

KS/SC/284

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(45th Meeting)

3rd October 2016

(Business conducted via electronic mail)

PART A (Non-exempt)

All members were present, with the exception of Senator P.F.C. Ozouf and Deputy S.M. Brée of St. Clement, from whom apologies had been received.

Connétable L. Norman of St. Clement, Chairman
 Connétable D.W. Mezbourian of St. Lawrence
 Connétable C.H. Taylor of St. John
 Deputy J.A. Martin of St. Helier
 Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier

In attendance -

Dr. M. Egan, Greffier of the States
 K.L. Slack, Clerk to the Privileges and Procedures Committee

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Public
 Elections:
 introduction of
 STV and AV
 (P.88/2016) –
 amendment.
 424/99/1(8)

A1. The Committee received and considered a draft amendment to the Proposition of Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade, entitled ‘Public Elections: introduction of STV and AV’ (P.88/2016).

The Committee noted that Deputy Tadier’s Proposition requested it to bring forward plans, in time for the 2018 elections, for the implementation of a single transferable voting system (STV) for multi-member constituencies and an alternative voting (AV) system for single-member constituencies.

The Committee was of the view that such fundamental changes to the function of democracy in Jersey should not be introduced without the public of the Island having been consulted thereon and felt that if the new systems of counting votes, and electing candidates, were not clearly understood, the electoral system could be compromised.

The Committee also expressed concern about the practical implications of implementing new methods of electing States members in advance of the 2018 elections, particularly as significant changes to the Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002, would be needed, which would require Privy Council approval.

The draft amendment proposed that the words ‘in time for the 2018’ elections should be deleted from the Proposition and that the following words should be inserted after paragraph (b) thereof: “to consult the public on those plans by summer 2017 and to bring a proposition to the Assembly and a report showing the outcome of the consultation before the end of 2017.”

Accordingly, the Committee approved the amendment and instructed the Greffier of the States to arrange for it to be lodged '*au Greffe*' for debate by the States on 11th October 2016. Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier requested that his dissent to the decision be recorded.