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Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Budget 2027-2030 Review

Witness: Assistant Minister for Economic Development with Responsibility for Sport, Arts, Heritage and Culture

Wednesday, 18th November 2026

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Panel:

Deputy S.J. Gleave of St. Helier South (Chair)

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter (Vice-Chair)

Deputy C.D. Leck of St. Saviour

Deputy G.A. Raimondo of St. Brelade

Connétable R.D. Johnson of St. Mary

Witnesses:

Senator S.M. Kersten, Assistant Minister for Economic Development

Mr. T. Holvey, Chief Economic Advisor

Mr. C. Kelleher, Sector Officer, Arts, Culture and Heritage

Mr. B. Harvey, Operations Director, Sport Division

[09:30]

Deputy S.J. Gleave of St. Helier South (Chair):

This hearing with Senator Serena Kersten, the Assistant Minister with Responsibility for Sport, Arts, Heritage and Culture. Just to remind everyone, if everyone could check that their phones are off

and, for anyone watching online, this hearing will be made available afterwards on demand and there will also be a transcript available. If we could just go around the room and introduce ourselves. I think we all know each other, but just for those who are watching online who may not know who everyone is. My name is Deputy Samantha Gleave and I am the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel for Economic and International Affairs.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter (Vice-Chair):
Hello, I am Deputy Chris Rebindaine, I represent St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter and I am Vice-Chair of this panel.

Deputy C.D. Leck of St. Saviour:
Hi, I am Deputy Chris Leck, representing St. Saviour.

Deputy G.A. Raimondo of St. Brelade:
I am Deputy Gabriel Raimondo and I represent St. Brelade.

Connétable R.D. Johnson of St. Mary:
David Johnson, Constable of St. Mary, panel Member.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
Senator Serena Kersten, Assistant Minister for Economy.

Chief Economic Advisor:
I am Tom Holvey, Chief Economic Advisor.

Operations Director, Sport Division:
Barclay Harvey, Head of Sport for Government of Jersey Sports Facilities.

Sector Officer, Arts, Culture and Heritage:
I am Chris Kelleher, Sector Officer for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:
Okay, thank you very much. Okay, so just so you are aware, we have divided the questionnaire up among ourselves, so we are going to jump around. We may have questions that we have not thought about, so we may try to interrupt each other occasionally, but hopefully I will chair that appropriately. I am going to hand over, first of all, to my Vice-Chair, Chris, to kick us off. I do want to say right at the very outset, we are aware of the balance that you are trying to strike and the difficulties that you are facing at the moment with your budget. So we are trying to be mindful of that

in the questions we are asking. However, obviously, we need to also understand how that budget is being distributed at the moment, and we have had various contributions from various organisations and stakeholders. I will start with Chris.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:
Morning. As this is the first time you are in front of this panel, please can you outline your role as Assistant Minister with Responsibility for Sport, Arts, Heritage and Culture?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
Yes, so it is a bit of a mixed bag, but essentially where I feel very strongly is that there is a lot of synergy behind arts, culture and heritage. In terms of Sport, my responsibility sits with Jersey Sport as an A.L.O. (arm's length organisation), so ensuring that we are working together, we are aligned in terms of strategy, the I.A.J. (Inspiring an Active Jersey), and also the Jersey Sport K.P.I.s (key performance indicators), which I am sure that we will come to speak about a little bit more as we go along into scrutiny. I see my role as an Assistant Minister for Sport to represent the sport community and its stakeholders, whether it is challenges with facilities, with how they grow their organisations, also the safeguarding piece and the bit that sits behind the operation of sport on the Island. Moving into arts, culture and heritage, I represent 5 key stakeholders, so our 5 key grant recipients, but then also other grant recipients across the A.C.H. (Arts, Culture and Heritage) portfolio who apply for funding in that space, whether it is through art installations or short films. What else do we ...

Sector Officer, Arts, Culture and Heritage:
Other cultural events.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
Any kind of type of cultural events, the Year of the Normans, obviously I will be front and centre in the thick of that also next year, but I think where it is quite exciting is that if you think about any type of sports event on the Island, that is all about Island identity and bringing Jersey to the forefront and that kind of soft power, arts, culture and heritage can give that opportunity really for the Islanders to come out, collaborate, celebrate who we are as an Island, whether it is for a sports, culture, arts or heritage installation or event. So it is quite a nice portfolio in that sense for me.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:
Given it is quite a complex portfolio that you have, how do you balance the different delegated responsibilities in a practical sense?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Well, my ministerials tend to sit at the beginning of the week, so I feel really well supported in that at the minute, and there is still probably a little bit of room for improvement in terms of how we set that up through the week, but I have been working with Tom and the team to make sure that we are making improvements in that space. In terms of balance, I feel at the minute I have probably finally, over the last couple of weeks or months or so, I do have a good group of both portfolios, and that is down to the support that I get obviously in office. I have got Freya as my private secretary, she has been brilliant in terms of organising, but it has been a bit of a storming phase for me, I suppose, as somebody new into the role taking on the portfolios. So essentially, ministerials at the beginning of the week and then as we go through the week, I have constant updates through whether it is officers setting up meetings, depending on what comes up, obviously I have to remain slightly agile with the weekly what sits in front of your face in terms of people wanting to have meetings or stakeholders wanting to have meetings. I have made an effort to get across all of the stakeholders now in A.C.H., whether that is ArtHouse, the Opera House, Jersey Heritage especially, and getting to understand what they do, who they are, and the people that sit behind those organisations. I chair the H.A.P. (Heritage Advisory Partnership) and the C.A.P. (Creative Advisory Panel) through A.C.H. and that has been a great way for me to get to know the wider group in terms of the stakeholders.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:
Just for clarification, HAP and CAP?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
Heritage Advisory Panel and the Creative Advisory Partnership. There is lots of acronyms which I am also learning as we go through, but those are 2 really key groups that have been quite integral to driving arts, culture, and heritage to where they are, setting the strategy, trying to get that strategy delivered over the last couple of years, I think it was 2025-27, in terms of the C.A.P. and the H.A.P. strategies.

Sector Officer, Arts, Culture and Heritage:
Yes, 2025 was Heritage, 2025, yes.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
Yes, so I will be looking to maintain a good relationship with both of those groups and using their expertise to help drive what is next for arts, culture, and heritage on the Island. In terms of Sport, I have got a really good relationship with David Kennedy at Jersey Sport. We have met quite regularly since me taking over the post and I see it as my responsibility, one of my priorities is to maintain good relationships with them and making sure that we are an enabler for them to be able to deliver what they want to do on the Island and not get in the way.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:

So do you think all your various stakeholders consider they get enough airtime with you at the moment?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

That is down to them.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:

Or a fair share of airtime.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, yes, I mean I like to think so. I am certainly accessible, I am always available on email or a phone call or whatever, so it that would be down to them. I think for me so far I feel very much like I have been able to get across everybody between June and now, but that is quite a chunk of time as you can imagine. So, I am very open, if somebody needs more of my time, then that is something that I think me and the team would be totally open for.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:

So, in terms of Sport, can you outline the current state of play with Sport in Jersey?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

So it is interesting now being on the other side of things and trying to represent Sport on the Island. For me the current state of play of Sport, I would say we are in a position where we know we have an ageing infrastructure in terms of facilities for Sport on the Island, so that obviously there is a community-based element to that and ensuring that our communities feel like they can access sport and it is affordable and that the facilities that they are using are of a certain standard, which means they can exercise and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The state of sport has changed slightly over the last decade, particularly with rising travel costs and accommodation costs and being able to get off the Island. Jersey is always going to be geographically challenged, so for our sports community to be able to get off Island and have opportunities and experiences across the sports sector, it is always going to be a bit of a challenge but I feel like that is a bit of a boiling point at the minute. So something that I am quite passionate about is trying to find new ways to try to support that sector, which is a difficult one at the minute because we cannot control the price of fuel. But I think maybe what we can try to do is be innovative as a sector to try to support people, whether it is through things like, for example, the Performance Sport Grant through Jersey Sport, that has been quite integral to helping that particular kind of elite section of the community. But there is still a way to go in terms of how we support our young kids who want to pursue many sporting careers, playing for Jersey or playing for clubs in Jersey who want to go off Island and have opportunities.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:

But in terms of new ways, you mentioned new ways, can you give us an example of a new way that you are contemplating?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, it is something I have started to look into is a new sports fund specifically to help with not too many restrictions on it, to help the sports community in different ways. So Jersey Sport currently have lots of different types of things that they will give grants for, whether it is coach development or travel grant fund and things like that, but at the minute it is still not really enough. So I think what I would like to be able to do is create another type of fund specifically for Sport that perhaps Jersey Sport could administer and give out because they have already got the infrastructure in place to further help the community for whatever it is that they need. The other thing I am also very interested in, and I have already started exploring, is the potential of a public-private partnership model, something I spoke about during the election and I find it quite a compelling, it is quite a compelling potential mechanism to help support, not only facilities, but maintenance of facilities and the community on the Island. But I am still at very much an exploratory stage with that so I would like to be able to sit down in front of you at some point over this term and be able to celebrate that in a really positive light and how it is helping people on the Island.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:

Thank you very much. How do you see current participation trends in both sport and physical activity across Jersey?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes so the Inspiring Active Jersey strategy, the current state of play, we have got some data here from 2025 and this is obviously stats I have inherited and we have shifted, we have made a shift but it is still something that we are nowhere near where we need to be. So the current stats are 54 per cent of adults meet the recommended daily level of physical activity and in 2024 it was recorded that only 22 per cent of children meet the recommended levels of activity, which is an increase of 4 per cent in 2019. That for me is nowhere near where we should be as a 9 by 5 Island and so there is a lot of work to be done. This is something I have already got to work on in terms of trying to get an understanding of where we best enable children to exercise more. For me it does start in the school environment and I think that could be a quick win, but high, high impact in terms of addressing some of those percentage levels by 2030.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:

So the follow-on question is, are there any groups you consider currently underrepresented in sport participation? How do you plan to address this? But I am sure you are going to say children is your starting point.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, children is my starting point and this is where I think Jersey Sport have a huge part to play as well in terms of answering that question, Deputy Rebindaine, because there are still underrepresented groups on this Island. I have recently, in terms of sport and not getting access to sport, you look at the African community in particular, we have got quite a lot of families now who have moved and decided to reside here in Jersey. The difference is, when I speak to that community of the nature that those kids were playing sport every day, to then come to Jersey and not even know how to access a club is quite stark. So there is a lot of work to be done around the visibility piece, what can we do with volunteers and safeguarding to make it easier for people to participate in sport and hold the numbers required to look after a child safely but enable sport as well. It is almost, from a safeguarding perspective in sport, there is a high bar and there is a lot of sports who care very deeply about their safeguarding and I can speak truly to this because I sit in the centre of it myself. But that does come at a cost in terms of not enabling people, if you just want to pick up the bibs or blow a whistle, it is incredibly difficult if you have got to go through a first aid, a safeguarding course, you know, all of these different health and safety checks, which then can put volunteers off. That is a space that I would love to be able to look at over the next couple of years with Jersey Sport to try to find a safe way to enable more people to get involved in sport that would ultimately increase participation, access and, hopefully, more of those minority populations and cultures who have come to this Island and enable them to get involved with it more and more confidently.

[09:45]

Deputy C.D. Leck:

Sorry, can I just ask a follow-up question to that? In terms of, you referred to the African community wanting to play sports every day, and obviously it would be quite good if other children can do that as well, how do you feel about the sort of talk that there has been about using school sports facilities after school hours?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, that is something that has been ongoing really before I was in office in terms of this after school usage of sports facilities. What I have learned since I have come into office is that there are a lot of schools open and using their facilities after school. I think where we struggle on this Island is that you have a lot of people wanting to use school facilities between 5.30 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. at night

where that is the peak time here where people want to come out because it is not too late, it is not too early, you have managed to put the kids to bed, you have had your dinner, and that is when people want to go out and exercise. That obviously will put pressure on a finite system and a limited amount of resources. Something that we, and maybe Barclay can attest to this because this is his piece of work and he is doing some brilliant work in this space, and I have commissioned a facilities gap analysis to (1) get an understanding of what is it that we are missing, (2) how can we relieve some of this pressure in peak hours, and (3) it is not just about investing in existing facilities, but if we do need new ones, what is it that we need? Because, when I first came into office, there was bits of information but it was not all in a central place. So what I would like to be able to do is get an understanding of that so we can implement some meaningful recommendations in order to improve the use of facilities, but also a long-term strategy in terms of what does this Island need. A lot of the secondary schools are already opening up, is what I have learned, they are opening up their schools. Les Quennevais is a great example, pretty much they are at capacity Monday to Friday, but it is not necessarily the same for Le Rocquier or Grainville and things like that, and some of that is due just to how the schools will run their estate. So that is something that we need to address as well, can we do something to bring everybody into a central place so everybody understands, the public understand how to book it, the schools understand how it is run, it kind of minimises the risk and the anxiety around maintenance of those facilities as well. Because I know, obviously rightly so, schools very much care about that because they want to keep their facilities for the student body. So there is a lot of work to do in that space, I would not say it is not being used at all, for me it is about convening, bringing everything together and making it work in a more meaningful way. I would like to try to be able to do that this term. One thing I will say on that is it is the primary school estate that is much less used, so when you think about getting kids and going and being active and that 22 per cent, I think it was only 11 per cent of primary schools are open after school hours, and you think about the incredible investment schools have had into their parks and their play areas, it could be a perfect thing for families to be able to walk down the road, a majority of kids live in their catchment areas, that is what is really great about Jersey, a lot of families will go to school in their catchment areas so that is an easy win to be able to open up some of that estate. Not all of it, I understand you have to be realistic, but where possible, and again that is something that I am exploring and it is a priority of mine to address that because, if we want people to be more active, if we want to try to address this 22 per cent, we have to think holistically about how we go about that. If you have some brilliant play parks where families can go and connect, be together, be outside, be off technology, surely that has to be a good way to go, and it is low cost, which is always good.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

I am just conscious about time, so if we move on. It is absolutely fine, but I am just needing to get through the questionnaire.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:

You will be pleased to know we are almost at the end of question one. So, given we have done sports, can you give us a brief outline of the current state of play of Arts, Heritage and Culture in Jersey?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

It is fair to say that the 1 per cent has been absolutely critical in terms of supporting the sector and that is something that has helped me right away since taking on the portfolio. I feel like it is important that we find a way to keep maintaining this 1 per cent and finding a way through Government to support arts, culture and heritage. It is a really important part of who we are in Jersey in terms of our castles, Jèrriais, I went to the art installation through ArtHouse recently and Make Your Mark and it is just incredible in terms of that community and what they are doing for the Island. So state of play is probably, different stakeholders might feel differently about the state of play, probably depending on the levels of funding and, yes, the kind of finance, the financial state I suppose of some of those organisations. You have got Jersey Heritage who are our biggest grant recipient by far and take up a large chunk of that budget. But they also have a large amount of estate to look after as well across their portfolio. We have had the introduction of Ballet d'Jèrri, the upgrade of the Opera House over the last couple of years, which has been really welcomed by the community and they have really turned themselves around and have a really great leadership there in terms of what they are doing. It is really nice to see them and Ballet d'Jèrri sharing that building as well and working together really nicely. Yes, so just going back to the point I made previously, reducing the commitment to the 1 per cent would risk weakening the sector at precisely the point where we need to differentiate ourselves and invest in the qualities that underpin sustainable growth. There has been a lot of talk across the election about giving people things to do, young people things to do. This is the sector that we need to be focusing in on to do that, to engage young people, to bring them out, to get them involved, to create the skills and the talent pipelines, whether it is through Highlands College and show young people that they can have a career here in Jersey if they want to participate in arts, culture and heritage. That would be a real defining moment in our history if we are able to set the foundations for that.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:

Given you have a seat in the Economy Department, there are 2 potential audiences for Arts, Heritage and Culture. One is the Islanders and the other are the visitors. So do you look at that area with 2 different hats on and how do you reconcile the 2?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, it is a good question. It is a balance; you want to be able to get events on and things domestically for people to come out and spend their money within the economy here. Your question

is well timed because this talks to, for me, the role of Visit Jersey and how we are selling our Island, what it looks like, what packages we are putting together to tell people this is what is going on here. A good example of this, and an opportunity, is we have got the Year of the Normans coming up next year, which is a huge, huge, huge year. It is going to be a year's long worth of celebrations here where Visit Jersey are bringing that balance together around getting people out, getting them to understand the history of Jersey and who we are, and then bringing over the U.K. (United Kingdom) market, which takes up about 56 per cent of the tourism that comes to Jersey is from the U.K., and so we need to keep finding ways to attract people from across the pond to want to come here. So this is where arts, culture and heritage, again, it is so important that it has a serious place in the economy because (1) it is great for bringing our community together, (2) while we know that, for example, Bergerac, everybody knows Bergerac is connected to Jersey, but it is not the only thing that we are great at, so how do we build on that identity, how do we build on that profile, so people leave knowing who we are from a deeper sense, whether it was through visiting our castles or any type of art event, or any other types of events that we put on, Battle of Flowers, for example, things like that. That for me is who we are as an Island and those are the marketable type of events that we should be really taking a hard run at. I speak for, not only the Minister, but also the other Assistant Minister in the department, where we feel really strongly that coordinating that is really important to maximising what we can make economically from that. If we continue to not do that, which has been a little bit inconsistent over the years, then we are just going to keep missing a trick.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:

Do you think the people who are receiving these budgets, the 1 per cent, are aware that they are also part of our visitor economy?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

I think they know that they should be. I do not think they have always felt like they have been valued in that way, though, from some of the conversations that I have had. That is something that I have listened to and I have definitely heard as a Minister representing them, and it is something that I am looking to change. So I can speak openly about the piece of work that we have commissioned for the C.A.P. around getting P.w.C. (PricewaterhouseCoopers) to do a proper piece of work around what is their economic value here in Jersey. I spoke to Tom even this week about understanding what that is, because once we understand what the potential is, we can put a proper plan in place to maximise that potential. It has been a bit similar to Sport, and this is where arts, culture and heritage and Sport have some similarities in some of their challenges. It is quite easy to kick these sectors down the road or push them around and treat them as fluffy, nice-to-have things. But if we understand what their capability is and where they can really add value to the economy, that turns them into a serious sector. I do not think necessarily it has always been seen as that. So these pieces of work that we are trying to commission and get an understanding, we will have some real

data from genuine consultancy that is going to help us to inform, not only the sector, but hopefully they can have some more confidence in us that we are taking them seriously and they do have a part to play. So it is a good question, yes.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:
We will come back to that. We have a section on arts and culture, so we will come back to that.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:
Given that it is budget time, can you give us an outline of the implications of the proposed 2027 budget on Sport? I guess it is less relevant for Arts, Heritage and Culture. Also, how you perceive that may change with the 2028 budget fight that lies ahead of us?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
Yes, so Jersey Sport currently receives a grant of £1.9 million, so just under £2 million. They receive a sports travel grant and a performance grant. Just to check, is this what you mean, just for a point of clarification?

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:
Any money going into Sport.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
Any money going into Sport, okay, fine. So that is the Jersey Sport overview of their funding and that is from 2027 to 2030. In terms of facilities, I do not want to say the wrong ...

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:
For whatever the numbers are.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
I am not going to sit here and say that we have got enough money to invest in sports facilities when we all know that we have not. But there is an infrastructure maintenance issue on the Island, so it is not just about sports facilities. The reason why the gap analysis is very important is because, while I have an understanding that we do need to invest, it is about where to invest and what are we building. Because, from my perspective, we have run through a course over the last 20 years, since I left the Island at 16, I have come back to exactly the same structures in terms of facilities, but they are just a little bit worse off because we have not necessarily maintained them. Since then, the Island has evolved. So, in terms of is it enough, currently we have enough to maintain and keep things above status quo, which I hope should be able to stop us from shutting things down, which would be of huge detriment to the community. But the truth is that, yes, we do need to find funding

in this next term (1) if we are to successfully host an Island Games in 2035, (2) because the community deserve it. There is a lot to be said when you walk into a community sports facility and see it run down, that perception of just not feeling valued or your exercise class not going ahead or jumping on a floor that is creaking, or whatever, does not send a good message to the community. When you look back to those stats around 54 per cent of adults active on 150 minutes and only 22 per cent of children on their hour a day, these things make a big difference in terms of instilling some of those healthy habits that we want the community to be able to do. The Inspiring Active Jersey strategy is all about getting people out and about and, if we do not have the facilities to enable that, then that is just never going to happen.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Can I just ask a question about that then, so I know you sit across the 3 departments, but arguably there is a very strong link up with Health and I know that one of the C.S.P.s (Common Strategic Policy) is looking at preventative health, and that has a budget of sorts. Has there been any discussion with the Health Department about using some of that preventative health to do that important work of improving the Island fitness?

[10:00]

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, I have sat down with the Minister and we have had a couple of discussions about it, and I will be part of the Preventative Health Working Group moving forward. I have already sat in my first briefing for that so I am looking to work closely with them. Health already give some funding to Jersey Sport to deliver, and also sports folks to deliver preventative health strategies, mainly for children, which needs to be improved. There is improvements to be made there. So there has already been a small connection in that space at a level. What you are asking about, Sam, is, yes, we need to ramp that up and it is for me to work with the Minister for Health and Social Services to find where the natural connections are through Sport into preventative health. That can be done in lots of different ways, so whether it is better cycle routes, or what we are doing in our breakfast clubs or after school clubs at school, there is lots of different ways that we can do that across the Island. But where I probably have to work harder is understanding is it something that we can both strategically align on at the right time, and that is probably a piece of work that I need to do between now and the next hearing really to be able to give you some more information on. So, yes, some work has started, yes, something has been done on a level, but I do share your views on the fact that we do need to do more in that space and Sport has a big part to play in that.

Chief Economic Advisor:

I would just add that we only did sign off the C.S.P. last week, or you signed off the C.S.P. last week. So obviously there is a lot of work going on in the background before that, but once the C.S.P. is signed is when the real work of prioritisation begins. The Minister has set really good ground and foundations to build on now, but now is where we begin to start to deliver on what was agreed last week.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:
Okay, thank you. Chris.

Deputy C.D. Leck:
So talking about the C.S.P. and investing in sports and leisure facilities, community spaces, and sports clubs is dealt with in section 9.2 and that is pretty much the only detail that is in the C.S.P. regarding that. So, it seems up to us that the Council of Ministers is not putting Sport as a particularly high priority. To what extent do you think the proposed budget, as it stands, supports the development of sports on the Island?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
It is a difficult one. Everybody wants their area of passion and concern to be a priority, and would I love this to be number one? Of course I would. But there are bigger challenges that are set in front of Jersey at the minute and I have to be open and honest about that and remove my sports hat just for a second. But the proposed budget does include some investment. To get back to Deputy Rebindaine's question, is it enough? No, it is not enough, but I am looking to work and find a way to be able to invest more in particularly upgrading and maintaining, rather than new building. I just want to state that for the record. It is important we invest in what we have here already before we go trying to build new fancy buildings that might not have the impact that we want. So, at the minute, what I can tell you, we have had £400,000 rolled over for a new skate park in 2027, £167,000 both in 2027 and 2028 for neighbourhood regeneration projects in St. Helier, which I know is a particular area of passion, particularly for you, Deputy representing St. Helier. Public realm investment of around £1.42 million in 2027, £2.98 million in 2028, £3.64 million in 2029, £5 million in 2030. Now, while these are big chunks of money, a lot of work needs to be done in terms of to get an understanding of what are we investing in and what does it look like, and hence the gap analysis piece being really important. I keep talking about this, but we do have a history of just missing the mark when it comes to sports facilities on the Island, whether it is just how they are surfaced or where they have been positioned, and it is not to talk negatively, I just think the attention to detail to make sure we are future-proofing this for the next 25 years is going to be really important. So I am very conscious of just making sure that we have got all the data before we put any spades in the ground or do anything. The 2 areas of priority for me are F.B. (Florence Boot) Fields and Les Quennevais, and I have been quite clear with that to the Chief Minister and to officers, those are 2

key areas that would be hugely beneficial to the community overall, over the next 4 years, if we can start to really get an understanding of how we are going to upgrade those facilities.

Deputy C.D. Leck:

Do you see that as being capital spend as opposed to revenue spend?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

I think the Investing in Jersey J.C.I.F. (Jersey Capital Investment Fund) is going to be integral to being able to achieve some of this. We have an estimated £120 million needed to invest in sports facilities and that is a huge number, but it just speaks to the lack of maintenance that has obviously gone on over time. But then also it is more than just sports facilities, it is a public realm piece, it is about bringing people into an active area where you can come with your family, where someone could go swimming, where someone could go to the park, where you can have some food, where you can have an experience, and then be able to go home, rather than it just being a one-dimensional building. We have to think a little bit more innovatively about what that could look like for people, bringing people into these spaces. I know that the world of cricket has moved on now and unfortunately you have got men and boys who can hit a cricket ball far much further than down in the back of a field there, so that needs to move. So the evolution of things that have happened over time means that we need to think differently about where those facilities might potentially be. We all know, you only have to look at the Commonwealth Games to see how successful we were on the track, the athletics community is on the up and they need proper places to be able to go and train, because they have done an incredible job down there with an ageing facility. So there is things that we need to be able to do to support what is going on here right now, but again those 2 particular areas are going to be key to delivering an Island Games successfully as well.

Chief Economic Advisor:

You characterise that as only being in there once, it is a very short document, it is a very targeted, focused document. The fact it is in there does show that it is a priority of this Government and obviously of the Minister as well. So having its own action is testament to how high a priority this is for the Government to deliver on.

Deputy C.D. Leck:

Yes, it just seems a little bit light when you look at the whole sort of infrastructure piece and what have you, it is just one paragraph that was related to it.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Yes, and one of the things that I picked up on the C.S.P. document is the lack of joining up between the C.S.P.s, and hence my point about Health, that there is a C.S.P. about preventative health and

Sport is listed separately. The point that I made in the Chamber is that these seem to be separate ambitions rather than joined up, connected ambitions.

Chief Economic Advisor:

I am sure we will talk about this a bit more tomorrow as well, but the whole economy approach is a really important one. When we as a department, we talked about this at the last scrutiny, we have talked about what our approach will be. We will be involved in every one of those priorities in some way or another, whether it is economic analysis, tweaking things for economic development benefit, and, as the Minister was saying earlier about arts, culture and heritage, it has a really important part to play in the wider economy, we need to understand that properly, hence the piece of work. But then be able to build on it. So it is for us to make sure that we are now absolutely joining up all these different C.S.P. elements and we can see that definitely as a department, so I think the rest of Government does as well, but it maybe does not come clear enough through the document, but everything the Minister already described is exactly what you are talking about there.

Deputy C.D. Leck:

Then my final question, the service level analysis identifies operations, transport, and Sport within Infrastructure, but it is unclear where sports expenditure within other departments, such as Education, Economic Development, is presented in their service level analysis. So do you think a greater breakdown should be considered for future budgets 2028-2030 so you have a clear understanding of where all the money is coming from and going?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, it is a good question. The difficulty with Sport being across lots of different departments and also particularly baked into the full Infrastructure section means that it can be a little bit more difficult to get an understanding of where it all sits. I have highlighted this, but I do think Barclay and the team have done a really good job in terms of just pulling out some of that information and just coming in here around the maintenance budget for facilities as well and how that is broken down. That has been really useful for me to see and, yes, okay, it might be a more reactive maintenance budget and things like that, but at least now I understand where that money has been attributed. It has been interesting for me coming in and getting an understanding of just where different pots of money are distributed across, whether it is for things like improvements to swimming pool facilities or improvements to resurfacing something, a 3G football pitch or something like that, so it is all money that needs to be there, or else unfortunately we risk not continuing to maintain things. I do not have a discretionary budget as a Sports Minister either, so I am bound at the minute to just making sure that I understand where that money is going and why, and just that check and balance with the officers in terms of how it is being spent.

Deputy C.D. Leck:

Okay, thank you. I have some other detailed questions relating to the letter of 5th November, but they are probably best followed up with the letter, because we are running out of time.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Yes, that is fine. Okay, so I want to look specifically at the Arts, Heritage and Culture now. So we have talked about the 1 per cent. One of the things that really struck me in the letters that were coming back to us was about how that is calculated and the transparency around that and how that is then divvied up. There is concern being expressed that, if Jersey expenditure goes down, obviously the 1 per cent there, their funding goes down, and then that transparency around how it is divvied up. I do not want to represent just one, but all of them here, was coming through quite loudly in a lot of the submissions. So can you give any reassurance and transparency around that?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Do you want to talk through the nature of the formula?

Chief Economic Advisor:

Yes, absolutely. So it is 1 per cent of the Government revenue funding of the 4 pillars of the C.S.P., the fourth one is a prudent fiscal approach in the coming years. We expect to be moving into a 3-year budget in the coming period as well. You characterised this at the very beginning of this meeting, about some of those budgetary pressures that are going to come through, and trying to keep Government expenditure as low as possible, if not reduce it, is going to be one of those ambitions for those 3 years. When you have funds like this, which are directly linked to budgets, as this one is, that has a risk for it in terms of that 1 per cent. I do not think, when it was put forward, that was ever envisaged. We were in a different period 3-4 years ago where Government expenditure was only ever going one way, and I do not think people really truly envisaged that it would ever reduce. It will still be a very difficult task to reduce it; I do not want to in any way say that the task would be an easy one of getting that expenditure down. Certainly under control, but down, will be very difficult to achieve, particularly with the pressures around spending elsewhere in Government and we know the Health pressures that we will be seeing for the foreseeable future, well beyond this term as well. So it is something that we need to think through in terms of 1 per cent and what the intention was and where that now sits. The Minister has already asked for a meeting with a number of key officers, including the Chief Executive and a number of Ministers as well in the coming weeks to start getting under that and understanding what that looks like. There is a number of workstreams as well underway at the moment to start feeding into the next budget. I know we are not through this one yet, but we obviously need to be thinking about the big piece, and I am sure that is where the Minister will be asking those questions about how we do approach that 1 per cent. So it is something we are very aware of, we know as part of the 4 pillars of the C.S.P. that that is

quite a significant aim for the Government, and how that impacts on the 1 per cent is then something we need to work through as well. But I would just stress it is going to be very difficult to get expenditure down under control, it is a very different thing to down, and we need to ensure that we are working on that, but what that feeds through and what that looks like for individual elements like this.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

We welcome more clarity on that as soon as you know, if you can give that information to us. Following up on your point, when you were talking about Sport and talking about the fact that you were looking to maintain rather than to build existing things, when we look at the arts world, that is a very different scenario we are facing, because we do not have the money to maintain what we have currently got. So we have the Jersey Opera House, which is currently trying to negotiate the lease and looking at not going to a maintaining fund lease. We have got the Arts Centre that has a maintenance lease and they are responsible for that, but they have been flagging for years that that building is in desperate need now of renovation and needs serious amounts of money being spent on it. Nothing is being done about that. We have a submission from them that says that there is an assumption that there is asbestos in the roof and that the roof is beginning to fail. So, what are the plans for (1) the maintenance fund for the Opera House and also for the Arts Centre? So when you are talking about the broader piece and the broader role, it is important we know for the education, we have got the Eisteddfod there currently at the moment, they are expected to satisfy an Island need, and yet are not necessarily getting the money to fund that.

[10:15]

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, it is a huge challenge, all of these stakeholders operate out of J.P.H. (Jersey Property Holdings) property and the maintenance, as we all know, the maintenance budgets for them is low and it has been a challenge. It is really hard to be met with a stakeholder such as the ArtHouse and Arts Centre who say these things and going: “Right, okay, what are we going to do about it?” So I do share their concerns, it is probably one of the most challenging things, if I am honest with you, in terms of the help and the support that I do think is essential. But the funding piece, because it has been left for so long, the Arts Centre, I know they have certain challenges because parts of the building is listed as well, so that affects things, which is why I stood up for my first speech in the Assembly last week around that language, around existing and then appropriate, when it comes to regulation, because there is one example that is sat in the forefront of my mind around helping these organisations to just be able to do the simple things to maintain their property. In relation to the Opera House, I believe that we will be able to help support them with their maintenance this year, so those conversations have already been started for whatever it is that they might need. It still will

not be probably to the amount that they need, but it will be enough to just help prop things up again for another year. There is a lot of work to be done in terms of the responsibility of maintenance between stakeholders and J.P.H. and that is something that I need to delve into a little bit deeper. I have already offered my support to the Opera House around anything that I can do to have those conversations with J.P.H. if and when it comes to it. Because I do believe the Government have invested a significant amount into the Opera House and so there is another step to go in making sure that we are not following in the same track in terms of that investment level and just letting things fall away. We have to follow through in order to get the most out of the asset and the investment that we are putting in, or else we risk again depreciating that asset and then ending up in the same situation as we were before. So, there is a bit of a conversation to be had, and I know that officers have been at the forefront of that with the Opera House. I do not know if there is anything else to add on to that?

Sector Officer, Arts, Culture and Heritage:

Yes, just to follow on from the Minister there, one of the issues is after the £5.5 million investment in the late 1990s, there was never a lease in place, so you had the operating company squatting in effect, which is not ideal, and that led to all sorts of problems about who was responsible for what. Both the Opera House Limited and the Ballet d'Jèrri are both on licences, so they do not have the full lease, and we are working with Property Holdings at the moment. The heads of terms have been agreed in terms of the lease; it is just having a full understanding of what the ongoing maintenance repair is going to be and how that is going to be paid for.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Would you also recognise that the length of the lease is quite important, because if we are looking at the Opera House to help raise funds themselves, I understand that they had a considerable donation for the sound system, but in order to do that it really helps if they have got security over the tenure and how long that is. Otherwise you get to a point where they get to the end of that lease, or coming up to it, and it is very difficult for them to do any sort of fundraising.

Sector Officer, Arts, Culture and Heritage:

Yes, the reason why we are looking at a 9-year lease is because it is quicker to do, because if it is over 9 years, you have to take it to be registered in the Royal Court, then it has to go through the States. So, as an interim measure, the idea is to go for a 9-year lease, and that has been accepted by both parties, both by Jersey Property Holdings and Opera House Limited. During that time, there is potential about extending that say a 99 or 125-year lease.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

I would push on that because giving security of knowing that they are there for a long time means that Jersey Opera House Limited has greater ability to be able to fundraise within that, so we need to think broadly about how we support them to be able to get to a point where they are able to raise more funds themselves.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, it is a really good point, and it is something that I would love to see. I sat in a meeting and I said: "Let us just go for a 99-year lease", but there is risks in that when we have not negotiated the lease in the right way either, so there is that nervousness about getting it right. This gives us an opportunity to get it right, and particularly around the maintenance piece, because that could be one of their biggest outgoings across a 99-year period. If we cannot change that, then we were hamstringing them as well, which I would not want. So we are aligned in terms of what you are saying. Again, for me, I know I have got the officers, but for me getting my head around all these leases and what they mean and the impacts of a 9-year lease versus a 99-year lease and making sure that we are giving confidence, we are doing the work behind the scenes to enable them long term. To use the Opera House again, we have invested a significant amount of money in that asset, and so that is something we should certainly be looking to solidify and create confidence in for whoever is running it. Sebastian has done a fantastic job there and he is brilliant; he is brilliant to work with. So we will be doing ourselves a disservice if we cannot find a way for the Opera House, no matter who is running it, to feel trust and confidence in the programmes that they are creating. The same for the Ballet d'Jèrri, this affects them as well in terms of operating out of there, so it is not just about the Opera House in this sense, it is making sure these 2 organisations can feel confident that they are being looked after, but also that they do not have too many outgoings, which is going to effectively hinder the growth of both organisations, because we do want them to grow. We do not want them to stay where they are; they will not survive that way.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

I think one of the concerns, and it may help that you are across departments, is that we give with one hand and we take with the other. So, if we are giving a grant to the Opera House, the Arts Centre, but then we are at the same time saying: "Now we want rent here and you have to pay for the maintenance here", then in effect we are not giving them any money. I would like to understand where you sit on that.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, that is the million dollar question, how can we find a way to make it easier for the stakeholders to survive, and if we cannot up the grants, we have to look in other areas. That is something that I will do. We are aware of it; I am aware of it. If we could unlock some of that in terms of the lease agreements, for long-term growth that would be really where I would prefer to start. Because the

thing with Government grants, what I am learning, is that they are subject to change, but in terms of how we make them more sustainable, that is an area that we could look to, to be able to do that. So, again I share your view in terms of that being an area for us to look at, because again this whole 4-year period is about growth, and so it comes back to that question, how can we enable that growth? If it is not through grants and sustainable grant funding, can it be in other areas, and that is something we do need to look at, so it is a good point, it is a very valid point.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Also, just understanding, we talk a lot about Sport and the role it has in preventative health. Is there a recognition of the role that arts and culture have in preventative health as well? The fact that it is so important for mental health, the fact that children, we have a rising issue with S.E.N.D. (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) children, we know how important performing arts are for that cohort. What role and what discussions have been had, again going back to making sure we have protected performing spaces, the role that they have for supporting our amateur dramatic clubs and societies and groups in Jersey and the need to make sure we protect those spaces?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

I certainly have not had any conversations around protective spaces for children with needs. I know what we have done is reconnected the C.A.P. back to an official in Education to re-establish their channels back into Education in a more meaningful way. So that was a request that came in my first meeting with ArtHouse. So we are re-establishing that connection, which had fallen away in the previous term. This is where I see the Art Centre and ArtHouse having a role in working with C.Y.P.E.S. (Children, Young People, Education and Skills) and Education to tell and direct them what they need in order to be able to access those groups on the Island. Yes, so I recognise it is something that needs to be done. I am not sure whether it is my role as a Minister to be telling the experts, and I need to enable that, so hopefully I have done the first part of that, and I can check in on that with Matt in particular, who was quite keen to re-establish that connection with C.Y.P.E.S., so that is a step in the right direction, but again, if you ask me for an update on that in a few months' time, hopefully I can share more on that.

Sector Officer, Arts, Culture and Heritage:

Can I just add to that, Minister? A true cross-departmental project is something called Connect Me, which is an arts, culture and health and well-being, a physical activity for well-being project, which was funded initially from the Social Recovery Fund, but it has now become B.A.U. (business as usual). The budget is held in Employment, Social Security and Housing, but it works across the arts, culture and heritage team, and we are about to produce a delivery report, which we are more than happy to share with you. But it demonstrates the value of arts, culture and heritage to people's health and well-being. Global research from the major universities can demonstrate, if you spend

half an hour going to an art gallery, the difference it can make to you; it is taken as a given now. But the whole sort of social prescribing, the preventative side of things, is going to become more and more important as more and more pressure is put on Health to prevent things, having people feel healthier, that is really important. The other thing is the Time to Win initiative, the whole culture, arts and heritage element of that is the golden thread of why Jersey is quite unique and our arts, culture and heritage offering is really important (a) to attract people to come to Jersey, and people to invest in Jersey.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Okay. So, just picking up on the point there in terms of half an hour spent in an art gallery and the benefits of that, obviously there is the museum, the grant was given to be able to allow free access, that pilot has completed. Has there been any cost benefit analysis of not just what it did to visitor numbers, but the wider impact that that had, and whether there are any benefits that can be tracked through giving that free access, whether that is visitor economy, whether that is mental health, giving people somewhere to go, et cetera?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, so please fill in if I have missed any bits on this. So from what my understanding is, that the trial cost around £284,000 and it ran for 18 months. So it was a total cost of £497 to the taxpayer. One of the first things I asked for when I came into office was some a breakdown of data from Jersey Heritage to data collection, which they did not really provide enough data for me or for any of us in the department to understand, not only the wider benefits, but who came through the doors. That has made it really difficult, because we have had a lot, in terms of the visitor numbers that came through during that period was significantly higher, but we do not really understand who it was, whether they already had a Heritage pass, they were going to go there anyway, whether they were tourists. We have some data, but not enough to truly understand. That makes it really difficult. On top of that, I have learned that, before I came into office, it was asked whether Jersey Heritage wanted to prioritise free entry, as of all the trustees, and they deprioritised it. But then they have obviously asked for continued support around the museum free entry, so that just leaves me slightly confused, if I am honest with you, so I need to do more digging and get an understanding really of that data and if it exists anywhere. The cost of renewing the free entry needs to be balanced against, if we were to do it, it needs to be balanced against other priorities. At the minute, we have spoken about how tight the 1 per cent is, the truth is, if we were to support that, something else is going to have to be defunded. That is just not something I am prepared to do, when I believe Jersey Heritage, as our largest grant recipient, could do themselves. But then hearing that they have chosen maybe not to prioritise that, I do not understand that, so as I have said, there is still a gap for me to catch up on in that space. But you are right, these are the types of initiatives that we need more throughout the Island, you have got the Moon installation coming up at ArtHouse, and it is a free event.

[10:30]

They talk hugely about the importance of those events, not only to upsell other events and installations, initiatives that they have got up and coming, but again that wider piece, the accessible piece, it does not matter whether you have been in Jersey one day or whether you are an 87 year-old pensioner, you can go into that space and appreciate what is going to be, I am sure, an incredible installation. So you have other stakeholders right throughout the arts, culture and heritage portfolio doing free-entry initiatives and seeing huge value in it, so I can only hope that we can work with Jersey Heritage for them to see the benefits for themselves as a business.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

All right, thank you. Just moving on to Jèrriais now, obviously that has had a resurgence, it is great to see it having that awareness. However, I have been approached by the people who are within that community and there is a serious concern that the native speakers are literally dying out because of their age, and there is insufficient resource at the moment to provide the teaching that is needed to make sure the language is secured into the future. So I just wanted to understand what work is being done around that?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, so me and Deputy Morel now chair the J.A.G. (Jèrriais Advisory Group), so we have re-established the Jèrriais Advisory Group, which we have already had our first meeting, of which all of these concerns came out very strongly. So I am really aware and conscious of the challenge ahead around the need to increase the number of teachers who can teach Jèrriais. We had a meeting with Jean yesterday to discuss this further, with Ben Spink in the room as well, and Ben has written a strategy, a foundational strategy. What we have done across the J.A.G. is that we have split across 3 working groups and we are going to have 3 workshops to then be able to come back together and essentially decide on what I hope are some good action points off the back of that and a bit of a plan to take us into the next year, right through to 2030. Currently, we have got £670,000 ringfenced for Jèrriais. That has moved into the A.C.H. budget; that has been transferred over from C.Y.P.E.S., and so we will now take care of the distribution of that budget over the next term. Currently, 88 per cent of that is spent on staff and education, but there is a bit more room if we did need to invest in extra teachers, we can do that. The challenge is that the teachers currently sit within C.Y.P.E.S. contracts, but then if they were to come over potentially to Jersey Heritage, that would shift and change things. So there is some structural challenges that we need to move through. What I have done, since the J.A.G., is asked for a review of the Jèrriais teaching service so I can get some recommendations to move forward with. I hope to have that in the next week, so (1) the teachers will have an understanding of where we are going and what we are doing, because they

felt particularly challenged in this space because of the resilience of the service quite simply just is not there. But then also it is about finding a meaningful way to understand how we are going to increase the number of teachers. It takes 2 years for someone to become remotely fluent in Jèrriais and up to potentially 6 to become fully fluent. So it is a huge challenge. But, that being said, we have some fluent speakers, not native speakers, we have some people who are fluent, who potentially we could build into a teaching offering, and that is the exciting part for Jèrriais. We are going to have to be innovative and creative about how we do it. Teachers are expensive as well in terms of the total package that we would have to provide for teachers. So it is about finding ways to immerse our community, finding more ways to immerse our children, adults, this is not just about children. If we want to revive the language, we have to think about how we all feel and connect with Jèrriais. Again, a bit similar to Sport, really, foundational start places with schools and with children obviously, but we have to think bigger than that if we are going to save the language sustainably. Because my biggest worry is that we invest in the schools, then half of those children go off with the language and never come back, for example, so we have to find ways to bring that back around and make it a sustainable model really for Jèrriais on the Island. I went up to Jersey Airport the other day and you can see all of this up there, that is such a nice touch, but it is just again a simple way that we can bolster how we feel about Jèrriais and what we see and what it means to us. It is a huge concern.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

I have quite a few other questions. I am going to move on because otherwise we will run out of time, so I am going to follow up with a few questions after this meeting. But if we go to Gabriel, if you want to ask your questions now.

Deputy G.A. Raimondo:

Sure, yes. It is more down to the coordination, the panel, we understand Sport functions of the Government span across multiple departments and they touch upon multiple elements of the ministerial responsibilities, they go quite far into different responsibilities. Could you just outline the coordination of the activities and the spendings within those different departments that you cover?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Barclay, do you want to chip in on the infrastructure side of things in terms of Sport? I do not know whether there is anything to add. In terms when you talk about coordination, a point of clarification, just in terms of the budget?

Deputy G.A. Raimondo:

The coordination to do with the related activities for each of those ministerial areas, but also the spending. Does that make a little more sense?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

So, in Education, I have responsibility for the curriculum, a P.E. (physical education) curriculum, but I do not get a spend attached to that. Would you like me to share what I have done in that area? Because I have not necessarily done that, but it is just more because I have been talking about my whole role here, so if you just want to talk about ...

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Yes, I think it is really just understanding the balance between those 3 departments and whether, in terms of if you have got budget that you can then consolidate across those 3 departments, rather than it just being from the Economy Department or while you have that role across all 3 departments, the budget just comes from the Economy.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

At the minute, any budget that has been spent through Sport has been through Economy or Infrastructure. In Education, it is a more complex beast, I would say, in terms of specific budget for Sport. I have asked a question, and it is something I will continue to explore, around what does a potential budget for a Sports Minister look like, depending on what department they sit across. It has been varied, think back to the last couple of terms and different Sports Ministers have sat across different departments. I think it is quite difficult for me at this time to understand how you would pull from that without potentially hurting a budget from a particular area. If I talk about Infrastructure for a second, if I was to take £500,000 from a budget that would potentially go towards maintenance, that would mean that department then does not have that money for maintenance for sports facilities, just so I could have maybe a discretionary budget. If we talk about coordination, Deputy Raimondo, for me it is about working very closely with the officers and checking and challenging at this minute rather than trying to have a budget that sits underneath just Sport, and the reason I say that is not because I would not love a budget, everybody would love a budget to be able to go and spend on the things that they want to prioritise, but it is a unique balance to what you are inheriting and the unintended consequence if that budget was to be taken away. That is just for this year. The opportunity of what you are talking about could come in the 3-year budget where you could have more clarity and some harder lines around the plan for capital investment and investment that you need to potentially find across the rest of the term. So, it is a good question, and it is something that I will look deeper at and try to answer for the 3-year budget. This year particularly it has been a little bit more difficult in terms of just what we are inheriting and what has already been agreed and for me, particularly being in here for the first time, to understand where all of that is coming from. I do not believe we have ever had a Minister specifically in charge of the P.E. curriculum either, so that is something that is quite new. So making sure that I am working with Education and very closely with Deputy Curtis's priorities as well when ensuring that I can sit alongside that in an appropriate

fashion, it is very important to me. Because something that we have not necessarily had in previous terms is that really good, close functional relationship between the Ministers and the Assistant Ministers that do sit across various departments. So that convening and coordination piece is something that is my biggest lever while I do not have a budget, and so I am working very hard in this space to make sure I am doing that.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

One of the frustrations from the outside has often been that disconnect, the de-prioritisation from Education of sport and the performing arts, and that strong link between academic attainment. So, supporting both improves academic attainment. We keep on talking about how we do this, and yet we de-prioritise sports and performing arts. We need somehow to join that up again and start being far more honest about that Education budget and how that is distributed.

Deputy G.A. Raimondo:

People often ignore it and they end up quite fractured, which causes quite an issue.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes. It has been a frustration that I have shared since coming back to the Island particularly for sport and I can see the parallels in both of these sectors now since representing them at a ministerial level. I have to say Keith Posner from Education has been very good in terms of he has enabled me to commission the review for the curriculum and get an understanding of what is going on in that space and facilities. He has sat down across the departmental meetings to get an understanding and that for me is huge. So it is not just about ministerial working across departments, it is also about taking the officers on that journey. That is one of my strengths is making sure that we get the right people in the room and for me it is really easy to go in and spend, but I do still believe that we have everything that we need, we just need to bring it all together in the right way to try to keep what you are talking about, Deputy Gleave, around getting people to understand the value of each, like sport and arts, without it having to be met with: “But what are we losing?” or this hard line across Education around having to fit everything in. I believe we can achieve it all if we just think differently about it.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

David, have you got a question?

The Connétable of St. Mary:

I will just add to your point. 10-12 years ago I first became a Member, Sport was within Education and I was on the panel then. Great debate as to facilities provided by Sport. It does seem that not much progress has been made on that. I appreciate that the concern there was the need for the

schools to have priority for the assets when they wanted them, but outside that, and you alluded to it earlier on, that they are wasted, and that needs to be got hold of somehow.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
Yes, and it is something I am working on. Part of the start of that conversation, and this is where I am really pleased to be able to be an Assistant Minister across Infrastructure and Education, so I get to be in the room and talk about these things on a frequent basis. So it is something that C.Y.P.E.S. are aware of. There are ways that we can address that at a policy level in terms of ensuring that we have got a central piece of policy that clears up how facilities should be used across the school estate. That is something that I would like to work on over this next term as well, because what we have got at the minute is a set of school estate where you have got different people, different headteachers, essentially running things as they please, which they are totally allowed to do because we have allowed them to do that. So we cannot really be too surprised now when we are trying to change things when this is the way it has always been done. I bring it back to trying to take people on a journey, you have headteachers who care deeply about their schools and how it is run and who is allowed in it, who is not allowed in it, but we do need to start changing the tide on that and, for me, no central policy has ever existed around how we operate our school estate out of hours.

The Connétable of St. Mary:
Are you saying there is a draft policy statement in an embryonic stage, as it were?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
It is something I am looking into, but I do not want to, at the minute, in the spirit of wanting to take people with me, I would not want to say something that is going to particularly shock the education community, I do not think that is fair. I think it is right that I do this in a way that, like I say, I have got to take everyone with me, but it is something that would be really useful in terms of answering your question.

[10:45]

Deputy G.A. Raimondo:
Going back towards coordination, on Monday you announced that you had set up, I have got to read it because I cannot remember the name for the life of me, the Sport and Physical Activity Ministerial Group. That is designed to bring together lots of different Government areas that you work under. Could you just tell us a few of the specific outcomes that you are expecting and then also any of the possible spending priorities that might come from that?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

So we have had our first meeting and the idea of wanting to basically re-establish it is for all the reasons and all the questions you have asked today around that cross-departmental thinking, collaboration, trying to weave Sport more organically into other departments, whether it is Health, whether it is Education, whether it is Infrastructure, Children and Families, things like that. So, for me, it is a really valuable opportunity to be able to sit in with other Ministers and talk about some of the current states of sports. So in our first meeting we spoke about the active levels of Islanders, and showing other Ministers this is where it is at. Where I would like to move to is presenting some of my priorities over the next 4 years and where each department has a responsibility to help deliver that for Sport and being more intentional with those clear lines into departments, which then means I can have more purposeful meetings about the role that they have to play basically. So that is how I see this running, which may be different to how it has run in the past, I am not sure. But that would be how I see it. That group should be there to help me achieve my priorities as a Sports Minister and help lift the level of support across the Island, whether it is from a facilities, a preventative health perspective, an education curriculum perspective. So that is essentially how I see it running, keeping it very action focused and almost just simple R.A.G. (red, amber, green) ratings, where are we at, why are we not there, what do we need to do more of? A bit of a check-in for myself as the Sports Minister to see if I am doing this in an effective manner. Where the spending, to answer your question around the spending and the budget, that is also why I would quite like to get those priorities up there, because if the Minister says to me I cannot do that this year or maybe we could do a bit of this or a bit of that, that is the position I am in as an Assistant Minister. But that is where the convening, communication, working together with people is going to be really important. We all want to get things done yesterday, but the truth is that it just does not happen that way, and someone reminded me yesterday that I have got 4 years and it is important that I do it in a strategic way. There has been a lot of criticism around Government working in silos and something not making sense or not feeding into one another, and for me this group helps me to, in real terms, be realistic about what I can achieve and how fast I can achieve it without getting frustrated.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

I want to move on to David, if you want to move on to the infrastructure.

The Connétable of St. Mary:

Yes, this question relates to sports infrastructure generally, which you already alluded to. You referred to issues. Do you have a general view as to the extent and how far behind requirements we are at the moment in maintenance?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

So, we have some seriously ageing infrastructure, buildings that were built in the 1980s, before I was even born, that we have not necessarily maintained efficiently and sufficiently. So there is our swimming pool infrastructure, for example, is really coming to the end of its life. We have sports halls with runoffs that would not necessarily meet the requirements for organised sport to be able to play on. So there is things where the world has significantly evolved in the world of sport and our community-based facilities means that it prevents even our sports clubs and organisations being able to use them as well. That being said, Oakfield has been positive for the Island in terms of the right dimensions for sports to be able to use, and multiple sports to be able to get in there. But more work needs to be done in terms of that, just that maintenance of existing facilities.

The Connétable of St. Mary:

You accept there is an ageing structure out there, you your letter for which thanks, identifies 4 items, capital funding £1 million for Springfield, £500,000 for replacement assets, et cetera, £0.46 million maintenance expenditure by Jersey Property Holdings, and a rollover £0.4 million for the new skate park. Given the total size of the sports estate, how will you be prioritising maintenance? Is that enough to cover all the items you need to?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Not necessarily, but you would probably love to triple the amount in order to be able to replace a bit more in those facilities. But I keep coming back to the gap analysis, because we all know that things need replacing and we need to upgrade, but whatever happens next, we need to be really informed. So the £500,000 per annum in replacement assets is not enough in terms of when it comes to maintenance of sports facilities on the Island. If it was, we would probably be in a very different position to where we are today. Depending on what happens across this estate, so whether it is a replacement of something in the swimming pool that we have not necessarily forecast, or a mower for something, there is the reactive piece, which this £500,000 covers, but then the strategic piece around how do we implement this funding in order to upgrade facilities over time, that is the piece that for me is still missing.

The Connétable of St. Mary:

Given the shortage time, let us have some short, sharp questions. In your letter, again thanks, you referred to a draft online business case, which was not submitted. Will you be progressing that business case sometime soon in any form?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes. I do not have all the information as to why that was not progressed. For me, it would be a bit irresponsible to just do this until we have got the gap analysis, and I keep coming back to it, but for me, if it is £7 million for a pool in Haute Vallée, if it is nearly £500,000 for a playground at Springfield,

we need to know is that what we need on the Island. Because, from my understanding, since coming in, I am not sure how informed we have been, and this has to be strategic. We cannot just go do something over here and not worry about what the effects might be somewhere else on the Island. People talk often about the balance of facilities, so the east and west, and we all know that we need a 3G football pitch in the west, for example, we know that is something that is needed. But it is about when is it needed and how do we get there. Similar to a potential investment in in Le Rocquier School as well, so the gap analysis, I believe, will help to inform where does the investment need to go, even despite the fact we may not have the full funding envelope just yet, and understanding where we need to put these facilities, where we need to invest, and what needs to go into it. That for me is the piece that is the starting point. If I had £120 million pounds, I would still be wanting to wait for that gap analysis, because again it is about the understanding and maximising the public funding or capital funding, we have to maximise it, we have to make it count.

The Connétable of St. Mary:

Very quickly, again, the 4 items identified as needing funds, the investment, F.B. Fields, Les Quennevais, AquaSplash and Springfield. You have enough to cover their immediate needs. Regarding AquaSplash, I see that it is now returned to Government operation and there may be improvements in income; is that right?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Just repeat that, sorry?

The Connétable of St. Mary:

AquaSplash, that has now been returned to Government control. It does get an income from that, does it?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Did we get anything from that?

Operations Director, Sport Division:

Standalone pools do not make any money, so we have taken that on. It has always had a deficit to the Government; it has always cost the Government money to run that pool, so that will continue with a deficit. But we have taken it in-house to control and maintain that deficit funding.

The Connétable of St. Mary:

Quickly, Island Games, is there a budget for that?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Not currently, no. I know that for the last Island Games there was a budget set aside to upgrade facilities for Sport. I like to hope that there will be a little bit more long-term thinking in terms of this next Island Games and the investment strategy for what we need. We have already had officers do a piece of work around the potential sports that we might elect to be a part of the Island Games and the facilities that we would then need to invest in as well, which will feed into that gap analysis work, so we have almost got a bit of a cross-reference, what does the community need, what is the need in order to achieve a successful Island Games, but then also you have got the long-term piece that sits for the next 25 years for communities, for kids, for even what Deputy Gleave was talking about in terms of the need on the Island for young people and adults who want to participate in sport as well. So that is what I am hoping all of that will be able to do.

The Connétable of St. Mary:
Have I got time for one specific question?

Deputy S.J. Gleave:
Yes.

The Connétable of St. Mary:
The football, the Local Football Facilities Plan on the Island now has a shortfall of 4 full-size 3G surfaces. Are you working with Ministers, Jersey Sport, to meet that shortfall?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
Yes. It has been quite clear that there has been a shortfall for a number of years. I have had a meeting already with the F.A. (Football Association) and I need to really pick up a meeting just to provide an update and stay in touch with them. They have made it quite clear that they could do with 2 or 3 more pitches in terms of the Island Games. We know we definitely would need one more full-size 3G football pitch to be able to host that. So, again, it is about funding and where do we do it, which is the ...

The Connétable of St. Mary:
That was my next question. Would it be Government funding at some stage?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
It needs to be a mixture of both, whether it is public private partnership, an investment scheme, or looking at what other stakeholders might have the need for a 3G football pitch, like maybe at Le Rocquier or Les Quennevais, things like that, so I do not think it is going to be purely Government funded. I cannot see that happening right now.

The Connétable of St. Mary:

Do you want me to carry on?

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Just checking on time, we are coming up to 11.00 a.m. Are you okay to run over by 10 minutes just so that we can get through a few more questions?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Are you okay with that, officers?

Chief Economic Advisor:

I am struggling slightly. I do not know what your diary looks like, Minister.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

What time are we due to finish?

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

11.00 a.m.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

I could take a couple more questions. I have got 3 minutes on mine until 11.00 a.m.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

It is just in terms of which questions we ask. So, one of the obvious questions to ask is about Fort Regent. Obviously the announcement last week, you have been talking a lot about there is a not enough money to maintain the existing infrastructure we have, and improve it. So really interested to know your views on Fort Regent and where you sit on that?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, it is a really tricky situation, Fort Regent, for sport in particular. Sport was almost the centrepiece of Fort Regent for a very long time, and then we have essentially decommissioned it and moved sport out into other areas into the Island. But there is still pressure on facilities and you would have felt it in terms of your constituents talking to you about it. I felt the pressures from a Jersey Netball perspective in terms of operating out of new facilities. Then we talk about the potential £120 million just to reinvest in the infrastructure that we have already on the Island, let alone building something new. I have always expressed my concern for Fort Regent that, the more expensive it becomes, the less Sport will have a say in what goes on in that building. So it seems to be that it is creeping up and up and up, so as a Sports Minister, I do have concerns about how

sport operates in that facility, the more money is needed to invest in it and as that challenge increases for it to wash its face really, from a business case perspective. So we do need to sit and wait and see what options are presented. I know that we have got officers and Ministers, I have not been directly involved in that, to state for the record, so I will be waiting in the wings to hear what the recommendations are for that. But if there is a potential case for Sport to be re-established back in there, again it will be about understanding what needs to go back in there, what does it look like, because the state of sporting facilities has again changed, people have adjusted to moving out of the Fort, and so that that counts for something as well. But, yes, it is an interesting one from a Sport perspective that I just need to sit and wait on really until I have more information on it.

[11:00]

Deputy S.J. Gleave:
Chris.

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine:
Has any consideration been given to encouraging greater sponsorship and investment in sport by private individuals and businesses, and what role do you see such funding playing in supporting the development of sport in Jersey?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:
Yes, the piece that I will come back to is working with the Locate Jersey team and the Jersey Community Foundation to create a new avenue for people to invest private money into sport, into a fund, and that for me would be a really positive thing for the sector, to provide another way for people to want to get involved in sport. There is still lots on the table around what that could look like, whether it is just a fund, whether we can generate some interest with that funding, make it more sustainable, which initially that would have been my preference, just to make sure we have always got an extra funding stream to support sport. But I am waiting on options for that, so hopefully over our next budget hearing I might have a bit more in terms of information to share with you on that. But I do think private investment has a huge part to play because, as we are seeing here, these are big numbers and Government cannot fund it all.

The Connétable of St. Mary:
Yes, very quickly to follow up that question. Again, in a previous panel I was there when Jersey Sport was set up. The panel were not involved in it, unfortunately, but thereafter one of the justifications for its model was to allow for private investment and there was no Ministers on the board of Jersey Sport, et cetera, and the idea was that would help to increase private funding. Are you contemplating using Jersey Sport as a vehicle?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Yes, absolutely. That would be the most sensible approach, yes. Jersey Sport copped a lot of flak 4 or 5 years ago and they were in a bit of turmoil and they have turned themselves around and we have a better understanding of who they are representing and what they are doing. That grant-giving piece has been huge for them. They have set a target of £1 million and they are around just over three-quarters of that in quarter 3, in terms of giving out grants to the sports community. So they have made huge shifts in terms of wanting to redefine who they are, I suppose, for the sport community. But there is still room for them to evolve and grow as we go over this term, and I know that the C.E.O. (Chief Executive Officer) Dave Kennedy is quite keen to work with me as Sports Minister, and the Government, to try to define what that is. So, yes, in answer to your question, that would be a good avenue.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Okay, has anyone got any anything that really wants to ask now or can be held for a letter?

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

We can write, can we not, we can write back.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Yes, we do have some questions we would like to ask. I am very conscious of the time and we have run over slightly, so I would just like to say thank you for your time and for the discussion. There are several questions that came out of that that I was noting down as you were talking that we would like to follow up on. So we will follow up with the letter and if you could get back to us on that, that would be great.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development:

Thank you.

Deputy S.J. Gleave:

Thank you very much. Okay, we are clear. Well done, guys.

[11:03]