



06 December 2019

Request:

Freedom of Information request to the Parish of St Helier:

On Wednesday 6th November 2019, the Parish of St Helier presented proposition **P.06/2019** to a Parish Assembly meeting held at the Town Hall. The proposition concerned its plans to establish a shadow '**Conseil Municipal' (Municipal Council) for St Helier** in 2020, with the ultimate intention of making this Council permanent and giving it significant new powers that would be devolved from the Government of Jersey.

On page 2 of this proposition, it refers to a **Municipal Reform Working Group** that was set up by the Constable on 13th March 2019 (without obtaining the prior consent of the Parish Assembly beforehand). The proposition stated that this Working Group had "*met on seven occasions and agreed its first report on 24th September*". However, the dates of those 7 meetings of the Working Group were not disclosed in the proposition.

Neither the proposition nor the accompanying report of the Municipal Reform Working Group seem to include the **names** of the individual **members of the Working Group**, although the names of most of them can be deduced from their separate membership of the Roads Committee, or their roles of Procureur or Constable. However, on page 7 of the Working Group's report, it is revealed that "*a representative of the Comité des Connétables and one Parish Deputy*" were also among the members of the Group. However, the identity of these 2 individuals has not been officially disclosed and remains out of the public domain.

Therefore, please supply the following:

The minutes of those 7 meetings of the Municipal Reform Working Group that are said to have taken place this year, according to proposition P.06/2019.

Please ensure in particular that the names of the person representing the Comité des Connétables, along with the name of the sole Parish Deputy on this Working Group, are disclosed throughout these minutes, if that is not already the case (along with the names of all other members, of course).

Response:

The St Helier Municipal Reform Working Group comprised of the following people:

Constable Simon Crowcroft

Procureur Peter Pearce

Procureur Geraint Jennings

Roads Committee members

Robert Le Brocq

John Baker

Barry Le Feuvre

Julian Rogers

Bernie Manning

Parish Deputy - Deputy Carina Alves

Comité des Connétables representative - Constable Mike Jackson (St Brelade)

The Parish CEO Jason Turner and Parish Secretary Alison Sweeney provided support to the Group

The Municipal Reform Working Group sessions were held in a workshop format without minutes.

The results of which are reflected in the group's report which is on the Parish website

<https://www.sthelier.je/parish-assembly-agendas/>

The sessions and the topics discussed were as follows:

13th March 2019: Background and purpose of Working Group **pages 6 - 8**

10th April 2019: Agree Terms of reference **page 46** and identify issues, which need addressing **pages 9 -26**

15th May 2019: Presentations on research of models of local government **pages 30 -32**

19th June 2019: Principles of good local government **pages 26- 30**

17th July 2019: Operational areas, current and future arrangements **page 33**

6th August 2019: Consider the type of organisation, composition and Structure needed to deliver extended responsibilities **page 34**

24th September 2019: Finalise the Working Group Report, where the group received a final draft report