

STATES OF JERSEY



BUDGET 2005: EIGHTH AMENDMENTS

**Presented to the States on 7th December 2004
by Senator R.J. Shenton**

STATES GREFFE

BUDGET 2005: EIGHTH AMENDMENTS

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- (a) *to increase the estimate of revenue expenditure of the Environment and Public Services Committee (Planning and Environment) from £5,120,000 to £5,720,000 by adding –*

£600,000 to enable the establishment of a Countryside Renewal (agri-environment) Scheme;

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- (b) *to increase the estimate of income from Indirect Taxation in order to fund the establishment of a Countryside Renewal (agri-environment) Scheme, by adding the following amount to the Impôts –*

£600,000 to Impôts on tobacco, so that the income rises from £14,595,000 to £15,195,000.

SENATOR R.J. SHENTON

REPORT

A very thorough examination through the Scrutiny process of the Agri-Environment Scheme (now re-named Countryside Renewal), which was approved by the States on 26th July 2002, has demonstrated overwhelming support for the principle of improving the Countryside through such a scheme.

Based on the evidence and the strength of the submissions received by the Panel, the main conclusion and recommendation of the Panel is that a Countryside Renewal Scheme should be implemented with the least possible delay.

It was also clear that the desirability and importance of any such scheme has not been fully understood, however, the consequences on non-implementation have been clearly stated by the National Trust whose submission was so succinct, that it has been reproduced in the Scrutiny Panel report.

It should be borne in mind that both the principle and the funding were supported by the States in July 2002 and it is the lack of funding which has prevented any progress being made.

It would be up to the Environment and Public Services Committee together with the Industry to agree the precise detail and implementation of the Scheme and this proposition presents an opportunity for the States to show a commitment to one of the Island's most important assets both for locals and tourists, that of the countryside and the environment.