

**PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE: VOTE
OF NO CONFIDENCE**

**Lodged au Greffe on 21st April 1998
by Deputy I.S. Nicholls of Grouville**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

175

1998

P.74

Price code : A

PROPOSITION

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

that they have no confidence in the Public Services Committee.

DEPUTY I.S. NICHOLLS OF GROUVILLE

NOTE: This proposition has the support of -

Senator R.J. Shenton
Deputy A.S. Crowcroft
Senator N.L. Quérée

Report

One needs to read no further than the front cover of P.70/98 to see that the Public Services Committee has failed for the second time to do as the States requested in 1995, namely -

“to bring to the States by June 1996 a sustainable Island Transport policy” (2000 and Beyond p.33).

The Island has not waited two years to be presented with a “Transport Policy Strategy” or, as it is called on page 9 -

“a controlled vehicle accommodation (transport diversification) strategy”.

This failure is compounded by the admission that there are to be no specific policy measures and targets as -

“the Committee does not consider this to be appropriate at this juncture”. (page 4/1.7)

In the light of unanimous adoption of an Environmental Charter, P.70/98 has been roundly condemned by the States Environmental Adviser, whilst the comments of the Planning and Environment Committee on an earlier draft have been largely ignored. In stark contrast to the United Kingdom Government’s approach to transport policy formulation, the public has not been involved in any consultation exercise whatsoever. In short, the Public Services Committee has produced a document that is contrary to agreed States Policy.

It is clear to me that there is a widespread lack of confidence in the Public Services Committee, not only in respect of their Transport Policy Strategy, but also in their ability to get anything done in virtually every area for which they have responsibility. Recent overspends on capital projects, the mishandling of the raising of the public parking charges, a failure to embark on any kind of waste reduction/waste management strategy after 18 months in office have all but destroyed public confidence in our entire system of government.

Whilst I have, and have always had, the greatest respect for the President of the Public Services Committee, and I sympathise with him as he battles with ill health, I believe that the immediate replacement of his Committee is absolutely essential if the credibility of the States is to be maintained.

The poor performance of the Committee reflects badly on each and every elected member of the House. What is now required is a Public Services Committee with leadership, vision and the ability to consult widely, which will progress agreed States Policies and bring into being a Department of which all the Island can be proud.