

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 – 2018 (P.27/2015): SEVENTH AMENDMENT (P.27/2015 Amd.(7)) – AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 21st April 2015
by the Council of Ministers**

STATES GREFFE

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 – 2018 (P.27/2015): SEVENTH AMENDMENT
(P.27/2015 Amd.(7)) – AMENDMENT

PAGE 2, AMENDMENT (2)(b) –

For the words “seeking to acquire the land currently in the ownership of the Jersey Gas Company in order to extend the Millennium Town Park to provide additional open space and public parking as appropriate” substitute the words “providing additional open space and public car parking as appropriate; examining the benefits and costs of extending the Millennium Town Park”.

PAGE 3, AMENDMENT (6)(c) –

For the words “Delegate authority to the Parish of St. Helier for the licensing of small-scale events within the parish, including in its public squares and precincts, after appropriate consultation with the relevant authorities and subject to all necessary safeguards, risk assessments being in place” substitute the words “Review arrangements for the licensing of small-scale events within the parishes after appropriate consultation with the relevant authorities, and subject to the agreement of the Comité des Connétables and all necessary safeguards and risk assessments being in place”.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

REPORT

The Council of Ministers and the Connétable of St. Helier agree on the fundamental importance of the town of St. Helier. It needs to be a better place in which to work, live, visit and invest. Many States Members and Islanders have said the same. This is tremendously welcome.

The amendment of the Council of Ministers simply seeks to ensure that these shared objectives are achieved in an orderly, considered and timely fashion. Most notably, the Council of Ministers asks that –

- We commit to more, improved open space, while remaining open-minded about where it is delivered – so that we can undertake the proper work, in a timely fashion and reflecting on the financial implications, before making decisions on specific sites.

The Strategic Plan sets a direction for the development of more detailed delivery plans, and already contains a commitment to a Masterplan and –

- A Public Realm Strategy with a specific remit to increase the quality and quantity of public space – streets, squares, parks, other green space – and the links between them;
- A clear and comprehensive plan for travel and transport in and around the town; ring-road parking; more pedestrian areas; adequate parking for the town;
- A housing strategy to deliver increased housing supply for rent and purchase, to increase standards and quality, and to support good quality neighbourhoods and communities, for St. Helier, and elsewhere in Jersey.

Ministers have already held discussions with the Connétable of St. Helier about how we should engage with Islanders as part of delivering these objectives. They have agreed that an event should take place over a weekend in May in the Town Hall. This work and the Masterplan will provide a platform for –

- An objective assessment of the issues, challenges and opportunities for urban regeneration;
- The development of a robust set of proposals to improve the quality of the town;
- A properly costed, sequenced and prioritised implementation plan.

Only as part of this work can we make decisions that are fully informed on this most important of matters for so many Islanders.

Amendment (2)(b)

The Council of Ministers have outlined already that improving the quantity and quality of open spaces is important. However, they also believe that any decision on where that open space should be created should be subject to a full evaluation of the costs and benefits of different options and alternative sites. These are complex decisions, and need dialogue and engagement of the type mentioned above.

The Connétable’s amendment is a fundamental challenge to the 2011 Island Plan assumptions for the delivery of housing, and a change to the 2011 North of St. Helier Masterplan. In approving these Plans, the Assembly has already set the policy framework for this area, and the context against which investment decisions and planning decisions should be made.

The Connétable’s proposed Amendment pre-supposes that the extension of the Millennium Town Park should sit at the heart of the new St. Helier Masterplan. The likely cost implications mean that the proposed new St. Helier Masterplan will be dominated by a potential extension to the Millennium Park before it is even written.

Instead, this work should be considered as part of the Public Realm Strategy, as proposed in the draft Strategic Plan (4.2), which includes a clear and conscious commitment to increase the quality and quantity of public space – streets, squares, parks, other green space – and the links between them.

In developing this strategy, provision of, and access to, different types of open space throughout the town will be assessed, taking into account the existing levels of provision, use, quality and capacity. For example, there is a need to properly consider the potential of other opportunities presented by areas such as Fort Regent/Mont de la Ville and La Collette. There are very few, if any homes, in the town of St. Helier which are not now within 10 minutes’ walk or 500 metres of public open spaces. However, if we want people to enjoy living and visiting town more, what is our best strategy and solution for more open space commensurate to the needs of the community who live nearby? These are questions that should be decided by Islanders, having evaluated costs and benefits.

As such, the Council of Ministers’ amendment reinforces the commitment to improve the quantity and quality of open space, as well as a commitment to undertake an evaluation specifically on the Gas Place Site, while not pre-determining the nature of the Masterplan or where the increased levels of open space should be.

Original as lodged	Amendment 7(2)(b)	COM amendment
<p>Enhance the value of the public sector property portfolio, including improving Fort Regent, using the hospital development to support St. Helier, and rationalise government office spaces.</p>	<p>Enhance the value of the public sector property portfolio, including improving Fort Regent, “seeking to acquire the land currently in the ownership of the Jersey Gas Company in order to extend the Millennium Town Park to provide additional open space and public parking as appropriate, using the hospital development to support St. Helier, and rationalise government office spaces.</p>	<p>Enhance the value of the public sector property portfolio, including improving Fort Regent; providing additional open space and public car parking as appropriate; examining the benefits and costs of extending the Millennium Town Park; using the hospital development to support St. Helier; and rationalising government office spaces.</p>

Amendment (6)(c)

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to set high level direction that informs the development of more detailed delivery strategies and action plans. Delegating authority to the Parish of St. Helier for small events may well be the right thing to do, but committing to so specific an action in the Strategic Plan, without proper consultation, and indeed, without considering the position of the other Parishes or its unintended consequences, is not supported. Instead, the amendment of the Council of Ministers is such that the arrangements would be reviewed and for all Parishes, enabling proper research and a widely accepted way forward.

Original as lodged	Amendment 7(6)(b)	COM amendment
No specific reference to licensing of events	Delegate authority to the Parish of St. Helier for the licensing of small-scale events within the parish, including in its public squares and precincts, after appropriate consultation with the relevant authorities and subject to all necessary safeguards, risk assessments being in place	Review arrangements for the licensing of small-scale events within the parishes after appropriate consultation with the relevant authorities, and subject to the agreement of the Comité des Connétables and all necessary safeguards and risk assessments being in place

Financial and manpower implications

There are no additional financial or manpower implications arising from this amendment to the amendment.