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Deputy Victoria Li
Chair – Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Sent by email only

19 October 2026

Dear Chair,

Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel Proposed Budget 2027-2030 Review

Thank you for your letter of 12th October advising the terms of reference and requesting further information in relation to the above review. Further information is provided below in answer to your questions and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any more information.

1. How does the proposed Budget 2027-2030 support the delivery of Priority 5 of the Common Strategic Policy, namely to increase the provision of lifelong learning?

The Proposed Budget 2027–2030 supports Common Strategic Policy Priority 5, “*Increase the provision of lifelong learning*”, through investment in the development of a new Further and Higher Education Campus as part of the Investing in Jersey programme. The Budget commits funding for the feasibility work required to progress this long-term strategic investment. A modern campus, located in St Helier is a key enabler in delivering a more accessible learning environment and the commitment to strengthen Jersey’s skills system, expand apprenticeships and improve integration between academic, vocational and technical pathways.

By investing in the infrastructure and capacity required to expand further and higher education provision, the Budget helps create greater opportunities for Islanders to develop skills, access higher-level qualifications and participate in learning throughout their lives, directly supporting the CSP objective of increasing the provision of lifelong learning

2. How will the success of Priority 5 of the Common Strategic Policy be measured over the 2026-2030 period, and what key milestones does the Minister expect to achieve?

Progress will be monitored through a combination of project delivery milestones and existing education, skills and wellbeing measures.

In relation to the proposed Further and Higher Education Campus, progress will be measured against the delivery timetable set out within the Investing in Jersey programme.¹

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<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/Investing%20in%20Jersey%20Document%20and%20Capital%20Investment%20Fund.pdf>

While construction and delivery extend beyond the lifetime of the Common Strategic Policy, the Budget provides funding for feasibility work and development activity during this term, and progress against this timeline will be monitored accordingly.

More broadly, progress towards the lifelong learning objectives within the Common Strategic Policy will be assessed using existing measures. These include:

- the Children, Young People, Education and Skills annual service performance measures.²
- Island Outcome Indicators³
- the Jersey Children and Young People's Survey⁴

These established measures provide a consistent basis for monitoring trends over time and assessing progress towards the CSP's lifelong learning objectives.

3. What performance indicators will be used to measure progress and outcomes in relation to lifelong learning, skills development and educational attainment during the period covered by the Common Strategic Policy?

Children, Young People, Education and Skills annual service performance

This measures apprenticeship participation and completion rates and destinations of Highland's College graduates.

Island Outcome Indicators

A number of wellbeing measures under 3 themes: community, environment and the economy. Relevant measures include the percentage of young people aged 16-18 yrs not in education, employment or training, level 3 qualification attainment, percentage of working aged people in work.

Jersey Children and Young People's Survey

Additional questions have been added to capture insight into young people's future education and training choices, the factors influencing those decisions, and their perceptions on the availability and quality of learning opportunities.

4. What evidence and analysis have informed the proposal to develop a Further and Higher Education Campus, and how has the need for this investment been assessed?

The proposal is informed by a range of strategic, educational and estate-based assessments undertaken over a number of years, including the original strategic outline case for Highlands College, subsequent options appraisals, and more recent work considering the development of a new Further and Higher Education campus in St Helier.

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<https://www.gov.je/Government/PlanningPerformance/BudgetAccounts/AnnualServicePerformanceMeasures/Pages/AnnualServicePerformanceMeasures2025.aspx>

³ <https://stats.je/statistic/island-outcome-indicators/>

⁴ <https://stats.je/statistic/childrens-opinions-and-lifestyle/>

These assessments have consistently concluded that the current Highlands estate is ageing, fragmented across multiple buildings, and increasingly unsuitable for the delivery of modern further and higher education provision. The existing campus also presents significant accessibility, operational and maintenance challenges.

The need for investment has been assessed against current and future educational requirements, demographic trends, workforce needs and economic priorities. Analysis has identified growing demand for technical and professional skills, higher-level qualifications, apprenticeships and lifelong learning opportunities, alongside the need for modern teaching environments capable of supporting digital, vocational and industry-led learning.

The proposal for a purpose-built campus in St Helier would provide facilities designed to meet contemporary further and higher education requirements, improve accessibility, strengthen links with employers and support greater collaboration between education providers, industry and government. The development also aligns with wider strategic objectives relating to skills, productivity, economic growth and town regeneration.

5. How will investment in the Further and Higher Education Campus support the Government's competitiveness and productivity objectives, particularly in relation to skills development and workforce needs?

The proposed campus is intended to play a key role in developing the skills required to support Jersey's long-term economic competitiveness and productivity. A modern further and higher education campus would provide enhanced capacity for technical education, professional training, apprenticeships, higher education and adult learning, helping to ensure that islanders can access the skills and qualifications required by employers.

The proposal has been developed in recognition of the increasing importance of a highly skilled workforce in supporting economic growth and responding to labour market challenges. Modern facilities would enable the expansion and delivery of programmes aligned to priority sectors and emerging workforce needs, while strengthening partnerships between education providers and industry.

Locating the campus within St Helier would also improve accessibility for learners and strengthen links with businesses and public sector employers. By supporting higher participation in education and training, improving progression pathways and increasing the availability of locally delivered skills provision, the campus would contribute to a more productive workforce and reduce reliance on off-island study and recruitment where appropriate.

6. What is the estimated total cost of the Further and Higher Education Campus project, and what expenditure is anticipated during the period covered by the proposed Budget 2027-2030?

The Further and Higher Education Campus remains subject to the development of the full business case and subsequent States Assembly approval processes. The current Budget proposal seeks funding to progress the next stage of development of the project and associated preparatory work.

7. What consultation has been undertaken with the Jersey Child Care Trust (JCCT) and/or other key stakeholders and private nurseries regarding raising the 2-3 nursery funding?

Extension of the 2-to-3-year childcare funding scheme builds upon the existing evidence base and collaborative work of the roundtables. One of the clear priorities established by the roundtables was to enable all families to make positive choices about how they balance family life and work without affordability being a barrier.

As such, there was no additional consultation carried out with JCCT or other sector representatives on this proposal. There was considerable discussion with the sector representatives during the setup of the original scheme which went live in January 2026. Further investment into the scheme does not fundamentally alter the objective or arrangements of the scheme, other than a more generous subsidy allocated to it and adding an additional provider (Accredited Nannies) eligible for the scheme.

I note the Jersey Child Care Trust Chief Executive was positive about the scheme and quoted as saying:

"This is wonderful for families. It's going to ease things for families even more.

It's growing an already existing scheme, but it means that families can have more hours in childminders, (accredited) nannies, or nurseries. It's really good news for childcare providers (too). It means that families can access a little bit more of their services, and it means that for two to three-year-olds they can have more of a consistency to their week in childcare."

a. Have there been any unintended consequences following the introduction of the 2-3 funding?

No, none that we are aware of.

b. Is there sufficient capacity and resources to extend the 2-3 hours?

It is important to remember that that cost of childcare was the number one issue cited by parents/carers. Accordingly, a prime focus of this investment was to ease the pressure of those costs for parents and carers.

[Jersey parents ECEC research survey](#)

Many children are already in childcare, and the costs exceed the level of subsidy. Almost a third of providers have reported that they anticipated additional capacity from September 2026 and/or noted bookings were down, implying an increase in capacity ([Childcare sector survey Q4 2025](#)).

We have also added accredited nannies to the group of childcare providers for which a parent can claim the subsidy. This provides additional capacity and increases choice for families.

Some degree of settling of demand and supply is expected as new funds are invested in the sector. This may stimulate supply and/or help offset the impact of a declining birth rate.

8. Can you provide any initial information regarding the ‘targeted expansion of free school meals provision to secondary schools?’

The proposed Budget includes funding to extend free school meal provision to all Government secondary schools and Highlands College from September 2027, building on the successful pilot currently operating at Haute Vallée.

The proposed model would provide free school meals to pupils who meet the Government's free school meal eligibility criteria, alongside a discretionary allocation managed by Headteachers to support children and young people experiencing financial hardship or exceptional circumstances. This approach would ensure support is targeted towards those most in need whilst retaining flexibility to respond to individual circumstances.

The proposal would create a more consistent island-wide approach to free secondary school meal provision, ensuring eligible pupils can access support regardless of which Government secondary school they attend. It would also provide continuity of support as pupils transition from primary to secondary education, help reduce financial pressures on families and support access to nutritious food throughout the school day.

Subject to Budget approval, the scheme would be implemented from September 2027 using existing school catering arrangements and the delivery model established through the Haute Vallée pilot.

9. What is the percentage of your Proposed Budget going towards staff costs?

Staffing represents 74% of ELL's proposed Expenditure budgets. This is 84% of the net revenue budget including the income target.

The two Cost of Living growth schemes are shown in Treasury Central Reserves and will require a Minister for Treasury and Resources Ministerial Decision to issue them to ELL once the Budget is approved by the Assembly. They are not part of the ELL Proposed Budget numbers as lodged.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Catherine Curtis
Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning