

STATES OF JERSEY



BUDGET 2004: AMENDMENT (P.160/2003) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 2nd December 2003
by the Environment and Public Services Committee**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Report states that no additional capital funding was made available in 2003 for the sewers programme. This statement is correct. This situation arose because at the end of 2002, the sewers votes contained considerable sums of monies still to be committed to the construction of identified schemes on the sewers programme. The Environment and Public Services Committee has worked hard to catch up on the backlog of schemes on the sewers programme, and anticipates that it will commit the majority of the available funds in the sewer reconstruction vote, and virtually all of the funds in the foul sewer extension vote, by the end of this year.

The Report goes on to state “*In the 2004 budget book, yet again, no money is proposed for mains drains extension...*”. This statement is incorrect, as the 2004 Budget includes a recommended capital allocation for the Environment and Public Services Committee’s Sewer Reconstruction and Foul Sewer Extension programme of £3 million.

The Report makes several references to the introduction of a Sewerage Charge. However, page 22 of the 2004 Budget indicates that a possible implementation date for such a charge is 2005. Clearly no funding can, or will, be made available from such a charge in 2004.

The principle of introducing a Sewerage Charge has still to be debated by the House. It is the Environment and Public Services Committee’s intention to bring a Report and Proposition on the principle of introducing a Sewerage Charge to the States in the spring of next year.

The capital allocation of £3 million in the 2004 Budget for the sewers programme will enable the Environment and Public Services Committee to fund the construction of one foul sewer extension and 3 sewer reconstruction schemes in 2004. If the States accept Budget Amendment P.160/2003, and provide a further £1 million for the sewers programme, then a further one or possibly 2 foul sewer extension schemes could be undertaken in 2004.

The following table indicates the capital funding requested from the States for the sewers votes, the allocation indicated in the current Resource Plan, and the number of schemes to be undertaken based on funding available in accordance with the Resource Plan –

Year	Original Request £ million	Resource Plan figure £m	Number of sewer reconstruction schemes	Number of foul sewer extension schemes
2004	5.40	2.81	3	1
2005	5.14	2.69	3	2
2006	4.55	1.65	3	NIL
2007	4.83	1.57	4	NIL
2008	4.80	1.49	4	NIL
NOTE: All financial figures at December 2002 price base				

Whilst attractive superficially, the Committee is minded not to support this amendment

as it would be at odds with the corporate position resulting from the decision conference process in which we took part.