

STATES OF JERSEY



COMMON STRATEGIC POLICY 2026 – 2030 (P.75/2026): THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT

DELIVER A MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SECTOR WITH A PERMANENT FOCUS ON VALUE FOR MONEY

**Lodged au Greffe on 26th October 2026
by Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade
Earliest date for debate: 10th November 2026**

STATES GREFFE

COMMON STRATEGIC POLICY 2026-2030 (P.75/2026): THIRTEENTH
AMENDMENT

1 PAGE 2 –

After the words “report accompanying this Proposition” insert the words –

“, except that on pages 5 and 19 of the report, the title of Priority 11 should be substituted with the following –

“Deliver a more efficient and effective public sector with a permanent focus on value for money.””.

DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE

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

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

in accordance with Article 18(2)(e) of the States of Jersey Law 2005, to approve the statement of the Common Strategic Policy of the Council of Ministers as set out in the report accompanying this Proposition, except that, on pages 5 and 19 of the report, the title of Priority 11 should be substituted with the following –

“Deliver a more efficient and effective public sector with a permanent focus on value for money.””.

REPORT

The purpose of this amendment is to establish some common ground when it comes to the Government's efficiency programme.

There was and still is, I suspect, wide support across the Assembly for the words spoken by the prospective Chief Minister Senator Farnham, in his address to the new States Assembly on Friday 19th June 2026. In his opening remarks, he said –

*'We may come from different political backgrounds, we may hold different views on individual issues, but we now share a common purpose: to **provide effective Government**, to make good decisions, and to deliver for the people of Jersey who have placed their trust in us.'* ([Hansard](#) Friday 19th June 2026 – page 4)

He went on to state –

*'Islanders rightly expect Government to be **efficient**, responsive and focused on delivery.'* ([Hansard](#) Friday 19th June 2026 – page 5)

Furthermore, he also said –

*'The next Government must place renewed emphasis on financial discipline and long-term sustainability, and that means focusing spending on our priorities, **it means eliminating inefficiency** wherever we find it, and it means ensuring every pound spent delivers **better value for Islanders**. To be absolutely clear, **I do not believe in austerity**. **Neither do I believe that government can continue to grow indefinitely** without regard to cost.'* ([Hansard](#) Friday 19th June 2026 – page 5)

For my part, there was much in the speech that I was pleased to hear. In my own pre-election manifesto, I had also set out my view to the electorate of St Brelade: *that Government must deliver **value for money**, operate **efficiently** and **put people at the heart of all services**.*

The desire for a more efficient and effective government is, I believe, shared across this Assembly, including with my Party colleagues, this being one of our eight key manifesto pledges.

There is, I believe, a problem with the current wording of Priority 11 of the Council of Ministers' Common Strategic Policy (CSP). It currently reads:

*"Deliver a **leaner** and **less complex** public sector with **lower running costs**."*

My concern is that this wording does not necessarily reflect the consensus of the Assembly as well as the amended wording would. It also carries an inherent risk.

Firstly, the Council's position is capable of being construed as ideological. Drawing on the language of biology or dieting, the term *leaner* presumes that we have a bloated or *fat* public sector, or at least one in which there is fat to be cut. This is problematic. There may actually be some areas of our public sector which are *underfunded* or *under-resourced*.

The Fiscal Policy Panel (FPP) in its annual report, last year, highlighted that Jersey's spending on general public services and economic affairs is "*low relative to other OECD countries*". The picture that some would seek to paint of a profligate administration or a swollen civil service is, therefore, at best questionable and, at worst, incorrect.

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While Jersey's current health spending represents around 7% of GDP, comparable to other OECD countries, data produced by Statistics Jersey (see **Figure 1.10**) shows that at 29%, Jersey's share of spend on health is significantly higher than other OECD countries (all of which have a broader tax base than Jersey). Conversely, spend in Jersey on general public services and economic affairs is low relative to other OECD countries.

([Jersey Fiscal Policy Panel Annual Report 2025](#) – page 15)

It is also problematic to speak in terms of wanting a 'less complex' public sector. Jersey society is becoming increasingly cosmopolitan, and the needs of that modern society, together with Government's obligation to it, are necessarily complex. That complexity is unlikely to diminish.

What we can and should be doing is reducing unnecessary **complication** in our government services. Duplication, unclear points of contact, delay and a lack of joined-up working. This is, I think, what is actually meant. In that case, a better way to reflect this idea in the wording of Priority 11 would be to speak instead of building *an efficient and effective* public sector.

Finally, it is unlikely to be realistic or deliverable for government to promise *to lower running costs* at a time of persistent inflation, global crises beyond our control and when the need for healthcare investment is only going to increase. What government can and should focus on delivering is *value for money*. Value for Money, together with providing what would ordinarily be called excellent *customer service* (or putting the public at the heart of everything we do), should be the golden threads that run through all parts of the public sector.

Therefore, I ask members to support this modest amendment which would ask Government to commit to Deliver a more efficient and effective public sector with permanent focus on value for money as one of its key priorities.

Financial and staffing implications

There are no financial and staffing implications associated with the adoption of this proposition.

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.