

**10 October 2019**

**Update on communication and engagement for the Government Plan 2020-23**

The first-ever draft Government Plan was lodged and published on 22 July 2019.

The Government is committed to an open and transparent approach to policymaking, so it has been communicating and engaging with Islanders and Scrutiny, to ensure that there have been plentiful opportunities for engagement with the Government Plan.

The Council of Ministers has wanted to explain how the Government Plan takes forward the five strategic priorities agreed in the Common Strategic Policy, and to set out how its initiatives will be funded over the next four years.

Ministers have wanted to ensure that Islanders and Scrutiny understand how spending will increase, and that delivering £100 million of efficiencies over the next four years will support the growth in spending, and investment in critical technology, without increasing taxes.

**Government Plan launch**

The Government Plan was launched with a briefing to States Members, followed by a media briefing, media interviews by Ministers, the publication of the Plan online on gov.je, and social media posts on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

We also held a stakeholder briefing, notifying almost 200 business, community, voluntary and interest groups, as well as emailing them a stakeholder bulletin about the Government Plan.

Over the first week, the launch generated considerable publicity. It led the TV and radio news bulletins, and there were 15 articles in the Jersey Evening Post, Bailiwick Express and online on BBC, Channel and 103fm.

In addition, the Government issued 32 social media posts, reaching more than 54,000 people, with 945 engagements (clicks, comments or retweets), and it was also widely discussed in social media outside the Government’s own accounts.

**Island engagement**

The Council of Ministers decided to hold five public events in the Island in September, in order to provide Islanders the opportunity to hear about the Government Plan and ask questions directly of Ministers. Each public event focused on one of the five priorities agreed in the Common Strategic Policy.

The events were:

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| **Date** | **Theme and venue** | **Ministers presenting** |
| 18 September | **Protecting and valuing our environment**  Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society, Trinity | Chief Minister  Environment Minister  Infrastructure Minister |
| 23 September | **Reducing income inequality**  St Helier Town Hall | Deputy Chief Minister  Social Security Minister  Housing Minister |
| 24 September | **Putting children first**  St Brelade Parish Hall, St Aubin | Deputy Chief Minister  Education Minister  Children’s Minister |
| 25 September | **Creating a vibrant economy**  St Paul’s Centre, St Helier | Deputy Chief Minister  External Relations Minister  Treasury Minister |
| 26 September | **Wellbeing and mental and physical health**  Grouville Parish Hall | Assistant Chief Minister for International Development  Health Minister  Assistant Minister for Mental Health |

The events were publicised through press releases, social media posts, full-page adverts and news stories in parish magazines, and through invitations to the Government’s 200-stakeholder database.

The Government’s 23 social media posts about the events reached more than 106,000 people, with 2,943 engagements.

The news of the events, and the dates and venues, was covered in the Jersey Evening Post and by broadcast media.

Around 100 Islanders attended the five events, in addition to Ministers and officers. However, we also streamed every event live on Facebook, and filmed them to upload to YouTube, so that Islanders who were interested in the Government Plan could view the events without attending.

To date, there have been 5,500 views of these videos.

In summary, over the weeks since the Government Plan was launched, it has been covered in 23 articles in the Jersey Evening Post, 9 articles in the Bailiwick Express, 5 Channel 103 online articles, 6 BBC online articles, 5 ITV Channel TV reports and the Government’s 73 social media posts have reached 160,000 people, with 3,900 engagements (it is important to note that the reach does not mean 160,000 unique individuals, as many people will have seen multiple social media messages).

**Engagement with Scrutiny**

Ministers and officers have attended 16 Scrutiny hearings. That has been supported by the provision of underlying documentation in respect of 168 separate revenue and capital projects, and responses to 23 letters, including dealing with just over 200 individual questions on their individual areas of responsibility.

The public Scrutiny hearings attended are as follows:

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| **Date** | **Scrutiny Panel** | **Ministers and officers attending** |
| 12 September | Economic and International Affairs Panel | Minister for External Relations  Group Director, External Relations  Group Director, Financial Services and Digital  Principal External Relations Officer, Global Markets |
| 13 September | Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel | Minister for Education  Assistant Minister for Education  Group Director, Education  Director, Policy and Planning  Head of Careers and Student Finance |
| 17 September | Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel | Minister for Health and Social Services  Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services  Director General, Health and Community Services Group Finance Director, HCS  Group Managing Director, HCS  Chief Nurse, HCS  Group Medical Director, HCS |
| 17 September | Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel | Assistant Chief Minister and Assistant Minister for Social Security  Chief Operating Officer |
| 17 September | Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel | Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture  Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture  Director General, Growth, Housing and Environment  Group Director for Economy and Partnerships  Director, Economic Development  Digital Policy Unit Policy Advisor |
| 19 September | Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny | Minister for Infrastructure  Director General, Growth, Housing and Environment  Group Director, Operations and Transport  Head of Finance Business Partnering, GHE  Interim Director, Estate and Asset Management, GHE  Director of Transport, GHE |

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| **Date** | **Scrutiny Panel** | **Ministers and officers attending** |
| 26 September | Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel | Minister for Social Security  Assistant Chief Minister and Assistant Minister for Social Security  Director General, Customer and Local Services  Director, Strategic Policy, Performance and Population  Head of Finance Business Partnering, CLS |
| 27 September | Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel | Chief Minister  Assistant Chief Minister  Chief Executive  Director of Business Change  Treasurer of the States |
| 27 September | Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel | Minister for Home Affairs  Director General, Justice and Home Affairs  Acting Deputy Chief Officer, States of Jersey Police  Acting Director, Jersey Customs and Immigration Service |
| 1 October | Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel | Minister for International Development  Executive Director, Jersey Overseas Aid Commission |
| 1 October | Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny | Minister for Environment  Assistant Minister for Environment  Group Director, Regulation, Growth, Housing and Environment  Director, GHE  Director. Environmental Policy, Strategic Policy, Performance and Population |
| 1 October | Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny | Minister for Children and Housing  Assistant Director, Social Policy, Strategic Policy, Performance and Population  Policy Principal, SPPP |
| 3 October | Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel | Minister for Treasury and Resources  Assistant Treasury Minister  Treasurer of the States  Comptroller of Taxes |
| 3 October | Care of Children Review Panel | Minister for Children and Housing  Director General,  Group Director, Policy, Strategic Policy, Performance and Population |
| 4 October | Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel | Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport, and Culture  Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture  Group Director, Financial Services and Digital  Group Director for Economy and Partnerships  Director, Economic Development |

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| **Date** | **Scrutiny Panel** | **Ministers and officers attending** |
| 10 October | Government Plan Review Panel | Chief Minister  Assistant Chief Minister  Chief Executive  Treasurer of the States  Chief Operating Officer  Director of Communications  Group Director, Policy, Strategic Policy, Performance and Population |

**Issues and themes from Scrutiny**

A wide range of issues and themes emerged from Scrutiny, and have therefore been considered by Ministers and Officers, including the following:

* Coordination of Brexit funding
* Funding of Anti Money Laundering activities
* Infrastructure Fund – its operation and practicalities
* Student finance
* Vocational courses
* Budgeting across school years
* Focus on mental health and new models of health
* Waiting times
* Efficiencies in our health service
* Structure of Economic Development operations within government and the delivery of economic plan
* Action on productivity
* Development of our rural economy
* Scale of IT investment needed to modernise public services and project management arrangements
* Whether there is sufficient funding for capital projects, and how pre-feasibility allocations work
* Foul Sewer extensions and adequacy of funding
* Budgets for road resurfacing
* The timing of publication of efficiencies and analysis of income and expenditure
* Allocation of departmental efficiencies, and impact on headcount
* Structure of Government, including new Target Operating Models, Single Legal Entity, and the role of the Chief Executive, and impact on staff
* Migration policy and its timing and importance
* Police numbers and changing profile of crime
* Delivery of efficiencies in our emergency services
* Patient records systems and alignment with relevant operational services
* Financial support in old age
* Increase in Long Term Care contributions
* Progress on Disability Strategy
* Sustainable energy
* Carbon neutrality
* Development of the Island Plan
* Fisheries policy and our responses to Brexit
* Consultancy spend
* GST de minimus
* Tax and duty changes, with a focus on fuel duties
* Investment in housing and availability of sites for housing
* Children’s change programme and wider changes to put children first
* Recruitment challenges around key workers, including key worker housing.

**Further engagement with States Members**

Ministers will be inviting all States Members to two further detailed briefings on the Government Plan. The first, on 24 October, following the publication of the Efficiencies Plan, will cover on efficiencies and modernisation. The second, to be scheduled in the week commencing 4 November, will cover improvements to front-line services.