

STATES OF JERSEY



PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE REGENERATION: THE STATES OF JERSEY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED (P.73/2010) – AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 25th June 2010
by Senator B.E. Shenton

STATES GREFFE

PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a) –

After the words “as set out in paragraphs 3–12 of the Report of the Council of Ministers dated 7th June 2010” insert the words –

“except that –

- (1) In paragraph 7 (Regeneration Steering Group), in the section headed ‘Composition’ on page 11, for the words “The Connétable of St. Helier” substitute the words “A member of the States elected by the Assembly with a St. Helier mandate (namely a Senator, the Connétable of St. Helier or a St. Helier Deputy)”.
- (2) In paragraph 7 (Regeneration Steering Group), in the section headed ‘Composition’ on page 11, for the words “A co-opted Connétable for a Parish in which a major regeneration scheme is taking place” substitute the words “A member of the States elected by the Assembly”.

SENATOR B.E. SHENTON

REPORT

I don't know why the Council of Ministers believe that the Constables specifically deserve to be on the Steering Group, and Deputies and Senators do not. If town Deputies, for example, do not have the ability to represent their Parish on the Regeneration Steering Group it opens to question their overall worth. Similarly, why should the Constable of a Parish where a major regeneration scheme takes place take preference over the local Deputy, or a Senator with an Island-wide mandate? I have already made clear that I find the unofficial attendance of the Chairman of the Comité des Connétables at Council of Ministers' meetings undemocratic, and this Proposition cements the notion of Council of Ministers' nepotism.

The inclusion of the Connétable of St. Helier may seem logical, but given his very poor attendance record at bodies such as this, I am not convinced that the interests of the residents of St. Helier were not better served by a hard-working Parish Deputy.

It cannot even be argued that the Constable has a stronger mandate to represent. If you look at the comparison of the Connétable with myself at the last election for example, Connétable Simon Crowcroft polled 2,317 votes whilst I polled 2,901 in St. Helier – 25% more votes – and I did not even top the poll! So who has a stronger mandate to represent the views of the Parish? Why exclude everyone with a St. Helier mandate in favour of the Constable? What is so special about this class of political representative?

It is about time that the Council of Ministers stopped treating Deputies as second-class citizens, the Constables as a political coalition, and about time the Constables realised that they do not deserve special treatment, or that they somehow have a superior understanding of Parishioners' interests. No-one has a monopoly on Parish representation.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no financial or manpower implications for the States arising from the adoption of this proposition.