STATES OF JERSEY

PROPOSED BUDGET 2027-2030 (P.73/2026): SIXTEENTH AMENDMENT

VICTORIA MARINE LAKE

Lodged au Greffe on 24th November 2026
by the Connétable of St. Helier
Earliest date for debate: 8th December 2026

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSED BUDGET 2027-2030 (P.73/2026): SIXTEENTH AMENDMENT

1 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (l) –

After the words "in the Appendix to the accompanying report" insert the words –

", except that, on page 59, after words "imposed by rising sea levels" there should be inserted the following new sentence –

"Within this funding £28,000, will be ringfenced to allocate Officer time and resources to undertake the feasibility work necessary to inform a report into the repair and restoration options for the Victoria Marine Lake."".

2 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (l) –

After the words "in the Appendix to the accompanying report" insert the words –

", except that on page 62, after the section entitled "Land Acquisition" there should be inserted the following new section –

"*Victoria Marine Lake*

The Minister for Infrastructure will present a report with costed options for repair and restoration of the Victoria Marine Lake to the Assembly by 31st July 2027."".

CONNÉTABLE OF ST. HELIER

Note: After this amendment, the proposition would read as follows –

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

to receive the Budget 2027 – 2030 specified in Article 9(1) of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 (the Law) and specifically –

(a) to approve the estimate of total States income to be paid into the General Revenue Fund in 2027 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 1 to the Report, which is inclusive of the proposed taxation and impôts duties changes outlined in the Budget, in line with Article 9(2)(a) of the Law;

(b) to approve the estimate of total States income to be paid into the Jersey Capital Investment Fund in 2027 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 2 to the Report, which is inclusive of the proposed taxation and impôts duties changes outlined in the Budget, in line with Article 9(2)(b) of the Law;

(c) to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from the General Revenue Fund for 2027, for each head of expenditure, being gross expenditure less estimated income (if any), in line with Articles 9(2)(c), 10(1) and 10(2) of the Law, and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 3 of the Report;

(d) to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from the Jersey Capital Investment Fund for 2027, for each head of expenditure, being gross expenditure less estimated income (if any), in line with Articles 9(2)(d), 10(1) and 10(2) of the Law, and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Tables 4 and 5 of the Report;

(e) to approve the transfers from one States fund to another for 2027 of up to and including the amounts set in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 6 in line with Article 9(2)(e) of the Law;

(f) to approve the proposed Changes to Approval for financing/borrowing for 2027, as shown in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 7 to the Report, which may be obtained by the Minister for Treasury and Resources, as and when required, in line with Article 9 (2)(f) of the Law, of up to those revised approval amounts;

(g) to approve for each project that is to be started in 2027 and that has not previously been set out in an approved Budget, the total cost of each such project, in line with Article 9(2)(g), and (h) of the Law and as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 8 to the Report;

(h) to approve any amendments to the proposed total cost for each project that has previously been approved in a Budget, in line with Article 9(2)(i) of the Law and as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 8 to the Report;

(i) to approve the estimated income, being estimated gross income less expenditure, that each States trading operation will pay into its trading fund in 2027 in line with Article 9(2)(j) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 9 to the Report;

(j) to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from each States trading operation's trading fund for 2027 for each head of expenditure in line with Article 9(2)(k) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 10 to the Report;

(k) to approve the estimated income and expenditure proposals for the Climate Emergency Fund for 2027, in line with the terms of reference for the Fund in Government Plan 2020 - 2023 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 11 to the Report; and

(l) to approve, in accordance with Article 9(1) of the Law, the Budget 2027-2030, as set out in the Appendix to the accompanying Report, except that –

on page 59, after words “imposed by rising sea levels” there should be inserted the following new sentence –

“Within this funding £28,000, will be ringfenced to allocate Officer time and resources to undertake the feasibility work necessary to inform a report into the repair and restoration options for the Victoria Marine Lake.”; and

on page 62, after the section entitled “Land Acquisition” there should be inserted the following new section –

“Victoria Marine Lake

The Minister for Infrastructure will present a report with costed options for repair and restoration of the Victoria Marine Lake to the Assembly by 31st July 2027.”.

REPORT

Background

The Victoria Marine Lake, commonly known as the West Park Bathing Pool (the "Pool"), was opened in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It is one of Jersey's oldest tidal bathing facilities and remains a significant element of the Island's coastal heritage.

Deterioration

In recent years, the condition of the Pool has deteriorated significantly. Structural damage to the seawall has resulted in the closure of the facility to swimmers since 2023 for public safety reasons. The deterioration of the Pool and its future have attracted public interest, including questions in the States Assembly, public meetings, media coverage and two e-petitions. The extent of public support for restoration is considered later in this report.

On 21st June 2026, a child was pulled through an opening in the seawall and swept into the sea. The child was rescued and, following treatment at the Emergency Department, was discharged with minor injuries. Following the incident, additional safety works and new warning signage were installed.[1]

In response to Oral Question 58/2026 on 14th July 2026, the Minister for Infrastructure told the Assembly that "w*e cannot rely on luck again*". He also stated that, as things stand, he does not know "*when, how or if*" the Pool will be restored to safe public use.

He described two immediate options. The first is to fill the holes in the seawall with concrete, which could fail again without warning. The second is to breach the wall, which would remove the hazard but mean the site would no longer function as a pool. The Minister confirmed that demolition was among the options being considered, but that the Pool does not rise to the top of the department's maintenance priorities.

Current Position

The Minister's response to Written Question 261/2026 confirms that there is currently no agreed programme, scope of works or costed delivery plan for the Pool.

For more than two years, the Assembly has been told that restoration of the Pool would be too expensive, that previous repairs have not worked and that the future of the Pool is uncertain. Yet no engineered assessment has been undertaken to understand what a lasting repair would involve or what it would cost.

The Pool has served the Island for more than a century. Its recent failures have followed on from long periods of inadequate maintenance. That does not show that the structure cannot work. It shows that the question has never been properly answered. This amendment asks for that answer, so that the Assembly can decide on evidence rather than general statements. This is precisely why feasibility work is needed before substantial repair expenditure is committed.

[1] Government of Jersey, *Public urged to avoid Victoria Marine Lake after serious safety incident*, 3 July 2026; States Assembly, *WQ.122/2026: Victoria Marine lake swimming safety*, answered 13 July 2026.

Amendment

If approved, the first part of this amendment would ringfence £27,670.55 within the 2027 Shoreline Management Plan funding for officer time and resources to assess options for the repair and restoration of the Pool. The allocation would include officer or equivalent resource capacity to commission, coordinate and evaluate the necessary specialist work.

The work should draw on coastal engineering specialists with experience of historic tidal pools and marine structure expertise. Consideration could also be made to including universities. The undertaking should –

- establish the current structural condition of the seawall, foundations, sluice gates and other components required for the Pool to retain water safely;
- investigate the extent and causes of the void beneath the wall and the continuing undermining of the structure; and
- assess the effects of tides, wave action, storms, coastal processes and anticipated climate-related change on the structure and any proposed repair.
- identify and compare technically viable repair and restoration options, including their expected lifespan and resilience;
- assess the heritage and planning implications arising from the Pool's Grade 4 listed status; identify any immediate safety or stabilisation measures required; and
- prepare an outline scope of works, delivery programme, risk assessment and cost plan, including appropriate contingency.

The work should also estimate ongoing inspection and maintenance requirements and consider options for the future operation and management of the facility, including potential community or third-party involvement.

The final report should provide Ministers and the States Assembly with sufficient evidence to decide whether full restoration is technically viable, financially proportionate and capable of being delivered and maintained sustainably.

The second part of this amendment would require the Minister for Infrastructure to present a report to the Assembly by 31st July 2027, including costed options for the full repair and restoration of the Pool. This timing would allow Members to consider the evidence in good time for the Proposed Budget 2028-2031, so that restoration funding can be considered as part of that Budget.

This amendment does not seek funding for the repair itself. The cost of a lasting restoration is not yet known, and t would not be responsible to ask the Assembly to approve a figure that has not yet been established through proper assessment.

Relationship with shoreline management

It is appropriate for the feasibility work to be funded from the 2027 Shoreline Management Plan feasibility allocation. The Victoria Marine Lake is a sea-fed coastal structure whose condition and future performance are directly affected by the tides, wave action, storm events, erosion and wider coastal processes considered through shoreline management.

The Pool should not therefore be assessed as an isolated recreational asset. Any repair proposal must be informed by the coastal conditions affecting St. Aubin's Bay and considered alongside the Government's wider approach to managing and protecting Jersey's shoreline. Undertaking the work through the existing feasibility allocation would enable the relevant coastal engineering expertise, evidence and programme governance to be used while avoiding the establishment of a separate and potentially duplicative assessment process.

Written Question 261/2026 identifies temporary stabilisation and the creation of a controlled breach as lower-cost alternatives to full repair. However, neither options restore the Pool as a functioning swimming facility.

This approach does not predetermine that full restoration will proceed. It ensures that any future decision is based on a coordinated assessment of the structure's condition, coastal setting, heritage significance, repair options, whole-life cost and future maintenance requirements.

The Pool was designated as a Grade 4 Listed Place in October 2025, recognising its special public and heritage interest. While its listed status will need to be taken into account in developing repair options, it does not prevent necessary alteration or repair. The Minister for Infrastructure has confirmed that listing is not a barrier to making the site safe, and Government guidance provides for changes and repairs to listed buildings and places where appropriately considered through the planning process.[2]

Stakeholder Support

The proposed restoration has received support from local residents, community stakeholders and the Island's hospitality sector.

In correspondence supporting the project, the General Manager of the Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel stated that the Victoria Marine Lake is an important asset for St. Helier and the wider Island community.

The hotel highlighted the Pool's heritage value and its contribution to year-round swimming, recreation, fitness, training, wellbeing and social connection. It also emphasised the Pool's tourism value as a distinctive feature of St. Helier's waterfront, noting that visitors choose Jersey for its coastal lifestyle and outdoor activities and that the Pool contributes positively to their experience. The hotel confirmed its support for restoration and offered to assist in promoting initiatives intended to secure the Pool's long-term future.

Public support has also been demonstrated through two e-petitions. The first, "Restore and maintain the 128-year-old Victoria Marine Lake (sea pool at West Park)", closed with 1,523 signatures. A second petition, "Find the funds to repair and maintain the Victoria Marine Lake now", was subsequently lodged and had secured more than 990 signatures by 24th November 2026. Together, the petitions provide clear evidence of sustained public interest in restoring and maintaining the facility.

Benefits

[2] States Assembly | OQ.58/2026

The case for restoration also extends beyond the immediate support expressed by stakeholders. Dating back to 1897, the Victoria Marine Lake is an important surviving element of St. Helier's Victorian coastal heritage and reflects the historic development of public sea-bathing facilities around Town. Its location at West Park provides a readily accessible coastal amenity for residents of St. Helier, particularly those living in the west and north of Town who do not have access to a car.

Restoration would also provide an alternative town bathing location to the Havre des Pas Bathing Pool, helping to broaden access to sea swimming in St. Helier and reduce reliance on a single facility. This would be particularly valuable during the peak summer months, when Havre des Pas can become heavily used.

The two facilities would serve different parts of St. Helier and together offer residents and visitors a wider choice of accessible coastal recreation.

Financial and staffing implications

The feasibility work has been budgeted approximately as exact figures are not available. This has been calculated on 1/3 of a Grade 12 Officer for one year, using the average of the Grade 12 payscale,[3] being £83,011.64. Therefore, a third of their time would cost approx. £27,670.55, rounded to £28,000.

Children's Rights Impact Assessment

I consider that this amendment has no direct or indirect impact on children and that the duty to have due regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child does not arise. Accordingly, a Children's Rights Impact Assessment is not required under the Children (Convention Rights) (Jersey) Law 2022.

[3] GD Civil Service pay scales pay scales.pdf