

STATES OF JERSEY

OFFICIAL REPORT

MONDAY, 8th DECEMBER 2008

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The Roll was called and the Dean led the Assembly in Prayer.

ELECTION OF CHIEF MINISTER DESIGNATE

The Bailiff:

May I first of all in Members' names extend a warm welcome as customary to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. **[Approbation]** Secondly, may I extend an equally warm welcome to all the newly elected Members of the Assembly attending this meeting for the first time - even the newly elected Deputy of St. John returning to his seat. **[Approbation]** That welcome of course extends to the families and friends of all the new Members, particularly in the public gallery. Now, I have to announce first of all before we move to Public Business that the result of the Referendum on Central European Time which Members may have almost forgotten about, was that of the electors registered to vote, 23,969 votes were cast. There were 23,794 valid votes, and 6,564 electors voted in favour of the question and 17,230 electors voted against. The question in the referendum was, of course, do you think that Jersey should adopt Central European Time? Now, I have to remind Members that the only business for the meeting this morning is the election of a Chief Minister designate. I will invite the Greffier now to read the nominations received pursuant to Standing Order 116.

The Greffier of the States:

Two nominations were received for the post of Chief Minister by the deadline set out in Standing Order 115(1)(d). They were Senator Terence Augustine Le Sueur and Senator Alan Breckon. The nomination of Senator Le Sueur is made by Senator Frederick Ellyer Cohen, Senator Alan John Henry Maclean, Senator Sarah Craig Ferguson, the Connétable of St. Saviour, Deputy Jacqueline Ann Hilton of St. Helier, Deputy Sean Power of St. Brelade, the Connétable of Grouville, Deputy Ian Joseph Gorst of St. Clement and Deputy John Alexander Nicholas Le Fondré of St. Lawrence. The nomination of Senator Breckon is made by Deputy Judith Ann Martin of St. Helier, the Deputy of St. John, Deputy Tracey Anne Vallois of St. Saviour, Deputy Jeremy Martin Maçon of St. Saviour, Deputy Deborah De Sousa of St. Helier, the Deputy of St. Martin, Deputy Trevor Mark Pitman of St. Helier, Deputy Roy George Le Hérissier of St. Saviour and the Connétable of St. Helier. I can confirm that both candidates submitted a policy statement as required by Standing Orders, and I can further confirm that I have circulated details of the nominations and the statements to all Members as required.

Deputy S. Pitman of St. Helier:

In the interests of openness and transparency, and in the interests of the people who put us in office, may I propose that the States suspend Standing Order 117(9)?

The Bailiff:

Deputy, your proposition is that the whole of Standing Order 117 paragraph 9 be suspended?

Deputy S. Pitman:

Sorry. What I meant to say is that the secret ballot is an open ballot.

The Bailiff:

I think the difficulty with this proposition, Deputy, and that is why I asked you what your proposition was, is that it is not open to the Assembly to amend Standing Orders, as it were on the hoof. You can certainly move that a Standing Order be suspended, and that was why I asked you which Standing Order you specifically wanted to be suspended.

Deputy S. Pitman:

Yes, I do want to suspend the Standing Order for a secret ballot.

The Bailiff:

The trouble is that if one suspends Standing Order 117 paragraph 9, there is no provision for a ballot at all. **[Laughter]** Sorry. We are talking about Standing Order 116, as a matter of fact; 117 is Ministers. But Standing Order 116(7) provides: “When the speeches and questions are concluded a secret ballot shall be held.” Now, if that provision is suspended there is no provision for a ballot.

Deputy S. Pitman:

Apologies, Sir. Yes. It would be Standing Order 116: “When the speeches and questions are concluded a secret ballot shall be held.” I propose that that be made open ballot.

The Bailiff:

Well, before I make a ruling, Deputy, I would just like to be quite clear how you think the Assembly can overcome the problem of holding a ballot if this paragraph is suspended?

Deputy S. Pitman:

Suspend the word “secret”, Sir.

The Bailiff:

Well, I think, Deputy, you are quite right and that is the only way it could be done, but that would not be a suspension of the Standing Order. That would be an amendment of the Standing Order, as it were, on the hoof, and I am afraid that proposition is out of order. Now we return to Standing Order 116(3), and I shall ask the Greffier to reveal his toque and 2 names to Members before they are put in the hat and drawn out. I have drawn out the name of Senator Le Sueur. Senator Le Sueur will be the first candidate accordingly to speak, and I will now ask Senator Breckon to be good enough to withdraw from the Chamber, and Senator Breckon will be accompanied by an Officer of the Greffe to a distant place where he cannot hear, and he will be invited to return to the Chamber in due course.

The Very Reverend R.F. Key, B.A., The Dean of Jersey

On a point of information, may I just say I mean no disrespect to either candidate, but will only be here for a while because Members will be aware, sadly, that Alexander de Gruchy had his plane crash into the sea some days ago, and I am charged with presiding and preaching at his funeral. I hope, Sir, with your leave, that I may take the greetings and best wishes of this House to that service. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

The Bailiff:

Thank you very much, Dean, for that explanation, and I am sure the feelings of Members have been made clear. Now the first candidate will speak for 10 minutes. I inform Members that the Greffier will ring a bell after 9 minutes, and will then ring the bell for a second time at the end of the 10 minute period. Members will be aware that the speeches of the candidates are being recorded by television cameras, and at the conclusion of the speeches of the candidates I shall ask the cameras to stop filming. So, I now call upon Senator Le Sueur to address the Assembly.

1. Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I would like to start by echoing your welcome to all the new Members to this first sitting. I remember how immensely proud I felt on my first day, honoured to have the opportunity to represent the Island. The responsibility that the public have entrusted upon us is enormous, and although Members may have differing views, the one thing that unites us is our passion for Jersey; and more than that, a determination to make Jersey an even better place, with a greater emphasis on social integration and family values. While the next 3 years are likely to be challenging, I am confident that this House can and will reach a new consensus on how we can achieve that. One of the things that I am most proud to have achieved in my political life is long-term planning. At

Social Security, I planned to safeguard the future by a gradual increase in contributions before it was strictly necessary. That secured our pension scheme for years ahead, and today we have one of the best social security schemes in the world. As Minister for Treasury and Resources at a time when we had strong economic growth, I promoted the setting up of the Stabilisation Fund to cope with a possible future down-turn. Well, that down-turn may be on our doorstep, but with a healthy economy, one of the lowest unemployment rates in the world, balanced budgets and money safely tucked away in reserves, we are in a better position to deal with any challenges ahead, and that has not happened by accident. So, just as I have left a lasting legacy at Social Security and Treasury and Resources, I should like to make my mark as Chief Minister. The period ahead calls for experienced leadership. I believe that is what I offer Members in their important choice of Chief Minister. Calmness and long-term vision are not by themselves enough. The Chief Minister also needs to engage, listen, respond and lead, and although I am clear where my priorities lie, as Chief Minister I would continue to work with all Members in a consensual way for the good of the Island community. Although I provided a detailed vision summary, I will now go on to explain some of my policies. I recognise that there may be fewer job opportunities in the period ahead as a result of the global economic downturn, and I will do whatever is necessary to protect Islanders in such times. We are in the unique position of having money set aside to do so, and to do whatever is necessary. I will protect the job market to ensure that jobs continue to be filled by local people, qualified to do the work. The Regulation of Undertakings and Development Law may have to be applied on a shorter-term and more hands-on basis. If necessary, I am prepared to use the Stabilisation Fund to stimulate the economy by means such as bringing forward States property maintenance and reprioritising capital projects. I will also strengthen the resources and activities of the Skills Executive to ensure that Islanders are qualified to fill vacancies in existing and new areas. A successful economy supports the people of Jersey. We need to support and enhance all sectors of the industry, be it finance, tourism, agriculture, e-commerce, retail or whatever. Business is all about people and we rely on an increasingly skilled workforce. Over the last few years, much of the additional money we have voted has rightly been directed into social areas - Health, Social Security, Education and Home Affairs. Despite this extra money, there are still pressures in areas such as child protection, respite care, prison and immigration. This is an opportunity for Ministers, Assistant Ministers, the Public Accounts Committee and Scrutiny Panels to all work together. There is a healthy debate about spending. On the one side there are those who say the States should save more; and on the other side there are those who say the States should spend more and provide more services. We are going to have to be smarter in the way in which we use our revenues, because while we need to balance our books, I am not one of those who believe that the only way to do that is by rushing out and raising more taxes. We have to decide as a community what services we really need within the means at our disposal. I say "means" rather than "money", because sometimes there are better solutions than simply throwing money at a problem. We have to think smart, but first we have to think. Home ownership should be a realistic goal for every Island family. Shared equity is just a start. But I would also use further reductions in stamp duty rates and look at other measures to make homes more affordable. The development of the new Island Plan will be one of the biggest projects for this Assembly to tackle. A new Plan will need to set out the demand for homes and at the same time, balance this against the need to protect our rural environment. Jersey has got a good infrastructure, but having brought the different streams together through Property Holdings, it has become clear that there are funding challenges. At present, the States owns a great deal of property, so that the maintenance budget is being spread too thinly. I see opportunities here to rationalise the States property portfolio. The next 3 years are also likely to be dominated by an important international agenda. The U.K. (United Kingdom), G-20 (Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors), O.E.C.D. (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), E.U. (European Union) and the United States are all reviewing matters which could affect our future. This will be an important and demanding activity for the new Chief Minister, and here is one good example where I would propose to work closely with my Guernsey counterparts. Jersey has a proud tradition of honorary service, and I applaud the

work of many charities in giving generously of their time. I want to encourage all Islanders and the business community to find ways in which to play their part in creating an inclusive society. I want to create a strategic direction which all Members can take part in setting, and which a majority of Members can then sign up to. Once that strategic process and direction is agreed, I would look to an official Scrutiny process to make sure that it was properly delivered. As States Members, we have to build up public trust by engaging in more meaningful discussions with the public, so that we can better understand their concerns and better explain our intentions. That means that we all need to listen as well as talk. As Chief Minister, I would involve all of us, States Members and members of the public, in finding a common and an informed view - a view to which the majority of us could sign up. We need to remind ourselves of all that is good about Jersey. We also need to be honest with ourselves about how to improve our shortcomings. I want to make Jersey an even better place for all of us, an Island in which we can all take pride. I am proud that people often refer to me as a safe pair of hands. I believe that I have a proven track record. I have demonstrated foresight and vision over many years in the States, and I hope that Members will consider me to be the best candidate for Chief Minister. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

The Bailiff:

Thank you, Senator. Well, I now ask the television cameras to cease filming, please, and the period of questioning for Members will now open. The Constable of St. Helier.

1.1 Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier:

In the penultimate paragraph of the Vision for Strategic Policy proposed by the candidate, Senator Le Sueur accepts that there are many areas that he cannot, of course, cover in his vision, or indeed in his opening remarks to the Assembly. I would be very interested to hear from the candidate for Chief Minister what steps he proposes to take to enhance that important part of Jersey which is so important to us all and also to our tourism, which is our culture and heritage.

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

Our culture and heritage takes many forms. We have, I think, an excellent range of theatrical and artistic events put on. We also have a rich rural and cultural heritage in our built environments, in our countryside and in our fine old Jersey buildings. That covers both town and country, and I believe that in the forthcoming Island Plan, we need to work together in that plan to stimulate the culture of the Island in a broader sense than just maybe that of an elitist idea, but one which really affects the whole community.

The Connétable of St. Helier:

Can I ask a supplementary, Sir?

The Bailiff:

No, Constable, I am afraid not, because there are a number of Members who wish to ask questions, I am sure, at this stage; but I may come back to you. I should have announced - I hope the Greffier will take this into account in his calculation of time - that the 40 minute period will be interrupted after 35 minutes by the ringing of a bell as a warning, and the second bell will be rung at the end of the 40 minute period. Because a number of Members do wish to ask questions, I hope that Members will be concise in their questioning, and equally that the Senator will be concise in his responses. I saw Deputy Southern.

1.2 Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier:

I heard mention twice, I believe, of the word “consensus” and the word “consensual”, and 3 times “inclusive”. In terms of his first-11, as it were - his first 9 - how inclusive is the Minister prepared to be? Will he say which Ministers he has allocated to his first team, and will he confirm or deny that in fact it looks very much the same as was in the past, that it concerns Le Sueur, Routier,

Ozouf, Maclean, Cohen, Le Main, et cetera, adding perhaps Le Fondré and Gorst - 2 more accountants. Are we going to have a government by accountants?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I certainly hope so.

Senator T.J. Le Main:

Thank goodness I am a used car dealer. [Laughter]

Senator S. Syvret:

Can I just make the observation that I really do not think this set of the proceedings should be disrupted and the time wasted by such interventions.

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I think in respect of the attributes or experience of candidates, they should be people of demonstrable quality and ability, and whether they are accountants or car dealers or anyone else, I want the people best suited to do the job. Certainly, I have been impressed by the way that certain Ministers already carry out their duty, people like Senator Ozouf, Senator Routier, Senator Shenton, Senator Cohen, Senator Le Main who, although were Ministers in the past I would like to see Ministers in the future in different duties, and only the last 2 of those that I named I would keep in their present roles. I also want to appoint 3 newly elected Senators and a Deputy. But finally, Sir, I have to say that it is not my choice at the end of the day, it is the choice of this House as to who becomes elected as Ministers. But I believe that we need to have a team which can best do the job in the difficult times ahead.

1.3 Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire of St. Helier:

Does the candidate believe that there should be a written constitution for Jersey for the future of Jersey? If not, would he explain why he is confident that the current measures are sufficient?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

That is a very broad question, and my short answer is that I am not convinced that a written constitution is in the best interest of the Island. We have done very well for the last 800 years with a constitution which is understood rather than written, and I think as you, Sir, said in your remarks in the Royal Court this morning, we do not tinker lightly with our important traditions.

Deputy T.M. Pitman of St. Helier:

Sorry, Sir. With due respect, Deputy Southern asked my question. I will think of another one.

1.4 Senator B.E. Shenton:

The Senator mentioned during his speech that he would listen to the people. I would like to put it to the Senator that the majority of the Islanders do not want the underpass. Would he listen to the people in this respect?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I will certainly listen to the people's views and use them to influence any decision. But I would say to the Senator and to the Members of the House that the Waterfront Master Plan was adopted by the States earlier in the summer, and that was done on the basis that there would be an underpass as part of that development. So, I think the decision, to that extent, has already been made by this House.

1.5 Deputy F.J. Hill of St. Martin:

Given that it was only as recent as last September that neither you, Senator Le Sueur, nor Senator Breckon supported my proposition to establish a committee for the oversight of Jersey's Human

Rights Law or for Ministers to explain why legislation they are proposing is Human Rights compliant, what steps, if any, will you, as Chief Minister, be taking to ensure that there is greater awareness of, and support for, Jersey's Human Rights Law?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I believe it would be a democratic process and this House debated that issue, as the Deputy says, very recently and came to the conclusion that there are better ways of doing this than setting up committees. I find one of the problems with the States today is that there is too much regulation, too much red tape and not enough commonsense and thought and setting up more committees such as this does not strike me as adding a great deal to the benefit of the people of the Islands. **[Approbation]**

1.6 Deputy A.E. Pryke of Trinity:

In June, the previous Council of Ministers revealed Keeping Jersey Special which put environment at the heart of the Council of Ministers' agenda. Would the Senator agree with this and what environmental initiative would be his priority?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I think environmental initiatives are a high priority but I wanted to make that a priority which is shared by Members and the people of the Island. I think we can do that by ensuring that we do strike a right balance in protecting and preserving all that is best in Jersey and I think, as I said, of our rich, cultural and coastal heritage but also acknowledging that there are certain parts of the Island which have fallen into some disrepair and neglect, maybe, in terms of declining industries which should not be left just in that situation but could be put to better effect. That is just one example where I believe that the wider consultation on the Island Plan and maybe a broader, holistic approach to the next Island Plan would produce better results.

1.7 Connétable J. Gallichan of St. Mary:

Over the past few months several reports, including a Scrutiny report that I was personally involved with, have made recommendations concerning the redefinition of the overall political responsibility for children. I would like to know if the candidate has any thoughts as to how this could be best be dealt with?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

Yes, I believe this is an important area and one of my proposals is to involve Assistant Ministers much more closely in this activity because I think there is an important role to play across different departments and different Ministries. It is something which goes right across the whole requirement of many parts of the Island particularly in terms of Education, Health, Home Affairs and Social Security. Clearly, although we can have a cross-department approach, there has to be one clear accountable leader so there will need to be a Minister in overall charge but I would want to see that Minister spreading that over a variety of Ministries and assistant Ministries. One of my activities would be that on Thursdays, which I have designated as Ministers' day, that when Ministers are not sitting for Council they should be meeting on subgroups, such as the children's subgroup, in order that this can be focused upon rather more so than maybe it has done over the past 3 years.

1.8 Senator S. Syvret:

In part B of his statement the Minister says that the environment must be at the heart of States policy. This is a claim that is invariably made by the people leading the Executive, yet within the space of 2 paragraphs, he changes the focus of the statement into one about the need to develop more housing and stimulate the housing market. How does the Senator expect to be taken seriously when, within the space of 2 paragraphs, he presents precisely the same old, mutually exclusive, contradictory policies that we have grown sick of in the past? **[Approbation]**

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

The Senator seems to equate providing additional housing with the need to encroach upon green field sites and that is not a natural consequence. I also believe that, as much as I want to support the rural environment, I also want to support people - the people of Jersey - and there are some people in Jersey who, I believe, are still inadequately housed. That is something which we cannot condone continuing more than is necessary and so there has to be a balance struck. I was anxious, in making my statement, to indicate that I was aware of both sides of this difficult argument but I have to acknowledge the importance of treating people and getting their basic rights, including the right to be housed, as part of that activity.

1.9 Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade:

Following on from Deputy Southern's comments I would hope that the preponderance of accountants in the proposed Cabinet would be indicative of the fact that the Senator wants a more accountable government - and you can laugh if you want to, just to break the ice. The question I will put in context is this... you may know that the Time-for-Change group has held a mock election, so to speak. It is not scientific and it is self-selecting, the results of which so far indicate that out of 324 cast there are 72 who would favour Senator Le Sueur and 252 who would favour Alan Breckon. I do emphasise that this is not scientific in any way. The question I have, on that basis, is does the Senator believe that he has the backing of the public, bearing in mind that he does not have a fresh mandate, and the secondary question, does he think that is necessary to have the backing of the public?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I want to endeavour to have the backing of every member of the community as someone who can deliver something in the interests of the whole community of Jersey. As to having a fresh mandate, I indicated yesterday on the radio that I was elected 3 years ago on the basis of the policies I had then and the principles I had then. My policies have not changed in the last 3 years, my principles have not changed in the last 3 years and they will not change in the next 3 years. So, I believe that if I was good enough to be elected 3 years ago I am good enough today. As to having government more accountable, accountability is not the prerogative solely of accountants. Accountability is something which we all have to take seriously in whatever we are doing. Yes, I do want Ministers to be more accountable. I want all of us to be more accountable to the people that we serve, the people who elected us.

1.10 Deputy D.J. De Sousa of St. Helier:

I would just like to say that listening to your comments about listening to the people that have elected you in the past - the people that have elected us, therefore the people of the Island of Jersey - you say you want more openness and listening, why then did you ignore 19,000 who signed the anti-G.S.T. (Goods and Services Tax) petition? **[Approbation]**

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I did not ignore 19,200 votes, I took them very seriously and I considered in that whether that view was something that ought to be translated into a change of policy. Ultimately, I felt that the policy that we have adopted - the whole of this strategy - was the correct one but, as is the prerogative, the ultimate decision was made in this Chamber and it was the States who decided that they aimed to continue with the existing arrangements acknowledging the fact that that petition had been presented and had been understood.

1.11 Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade:

The Minister referred in his written submission to liquid waste and drains and the need for future planning. We have suffered for the considerable uninvestment in not only property holdings assets but also technical and plant at T.T.S. (Transport and Technical Services). How can this be funded

in order that the omissions we have suffered from in the past do not come back to bite us in the near future?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I can only agree with the Constable of St. Brelade, that the replacement of the Bellozanne incinerator was something which was long overdue and that that incinerator is a blot on the landscape and a blot of our healthy Island. As to liquid waste, there are 2 issues tied up in that. Firstly, the need to keep that treatment plant up to date and, secondly, the need to maintain an adequate drainage system and much as I would like to see a drainage system extended I think it is more important, firstly, that we maintain what we have and make sure that does not deteriorate. At the end of the day, all these services are highly desirable and they all cost more money and we have to decide at the end of the day where our balance lies, whether we want to put money into extending the drainage network or encouraging greater resources for child protection or other activities. It would be for this House, in the context of discussing the strategic plan over the next few months, to decide where our priorities lie and there are going to be some very difficult decisions to make there in trying to assess those priorities. That is why I do want to encourage all Members to participate in that in order that we can get a consensual decision for the benefit of the people of the Island.

1.12 Deputy R.C. Duhamel of St. Saviour:

To what extent should Scrutiny Panel recommendations be made binding on Ministers?
[Laughter]

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

Perhaps to the same extent that Ministerial decisions should be made binding on this House. [Laughter] No, as I see it, the purpose of Scrutiny, and the way I have worked with my Scrutiny Panel in the past, is to help Ministers come up with the right policy decisions to implement the States objectives in the right way. If Ministers can learn from Scrutiny then they should and they must and where Scrutiny Panel recommendations add value to the Ministerial thoughts, yes, they should be taken on board. Where there are differences of opinion it may well be that both sides cannot reconcile their point of view and that is why policy decisions, at the end of the day, come to this Chamber to be decided and it is for States Members, who can understand the point of view put forward both by the Minister and by the Scrutiny Panel, to decide. My objective would be for Scrutiny Panels and Ministers to work more closely, more often and more together in order to get the best possible result. [Approbation]

1.13 Deputy T. Pitman of St. Helier:

We have heard much talk of experience from the Senator. I think if the last 3 years have shown us anything it is that spin is not enough. So, in talking of experience, could the Senator outline for us what experience he can offer the Assembly in representing Jersey on the international stage?
Thank you.

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

Yes, in my activities to date I have represented Jersey both at the British Irish Council and in France - in Paris and then in Normandy - at various meetings there and chaired meetings where relevant. I think international affairs is something which I want to devote not only more personal attention to but, in fact, I want to see the Council of Ministers setting up a working group looking at international affairs because I believe that over the next 2 or 3 years, certainly over the next few months, the international dimension of government is going to become far more important and far more critical. It is something, in fact, more than enough for one person, even the Chief Minister. It is something that needs to involve a small team of Ministers and, ultimately, perhaps the whole House but, certainly, I would want to set up a team of Ministers in order to progress a more comprehensive international approach than currently we have been able to adopt.

1.14 Senator S.C. Ferguson:

The Comptroller and Auditor General, supported by the Public Accounts Committee, suggested in his spending review a number of ideas for reducing expenditure and improving efficiency. What priority will the Senator give to these proposals?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

Not only will give them priority but the previous Council of Ministers already began giving them priority and addressing those concerns and we will continue to do so. Some of those recommendations, of course, are going to be more difficult to achieve in practice than others and we will have to see just how the recommendations for saving money go against the personal needs and the personal views of other Members of the States. I take advice from the Comptroller and Auditor General very seriously. I value his advice but, at the end of the day, that advice is written from an accountant's point of view and, speaking as an accountant among a few accountants in this Chamber, there are other points of view besides those of accountants. **[Approbation]**

1.15 Deputy P.J. Rondel of St. John:

I note in the Minister's statement he mentions tinkering with government reform. Will he be looking at Clothier's recommendations of a more democratic and transparent system and for election on one day for all Members?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

Yes, the short answer to the last part of that question is I wanted to see one election day for all Members. I think the last election for Constables and Deputies or Deputies and, in some cases, Constables, where they also had a referendum as well, has demonstrated quite clearly that the public can cope with answering 3 questions on one day **[Approbation]** and I believe that that should be something which the Council of Ministers and the Privileges and Procedures Committee should take forward together and, I would hope, get the blessing of every Member of this House. As to the Clothier reforms, generally, when the proposal was put forward some years ago the decision of the House was divided and although the proposals were adopted they were adopted by a majority, not an overwhelming majority. I think it indicated that the process was likely to be an evolutionary, gradual one. We have seen some bits of it and maybe we have been cherry-picking certain bits and ignoring other bits but I think it will continue to be an evolutionary process and certainly the move to one election day will be a further step in that evolution.

1.16 Deputy C.H. Egré of St. Peter:

As the I.C.T. (Information and Communication Technology) and Human Resources Department come under the Chief Minister's office, how does the Minister intend to take these departments forward in the coming years?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

With additional resources in the Chief Minister's Department I wanted to see a Deputy Chief Executive in there who can take overall responsibility for some of these matters. One of the things I have been very proud of over the last few years is the way in which, by co-ordinating things like human resources and payroll and administration of financial transactions, we have been able to achieve significant efficiencies which have resulted in money being available for the public benefit. I want to see that continue and I want also to get better value out of our existing I.C.T. activities which, I think, sometimes are unknown to many Members and maybe are done from a technician's point of view rather than from the State Members point of view. I think, perhaps, what we needed to do is get a clear understanding of what the I.C.T. Department does and maybe for that department to get a clearer understanding of what we do.

1.17 Deputy R.G. Le Hérisier of St. Saviour:

The Haut de la Garenne affair and various associated issues have had the effect of polarising the community and truth seems to have become a casualty. How would the Chief Minister candidate deal with the fallout from Haut de la Garenne and other affairs in order that we can somehow find our way to the truth and to enduring solutions to what is a terrible affair?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

The truth becomes a casualty when rumour takes over. **[Approbation]** I want to ensure that the police continue to be given all the resources they need to ensure that any injustices are discovered, brought to trial and, through the judicial process, are dealt with in the proper way. I will continue to support whatever resources are required in order to do that. If people were to avoid speculating and rumour mongering then it might be possible for the truth to come out and I think, sadly, it may take a little bit longer for the truth to come out but it does not get helped by rumour-mongering and speculation.

1.18 Deputy J.A. Martin of St. Helier:

I would like a truthful answer to this question. We have heard the candidate say, again, we are going to be inclusive - he must consult - and then in the same breath the candidate has said he is going to keep most of the same Ministers who were there before. He has also said he has a mandate for this House because he was elected 3 years ago on principles and policies that have not changed and he also assured us they will not change in the next 3 years. Can the Senator tell me, is it going to be more of the same, does he not accept the world has moved on and how can I be sure that we will not get exactly what we had before with not inclusive and one side trying to squeeze out information, if this person is elected as Chief Minister? **[Approbation]**

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I am very conscious of the concerns that the Deputy has. I am not going to change my principles but I am prepared to change my policies or to listen to other people's policies if the view of the Members in this Chamber is that there is a different point of view which is better than mine. In trying to be more inclusive I think that that embraces all of us and should embrace all of us. There have been divisions in the past, which I wanted to see eradicated, divisions maybe caused by secrecy or lack of information or lack of trust. I would like, in this new school term, if you like - new 3-year term of office - that we start from a position of openness and trust in one another and talking to one another. I want to break down any sort of divisions. I do want to make this House more inclusive. That is not just something that I can do. I will instil that message certainly, in whichever Ministers get appointed, but I want that message to go not just to Ministers. I want that message to go through to every States Member, whatever role they play in the States over the next 3 years, to ensure that we can demonstrate to the public that we are a responsible and inclusive government working for the benefit of the people.

1.19 Deputy S. Pitman:

I will try and make a better job of this. **[Laughter]** The Minister has said that he wants to create an inclusive society and make Jersey a better place for all. He has also said that we have one of the best social security systems in the world. It is a fact that since the implementation of the new income support system, charities are now facing more pressure due to those who are on income support. Further, that chronically ill people on income support are now receiving £5 a week to pay for their doctors' bills which average around £27. As the Senator ignored the conclusions brought by the Income Support Scrutiny Panel how will he now assure us that all those recipients on income support will not have to struggle to pay to go to the doctor instead of going to A&E (Accident and Emergency) which is happening now? Also how will he create a society which is less dependent on state benefit which is contrary to what the States have agreed to and implemented this year? **[Approbation]**

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I think there were several questions rolled up into that one. I will, maybe, have to take a bit longer. I said we have one of the best social security systems in the world and I stand by those comments. I acknowledge and I have said that the income support system is a significant improvement on what we had in the past but it still can improve further and although the Deputy shakes her head I would remind her and remind Members of the time when we used to have to go to Housing, to Education, to the Parishes, to a variety of places with filling in different forms and getting benefits at different rates. The new system, in principle, is far better than that and, yes, it does have imperfections and the Scrutiny Panel did point out some of those imperfections. I think States Members listened to the report of that panel and decided just what it could do within the funds available to the Minister for Social Security and I think that the funds available to the Minister for Social Security were used in the best possible way. Since that debate the Minister has received more funding as a result of the amendments last week in the budget which will enable still further progress to be made in helping those people on income support. In response to the final part of the question as to how to create a society where people have less need to access benefits, the answer there is twofold. Firstly, we have to keep jobs and that is why one of my priorities is to maintain a high level of employment in the Island. Unless people are employed they lose a lot of their self-esteem and they also increase their dependency on benefits. So we need to have an economy which supports and enhances job opportunities and we also need to make sure that we have a Skills Executive which is able to give better training to enable people to have better opportunities to undertake more fulfilling jobs and, again, increase their self-esteem.

1.20 The Dean of Jersey:

I was very encouraged to hear what the Senator had to say about an inclusive society. I am sure he knows that there are many young people in the Island who feel that there is not enough infrastructure designed to support them whereas there are many older people in the Island whose perception is that St. Helier is not a safe place to walk at night. I wonder how he will invest in our young people and help bridge the gap between young and old?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

A quite tricky question to answer in that one has to acknowledge the needs of all sections of the community. I think part of the need is to encourage and support more youth activities and we have seen recently the introduction, for example, of a skate park but I think part of the difficulty with all of this is that we are looking at material objects there, things for them to have, whereas what I think they need is personal support and encouragement. We need more people for them to talk to, for them to interact with. That would be, to some extent, within the ambit of the Youth Department but I think it is a broader issue than that. We have to have, and if we can have, a more inclusive society in which young people are acknowledged as adults with equal responsibilities and equal abilities and equal chance to contribute to the society to which they belong. Young people often are a little bit nervous and afraid to come forward. In some cases they will need support and encouragement in order to do that and it is up to us as older and more responsible people and leaders of the community, to give that encouragement to them in order that they can be drawn out to play a fuller, more constructive part in society of the future.

1.21 Connétable G.F. Butcher of St. John:

In terms of electoral reform that we might be tinkering with again, we have a system with Senatorial candidates for the Island-wide mandate; we have the Connétables that have to stand in their own Parish. Does the Senator think it is correct that Deputies can seek an easy option and stand where they do not live?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

Yes, it is the right of a Deputy to stand wherever he wishes and it is the right of the electors of that district to decide whether that person is the best person for the job. **[Approbation]** I think that that

probably has answered the question but in terms of Senators themselves, I think that there is still a place for an Island-wide mandate and an Island-wide role for Senators.

1.22 Senator J.L. Perchard:

Does the candidate consider the life enriching branding of the Island firstly, to be good value and secondly, appropriate and, if elected, will he undertake to reconsider the image that Jersey wishes to promote?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

The life enriching branding is very much a subjective issue but I believe what is important is that the Island does not chop and change with this sort of thing. It takes a while for a brand name to get established and I think over the next few years, with continual use and with diversification of that branding and with proper use of it, we can use it to improve the opportunities in the Island not only for our businesses to develop but for the people within those businesses to continue to enjoy business opportunities and work opportunities. I think that what we are seeing is that that brand is now spreading across into other areas such as “Keeping Jersey Fresh” and so on. It has become a trademark of Jersey, if you like, and certainly I would not want the review and start again. I think it is difficult enough trying to find any brand which, initially, pleases everybody. I think when you see a new car design it very often looks bad to start with and then in a year’s time you think: “Oh, is it not great?” That may happen with the present brand - the present logo - but there is more to marketing, there is more to branding, than a logo.

1.23 Senator B.I. Le Marquand:

With current pressures both upon poorer members of our society and upon middle-Jersey how does the Senator propose to deal with the issue of 1(1)(k)s and to ensure that both future 1(1)(k)s and the current 1(1)(k)s pay their fair share of tax? **[Approbation]**

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

That was an issue which concerned me several years ago when I first became President of the Finance and Economics Committee as a result of which I brought forward proposals to the States which the States adopted to clarify the law in relation to 1(1)(k) residents and for any new 1(1)(k) residents the terms of that legislation are clearly set out and indicate and ensure that they pay tax according to the law, just like anybody else. I think sometimes people regard 1(1)(k) residents as a bit of a parasite on the Island I would just like to remind Members that, per head, they pay considerably more. The requirements of the Migration Department are such that they need a tax bill of at least £100,000 a year now to be eligible to qualify for 1(1)(k) licence under Housing Regulations. Now a tax bill of £100,000 a year is probably more than most households in the Island earn in that time. If these people were not in the Island it would be the ordinary tax payers of Jersey who would have to make up that tax revenue, so I think we get very good value for money out of 1(1)(k) residents. In fact the obstacles, if you like, which we put in their path are far more serious than obstacles you would get in other jurisdictions such as Switzerland where it is far easier for these people than to come to the Island. But I do not want to focus on 1(1)(k) residents simply the financial money side, they also contribute a lot in terms of employment activities and social benefits for the good of the people of the Island and in assessing who should be 1(1)(k) residents, I think that the department takes all these factors into account.

1.24 Deputy A.K.F. Green of St. Helier:

The Senator mentions in his vision, working closer with the Skills Executive to reduce the need to attract immigrant labour. My question, is it not time for a robust system of population control?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

It is time to ensure that any people who come to the Island make a positive contribution to the Island and are not a drain on the Island’s activities. We will always need people coming to the

Island, be that in teaching or medical services or other areas where we do not have the skills at present ourselves. So it has to be a 2-handed approach. Yes, we have to reduce the need to bring in labour from outside to do the things we cannot do ourselves and that means that we have to increase the skills of the local workforce and diversify the skills of the local workforce. I think that is something which the Skills Executive is already getting underway very well already. In terms of setting anything like an artificial population cap, that is going to be very difficult. What we need to have is an objective of making sure that we have an Island which can sustain a population at a certain level and which gets better value for money and better results from that immigration. What I do not want to see is either an open door where people can flood-in, or a completely closed door where no one can come in, because neither is in the long-term interests of the people of Jersey.

1.25 Connétable D.W. Mezbourian of St. Lawrence

Does the candidate's proposed inclusive Council include women? **[Approbation]**

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I would very much like to include a woman on the Council of Ministers and I have asked several Members, lady Members, if they would be prepared to serve on the Council of Ministers. But I qualify that by saying that I want Ministers of proven ability and experience. I believe that there are cases where that could happen and if Members decide or choose that there should be a woman on the Council of Ministers, I would welcome that greater diversity of opinion. I do not think we should have a woman on the Council just as the token woman. I think if they are there they are there because they are the right person for the job.

1.26 Deputy G.P. Southern:

As Minister for Treasury and Resources, the Senator has developed a reputation of playing hardball. What piece of evidence would he point to to confirm that following his open and consultative process, inclusive process in the States he is capable of changing his mind?

The Bailiff:

Beaten by the bell, I am afraid, Deputy. **[Laughter]** That concludes the time allowed for the questioning of Senator Le Sueur. I invite Senator Le Sueur to retire, please, to a distant place and Senator Breckon to be brought back to the Chamber. I will send out a call. I hope that all Members who are in the precincts will now return to their seats in order to hear Senator Breckon. Perhaps while Members return I can repeat for the benefit of Senator Breckon that there will be a period of 10 minutes allowed for his speech and that when he has concluded his speech the Assembly will be permitted to question him for 40 minutes. After 35 minutes there will be the first bell and after 40 minutes the second bell. Now I must say that if there are Members still in the precincts I think it is important that they should return to their seats. **[Approbation]**

Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire:

Maybe we could cast the roll call and see who is not interested in hearing who is going to be Jersey's Chief Minister. I think it is ridiculous, we have just had an election and on the first and most important issue Members are not in their places.

The Bailiff:

I call upon Senator Breckon to address the Assembly.

2. Senator A Breckon:

Before launching into my few minutes, I would like to add my name to those who have already paid tribute to Jersey's first Chief Minister, Senator Frank Walker. It is said that he has led from the front with courage, conviction and commitment in his own style and he can rightly say that he

did it his way and I would agree with that. The difficulty for anyone following this is that they firstly have to convince the Members of this House and then subsequently, with colleagues, serve the public and deliver to a high level of expectation. Nothing less will do. I am sure Members appreciate this is a considerable challenge that no one can or indeed will achieve on their own. However, I believe I can play a part because I am still a student of the University of Life from which there is only one graduation ceremony. I wish to say that I was brought up in a secure, 3 and briefly 4-generation family environment in which respect, family values and a strong work ethic existed. My reason for saying that is I am aware of the grounding this gave me for life. I do not need an adviser, a report or a consultant to tell me it has served me well so far. However, I am also aware of those who did not have the same family structure and set of values and this is something we, as a whole House, can and indeed, I believe, must demonstrate for and to each other and to support the community we serve: I would say support family values. We must have the heart of the community in everything that we do and show respect for each other and our community, celebrate our differences, share in common goals and objectives and by doing this, I believe that we will lay solid foundations for our future in what will be difficult times. I believe that we have a great deal of resource and enthusiasm among us to pool, share and harness for the common good, for the benefit of the people and also embrace the spirit of dedication and commitment that flows through our honorary system. I am conscious of the considerable turmoil that exists in global financial markets, that will, in my opinion, create some uncertainty of employment and affect not only levels of profits for businesses but also our investment performance and our funds under management. I welcome those outsiders - some for the umpteenth time - who wish to investigate, question or inquire about our financial services industry or other Island matters. However, I would ask that they inject accuracy not fantasy into their reports. I would show them kindness, courtesy and respect - maybe even give them a feed of spuds - and they can go back to whence they came, hopefully well informed and wiser for their experience. Having said that, we should listen, take notice and respect outside influences, views and opinions, but we must remain masters of our own destiny. We must beware of those who are ill-informed and maybe envious of our success and hell-bent on destroying it. They must be given short shrift. If asked to jump, I would want to know why rather than how high. While these bigger issues maybe challenging to us like perhaps never before, we must respect and value everyone in our society. I believe that there are some practical things that we can do in the short term for considerable public gain. Because of my wealth of experience and community involvement, I wish to lead a team that will be inclusive, not just a team of Ministers and Assistant Ministers, but also other States Members and I would welcome and involve the many talents of people in our community. My ethos is to include not to exclude. I have no problem trusting and delegating to others and encourage and support them to get on with the job. I produced a short policy paper which I am sure Members will have read and I will be pleased to answer any questions arising from this or any other matter later. I believe that the Jersey public have a high level of expectation of government to deliver essential benefits and quality services and rightly so in my opinion. However, we all may face a period of focusing on what is achievable rather than what is nice to have. I believe that all- yes all - of us would benefit by visiting the various States Departments, talking to people at the sharp end who work there, at an early opportunity in 2009. Seeing exactly what it is they do on a day-to-day basis so that we can celebrate success and witness first-hand all the things that we are doing well and share with those whose problems will challenge us in the future. I would see this as a high priority for new Ministers. I believe we also need to appreciate and support fully the many organisations that are part of the lifeblood that runs through our community; Family Nursing and Homecare, Citizens Advice, Jersey Hospice, Mencap and Focus on Mental Health, Association of Carers, Alzheimer's Society, Age Concern and Senior Citizens, and numerous uniformed and voluntary organisations. These and many others offering vital disciplines and vital targeted support to people in our community in their time of need, all deserve our full support and recognition for their sterling work. Many unsung heroes who work with dedication on a daily basis. Throughout the parishes many other groups do sterling work. I would say, especially to new Members, find out what is going on.

Ask your Connétable, get involved. These are the grass roots organisations that, I believe, we should be working with. The bedrock of our community. This applies also to our schools. By doing this, all of us - I repeat all of us - I believe, can reconnect with the people and restore their faith in government. This, I should believe, would be our first strategic plan: what we all must do now, we must buy into it. Not some booklet with lots of jargon and a few numbers that is waiting to be published. Things I have mentioned are part of the agenda I see and wish to work towards because I believe that we still have some work to do to reconnect with the people. Many people have expressed concerns to me about the unhealthy degree of secrecy under which the previous Council of Ministers has operated and conducted some of its business. But rather than dwell on that, I will propose to put in place an effective communication strategy as opposed to spin as a vital part of good government. I believe Ministers should report more directly and be accountable to this Assembly and I would see that there is regular electronic circulation of Ministerial decisions as opposed to having to hunt for them; and more Ministerial statements to this Assembly where they can be questioned openly by other Members rather than the current system of press releases directly to the media on a wet Friday afternoon. Property: we currently occupy maybe 600,000 square feet of office space located on 76 sites. It is estimated we could release 20 per cent of this. I believe it could make a significant contribution to Housing and should be pursued actively. Overdale is a prime site that has been left to deteriorate to an unacceptable standard. I would urge Members to go and have a look for themselves. I believe a modern centre of excellence on Overdale must be considered. Local architects should be involved in a design competition to introduce an alternative scheme for the site with elderly care at its core. Funding for elderly care is also an issue and I believe it must be addressed through the Social Security system with the proactivity of Ministers involved. Guernsey has a system, for heaven's sake. I am sure we can beat and better that. I also would support a States-funded skill and trades training scheme for the under 25s that gives financial assistance to employers to provide proper training placements. Areas such as a range of building trades, mechanics, marine trades, office skills. Let us equip these young people for the future. It is a commonsense thing to do. Also I believe we must target - put a greater emphasis on - those with literacy and numeracy difficulties. Early intervention and investment now will equip them well in the future. If elected I would work on these and other issues for the common good. I would do it my way, but not on my own but with the support of you and the support of the people. I hope the content of this has given some food for thought and I welcome Members' questions. Thank you.

The Bailiff:

The period of questioning will now open. Deputy Shona Pitman?

2.1 Deputy S. Pitman:

As the Senator has led the fight against G.S.T., how would he have raised the money to fill the so-called black hole?

Senator A. Breckon:

I did, as part of not this year's budget, last year's budget, propose a number of amendments which were rejected by the House. One was referring to stamp duty on property and the other was stamp duty on inheritance. The House rejected both of those. Those would have raised about £8 million. I am still not convinced we have looked at all of the issues including looking at the Social Security system. So there are things that we need to do, I believe, and revisit. As it goes on we are where we are, but we need to do it obviously carefully in view of the current financial markets and the downturn which is coming in the economy which is predicted elsewhere.

2.2 Deputy G.P. Southern:

The Senator has made numerous references to inclusivity and community values. Would he be prepared to tell us what his first-11 might be to achieve such inclusivity in his selection of Ministers in the first place?

Senator A. Breckon:

Did you mean the first 9?

Deputy G.P. Southern:

Yes, 11 is metaphorical. [Laughter]

Senator A. Breckon:

Could I further question the Deputy? Does he want me to name names?

Deputy G.P. Southern:

I would love for the Minister to name names.

Senator A. Breckon:

Perhaps I may do this as known expressions of interest. Of course, as Members are aware, it is not the Chief Minister designate who will elect the Ministers, it is this House. Just on that I would add I hope that there will be contested elections for most posts, if not all. In no particular order, I understand from the jungle drums that in Education I think Senator Shenton has expressed an interest, as indeed has Deputy Le Hérissier and the Deputy of St. Ouen. I am not aware of anyone else, but I should say that somebody said to me that if I was not elected Chief Minister would I be interested, so I should add that caveat in case I appear from under the radar. Health: the names of Senators Perchard and Routier have been mentioned and I should add to that I have also been approached, if not as Chief Minister would I allow my name to go forward as well? So again, I am not going to stand for everything, I do not think, or we will see. Treasury and Resources: I will share with Members that I have had a conversation with Senator Le Sueur. If I was elected I did ask if he would stay there because I believe he has done a good job, we do not agree on everything, but it is not about that, it is about getting the job done and in return he asked if I would be interested in T.T.S., so [Laughter] we are where we are. But I understand also the name of Senator Ozouf has been mentioned ... no, no, [Laughter] we are still on Treasury and also Deputy Gorst's name has been mentioned in high places. Home Affairs: Senator Le Marquand's name has been mentioned and also, to me, the name of a Constable, a Connétable who I will not name. That is good and healthy if that were to happen because it would ensure that it was a contested election if we have 2 or more candidates. Social Security: the names that have been mentioned are Deputy Southern and Deputy Gorst. Planning: there are probably about 53 candidates for Planning but as far as I know Senator Cohen is interested and a name that has been mentioned is that of Deputy Le Fondré. Housing: names that have been mentioned are Senator Le Main, the Deputy of St. Ouen, again my own name was mentioned for Housing - it was in the *Jersey Evening Post* so it must be true - and also I had mentioned the name of Senator Ozouf as I believe he could do an excellent job at Housing. T.T.S: the names I have heard mentioned, if not 53, were Senator Ferguson, I said myself, also Senator Perchard, Deputy Duhamel and Deputy Rondel. I think we are done, I think that is the 9. Apologies for anybody I may have missed.

Deputy J.A. Hilton of St. Helier:

I am sorry, I may have misunderstood Deputy Southern, but I thought the question was would the Senator please name his proposed team, not all the candidates that we are all aware of.

The Bailiff:

Well, I ... do you want to answer that?

Senator A. Breckon:

I did say that it would be up to me to make nominations but perhaps I would add to that, I would like to have, if elected, conversations with many people rather than just accepting it at face value.

2.3 Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire:

Details are emerging about serious allegations to do with doctors and surgeons in Jersey working excessive hours. In their words: "Shifts that would be illegal in the United Kingdom." After several months of having this kept under wraps, the media are now starting to talk about it. If elected, what would the Senator propose to do to bring out the issues at the hospital where people are scared, for fear of their jobs, to mention issues that may involve patient safety?

Senator A. Breckon:

My understanding is that most of the medical associations are represented by the trade body, as it were, and they would lay down ... I know with hospital consultants, for example, and particularly junior doctors, things have changed from a few years ago and there are limits on hours of work. I am concerned to hear that because if that is the case then there is probably a risk to the public, if it is true. But it must be ... anything raised in such a manner must be ... the evidence must be presented and acted upon. If that is the case and I ...

Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire:

On a point of information, would not the Senator admit that a politician standing up in this Assembly and raising this is not, in itself, evidence?

Senator A. Breckon:

It is not evidence, you need to speak to the people involved and get that information and there must be some way of checking that because if people are working these hours there must be some record of who is on duty when. So obviously it needs to be investigated and if there are problems it needs to be acted on, but it is difficult to discuss any issue like that in sort of open session. It needs to be investigated by the people involved.

2.4 Deputy J.A. Hilton:

In the statement produced by Senator Breckon, he makes reference to the proposed new car park on the soon to be demolished Ann Court site. He says: "I have requested a report into the condition of Minden Place car park and work done and costs for the improvement to Patriotic Street car park." He then goes on to say: "If money tightens, I really question why we are doing this. Is it the best use of public funds?" My question to the candidate is this, many reports have been carried out over the last 3, 4, 5 years into the feasibility of delivering the Town Park and all the reports report conclusively that a multi-storey car park should be built on the Ann Court site. Does he support the siting of a new car park on the Ann Court site in order to facilitate the delivery of the new Town Park on the Gas Place/Talman land and if he does not, what is his alternative?

Senator A. Breckon:

There is a missing link in this. We have not seen the Transport Strategy; do we have a car accommodation policy, I have also put that underneath? I understand a private developer on the old Ann Street Brewery site is building a car park. That is in the plans as well. So, I understand what the Deputy is saying, but this is something that is coming under the radar because the money is in the Car Parks Fund and it was one of the recommendations of EDAW but of course anybody can make recommendations who does not have to pay for them. What I am saying in that paper is, in the current economic climate, is it right and the reason I have asked for the report on Minden Place and I have now found out that Patriotic Street cost £1 million the refurbishment, but £1 million is cheaper than £9 million. So, what do we need to do to Minden Place to keep it intact? What are we going to create there? I am not sure where this fits into a Traffic and Transport Strategy because I have not seen one. It has been discussed umpteen times by the Council of Ministers and we have not seen it, so why are we building another car park when a private developer is going to build one on the Ann Street site? They had an application in: they perhaps would do it for us. There is another one being built in Kensington Place. What are we doing about parking and car accommodation? In my opinion, we must stop before we spend £9 million, I do not have a problem

with the Town Park, but this is somebody else's wishes, not ours and I think we should investigate it before we spend £9 million in the current climate.

2.5 Senator S.C. Ferguson:

The Comptroller and Auditor General, supported by the P.A.C. (Public Accounts Committee), suggested in his spending review a number of ideas for reducing expenditure and improving efficiency. What priority will the Senator give to those proposals?

Senator A. Breckon:

As a Senator now... I am a member of the Public Accounts Committee so I have seen this and we have discussed it at some length in reports and in meetings. Part of the problem was, again, from the previous Council of Ministers, the £35 million of savings that were not. But I think what we must do in the current climate, without intimidating those who are vulnerable or on benefits, we must look at everything we spend money on and be sensible about it. We must not put up the sacrificial lambs and threaten elderly services and things like that. We must look at everything that we do and I believe there are savings in the system. We must do that because it is the thing, I think, that we should be ... and as the Senator will know, the Public Accounts Committee has a lot of work still to do because we need to have more transparent budgets so that we can see where there are some discrepancies year to year: what we approve in strategic plans and business plans and the outcomes are different. So I think we need to get back to the accounting to look at it and Ministers, and indeed all of us, need to be more accountable for that and we need to deliver the right policies at the right price. That is without threatening or intimidating those in our society who need essential services and who need that support. Now, I believe we can do that and we can be more prudent with our finances, but we must not be silly either and we must give people, including the Members of this House, some options. I think we need better lines of communication with the public and with each other to do that and I am not sure we have got it right because budgets past and previous have been delivered to us at some busy times, and even Scrutiny has not had the time to look at different areas. I think that is an area that we can improve on, as indeed with business plans and strategic plans. So in general terms the savings, I think, are still there but I would not like to think that we were worrying anybody that their benefits and essential services would be affected because we must keep those at the core of everything that we do.

The Bailiff:

May I repeat my earlier request, please, for questions and answers to be succinct. Deputy Le Hérissier.

2.6 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier:

If a recession were to hit Jersey - a serious recession - what would be Senator Breckon's economic policy and social policy in the event of such a recession?

Deputy A. Breckon:

Those with longer memories will remember in the early 1990s we had unemployment of over 1,000 and we had winter work schemes and things like that. These things mentioned just before. But recessionary effects are around us and it is probably folly to pretend that they will not happen but, of course, anything is damage limitation. So we must look to where that would be and something I mentioned before is assisting young people into employment. There are still lots of things that we can do but in general terms the bigger picture, how it will affect our finances, and in the paper I have produced I have suggested that we do more monitoring and take advice on the effects. As things move on we have seen figures for November in the United States of America where over 500,000 people lost their jobs. The City of London is to be affected and as some banking institutions and household names are wobbling then there will be some affect in Jersey. It is a case of what. But we must put in place a robust reporting system that will pick up the early signs and do what we can to limit the damage. That includes sharing the information among ourselves because,

obviously, the less money we have, the less we have to spend and as mentioned earlier where can we save money? We are going to have to look at some of these issues and we are going to have to take some tough decisions, make no mistake about that, and I would not have been truthful if I said anything else.

2.7 Deputy D.J. De Sousa:

What flaws does the Senator identify with the income support system and how would he improve it?

Deputy A. Breckon:

One of the problems - and I know this an area Deputy Martin has done a lot of work on and is, indeed, still working on - is that 14 benefits come together for a standardisation because the system we had before was a bit haphazard. You had different assessment levels for people and people were going from one place to another so bringing things together has taken a long time and there was bound to be teething problems, not just over a couple of weeks or a couple of months, it is going to be a couple of years, I am sure. I think we are not there yet because it is throwing up ... and I know that other Members have looked at this and taken individual cases, but what we must ensure is that people who are vulnerable and need benefits get what they want and we are not challenging people on silly issues. But I think there have been changes proposed for 2009, some of which do not come in until October 2009 and there was a cushion which was agreed by the Treasury where people had some of the benefits, it would be phased-out over a 3, 4, 5-year period, but I think what we all have to be aware of within that is, if there are people who have a problem, then we must pick it up. The difficulty is if you are drawing straight lines then if people are on the wrong side of it sometimes there is a problem but I think there is some flexibility in the system and we must not see anybody in hardship. But it is a system that is not yet perfect and I do not know if it is a perfect system, indeed. But we must all be vigilant and through, what I said before, working in the community there were things that were picked up before where people who had some problem... some children were being excluded, so some things have been adapted as we have gone along and I still think it needs to be a living and working benefit and it should find the right level within the next 18 months to 2 years.

2.8 The Deputy of St. Peter:

As the I.C.T. and Human Resources Department come under the Chief Minister's Office, if elected how would the Senator take these departments forward in the coming years?

Deputy A. Breckon:

There has just been a contract awarded to a local company to review the websites and some of the ways that the technology is working and I think that is the way forward. But what we must do, of course, is to make better use of technology that we are communicating with the public with, but also our own use of it. I know there are some serious numbers in the system. If you look at a new system for Health it is probably around £12 million. We spent a lot of money on the J.D. Edwards systems which not everybody has yet signed up to so we do need to get standardisation of the system. I say that for a number of reasons. One is if we need quality information then we must be able to access it fairly readily especially if there is a downturn in the market we must know what we are doing. We need regular reporting of that and we need to do analysis of what we are spending and why, and that is linked into the I.C.T. The other thing it does is it should enable people to do their job more efficiently. I do not know what happened to the paperless office - it certainly passed me by - but there is opportunity I think to use technology as well to communicate better with each other and the public. But we also need to have a human face attached to that. But it worries me seriously when big numbers are talked about for that and I would certainly like to look behind some of that to make sure that they are justified.

The Deputy of St. Peter:

I thank the Senator for that but the second part of the question was the Human Resources Department.

Deputy A. Breckon:

Again, I mentioned in my address, the people who work for us in a number of areas are people at the sharp end and I did suggest that through Ministers it would be a good idea for everyone to meet with those and see what they do. Just to give you an example, I remember I was on the Health Committee years ago with former Constable Jack Roche and there was a problem at the hospital laundry and he said to me: "Breckon, go and have a look at that." They got 2.5 tonnes of washing on a Monday morning so that gets thing into perspective. So we need to appreciate other people's problems as well. So although we have got Human Resources we have also got demands on our services so we need to again look at that. I know there are problems from time to time but we need to value the people who work for us as well and also train people adequately. Health and safety: there are all sorts of issues related with that and generally I would say the States are good employer with a package of benefits. But we are in competition as well with others and I think human resources - the people who work for us - are a valuable asset and we must look after them as well.

2.9 The Connétable of St. Mary:

I would welcome the candidate's thoughts on how he might tackle the issue of tightening political responsibility for children, inasmuch as this has figured predominantly in the recommendations of several reports, including a Scrutiny report recently. Thank you.

Deputy A. Breckon:

The responsibility for the Children's Office has moved in the time I have been in the States from Education to Health and Social Services and there still seems to be some division of responsibility. I am not sure that all of the recommendations of the *Kathy Bull Report* have been implemented fully. There were some issues in there, I think, that still need to be moved on. But one possibility for that would be to get the good lady back and let her have a look and see who has done what since, and that would be, I think, a good independent peer review. The problem when it was falling with Education, with Home Affairs, and with Health and Social Services, was I think there were some issues which were not resolved and there is the problem, if we are becoming the corporate parent, all sorts of complicated issues. In general terms there is a great deal of good work that goes on but we will make sure that we have structures in place, especially with recent cases in the U.K. that satisfy everybody, and the prime concern must be the children themselves.

2.10 Connétable D.J. Murphy of Grouville:

In the Senator's statement he says under taxes and spending that: "I believe that G.S.T. should be removed from basic foodstuffs and energy." In that event, would he please tell us if he intends then to cancel the G.S.T. bonus and if not, how he would compensate the revenue to the Exchequer. Thank you.

Deputy A. Breckon:

G.S.T. is simple, no red tape, no bureaucracy - we spent hours in this House debating red tape, G.S.T. exemptions, adding add-ons to income support. So what happened I would ask you to the "no red tape" bit? That is where we are tying ourselves up with red tape. What we should have done is done the decent thing and removed it from basic foodstuffs and energy. We should not be taxing pensioners and others and then giving it back another way. To me this is absolute nonsense. We should not be doing that at all. I did not support it because I think this was a lifeboat before an election for some people. I think it was politically motivated for the wrong reasons and that is why I did not support it. I think in the current climate we could unbundle that and I know before the end of January somebody - an individual Member perhaps - will lodge a proposition that brings that back to this House so this House will have to decide that and not me.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Sorry, the question was will he cancel the G.S.T. bonus or how would he compensate the income to the Exchequer?

Deputy A. Breckon:

There will not need to be a G.S.T. bonus because people will not be paying it on the basic essentials.

The Connétable of Grouville:

I understand then that you would cancel the G.S.T. bonus?

Senator S. Syvret:

How many questions is the Constable going to be allowed?

The Connétable of Grouville:

I am trying to get an answer to one question.

The Bailiff:

The Constable is asking a single question. Do you want to answer the second bit, Senator, or do you think you have dealt with it?

Deputy A. Breckon:

The answer is you will not need a bonus if you are not paying it. It is a simple answer.

2.11 Deputy R.C. Duhamel:

To what extent should Scrutiny Panel recommendations be made binding on Ministers?

Deputy A. Breckon:

Maybe I should share this with the House: there is a trick to doing that and it happened in the review I chaired on telephone masts. What was done - and I must commend the Planning Minister, Economic Development Minister and the Health Minister - we made recommendations that asked them to do something and they looked at that and it did happen and it was all very positive. So the trick would be, in a Scrutiny report request the Minister to do something within a given period, say 18 weeks or something, and then they could be questioned in the House whether or not they accept it and what they have done about it.

2.12 Deputy M. Tadier:

I note that the Senator has come off the back of a very successful Senatorial election. In the light of that is he concerned that he is not unpopular enough with the public to be running for Chief Minister? On a more serious note, does he agree that it need not be mutually exclusive that somebody can be popular with the public and with the House? That is a good thing, I would suggest.

Deputy A. Breckon:

That is probably the most difficult question I have had so far. **[Laughter]** I would say about the Senatorial campaign I probably knocked on about 7,000 or 8,000 doors which is crazy I know, but I did and it does not happen in a Senatorial. But you get a good feel for how people feel and I think it is not a case of being popular or unpopular, it is hard work. The people out there expect ... and sometimes that is not about being popular or unpopular, it is about delivering, and I think there is some tension there. Again, the same in this House. There are people who do some sterling work and sometimes turn up with some bad news but I think if we share these things then that is a positive way forward. It is not about popularity or beauty competitions or anything like that, it is

about getting the job done. On many occasions that will mean us as a House making unpopular decisions.

2.13 Senator S. Syvret:

In his paper Senator Breckon has this phrase: “Those who have companies and operate here should not be able to export their profits without tax and an early solution should be found to get them to contribute.” Does the Senator recognise that that simple phrase is the first time that a candidate for one of these major posts, and certainly the holder of any of the major posts over the last 20 years, has recognised the issue of economic leakage? Does he recognise that he is unique in grasping this fundamental and catastrophic omission for decades in Jersey’s fiscal policy?

Deputy A. Breckon:

It is an issue. If we look at the fiscal policy where ‘20 means 20’ is beginning to bite and if you look at the figures for tax taken from employees and salary earners it has gone from £100 million to £200 million in a relatively short time, probably 6 or 7 years. So when we are in that situation, as somebody had mentioned earlier, then I think it is right and proper that we examine every avenue and we have people operating in the High Street who we are good enough to give our custom to and people we give our business to and I think it is right that they contribute to our economy. They do provide jobs and there are other benefits from that sometimes, some sponsorship, but at the same time we need more than that because we need a tax base. When things have been looked at, I am sorry to say ... with the Blampied proposals on the old ‘Schedule A’ and that sort of thing linked to property I think we have ducked the issue for now but we need to come back to some of this. The alternative of the social security system and a payroll tax linked to Regulation of Undertakings was crossed off as not being an option, but I really think we need to come back to this because I think, as Senator Syvret has said, they should be making a contribution and it is not an issue that we can ignore.

2.14 The Deputy of St. Martin:

The Senator will recall that he did not support the proposals I brought to the House last September regarding Human Rights. Can I ask what positive steps, if any, will the Senator take if elected as Chief Minister to ensure that there is greater awareness of and support for the Jersey Human Rights Law?

Deputy A. Breckon:

As the Deputy knows, reports and propositions coming to this House, where appropriate, have a statement to say that they are Human Rights compliant and it is signed by the relevant Minister. The rest of us do not share that information and possibly one way forward would be if there was some expansion on that by the Law Officers. We do not necessarily want 60 pages but it could well be that a paragraph may well cover that if they believe any particular legislation or law was challenging Human Rights. I know that some can be a bit precious about sharing this information but I think if there is a need for the House to know then we should know even if it is in closed session because obviously if there is something contentious that could be challenged legally then we need to be wary of that as well. But in general terms I am supportive of the transparency that I think should be enclosed within a statement attached to the various reports and propositions.

2.15 The Connétable of St. Helier:

Would the candidate outline his vision for the future of our tourism industry and, in particular, will he pledge that event-led tourism will receive his full support if he is elected?

Deputy A. Breckon:

As I have said in the short paper I produced, we are going to have to work very hard for tourists because the bulk of the market is still through the United Kingdom and people themselves are facing difficult times. We do have some things that have come forward and been supported by

Economic Development and I think we must continue with that. An example of something that is only in the early stages will be the Jersey Marathon, for example- that brings people to the Island. We have some basic stuff like the M.G. Owners - it is one of their top rallies throughout the U.K., there are 120 cars or something like that and we must welcome this. Also, perhaps look at more sports and other events. We have Fête de Noué developing. I think with that if we had an ice rink and we had things for locals and visitors, and there are other things we can ... we have Walking Week and there are other things like the garden competition. Some people will come for those but again ... and we also have, of course, the bigger events, Battle of Flowers and the air display, so it is a case of putting these together. But that, of course, must be combined with effective marketing and that can be expensive. Also we need the links with the airlines, and we are in a period now where crude oil is about a third of the level it was 6 months ago so hopefully the airlines could be re-invigorated and, again, there is a lot of work to do here. But it is a whole House issue, we must be proud of the people who come to the Island on business or on holiday, and hopefully by speaking to the people in the industry as well we can sustain indeed what will be a difficult period.

2.16 Deputy T.M. Pitman:

I apologise but it is about G.S.T. again. Under the former Minister for Treasury and Resources we have obviously championed a tax that does unquestionably hit those who can afford it least the hardest, yet in stark contrast to what the former Minister for Treasury and Resources tells us the actual income received from the most wealthy residents 1(1)(k)s has shrunk ever more to, I believe, an effective tax rate of just 6 per cent. Indeed Senator Le Sueur has described asking such residents to pay as being immoral. Does the Senator share that view and if not, what will he be doing to pursue a reasonable take from such residents? Thank you.

Deputy A. Breckon:

Again, if someone has a written agreement or contract ... but I am sure all of us would like to pay 6 per cent tax if that is indeed true. But I think we must look at everything that we do throughout the community. There are perceived benefits of 1(1)(k)s: whether these are real or not we will obviously have to investigate but I think we should certainly look at it and I would like to know who is doing these deals and I will go and knock on their door tomorrow and see if I can have 6 per cent as well.

2.17 The Deputy of St. John:

As the credit crunch starts to bite can I have the Senator's view on the way forward on the Waterfront, given that it is proposed that a finance centre be built? Further to that, what will the Senator put in place if given the Chief Minister's job for those many people living out in the outlying areas of the Island without main services? **[Laughter]**

Deputy A. Breckon:

Apparently the plumber from St. John, whichever debate or discussion is going on, he has the ability to raise it to the level of drainage. But obviously Public Services, as was, did have a budget for that and I understand it has been under some pressure so the first answer is that there is a drainage programme, if that comes under services, which are still extending out. The problem is some of the easy things to do have been done and now we have some difficult areas where we might need even to look at different technology as is happening in some areas. Regarding the Waterfront and the way forward, I would say that the key word is caution. We perhaps have a different market to 6 months ago and where we are. One of the concerns I have is what will happen to what I would call the Old Town. I know, for example, when HSBC moved down to the end of Gloucester Street and 750 staff all went down there for a while, the market struggled because the footfall at lunchtime went. So it comes back to some fairly basic issues and I think it is good if we can rejuvenate the town if people are living in the town and using it more at night and things like that: that has got to be a good thing. But regarding the probity of a developer, I think the Minister

for Treasury and Resources has a contract heading his way with some guarantees which some of us may see shortly, but with the Waterfront we must proceed with caution. Personally I have some concern about the sunken hole and the chaos that will cause for some time. For me this is not really Jersey. What are we buying into here? I remember some of the earlier debates, as the Deputy of St. John will remember, when we talked about the Waterfront. It was about a considerable housing gain and for a while we were talking about leaving some of it as a park there for a while, but most of that seems to have gone. But regarding the effect of credit, if anybody is going to do anything there then we must make sure that they are 'Triple A' and we are not going to be left with a considerable mess that we need to bail out.

2.18 Senator F.E. Cohen:

What is the candidate's view on signing a tax information exchange agreement with the United Kingdom?

Deputy A. Breckon:

Again, these tax agreements are progressing and I think it is part of Jersey's way of establishing its own identity. So I am not sure if any negotiations have taken place but if there are exchanges then we need to look at everything because it shows that we have nothing to hide and nothing to fear.

2.19 Senator B.I. Le Marquand:

What is the candidate's view in relation to enforcement of the existing Licensing laws, particularly in areas of drunkenness and under-age drinking? Does he have views in relation to reform of the Licensing Law?

Deputy A. Breckon:

It is a sorry state of affairs because I had an amendment to one of the business plans regarding a financial services ombudsman and I was told that I could not do it because if I took the drafting time out from the Licensing Law then everything was going to grind to a halt. The review has never been taken, the industry has not been consulted and the public have not. I do have some issues on this but I think we need to look at it again and we need to modernise it because if there are some problems, as Senator Le Marquand is suggesting, then we must address it as a society, especially if there are young people involved with alcohol abuse. Also we need to combine that with the dependency services that we have.

The Bailiff:

Thank you, Senator. That concludes the time allowed for questioning. I ask the usher to invite Senator Le Sueur to come back to the Chamber. While Senator Le Sueur is returning to the Chamber I wonder if I could draw the attention of Members to the Order Paper for Thursday, 11th December which should be on Member's desks and which sets out the public business for that day. I would like to remind Members that any Member making a nomination on Thursday will not be expected or indeed permitted to make a speech. I would like to remind Members though that if any Member is nominated he or she will be required to speak for up to 10 minutes and then to submit to questioning for 20 minutes. May I also alert Members to the fact that the meeting might well run into a second day and Members should therefore be prepared to sit on Friday, 12th December if necessary.

Senator J.L. Perchard:

On that, Sir, could I ask a point of order. The successful candidate in the ballot that is due to be taken has the privilege of deciding the order of which the elections take place. When will that announcement be made?

The Bailiff:

The Chief Minister is required to submit the order to the Greffier by 9.30 am on Wednesday.

The Connétable of St. Ouen:

Before you do move on, Sir, could I just point out that Friday morning is the swearing-in of 12 Island Centeniers and the Connétables would probably be expected to be in Royal Court.

The Bailiff:

That might be a difficulty, Constable, but Connétables obviously attend the Royal Court as a courtesy on these occasions but they are Members of the Assembly and I think will have to give precedence to their attendance in the Assembly. **[Approbation]** May I ask the ushers to circulate the ballot papers, please, and I remind Members that they should put a cross opposite one name. **[Laughter]**

Senator S. Syvret:

Could I just, as a suggestion to Members, while this is a secret ballot I personally am entirely content to let it be publicly known who I vote for so I will show my ballot paper before inserting it in the box. I invite other Members to do the same.

The Bailiff:

Members must be aware that they have voted for a secret ballot and I must say from the Chair that I think Members should respect that. If all Members have put their ballot papers in the urns I will ask the Attorney General and the Viscount to act as scrutineers and to report back to the Assembly in due course. While the votes are being counted the Assembly will adjourn for a few minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The Bailiff:

I can now announce the voting for Chief Minister: 17 votes were cast for Senator Breckon, 36 votes for Senator Le Sueur. I can therefore announce that Senator Le Sueur has been elected as Chief Minister for Jersey. **[Approbation]** Chief Minister, do you wish to address the Assembly.

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

If I can crave your indulgence, Sir, and Members of the States just to thank firstly Senator Breckon for giving me a fair and sporting chance **[Approbation]** and we have been the best of friends and we shall, I am sure continue in that vein to work together. We have much in common, in fact there is far more that unites us than separates us. I would like to thank those who signed my nomination paper, those who voted for me, and even those who did not vote for me I would like to think that now that the vote is over we can all work together, as I said in my speech, for the good of the people of the Island. **[Approbation]** That will be my intention over the next 3 years. I am aware that this post carries tremendous responsibility, some may think it is a privilege, others may think it is a millstone, whatever, I shall do it to the best of my ability for the benefit of the Island. **[Approbation]**

Senator A. Breckon:

Can I be the first to go record to give my congratulations to Senator Le Sueur and we had, I think, a policy debate and we need to move on together. That is the important thing. **[Approbation]** I think Senator Le Sueur has the experience, the calibre and wherewithal to do that. What we need to do, we will have our differences, that is good and that is healthy, but now we need to move on. The differences were political as Chief Minister designate has said not personal, so we now need to unite behind him and the team of Ministers for the benefit of the people of the Island. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

The Bailiff:

Thank you, Senators. That concludes the business for this meeting. The States stand adjourned until Thursday, 11th December.

ADJOURNMENT

STATEMENT MADE BY SENATOR LE SUEUR

1. VISION FOR A STRATEGIC POLICY

My overriding vision is for an inclusive society enjoying a good standard of living based on a strong, environmentally sustainable and prosperous economy; a society in which everyone is encouraged to achieve their full potential.

I am proud of what has already been achieved, and my vision for Jersey aims to build on that success. There are ways in which I believe we would benefit from a change in emphasis or direction. My vision would put more emphasis on the importance of individuals, and their role within society.

I remain a strong believer in consensus government, and I would follow this approach in setting our priorities. I want my vision to be one shared by every States member.

I now outline my approach to some of the policies which the States will have to deal with over the next three years. Many are inextricably linked, but fall into the following four main categories:

- A. Social**
- B. Environment**
- C. Economic**
- D. Local and international community**

A. Social

One of my top priorities is social policy and a move towards greater social integration. Our objective should be for all Islanders to lead fulfilling and independent lives. I recognise that will not be possible for absolutely everyone, despite all the help we can realistically provide, and so an adequate safety net will still be required.

Much has been said in recent months about the Income Support system. These worthwhile reforms commenced during my Presidency of Employment and Social Security, and I am pleased to see that they are now place. I do not doubt that there will always be room for improvement, but I think that financial support for those less well off needs to be complemented by services in other areas, such as education and training, healthcare, employment support and housing.

During my time as President of Employment and Social Security, one of the key messages I learned then and would like to pursue now is the necessity of attending to the needs of the individual. Low self-esteem can lead to higher levels of crime and unemployment and the use of drink and drugs. It is better to support people to develop their capabilities, and thereby enhance their feeling of self-worth, than to deal with the sometimes socially negative consequences of the failure to reach their full potential.

I think therefore that the next Strategic Plan should direct the Council of Ministers into a much more joined up approach with a broader vision. We should develop a more holistic programme

from the cradle to the grave, focussing on the needs of individuals across Ministries, by making better use of our existing resources.

We have already taken some steps in the right direction with an increased focus on early years education, and this needs extension into the schools agenda in such a way that at the age of 11 every pupil, with very few exceptions, should at least have basic skills of numeracy and literacy. Secondary education needs to be more focussed on offering a more varied curriculum, particularly for those whose talents are not primarily academic. This in turn should complement the aspirations of the recently formed Skills Executive so that the whole of society should ultimately benefit as a result.

This will inevitably spill over into Health and Social Services, for which an updated New Directions policy may well be a catalyst in addressing some of the social issues connected with health.

I feel that Social Services does not share equal billing with health and medical services, and I am pleased to see the progress that is currently being made in a greater integration between Social Services, Education, Social Security and Home Affairs. I want to see this programme develop by greater collaborative working with a clear line of accountability.

I recognise that in Jersey, especially, government is not the only agency involved in social policy. I applaud the valuable work done by voluntary organisations, service clubs and others, and in doing so encourage ordinary people to take part in all aspects of Island life by engaging with the community. I will do all I can to enhance further the valuable work done by the not-for-profit and voluntary sectors.

B. Natural and Built Environment

The environment must be at the heart of States' policy. A lot has been achieved, but over the next three years there is more to do, both for the Planning and Environment Minister, and for the States generally, in the development of a new Island Plan. I think that in the past we have often considered the Island Plan simply as a reference tool for the Planning Department. Whilst it must continue to be that, it should also be central to our discussions on population, on housing needs, on energy policy and a whole range of issues which affect the Island.

I see input to the new Island Plan coming from a wider working group of Ministers and Assistant Ministers, and whilst it will be guided by our next Strategic Plan I hope it can also contribute to future plans. Pursuing my theme about the links between different objectives, however, we should remind ourselves on the one hand of the need to protect and enhance coastal, rural and built environment, whilst on the other hand acknowledging the needs of a changing community -- particularly of those nearing retirement -- in seeking suitable accommodation.

On the subject of housing, I should like to see the Housing Minister continue with his proposals for extending home ownership both with the agreed sale of surplus Housing Department properties and with the delivery of the Homebuy scheme. I should also like to see a continuation of the planned reduction in the qualifying period for residential qualifications to take place over a period of years, building on the reductions so far achieved, down to an ultimate level of ten years residence. This again should stimulate home ownership, and the current economic climate may be a good time to promote this.

Energy policy is another aspect of the work of the Planning and Environment Minister which I should like to see progressed over the next three years, and this will also impact on the forthcoming review of environmental taxes and benefits.

Finally in terms of planning matters I need to refer to the Waterfront, both for the resolution of the current uncertainties over the preferred developer but also for the future role and responsibilities of the Waterfront Enterprise Board, particularly in the light of the recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General. The development of the Waterfront is the vital catalyst for the regeneration of St. Helier. It must continue to be progressed, but since we only have one chance to get it right, I shall ensure that we proceed with the utmost care.

We have finally agreed to the construction of a new Energy from Waste Plant although it will not come into service for some time yet. There are two related issues for which we need to start planning now. The first is the treatment of liquid waste, and this must be allied to the maintenance and possible extension of the sewer network. We may also need to consider the possibility of some synergy with other utilities, as has happened elsewhere.

Secondly there is the important matter of the future use, development and possible expansion of the area around La Collette. Whilst this will form part of discussion on a new Island Plan, it is such an important subject in its own right that I believe it deserves special mention. It is a long-term issue, but one for which we need to start planning and thinking over the next three years.

C. Economy

In my view it is crucial that over the next three years we take the same care over the economy as I have tried to do whilst Minister for Treasury and Resources. Without a strong economy and a sound tax base we cannot meet the needs of the people. A strong economy enhances our prosperity, raises the standard of living and maintains full and varied employment opportunities for local people. At the same time it enables us to keep our tax rates relatively low, an important consideration for all of us.

All the indications are that during the next three years Jersey is likely to enter a period of economic slow-down, perhaps not as bad as elsewhere but serious nonetheless. Such a period is a time of threat, but it can also be a time of opportunity. Compared with the U.K. and elsewhere, Jersey is very well placed financially to cope with such a situation. We currently have high levels of employment, we have no public debt, indeed we have money set aside to cope with hard times. Businesses appreciate the quality of our current economic policies, and are continuing to invest in Jersey whereas they are reluctant to do so elsewhere. Our economic and fiscal policy needs to be kept under constant review, and I intend to continue to use the expertise and experience of the recently appointed Fiscal Policy Panel.

At the same time, I am sure that the world of international finance will change considerably over the next few years, and whilst Jersey can continue to look forward with some confidence, it can only do so if it is prepared to adapt to, and prepare for, a different scenario.

This is already occurring as we move to a world of Tax Information Exchange Agreements, greater international co-operation and financial transparency. We have a sound regulatory regime which I am sure will be acknowledged by such investigations as that recently carried out by the International Monetary Fund and that shortly to be undertaken by the U.K. Treasury.

I want to encourage the Economic Development Minister and his Department to support well-thought out new initiatives, explore new markets, and where necessary invest some seed capital in new areas, both in the financial services sector and elsewhere. This has already been demonstrated in areas such as intellectual property, and the new Foundations Law.

We must also find ways to support the local business community, especially in enabling small and medium sized businesses able to offer a wide range of worthwhile opportunities. A vibrant retail sector enhances the quality of life and community spirit we need to engender.

It may well be that new market opportunities will call for new and different skills, and therefore to minimise the need to attract immigrant labour we need to continue to develop our local skills base. I want to see the new Minister for Education working closely with the Minister for Economic Development and the Minister for Social Security in pursuing the objectives of the recently formed skills executive.

I also want them to promote the message that new skills can take a variety of forms and be acquired in a variety of ways, as can be seen, for example, from the range of courses offered at Highlands College and the age range of students there. Along with supplying the needs of the economy I believe that it is also important, indeed perhaps more important, to bring out the (often hidden) talents of those who perhaps did not achieve their full potential whilst at school.

Another aspect which I should like the Economic Development Minister to keep under review is our air and sea links, and the activities of the Airport and Harbours Departments, to ensure that these are run on a commercial basis but helped, where necessary, to promote the vital external connections which our economy requires.

The fact that we have a successful economy at the current time is partly because businesses acknowledge a responsible fiscal policy. I shall expect a new Treasury and Resources Minister to consolidate those existing policies, but also to work closely with the Economic Development Minister in pursuing an open and competitive marketplace, delivering the widest possible range of goods and services at the most competitive price commensurate with maintaining a viable future for efficient local suppliers. By doing so we can help keep our inflation rate at least as low as our competitors - an important consideration for international competitiveness.

I wrote earlier about the need for the Education Minister to promote policies which support and draw out the talents of all students. I am conscious of the success we have in terms of students going on to higher education. I want to ensure that we are addressing the requirements of all students, including those with particular needs and difficulties. This will enable them to play a fuller role in our community.

D. Local and international community

This leads neatly to the final aspect of my vision for the future, and that is the community, both local and international. In some ways it draws together the economy, the environment and social policy, but there is more to it than that.

I am conscious of the fact that as a government we have lost touch with some Islanders. At a time when we are going through tremendous change, both within the States and in the policies we are developing, there seems to be a worrying lack of interest which is perhaps reflected in the continuing relatively poor election turnout.

Perhaps people think that the States has not taken electoral reform seriously. It is true that we have not totally embraced the Clothier recommendations. One key task for the next session of the States is to try to resolve the issue of electoral reform, perhaps focussing on the need for a single election day. The actual composition of the States, as between Senators, Deputies and Constables, will perhaps never be resolved within the States chamber without some external influence.

However there is more to regaining public confidence than electoral reform. We have to ensure that the States is seen to be working more positively for the good of the community. We have to find better ways of communicating our message and achieving greater engagement with the public. I think that one of our failings in the last three years may have been in trying to do too much on too many fronts, rather than focussing on key issues and ensuring that they are thoroughly discussed both by the States and the community.

I look back to the last decade when I was involved with public engagement over the Social Security system and ‘Continuity and Change’. That public engagement took a lot of preparation and sustained effort over a long period, but in the end I believe that we really obtained public awareness and understanding of the issues. Equally the public were able to ensure that their views were properly understood and appreciated. Perhaps if we want to communicate better we need to spend more time in the preparation stage. The next Island Plan could be an opportunity to put this into practice.

A different facet, but equally important, is our international identity and status. It is important that we have a strong international profile to ensure that we are viewed abroad as we really are, rather than by the misrepresentation and distortion we have recently seen in the national media. On the one hand we must maintain strong links with the United Kingdom, yet at the same time we need to develop our own international personality, as is happening with our handling of Tax Information Exchange Agreements.

We will shortly be coming under scrutiny yet again, in the form of another review from the U.K. Treasury. As with other such reviews, I am confident that we can demonstrate the strength and the quality of our offering, and use the opportunity to enhance the image of the Island. This will not happen by accident, and our response needs to be led by persons of calibre and experience.

Finally, as far as they are appropriate in a small Island community, we need to demonstrate our willingness to embrace international standards and obligations. At the same time, if we are not to sink under a sea of bureaucracy and red tape, we have to be realistic in what we take on. I am pleased that the Chief Minister’s Department has been strengthened to enable this important aspect of our future to progress in a thorough way, and I want to ensure that we continue to demonstrate our full capacity and willingness to be an international player.

There are many other important topics which are central to my thoughts. These include tourism and air travel, savings and pensions, the future of agriculture, population and migration, a healthy lifestyle and so on. My vision is extremely wide, and their omission is not in any way to downplay their importance.

Underlying my commitment to consensus, if any Member has any additional thoughts or comments on these or other issues, I should be pleased to listen to them.

2. HOW I WOULD DISCHARGE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS CHIEF MINISTER

As I have said, one of my aims as Chief Minister would be to instil some sense of prioritisation of competing policies. In doing so, I recognise that different Members will have different aspirations, and probably different views about appropriate levels of spending. My intention would be to involve a greater dialogue with all States Members, recognising that obtaining unanimity will never be possible. However I believe that over my years in the States I have demonstrated my willingness

to listen to Members with different points of view, and to seek to achieve a result by consensus rather than coercion.

Ultimately it is the responsibility of the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers to take the lead in proposing a policy direction. I hope it can be an informed and understanding leadership which can create a greater willingness for all Members to adopt policies consistent with that consensual approach.

I am reminding Members of my commitment to consensus politics because I am conscious of the divisions that seem to have arisen in the Island in recent years, both within different sections of the local community and even within the States Chamber. This saddens me, and since a key element of my vision is one of an inclusive society, I want to find ways of healing some of those divisions ; certainly ensuring that they do not gain in strength.

Above all, however, I am concerned that over the next three years Jersey is going to face a challenging time. Not only is the global economic climate uncertain, to say the least, but there is no doubt that in the next few years the shape of the financial services industry, the major player in our economy, is going to undergo some significant changes. It is too early to say exactly what those changes will be, but there will undoubtedly be changes, and they may well be detrimental to the Island, at least until we adjust to them.

At a time such as this, therefore, it is particularly important that the Island has wise and experienced leadership, from someone who can demonstrate resolution in the face of adversity. I would hope that after six years pursuing a fiscal strategy which was not universally popular, but one which I passionately believe to be the best course for Jersey to adopt, nobody can doubt my willingness to take tough decisions.

I am not saying that I want to be controversial ; far from it. I am simply facing the reality that we are likely to have some difficult decisions to take over the next three years, and it is important to have as Chief Minister somebody able to take on that difficult task. I understand the economy, and understand how to protect Islanders from the worst effects of the global downturn.

Turning to practical matters, clearly my first task would be to nominate a balanced team of Ministers with the ability and enthusiasm to promote and deliver a range of policies. I place great emphasis on the word 'team', and whilst I welcome individuals holding different opinions, there needs to be complete trust and openness amongst Ministers if we are to function as an effective Council.

If elected, I maintain my commitment to reshuffle some existing Ministerial responsibilities, and offer new opportunities to some of the recently successful election candidates. However we also have to acknowledge that the Council of Ministers is not like a Committee. We should recognise that the duty of each Minister is to personally exercise the legal responsibilities which the role involves.

Once they have been appointed, I would discuss with each of the Ministers the roles they envisage for their Assistant Minister or Ministers. One aspect of the first three years of Ministerial Government which might be improved upon is the role of Assistant Ministers. I believe that, where possible, they should be given greater delegated powers from their Minister, recognising that the Minister nevertheless is the party with ultimate responsibility.

I also believe that in some cases people should serve as Assistant Minister to more than one Minister. Whilst there has to be clear accountability and segregation of responsibilities, I think that a greater interaction of Ministers and Assistant Ministers in areas of cross-Departmental

involvement will work towards breaking down the old 'silo mentality' which still prevails in some areas.

I also see a role for greater co-operation with the Comité des Connétables, something which I think has gone well over the last three years, and I would like to think that the Chairman of the Comité would accept nomination as one of my Assistant Ministers, as happened three years ago.

Finally, co-operative working needs to embrace Scrutiny fully. I should like to hold regular quarterly meetings with members of the Chairmen's Committee. Experience over the past three years has been somewhat variable, although in my opinion my relationship with my own Scrutiny Panel has been open and constructive. I should like that spirit to permeate the whole working relationship with scrutiny, so that we can all work, in a critical but constructive fashion, for the good of the Island.

Once the Council of Ministers has been established, I should like to repeat the process of three years ago whereby we all met, early in the new year, for an intensive workshop discussion to plan the years ahead. Whether that is held in a hotel or elsewhere is relatively unimportant, but what is important is that we can set to work as soon as possible to establish our priorities and our workload, and consider the activities of our Departments. I believe that the session we had three years ago was a good investment of time and resources, both for Ministers and Officers.

After the Strategic Plan has been agreed and adopted by the States, I would expect all Ministerial policies to be checked against that Plan. If ordinary Members are to have confidence in the Council of Ministers, then we must be able to demonstrate that we are delivering policies in accordance with the requirements of Members as set out in the Strategic Plan.

I make no apologies for repeating that the Strategic Plan should be at the heart of everything that we propose to do. My aim would be to involve all of us in searching for a way of achieving a common and informed view to which the majority of Members can sign up. We need to remind ourselves of all that is good about Jersey ; we also need to be honest about Jersey's shortcomings. Working together, we can create a blueprint to make Jersey an even better place for all of us, an Island in which we can all take pride.

As far as meetings of Ministers are concerned, my aim would be to designate every Thursday as a Ministers' Day. Every other week would be scheduled for regular meetings of the whole Council, but in the intervening weeks, assuming the States is not sitting, there would be the opportunity for smaller, in-depth but less formal, meetings with individual Ministers, or ministerial groups with a common interest. These latter meetings would also involve, where possible, Assistant Ministers, in order to engender a greater sense of involvement in the process. These days could also be used for dialogue either with the Ministerial Scrutiny Panel, the Chairman's Committee, PPC or the Comité des Connétables.

One regrettable aspect of the first three years of Ministerial government is the extent to which views within the States chamber often seem to have become polarised. Differences of opinion are a healthy part of the democratic process, but there has sometimes been an entrenchment of positions which does not make for constructive debate. I believe that with more open dialogue, particularly between the Council of Ministers and a properly understood Scrutiny system, we can achieve a better outcome. There is a full role here for all States members to play, and. I am committed to building consensus.

I have no illusions about the size of the task ahead. I have spent three years as Deputy Chief Minister, as well as the previous three years as vice-president of the former Policy and Resources Committee. I understand the demands of the job. I am prepared to listen. I hope that I shall be

entrusted with this challenging role, in which my experience can be applied for the benefit of our community.

STATEMENT MADE BY DEPUTY BRECKON

The Way Forward
A Vision and Perspective

Alan Breckon

3rd December 2008

My Background

During my fifteen years in the States, I have been involved in a number of areas. Most recently I have been Chairman of the Health, Housing and Social Security Scrutiny Panel and Vice Chairman of Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel. The work of these panels has included:

Chairing a Review of the Dairy Industry

Chairing a Review of the Perceived Health Effects of Mobile Phone Masts

Review of the Social Housing Plan

Review of Elderly Care in Jersey

I have been a Member of the Public Accounts Committee for the last three years and Chairman of the Consumer Council since 1995. I was also Industrial Disputes Officer to the States of Jersey from 1995 to 2007.

I have also worked on a number of Committees, including, Education, Health, Social Security, Home Affairs, Housing, Overseas Aid, Public Services, Industrial Relations, Gambling Control and I have been on a number of Committees of Inquiry as well as Working Parties.

I was a school Governor for over six years and have worked with many grass roots organisations in the community as part of a team doing such things as fund raising and social events. I believe many of these organisations are the life-blood of our community and keeping in touch, with both feet on the ground is vital.

Because of my wealth of experience and community involvement, I wish to lead a team that will be inclusive, not just a team of Ministers and Assistant Ministers, but also of other States Members and welcome and involve the many talents of people in our community. My ethos is to “include” not “exclude”.

We have a great deal of resource and enthusiasm amongst us to pool and share for the common good for the benefit of the people. We must have the heart of the community in everything that we do.

I have no problem trusting and delegating to others and encouraging and supporting them to get on with the job.

I believe States Members in general should be as open and honest with each other and the people as possible and we should

- celebrate and build on what we have,
- jointly develop future policies and priorities,
- encourage public involvement and participation,
- show respect for all views and opinions.

Communications

I believe an effective communication strategy (as opposed to “spin”) is a vital part of good Government.

I would work towards:

- Regular electronic circulation of Ministerial decisions (instead of people having to search for them)
- More Ministerial statements to the States Assembly- where they can be questioned openly by other Members. Rather than the current system of Press Releases or directly through the media.
- Greater use of websites and technology
 - Video clips are now common and should be utilised
 - Building of a thorough and comprehensive database of users
 - Consider free access in public areas such as Fort Regent, Airport, supermarkets etc
- Investigating publishing a monthly “Stateswide” for Island circulation. To include: Parish News, Job Vacancies, Planning Applications, Public Information, Government Departments and Business.

I believe this is a very real opportunity to communicate with our people.

As a footnote to this, it is good to see that a local company have been awarded the contract to modernise States websites. In general terms, I support the use of local companies and I believe outside consultants should only be used as a last resort.

Introduction

It is not possible in this short paper to cover in detail every area of Government, however, I hope that it does give a strong indication of my way of thinking in a number of key areas.

I have, therefore, set out below a synopsis of my views and opinions on a number and range of issues. However, none of this will be achieved without working together with others to achieve a common good for the Island’s people in what will be difficult times. While we have lived with the first three year term of Ministerial Government, I believe, that it has highlighted tensions that we should learn from and then move things on positively.

I believe that the first three years of operation by the Council of Ministers has led to a disconnection with the public by operating in secrecy even when discussing simple issues like the

bus service – a Traffic and Transport Strategy has never emerged despite being discussed (in secret) on a number of occasions by the Council.

I believe that real public participation is required on, this and, many issues and I would develop a style of leadership that was inclusive of other States Members and the general public and not exclusive to a chosen few.

Healthy Position

The Island's finances, services and economy are generally in a healthy position, however, thrift and wisdom are now required to guide us through what will undoubtedly be a difficult period.

We have much to celebrate with our Health and Education and Social Security systems and our sound infrastructure but we need to continually seek to improve on what we have got in order to meet the needs, demands and aspirations of all the people – they should expect and receive nothing less, whilst achieving best value for money.

Connecting With the People

Whilst respecting that some matters do require confidentiality, I believe other broader issues should be as open and transparent as possible.

A Freedom of Information Law would be a high priority for me. People's money (in taxes) is spent and their futures are effected by the actions and decisions of Government, therefore, I believe we should be as inclusive as possible in sharing quality information to reach informed decisions. Meaningful consultation must be an important part in future decision making.

Public Accounts

For the last three years I have been a Member of the Public Accounts Committee and I think we are now beginning to see the benefits of having a Comptroller and Auditor General.

A number of Departmental Reports into various areas of government activity have been produced and the planned introduction in 2012 of Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) will mean greater transparency of the Public Accounts.

I believe that all persons on the electoral role should have reasonable access to all accounting information produced in the previous year's States Reports and Accounts, save for the information proven to be "sensitive" e.g. for security reasons or of a personal nature.

I firmly believe greater transparency would lead to the better management of Public Finances.

Tax and Spending

Tax and spending should come under greater public scrutiny as the tax burden is changing from corporate to wage-salary earners and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). I believe that GST should be removed from basic foodstuffs and energy.

Essential public services and benefits should be identified and protected and enhanced where appropriate and we should ensure that these are properly and effectively targeted and proving to be value for money. Accurate tax analysis and predictions are required for appropriate planning and action.

I believe that we will need to extend targeted environmental taxes to fund other initiatives.

Those who have companies and operate here should not be able to “export” their profits without tax and an early solution should be found to get them to contribute.

Global Economic and Financial Markets.

Turmoil exists throughout the world’s financial markets with Governments keeping High Street banks afloat and other institutions receiving all manner of capital injections, share arrangements and general guarantees. It would be naïve of anyone to say that there will be no effect to Jersey of economic recessionary consequences. However, we must all work together to minimise any local effects and to promote and demonstrate that the Island is a well-regulated and trusted financial centre of excellence.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is predicting that economies will contract in the USA, Europe and Japan and developed countries as a whole by 0.3% in 2009.

United Kingdom’s Economy

With the majority of our business and visitor interests linked to the UK, their economy is of direct relevance to the States of Jersey. The IMF has already predicted that the UK’s economy will contract by 1.7% in 2009.

It seems the “feel good factor” in the UK has gone. People there have seen a significant downturn in property prices, doubts about job security and this is set against a background of higher inflation and less disposable income.

People’s real cost of living has risen due to higher costs of oil and basic foodstuffs. While this is softening it suggests we will have to work even harder for every pound of tourist spend, the weak pound against the Euro helps- however, working with those in industry seeking to encourage new air routes is the way forward with high profile targeted promotions and advertising..

Inflation

Inflation is on the way down from a high of 6.4% in September 2008. External factors like the fall in crude oil prices and the 1.5% reduction in interest rates will have a downward effect. Internally the downward price correction in the Housing market will follow through into 2009, however, upward pressure will remain in the first half of 2009 from GST, the increase in Impôts and the 24% rise in electricity.

In light of the above, a target rate around or under 4% by the end of 2009 should be achievable with further falls in the UK sterling interest rates predicted.

The inflationary effect this will have on States costs, wages and salaries, benefits etc needs to be reviewed as the year progresses and a more detailed analysis and financial appraisal needs to be done.

Public Property, Leases and Estate Management.

Property Holdings have recently indicated that we can probably manage with less office space (estimated reduction 20%). The States currently occupy nearly 600,000 square feet of office space located within 76 sites. Space released could make a significant contribution to the supply of sites available for housing and should be pursued actively.

I see this as a tremendous opportunity to have a significant public gain at little cost.

Housing

States Rental Housing

States Rental Housing has been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair due to not having an adequately funded maintenance stream. This has instead been siphoned off to pay private sector rent rebates. Now we are selling of some property stock to maintain others. A short term solution to a longer term problem.

This must be reviewed at an early opportunity.

First Time Buyer Homes and Homebuy.

Credit restrictions have all but curtailed activity with lenders being more cautious on lending multiples to earnings, moves away from 100% mortgages, requesting 10% deposits from borrowers.

Reduction in Stamp Duty will not redress the above. At June 2008 the average dwelling price recorded in the House Price Index was £480,000 and the average earnings were £31,200. We must devise a scheme that allows first time buyers to purchase or part purchase a home but prevents speculation.

Housing – the Whole Island

We must take a thorough review of the Island's housing stock and co-ordinate the databases held by Jersey Post with the information held by the Parishes for rateable purposes- allied to the next Census results (subject to Data Protection).

This would enable future policy decisions to be made based on evidence and to then plan effectively for future demand and need. Accurate population estimates are an integral part of this process.

Sheltered Housing/Lifetime Living/ Support Homes

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Peabody Homes are good examples of what can be done for real comfort and security for the elderly whether buying or renting.

We could learn and adapt much from these models which progress through from independent living, with or without shared community facilities, to assisted living at a number of levels and onto higher dependency support.

The above should form part of a comprehensive elderly care plan and are worth early investigation and perhaps the utilisation of the Overdale site, South Hill and former Girl's College sites as centres of excellence for elderly care. They deserve nothing less in my opinion.

Economic Growth

What is the REAL price of economic growth if allied to population growth? Will we need another prison- how and where do we accommodate people, what demands will new arrivals make on the infrastructure and on the Island's services? – all remain unanswered.

Rezoned Green Fields

Already ahead of the Island Plan Review of 2009, we have re-zoned green fields for over 55's, "sheltered" or lifetime homes and some first time buyers and in my opinion this is on the back of some suspect information and allied to economic growth.

Not Sustainable

The economic growth of 7% achieved in 2006 and 2007 is not sustainable or indeed achievable without more of the same – which will not happen and I oppose.

Predictions of a slowdown appear in the latest (24 November 2008) update from the Jersey Fiscal Policy Panel, with 3% being predicted for 2008 and 2% for 2009.

Optimistic Target

In my opinion, these targets are both optimistic and misleading as most of any growth achieved in 2008 will have happened in the first half of 2008 and with average inflation over 2008 and 2009 around 4% and a difficult first quarter in 2009 on the way 2% growth in 2009 seem ambitious in view of the IMF predictions for larger economies.

Island Plan Review 2009

It would appear that "sustainability" is a term no longer in vogue, already green field sites have been re-zoned ahead of the review as they were considered so urgent they couldn't wait – time will tell.

It is not clear how any future development on the Waterfront would impact on the "old" town; cafes, restaurants, shops will all suffer a loss of "foot-fall" resulting in a loss of business. What will happen to the Central and Beresford Markets – will they survive?

I think more questions need to be answered before we get too engrossed in the "wonders of the Waterfront".

I would need convincing about town regeneration before we get over committed, however, I support the idea of more people living and working in town which could create more of a community feel and cut car use.

Waterfront and Esplanade Developments

We need to re-visit the Waterfront and Esplanade Developments and take a longer term view.

I consider this to be an over-development and not "Jersey"- sunken roads and rows of office blocks – the viability of these needs to be proven beyond reasonable doubt. Also their viability needs to be set against the changing world's economic needs and pressures.

Elderly Care

We need a more structured system that satisfies a range of needs to provide care to those who require it, in a caring and supportive environment. We need to acknowledge the many people who provide unpaid care and support. We need to increase respite care facilities as currently there are only 7 beds.

Funding is also an issue that must be addressed and I favour and would support a system linked to increased social security payments, that provided assessment based funding to those who need it in a number of settings, without the need to sell the family home. Health and Social Security need to

work together quickly to find a positive way forward. Guernsey has a system which I believe we could build on and better.

A modern centre of excellence on the Overdale site must be considered, local architects should be involved in a design competition to produce alternative schemes for the site – with elderly care at the core.

Protecting the Natural and Built Environment

It is important that we do not destroy the Island's beauty in the quest for economic and population growth.

We must protect and respect our Dairy and Agriculture Industries, encouraging diversity especially for the local market in conjunction with further promotion of Genuine Jersey.

Some changes are inevitable but we must protect our heritage and our coast and marine environment.

Education and Training

While in overall terms we have an excellent system that serves the majority well, I believe we need to focus our attention where we find the greatest need.

I would support a States funded Skill and Trade Training Initiative that gives financial assistance to employers to provide proper training placements to the under 25 year olds.

A Service Level Agreement would establish terms of engagement and training of young people over, say, a three year period.

Areas, such as; a range of building trades, mechanics, marine trades, office skills, information technology, craft and design etc.

I believe it would give young people a hopeful future and also remove them from the "benefit culture". This is achievable within the first six months of 2009. This is at relatively low or no cost as benefit paid would be transferred to the employer.

Extra Support

A pilot scheme has been developed to cater for those who at 13 or 14 years of age are not focussed on an exam trail and are best guided towards a vocational route.

Also we must target and put greater emphasis on those with literacy and numeracy difficulties – investment now will equip them well in the future.

Waterfront Enterprise Board

I agree with the recommendations of the Comptroller and Auditor General that States Members should NOT be directors of WEB and that a more transparent reporting structure is achieved through a single Minister to the States.

The Annual Report and accounts must be more readily available to the public.

Health and Social Services

It is disappointing that the major strategy document “New Directions” has been delayed by two years.

The health and well-being of the Island’s population is THE main priority supported by a range of essential social services.

I have already done some preliminary work in this area.

The revised policy must be in the public domain for discussion and debate at the earliest opportunity in 2009.

Freedom of Information

I would support the early introduction of a Freedom of Information Law that will allow residents access to a range of information whilst respecting Data Protection and Human Rights.

I also believe it should also give people greater access to public accounting information for say a 28 day period each year following the publication of the previous year’s “Report and Accounts of the States of Jersey”.

It is public money being spent and I believe the public should have access to more detailed information should they request it.

Working with the Bailiwick of Guernsey

Whilst in some areas we may be in competition there are other areas where we can benefit by working together, in healthcare and education and negotiations and discussions with the UK for example. Also we may wish to compare costs in areas such as building or costs of basic goods and services.

Over the years I have discussed a range of issues with Guernsey politicians and I believe building this relationship is good and healthy

British Irish Parliamentary Assembly

For over two years I have been Jersey’s elected representative on this body.

Membership is drawn from the House of Commons and Lords, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as well as Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

I have spoken during debates and discussions and made many friends and contacts among the Island’s Assemblies. I believe this could be a significant advantage if I were to represent or speak for Jersey outside the Island.

Ironically the existing and previous Chief Ministers of the Isle of Man and the previous Chief Minister of Guernsey were all Members of this Parliamentary Assembly.

I believe I have established many useful contacts that could work in the Island’s interests in future negotiations and discussions.

Traffic and Transport

I believe this policy should have emerged before now for public discussion and debate.

Greater bus use is positive but

- How can it be extended?
- At what Cost?
- How can we effectively reach the country Parishes?

Car Parking – Accommodation

It is proposed to spend £9 million from the “Car Park Fund” to build a new car park in Ann Court and then knock Minden Place car park down.

I have requested:

- (1) A Report into the condition of Minden Place car park
- (2) Work done and costs for the improvement to Patriotic Street car park

If money “tightens” I really question why we are doing this – is it best use of Public funds?

Air and Sea Services

Islanders and visitors want safe, reliable, convenient, all year round air and sea services.

We must continue to seek operators who will provide this service with an element of subsidy if necessary, backed by a robust Service Level Agreement.

Pension Funds and Investments

While markets are in turmoil, sitting tight and taking a long term view appears the only option.

Lower interest rates and uncertain company profits will affect investment income. Regular reporting is therefore vital, supported by sound financial advice to protect the population’s assets.

While regular reports and three yearly actuarial valuations are important, we should also revisit the long term funding issues and pressures to take us past 2030.

Jersey Post, Jersey Telecoms, Jersey Electricity Company and Jersey Water

The above are owned in whole (Jersey Telecoms and Jersey Post) by the people of the Island and there are significant majority holdings in the other two (Jersey Water and Jersey Electricity Company) both of which are listed on the Stock Exchange and for the moment this situation should remain and can form part of a longer term view of investments.

The States as a whole in consultation with the Public may wish to express an opinion.

Labour Market

At June 2008 total employment was 56,630, an increase of 1520 over June 2007 – a 3% increase.

The increase in non-locally qualified staff was 440.

Also those people working with any accompanying dependents need somewhere to live.

Of these;

49,900 (88%) were in the private sector

6,730 (12%) were in the public sector

Registered unemployment stood at 440 in June 2008

Under 25 year olds.

I believe we need to seek out and offer training to those under 25 year olds who are unemployed, especially those not registered in the unemployment statistics and offer them proper training placements in co-operation with employers, including the States.

The above increased figures suggest a relaxing of the Regulations and Undertakings and an overheating in the labour market.

Average earnings are £31,200 per annum.

I believe we now need to revert to quarterly reporting of these statistics to assist and inform policy and decision making.

Minimum Wage

The Employment Forum are recommending to the Minister a minimum hourly rate of £6.08 from 1st April 2009 which is an increase of 4.8%. I think this should be more realistically set at £6.50 which is equal to £247 for a 38 hour week which after Social Security deductions gives a take home pay of just under £231 per week. States Members and others should ask ourselves exactly what you can achieve with this sum of money.

Low pay costs Government money in benefits- we should not be subsidising employers in this manner.

Competition and the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority

Through the Jersey Consumer Council I have worked with the Authority and businesses on a number of issues.

I believe the Authority will continue to grow and develop from a slow start to bring consumer benefits.

I have some emerging issues which I believe could apply the mind of the JCRA in the year ahead.

Jersey Finance

As promoter and point of contact for the web of finance related companies and activities, Jersey Finance is building on some of the earlier ground work to provide reliable industry soundings for new regulation and laws and the modernisation of existing laws. Contacts established with the growing strengths of the Chinese and Indian markets are to be encouraged and developed with effective trade delegations supported- there and in the City of London and elsewhere.

Jersey Financial Services Commission (JFSC)

The work and areas of responsibility continues to grow for the JFSC. Any mention of the JFSC would be incomplete without paying tribute to Mr Colin Powell, the former Chief Adviser to the States. I understand he has now reached a milestone at which he must retire. He did sterling work for the Island and the Commission and he will be missed as a respected ambassador for Jersey across the world.

I would hope the Commission could be more consumer focussed and facing by adopting a Financial Service Authority face and by encompassing a Financial Services Ombudsman under its umbrella – funded by the Industry to give low/no cost dispute resolution to individual consumers and demonstrate industry confidence.

People really have concerns, especially the elderly, when their life savings could be under threat and this applies also to depositor protection which must be introduced.

Financial Transparency and the Outside World

The International Monetary Fund are presently examining compliance issues in Jersey and some of the ways financial business is conducted. The UK Government, in light of their financial investments in banks and financial services markets etc, are seeking to review some existing arrangements in Crown Dependencies.

Recently we had a visit from a Treasury Select Committee looking at offshore finance centres. We continue to agree and sign “Tax Information Exchange Agreements” with other countries with more planned, demonstrating transparency and co-operation on our part.

In general terms, we are demonstrating our willingness to engage positively with others for mutual benefit and should fear none!

Business and Strategic Planning and Reporting

I believe that we should develop a more timely and inclusive method for this. At present, Business Plans are presented just before the summer recess and dates set early in the next session, usually September for debate.

This does not give States Members, Scrutiny Panels, the Public Accounts Committee or the general public proper meaningful opportunity to engage and contribute to the process. This must be changed.

With the Strategic Plan the updating of progress and reporting needs a critical review – it is not entirely honest.

I believe the whole House should apply their minds to both of the above.

Conclusion

In the short time available, I have written this paper (myself) which has touched on a number of areas of life, work and business, however, time does not allow me to develop more detail. I do believe though it gives some of my basic thoughts and opinions and I will, of course, be pleased to discuss any area in more detail.

Alan Breckon

3rd December 2008