STATES OF JERSEY

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

FUNDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOOTBALL PITCH

Lodged au Greffe on 24th November 2026
by Deputy C.J. Rebindaine of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter
Earliest date for debate: 8th December 2026

STATES GREFFE

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

1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (d) –

After the words "Summary Tables 4 and 5 of the Report", there should be inserted the words ", except that, in Summary Table 5, the Head of Expenditure entitled "Feasibility" should be reduced by £600,000 and the Head of Expenditure entitled "Other I&E Estate Projects" should be increased by £600,000 to £1,000,000".

2 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (l) –

After the words "Appendix to the accompanying Report", there should be inserted the words –

", except that –

(a) on page 59 –

(i) in table 18, the 2027 estimate should be reduced by £600,000;

(ii) in table 19, the 2027 estimate for "Investing in Jersey" should be reduced by £600,000; and

(iii) the words "£5 million" should be substituted with the words "£4.4 million";

(b) on page 60, in table 20, the 2027 estimate for "Other I&E Estate Projects" should be increased to £1,000,000; and

(c) on page 63, in table 24, a new line entitled "Additional 3G football pitch" should be inserted and £600,000 allocated to the 2027 estimate column".

DEPUTY C.J. REBINDAINE OF ST. MARY, ST. OUEN AND ST. PETER

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, except that, in Summary Table 5, the Head of Expenditure entitled "Feasibility" should be reduced by £600,000 and the Head of Expenditure entitled "Other I&E Estate Projects" should be increased by £600,000 to £1,000,000;

(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 –

(a) on page 59 –
  (i) in table 18, the 2027 estimate should be reduced by £600,000;
  (ii) in table 19, the 2027 estimate for "Investing in Jersey" should be reduced by £600,000; and
  (iii) the words "£5 million" should be substituted with the words "£4.4 million";
(b) on page 60, in table 20, the 2027 estimate for "Other I&E Estate Projects" should be increased to £1,000,000; and
(c) on page 63, in table 24, a new line entitled "Additional 3G football pitch" should be inserted and £600,000 allocated to the 2027 estimate column.

REPORT

In March 2025 the Jersey Local Football Facility Plan was issued by the Football Foundation indicating there was a current deficit of 4 new full size 3G surface football pitches. The report followed extensive consultation with Government of Jersey, teams and relevant stakeholders. If we wish to avail ourselves of co-funding by the Football Foundation then a commitment needs to be made during 2027 in order to deliver a pitch before June 2030.

In the report they established that Jersey has a clear and compelling case for developing at least one, but ultimately four additional full-size 11v11 third-generation (3G) football turf pitches. Evidence from football facility planning, combined with the Island's existing football participation levels, demonstrated a significant shortfall in provision that is restricting opportunities for players, clubs and the wider community. Investment in a modern 3G facility would deliver substantial sporting, social and health benefits while addressing a recognised infrastructure deficit.

Modern 3G football pitches are regarded as an essential component of football infrastructure. Advances in artificial surface technology and sports lighting mean that today's 3G pitches closely replicate the playing characteristics of high-quality natural grass while allowing significantly greater levels of use. Unlike grass pitches, which can become unplayable during periods of adverse weather, a well-maintained 3G pitch can accommodate intensive use throughout the year without deterioration in playing quality. This reliability is particularly important in Jersey's winter months, when fixture cancellations and training disruptions can undermine participation and player development.

In Jersey the 2025/2026 football season suffered widespread weather-related postponements, primarily driven by heavy autumn and winter rainfall and waterlogged grass pitches. This not only curtails the matches but dramatically reduces training sessions as grass pitches are carefully nurtured back to into playable condition. The volatility of weather patterns as then evidenced by the summer drought would seem to indicate this pattern should be expected to continue. As a case in point on Sunday 22 November 2026 ten matches were called off owing to waterlogged pitches with only Springfield and Oakfield able to operate.

One of the strongest arguments for investment is capacity. An 11v11 3G pitch is capable of supporting an average of approximately 1,200 participants per week. This level of utilisation far exceeds that of a conventional grass pitch and provides excellent value for public investment. The ability to host activity during evenings, facilitated by sports lighting, further increases capacity and helps maximise community benefit from a single facility. The grass floodlit pitch at Les Quennevais, for example, can only be played on two nights a week to ensure it has recovery time between fixtures.

Jersey's current provision is insufficient to meet demand. The Island currently has two 11v11 3G facilities at Springfield Stadium and Oakfield Sports Centre, although Oakfield is configured to youth 11v11 dimensions. There is also a smaller 9v9 3G facility at Haute Vallée School. Together, these facilities provide the equivalent of approximately 2.5 11v11 3G pitches. It is, however, a mistake to consider investment in a 3G pitch through the lens of a school’s own usage as any decision to build either a youth 11v11 or 9v9 pitch limits usability away from adults, so as an island asset all 3G

pitch construction should be viewed as an island investment seeking the maximum level of participation. Hence the written answer WQ.112/2026 is concerning as it indicates a decision around future provision at Le Rocquier is being left with CYPES, whereas it should be in the hands of Senator Kersten within her three remits across Education and Lifelong Learning, Infrastructure and Economic Development.

Using the Football Association's recognised training ratio model, which suggests one full-size 11v11 3G pitch is required for every 38 affiliated teams, Jersey's 245 affiliated football teams generate demand equivalent to 6.5 full-size 11v11 3G pitches. Against the current supply of 2.5 pitches, this results in a shortfall of approximately four full-size 11v11 3G facilities.

This evidence alone demonstrates that the Island is significantly underprovided for. While meeting the entire shortfall would require a longer-term strategy, developing at least one additional 11v11 3G pitch would represent an important first step towards addressing this gap and relieving pressure on existing facilities. It would show intent from the Council of Ministers that it intends to deliver on the recently approved Common Strategic Policies CSP 8 and CSP9.2 within the Invest in Jersey pillar.

A further benefit is the flexibility that a full-size 3G facility provides. An 11v11 pitch can be configured to accommodate all formats of football, including 5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11. This means the facility could support grassroots football, youth development, recreational participation, school sport, disability football and competitive league fixtures from a single venue. The ability to host both training and match play provides clubs with year-round certainty and reduces dependence on weather-sensitive grass pitches.

The development would also support wider participation objectives. High-capacity 3G facilities are recognised as particularly effective in engaging women and girls, people with disabilities, lower-income groups and culturally diverse communities. The consistent surface, accessibility and reliable availability of playing time make them an ideal platform for expanding participation among groups that have traditionally been underrepresented in sport. As Jersey seeks to improve levels of physical activity and community wellbeing, investment in inclusive sporting infrastructure should be a priority.

Importantly, the benefits would extend beyond football. Although football would be the primary user, 3G facilities can support a range of sporting and recreational activities. By transferring substantial football training and match demand away from natural grass pitches, an additional 3G facility would also reduce wear and tear on existing grass surfaces, improving quality and availability for other sports. This would help maximise the effectiveness of the Island's wider sports infrastructure network.

There are also broader social and economic benefits. Regular participation in sport contributes positively to physical health, mental wellbeing, social cohesion and youth engagement. A reliable, year-round venue encourages people to establish long-term activity habits and provides structured opportunities for young people during evenings and weekends. The resulting health and social benefits can contribute to reducing pressures on public services over time. Schools use 3G pitches during daytime hours but between 5.30 and 9.00 all clubs are vying for the same 3G pitches. There is not enough to cater for all of the teams and some teams are faced with the lottery of training on a grass pitch. Inactivity and lack of proper facilities often results in players who are

15-18 years of age, in particular, giving up football and/or sport in its entirety which is not good for their long term health.

In conclusion, Jersey's football infrastructure does not currently reflect the level of demand generated by the approximately 3,500 players identified in the report. The recognised shortfall of approximately four full-size 11v11 3G pitches highlights a significant gap in provision. An additional 11v11 3G pitch would increase capacity, reduce fixture cancellations, support participation across all age groups and formats of the game, improve inclusivity, protect existing grass pitches and deliver wider community benefits. While further facilities may ultimately be required, the development of at least one new full-size 11v11 3G football pitch should be regarded as an immediate priority for Jersey's sporting infrastructure strategy.

Conclusion

The Football Foundation is typically prepared to provide around two-thirds of the cost of creating a 3G surface pitch, so long as their accessibility conditions are met and there is a sinking fund for future resurfacing needs. Revenue from hiring out the pitch will assist finance the sinking fund. With the cost of a pitch at around £1.5Million, the government's contribution is likely to be within £600,000. Access to school premises will not resolve this problem for adult clubs, so is not a solution. A commitment by Jersey government is needed in 2027 to be able to deliver a single pitch before June 2030. Whether or not the island intends to seek to host an Island Games in the future this is a necessary investment in our island's physical and mental health.

Financial and staffing implications

There is a general consensus that a new 3G surface pitch should cost around £1.5 Million. No quote has been sought and sums will depend on the exact location chosen. The budget amendment is being sought, subject to the expectation that there will be majority financing from the Football Foundation.

The Budget sets out, on page 59, that there will be up to £5 million 'available in 2027 to develop an initial pipeline of Investing in Jersey projects subject to funding being identified'. This amendment seeks investment in Jersey – investment which would be met and even majority financed by a third party. Instead of waiting, and potentially losing that opportunity, whilst we look for other projects, this amendment asks that the Government take this opportunity and make a positive investment for the Island.

Children's Rights Impact Assessment

A Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) has been prepared in relation to this proposition and is available to read on the States Assembly website.