to the original proposals for the redevelopment of the Schools arising from the independent review, continuation of the project team's work until the end of January would have left the Education Department on track to ensure the new Schools could open in September 2017.

Following receipt of the report of the independent review in February, the Department considered a further request from the Education Department to enable its team to continue work until the end of February. However, given the substantive questions around the project raised by the review, the Department advised the Education Department that it would be impossible to justify any further expenditure on the existing designs at this time. As such, the request for further funding was rejected.

Question 2

Whilst the Education Department is unable to lay its report before the States by 31 March 2015, is the Treasury & Resources Department able to confirm that it would be happy to release the independent review that it commissioned now, in advance of the publication of that report?

Answer

You will be aware that, since receipt of your questions, the Policy Council requested the Treasury and Resources Department to authorise release of the Report. The Department was happy to do so.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 9th March, 2015

Date of Reply: 23rd March, 2015