STATES OF JERSEY

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MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARISHES AND THE EXECUTIVE (P.40/2004) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 18th May 2004 by the Connétable of St. Martin

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The principles set out in this proposition, namely that the cost of native welfare should be transferred to the States and the cost of maintaining main roads should be transferred to the parishes, were discussed at public meetings held in every Parish in 2003. Having regard to the views expressed at those meetings, the Connétables are prepared to support the principle of this proposition.

However, concerns remain that the extent of the work required and capital investment necessary to repair the infrastructure of the Island's main road network (which concerns all restorative maintenance, strengthening and reconstruction to the highway sub-structure, defective trench reinstatements (undertaken by the service companies in the past) and new surface water drainage systems, as well as the construction of new roads) and which will, if the proposition is approved, be met from the general revenues of the States, has not been fully identified and costed and neither has a timetable for completion of this work been identified.

The Connétables are also mindful that changes such as the introduction of a commercial rate will require alteration of computer systems and they expect that the costs incurred will be taken into account in the expenses of the Conseil des Connétables.

The Connétables have received an assurance from the President of the Policy and Resources Committee that the implementation of the proposals contained in the report and proposition is entirely subject to agreement with the Comité des Connétables and that the detail will have to be brought back to the States for debate and agreement before any proposed changes are implemented.