

MILLENNIUM PROJECTS

Lodged au Greffe on 17th February 1998
by the Policy and Resources Committee



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

175

1998

P.27

Price code : C

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -

- (1) to refer to their Act dated 3rd December 1997, in which they allowed the estimate of capital expenditure allocated to Millennium projects in the sum of £2 million and to approve the following projects -
 - (a) Urban Park - landscaping;
 - (b) Havre des Pas Swimming Pool: refurbishment and development Phase I;
 - (c) feature to commemorate 1,000 years of Jersey history;
 - (d) construction of wayside crosses;
 - (e) bursary schemes;as described in the Committee's report dated 26th January 1998. with an allowance for contingencies;
- (2) to request the Finance and Economics Committee to make available to the Policy and Resources Committee funds in the region of £100,000 to enable the Millennium Celebrations Committee to promote and co-ordinate the planning of Millennium celebrations for the year 2000.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

NOTE: The Finance and Economics Committee supports this proposition and notes that the sum of £2 million has already been voted in respect of Millennium capital projects. In the event that additional funds are required to meet the cost of any of the projects which have been identified by the Policy

and Resources Committee, this would have to be found from the capital programme.

However, in the circumstances, the Committee does agree that funds up to approximately £100,000 should be made available to the Policy and Resources Committee from the general reserve to enable the Millennium Celebrations Committee to promote and co-ordinate the planning of the Millennium celebrations for the year 2000.

Report

1. The Policy and Resources Committee on 19th August 1997 presented to the States an interim report on the choice of a Millennium project (R.C.32/97). That report identified a number of matters that remained to be resolved before a final report and proposition could be put before the States. The Committee considers these matters now to have been resolved sufficiently to recommend to the States a package of projects to commemorate the Millennium.
2. As stated in the interim report the Committee has evaluated the many suggestions that have been put forward by individuals and by organisations. Each project was considered having regard to the following criteria -
 - (a) the degree of longevity;
 - (b) the extent to which the project is associated with Jersey and/or its history;
 - (c) the extent to which the project otherwise would not normally be expected to achieve high priority in the capital programme using current criteria, or was a project that would be covered under a Committee's existing remit;
 - (d) the extent to which the project could be enjoyed by all Island residents and families rather than just those of a certain age or interest grouping, or those resident in one part of the Island;
 - (e) the degree of environmental benefit;
 - (f) the degree of social benefit;
 - (g) the medium/long-term resource consequences of the project.

3. The Committee also has had regard for the decision of the States that a maximum sum of £2 million should be included in the 1998 capital programme to fund a Millennium Project. The Committee was informed by the Finance and Economics Committee that if it wished to recommend a greater expenditure this would need to be financed by reducing the capital programme for the appropriate year or years. This also would need to be considered through the established decision conference procedure for prioritising capital projects. With these budgetary restraints the Committee recognised that a number of the suggestions put before the Committee simply could not be afforded even if the criteria listed in paragraph 2 above could be satisfied.
4. The Committee is also of the opinion that among the projects to commemorate the Millennium there should be an identification with the commemoration of 2000 years since the birth of Christ.
5. Having regard to the foregoing, the Committee has decided to recommend to the States the allocation of the £2 million made available in the 1998 capital programme for a Millennium project as follows -

Town Park: Bath Street/Gas Place

6. The Committee has long supported the proposal for a town park in the area of Bath Street/Gas Place. The delay in progressing this proposal has been due entirely to the need to undertake technical assessments of the ground conditions, the possibility of constructing a park over an underground car park, and the cost of land acquisition to provide for public open space and a car park. Arup Rothwell were engaged by the Planning and Environment Committee to carry out a technical assessment, and the outcome of this assessment is referred to in that Committee's report and proposition on the acquisition of the Talman land (P.206/97).
7. The Planning and Environment Committee's report and proposition refers to the principle of providing public open space in the Town area. Support for this principle and for the

construction of a park in the Bath Street/Gas Place area can be summarised as follows -

- (a) policy BE11 of the Island Plan approved by the States in November 1987 states "the Committee will encourage the formation of small parks within the town and will assess all major development schemes for their potential to provide new amenity open space";
 - (b) the States 1995 Strategic Policy Report "2000 and Beyond", adopted by the States, charges the Planning and Environment Committee to recommend targets or bring forward proposals for the area of green space in St. Helier and other built up areas;
 - (c) the Policy and Resources Committee's opinion poll of potential Millennium projects demonstrated that the provision of a new area of public open space in town was the most popular of the ideas put forward;
 - (d) the Millennium Park Support Group has presented a petition containing 16,404 signatures in favour of providing a public open space in the area of Bath Street/Gas Place. On the presentation of that petition Deputy A.S. Crowcroft also lodged a proposition (P.190/97) to the effect that the prayer of the petition be granted.
8. The Committee recognises that the nature of the underground car park to be provided will need to be the subject of separate financial appraisal. However, it is recommended that whichever option is eventually adopted it should provide for a public open space as a Millennium project involving both the land presently owned by the States and that presently in the possession of Talman Limited.
9. The benefits flowing from the provision of this public open space will include the following -
- (a) it will provide active and passive recreational facilities;

- (b) it will offer the space for individuals to meet, walk and play;
 - (c) it will provide for contact with nature;
 - (d) it will provide rich habitats for a wide variety of flora and fauna;
 - (e) it will provide a safe space for children to play;
 - (f) it will provide opportunities for regular gentle outdoor exercise and fresh air which helps to prevent illness;
 - (g) it can contain a variety of educational resources;
 - (h) it can be an excellent location for outdoor exhibitions, sculpture display, theatre, music and dance;
 - (i) it can provide the ideal location for a wide range of festivals and carnivals;
 - (j) a well designed park can enhance the quality of the building environment adjacent to the park;
 - (k) a well designed and managed park can act as a catalyst for development of an urban area;
 - (l) a well managed park can be a centre of community activity, attractive to residents and visitors alike;
 - (m) a well run park can contribute to urban sustainability by separating motorised traffic from pedestrians and cyclists; making the town a more attractive place in which to live; and helping to build a sense of social cohesiveness.
10. The Committee recommends that some £500,000 be allocated from the £2,000,000 provided for a Millennium project for the landscaping of a park in the Bath Street/Gas Place area. In recommending this sum the Committee is assuming that the cost associated with the construction of the park that arise from

the construction of an underground car park would be met from the funds provided for the construction of the car park. The Committee is of the view that the total cost of constructing an underground car park, including the excavation and disposal of contaminated material, and other expenses incurred in providing an area suitable and ready for landscaping should be funded by the users of town car parks generally. It is proposed that the cost of acquiring the Talman land, as a strategic purchase, would be met from the general reserve.

11. Should the cost of an underground car park be considered such that it cannot be afforded by car park users, or by tax payers, and the decision is taken not to proceed with its construction, the cost of providing a park (excluding the cost of land purchase) would include the removal of contaminated land and its replacement. The Committee however is of the opinion that the cost of the rehabilitation of the site should be funded separately from the cost of landscaping the park.

Havre des Pas swimming pool: refurbishment and development

12. The Committee recommends that Phase 1 of the refurbishment and development of the Havre des Pas swimming pool and surrounding areas at an estimated cost of around £800,000, should be a Millennium project and funded from the £2 million allocated in the 1998 capital programme.
13. Phase 1 of the Havre des Pas swimming pool project involves -
 - (a) cleaning out the pool and installing new sluice gates;
 - (b) the demolition of the existing bridge structure and the reconstruction of a new reinforced concrete bridge structure;
 - (c) the demolition and alterations within the existing tower with a new roof over the tower and kitchen areas to provide a sundeck;

- (d) glazed façade and internal works to form café and coastal interpretation area;
 - (e) increased height of middle terrace deck level;
 - (f) provisioning of balustrading around upper deck and tower roof;
 - (g) redecoration to existing terrace walls;
 - (h) demolition, alterations and new works to lower terraces to provide stepped seating from middle terrace to beach levels;
 - (i) remedial works to existing pool wall, underpinning and replacement of defective concrete capping.
14. Phases 2 and 3 will involve more extensive work between the Dicq and the Fort d’Auvergne Promenade and will cost a further £800,000. These phases are subject to an environmental impact assessment. In addition they could not be funded out of the funds allocated to the Millennium project. Therefore should Phase 2 and 3 receive the approval of the Planning and Environment Committee in due course it will be necessary to make a request to the Finance and Economics Committee for an additional sum of money over and above the money allocated for the Millennium project, and this would need to be considered in accordance with the capital project prioritisation procedure.
15. If Phase 1 is not undertaken as a Millennium project there are no other funds immediately available to carry out the work required. There is a good chance that in these circumstances the Havre des Pas swimming pool will be lost to the Island. The Committee believes that the Havre des Pas swimming pool is an important part of the Island’s heritage and should be saved as an attraction for Island residents and visitors alike.

One Thousand Years of Jersey History - commemorative feature(s)

16. The Committee recommends that the occasion of the Millennium be used to create a feature or features to commemorate both 1000 years of history and 2000 years since the birth of Christ and that this should be established in the Weighbridge area close to both the Jersey Museum and the new Maritime Museum.
17. The Committee has asked the Director of the Jersey Heritage Trust to bring forward proposals and has asked the Waterfront Enterprise Board and the Public Sculpture Trust to participate in the further consideration of these proposals. The proposals are being progressed with the aid of a planning vote of £6,000.
18. The Committee recommends that up to £250,000 be allocated for this commemorative feature.

Wayside crosses

19. The Committee recommends that the States should join with the parishes in the construction of a wayside cross in each of the parishes to commemorate both the Millennium and 2000 years of the birth of Christ. The cost of 12 granite wayside crosses erected on granite circular plinths is estimated at £30,000.

Bursaries

20. The Committee recommends that the Millennium also be commemorated in ways other than by physical construction. It is recommended that there should be three bursary schemes to be funded out of the £2 million available as follows -
 - (a) a fellowship/grant scheme under the auspices of the Société Jersiaise which will be used to promote the study of Jersey history. The Société Jersiaise has proposed that to commemorate the Millennium a grant of £100,000 would be made to the Société to enable them to provide at least one new research fellowship in Jersey history, plus a number of research grants each year. Using the

Millennium fund in this way is considered to be an ideal way of marking the close of the second Millennium and celebrating the start of the third. To quote the Société, Jersey's past is the bedrock of its identity. This scheme will ensure that, in the centuries to come, an appreciation of its history and unique identity continues to flourish in Jersey and the wider world. All recipients of awards will be obliged to -

give at least one public lecture or presentation of their research in Jersey;

provide a detailed report of their research for the Société;

deposit copies of any ensuing publications (thesis, books, articles, lectures) relating to their research in Jersey history with the Lord Coutanche Library at the Société and with the Jersey Public Library.

- (b) a scheme for post graduate study of an aspect of Jersey society under the auspices of the Social Science Research Centre at Highlands College. The request received from Highlands College is for the sum of £50,000 in order to provide the interest revenue for the finance of one person over a year.

The field of research would be on current issues. For example, it could well involve studying an aspect of Jersey Government such as the workings of the Committee system or of the Civil Service, or an aspect of current history might be studied such as the workings of the honorary system;

- (c) a scheme to enable Island residents to participate in environmental studies under the auspices of Earthwatch Europe. This would help to support environmental education programmes which would be of benefit to the States of Jersey achieving its environmental charter mission statement, and would also provide an opportunity

to fulfil the requirements and commitments of Agenda 21 as defined at the United Nations Earth Summit Conference at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Further objectives include -

promoting public understanding of environmental science among Jersey teachers and educators;

stimulating environmental action in local communities to ensure conservation of the environment in Jersey for the next Millennium;

supporting environmental field research projects of international significance, collecting and disseminating objective environmental information;

supporting Earthwatch's missions in education and scientific field research.

For the sum of £50,000 a fellowship for Jersey teachers and educators could be established. An endowment fund would be created to support an annual Millennium fellowship for a Jersey teacher or educator. Fellowships would be chosen for those with specific relevance to the environment of Jersey either through being located on small islands or through studying problems closely related to the local environment.

Summary

21. It is recommended that the £2 million included in the 1998 Capital Programme for the Millennium project should be allocated as follows -

Urban park	£500,000
Havre des Pas swimming pool	£800,000
One Thousand Years of Jersey History	£250,000
Wayside Crosses	£30,000
Bursaries	£200,000
Contingencies	£220,000

The funds would be allocated by the Committee to the relevant agencies as required, and the Committee would hold the Contingencies Vote.

Millennium celebrations

22. In addition to the Millennium project referred to above the Committee has invited Mr. Tony Perkins to chair and form a Millennium Celebrations Committee to promote and co-ordinate the planning of the Millennium celebrations in the Island. The intention is to mount major celebrations involving all sections of the Island community. The Celebrations Committee has not yet identified its budget requirements but they expect a sum in the region of £100,000 to be sufficient. The Committee is seeking States' support for the funding of the Millennium Committee which will report to and be monitored by the Policy and Resources Committee.