WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE BY DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 30th APRIL 2019

Question

Further to comments he has recently made in the media with regard to encouraging sustainable transport, will the Minister –

- (a) list the Government-led incentives, if any, that currently exist for people wishing to purchase electric vehicles (including electric bikes);
- (b) state whether it his assessment that further such schemes or incentives are required and, if so, what new schemes he intends to propose;
- (c) provide an indication of how any current incentives compare with incentives that have been offered in the past but which have been discontinued;
- (d) state why the previous subsidy provided for people wishing to buy electric bikes was stopped and whether this subsidy will be reintroduced?

Answer

- a) Government of Jersey currently offers the following in relation to ultra-low emissions vehicles:
 - Eco Parking Permit, offering free parking to the private owners of vehicles with carbon dioxide emissions of less than 50 grams per kilometre for 12 months from the date of first registration, and half price parking thereafter, providing a potential saving of over £1500 in the first year and over £750 in each subsequent year
 - Vehicle Emissions Duty (VED) is not charged on the first registration of vehicles with carbon dioxide emissions of less than 50 grams per kilometre, which provides a saving of nearly £2000 compared to vehicles in the highest emissions band
 - Provision of electric vehicle charge points in public car parks, which we are currently in the process of planning to increase where we have capacity.
- b) "We will protect and value our environment" is a priority in the Common Strategic Policy and this will be reflected in the Government Plan which is under development, it would be wrong of me to comment upon or pre-empt policy that has not yet been finalised, but this will be published later in 2019 for the States to consider as a cohesive package of measures.
- c) While comprehensive studies of current incentives are not being carried out at present, a measure of their impact can be demonstrated by the increase in numbers of electric cars registered, from 140 in 2016 to 298 in 2018, and numbers of hybrid vehicles registered, from 439 in 2016 to 744 in 2018.
- d) The previous scheme to assist the purchase of electric bikes was allocated a fixed budget and intended to be in operation for a maximum of three years. As such it has now run its course and can be considered to have kick-started a market for new e-bikes which are stocked in many retail outlets in addition to all the cycle shops, with an affordable second-hand market now also existing. Funding has subsequently been prioritised for road safety measures including the creation and improvement of cycle infrastructure, for example the St Clement path from Le Hocq to Le Rocquier, the completion of the southern link between the Albert Pier and Havre des Pas via the Old Harbours, and development of crossing facilities in La Rue du Pont Marquet for users of the Railway Walk.