WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TREASURY AND RESOURCES BY DEPUTY T.A. VALLOIS OF ST. SAVIOUR ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 8th JUNE 2010

Question

"Would the Minister provide the following details –

- (a) how many Economic Stimulus/Fiscal Package bids have been successful and what were they?
- (b) what amount of the £44 million has been released from the Consolidated Fund to Departments and third parties as at 31st May 2010 and what for?
- (c) what is the latest economic forecast?

Should funds be exhausted and the forecast bleak, what plans, if any, does the Minister have in fiscal terms, to ensure growth does not deteriorate?"

Answer

(a) How many Economic Stimulus/Fiscal Package bids have been successful and unsuccessful were they?

_

	Number	Value
		£
Successful bids	40	21,595,968

See table below for details of the successful schemes. Funds committed for the following projects as at 31st May 2010:

Skills & Training	£	Support for Business	£
_			
Advance to Work	580,200	EDD initiatives	
			500,000
Highlands College additional		Support for the Finance Industry	
places	1,270,500		2,417,000
Careers service strengthening		Small firm loan guarantee scheme	
	221,900		500,000
States Apprenticeships			
	972,750		
TOTAL	3,045,350	TOTAL	3,417,000

Civil infrastructure		Support for Individuals	
Victoria Avenue – phase 2 & 3		Extension of transitional relief	
	3,450,452		1,440,000
Promenade & cycle track		Support for Citizens Advice	
	337,000	Bureau & Mortgage Protocol	50,300
Railway Walk foul sewer upgrade			
	485,155	TOTAL	1,490,000
West Park-Cheapside resurface			
	228,000		
Queens Road surface water		Programme management total	
separation	346,792		200,000
Rozel rising mains			
	550,000		
Cheapside Urban Renewal			
	400,000		
Planning/enabling costs and fees			
	613,000		
TOTAL	6,410,399		

Construction and		Roof replacement - social housing	
maintenance		-	40,239
Support for Jersey Hospice		Minor refurb works at McKinstry	
	2,600,000	(Rosewood House enabling)	235,020
Le Pouquelaye School		Window/roof replacement – 3 social	
	476,673	housing estates	1,006,616
9 backlog maintenance projects		Planning/enabling costs and fees	
States properties	1,059,930		625,200
Heating installations – 3 social			
housing estates	683,712	TOTAL	7,032,919
Window/door replacement – 4			
social housing estates	305,529	GRAND TOTAL	21,595,668

	Not awarded amber status		Not awarded green status & funding	
	Number	Value £	Number	Value f
Unavagasaful bida		<u> </u>		*
Unsuccessful bids	6	7,561,103	5	1,113,175

In addition, 3 bids given an amber light in the original evaluation were withdrawn by departments, and another awarded a green light is pending withdrawal.

Unsuccessful bids - not awarded amber

- Home Affairs Fire Safety Training
- Policeforce workforce modernisation
- Property Holdings sponsoring Jersey College for Girls drama centre extension

- Mont A L' Abbe School phase 2
- Social security mortgage interest and school fee support
- Jersey Harbours Gorey Pier remediation

Unsuccessful bids - not awarded green

- Property Holdings 4 backlog maintenance projects
- Jersey Harbours remediation of St Aubin Pier

(b) What amount of the £44 million has been released from the Consolidated Fund to parties as at 31st May 2010 and what for?

As shown in the table above, £21,595,968 of the £44m has been released to departments and third parties by way of public ministerial decision.

	£
Department direct spend	
	18,952,968
Department grant awards to non-States bodies	
	2,643,000
	21,595,968

(c) what is the latest economic forecast?

The last forecast published by the Fiscal Policy Panel (FPP) in their November 2009 update was that the economy would contract by -5% in 2009 and a further -2% in 2010. The most recent forecasts from the Economics Unit are that the outlook is largely unchanged with the economy forecast to contract by - 4% in 2009 and - 2% in 2010. A return to moderate growth is expected in 2011 although there remains significant uncertainty around these forecasts.

Should funds be exhausted and the forecast bleak, what plans, if any, does the Minister have in fiscal terms, to ensure growth does not deteriorate?"

The latest economic data and the central forecasts outlined above present an outlook very much as that previously predicted by the FPP and therefore do not suggest that we need to change the policies we have adopted on their advice. Should the forecasts change in coming months and the outlook become much worse than previously expected the Minister would seek the advice of the FPP as to whether further fiscal action was necessary, to what degree and how it should be funded. Given that we have only so far used the Stabilisation Fund to respond to the economic downturn, States finances are sufficiently sound and flexible to allow a further temporary, timely and targeted stimulus should it be necessary.