

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN ADDITION FOR 2017 – 2019 (P.68/2016) – SEVENTH AMENDMENT (P.68/2016 Amd.(7)) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 26th September 2016
by the Council of Ministers**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade proposes that –

- the net revenue expenditure of the Department of Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture shall be increased by £30,000 in 2017, 2018 and 2019 to support Jèrriais and the revenue head of expenditure of the Department of Education shall be reduced in each of those years by the same amount.

The Council of Ministers opposes this Amendment and urges States Members to reject it.

Council of Ministers' Comments

This amendment appears to be based on a misunderstanding of how funds were transferred when the Culture portfolio moved to Economic Development in January 2016.

The then Education, Sport and Culture Department (“ESC”), transferred the whole budget for both Sport and Culture to what is now the Department of Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture (“EDTS&C”). This included the full amount of £147,400 for the Don Balleine Trust, which funds l’Office du Jèrriais.

Before the transfer was announced, ESC had been seeking potential savings across all areas of the Department. One of the options identified was a reduction of £29,000 in the annual budget for Jèrriais. This proposed saving was not due to start until 2017, so it was not removed from the budget that was transferred to EDTSC.

Post-transfer, the Education Department is no longer responsible for the Jèrriais budget or any savings relating to it. The decision on whether to implement the proposed savings now rests with EDTS&C.

However, the Education Department continues to support the Don Balleine Trust and l’Office du Jèrriais. Acting at the request of the Trust, Education has recently recruited a qualified teacher to continue the teaching of Jèrriais once the current staff retire. This new partnership will ensure that the Year 4 Jersey Studies programme can continue, and that it will be delivered by an experienced classroom teacher working to the same professional standards and on the same terms and conditions as other teachers in the Island.

If approved, this amendment would result in additional savings of £30,000 to other education services, all of which are under financial pressure, and would have an impact on children’s education.

The Minister for Education recognises that, as the third largest States department in financial terms, it has to make a contribution to the savings and efficiencies in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Department has been reorganised, senior management positions have been cut, and all services have been streamlined where possible. The Department is also attempting to re-prioritise its funding to focus resources on improving standards, particularly for children who are most at risk of

under-performing. This saving would be equivalent to the funding earmarked to help more than 35 students under the new Jersey Premium initiative.

The amendment is not supported by the Minister because it is an additional saving that will have a negative impact on education services.

Financial implications

The Education Department's net revenue expenditure for 2017, 2018 and 2019 would decrease by £30,000, and the Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture Department's would increase by the same amounts in those years.

There are no staffing implications.

Statement under Standing Order 37A [Presentation of comment relating to a proposition]

These comments were received by the States Greffe after the deadline set out in Standing Order 37A because the Council of Ministers wanted to ascertain the views of members and to ensure proper consideration was given to the Amendments and the later Amendments to Amendments, to provide the latest information ahead of the debate.