

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2010 (P.117/2009): AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 24th August 2009
by Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier**

STATES GREFFE

PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (d) –

After the words “withdrawn from the consolidated fund”, insert the words –

“except that the following item shall be added to Table D under the heading ‘Major Equipment, Building and Civil Engineering Works’ –

		Proposed allocation £'000s
T&TS	Town Park, Gas Place	10,000

with an increase in the amount to be withdrawn from the consolidated fund from £34,587,000 to £44,587,000”.

DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER

REPORT

The intention of this proposition is self-evident. It is to put in place sufficient funding to ensure that progress is made on the Millennium Town Park commencing in 2010 with a view to completion by the end of 2011. It will put an end to a decade of broken promises on the part of politicians over their commitment to the delivery of a green lung for St. Helier.

The recent history of these broken promises is given in the accompanying proposition, P.135/2009: Millennium Town Park: funding from the Stabilisation Fund, which contains a mechanism for the proposed funding, and which members are advised to read before debating this Business Plan amendment. In summary, however, the latest promise was made as follows in the 2009 Business Plan –

“The £2 million allocation for the Town Park development has been moved from 2009 to the 2010–2013 period, and a further tranche of funding of £5 million has been included, to align with the current project plan.”

This is withdrawn in the 2010 Business Plan with the words –

“Deletion of the remaining funding of £7.5 million for the Town Park. Funds of £2.618 million have been allocated to the Town Park project to develop a strategy for remediation of ground contamination. The Council of Ministers considers that the balance of funding required to action the remediation strategy and develop the park can be achieved through planning gain resulting from the outcome of the North of St. Helier master planning process.”

In other words the Assembly, instead of finally showing its commitment to the Millennium Town Park project that is already 11 years behind schedule, is asked to put its faith in a nebulous “planning gain” that may be obtained through a masterplan which has yet to be seen by, let alone come before, the States for approval.

In short, by the time any masterplan is agreed and put in place, schemes developed, bids agreed and planning gains negotiated, we may be some further years down the line and the full town park agreed by the States over a decade ago will not have been completed.

The Council of Ministers has cut the funding for the MTP because of the recession. This amendment, taken in conjunction with P.135/2009, delivers the town park appropriately and not before time, using fiscal stimulus funding for an infrastructure project of intrinsic merit.

Financial and manpower implications

The sum of £10 million (to be taken from the Stabilisation Fund) is greater than the £7.5 million in the 2009 Business Plan as a more realistic estimate of the costs of delivery of the MTP project, and to cater for additional revenue spending of £1.1 million outlined in Treasury and Resources Comments to P.1/2008, which are reproduced in Annex 2 of P.135/2009.