WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION BY DEPUTY R.J. WARD OF ST. HELIER CENTRAL QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 6th MARCH 2023 ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 13th MARCH 2023

Question

"Will the Minister advise the current position regarding a new Education campus at Highlands College?"

Answer

Feasibility funding of £330,000 is available in the Government Plan 2023. This funding has been secured to further develop plans for the creation of a new Further Education Campus.

Previous feasibility work has included a strategic review of the college estate and facilities, both of which supported the development of business cases for submission to earlier Government Plans. Ongoing work was delayed due to the Pandemic, and it was agreed that a Further Education and Skills Actionable Agenda would be commissioned to identify the need and benefits of redesigning the delivery of services for Further, Higher and Adult Skills and Lifelong Education.

In addition, given the continued need to invest in the maintenance of the existing estate, together with the increased importance of the Actionable Agenda; Highlands College in conjunction with Infrastructure, Housing and Environment commissioned a condition survey in November 2022. This has highlighted the fundamental needs to develop a fit for purpose learning environment which would be central to the development of skills for Jersey.

The next phase of work is to review the recommendations from the Further Education and Skills Actionable agenda alongside a report due on Higher Education. The outputs from these reports will assist in developing a specification for the feasibility study in consultation with the Population and Skills Ministerial Group and other stakeholders.

I anticipate that the feasibility project will commence in the second quarter of 2023.