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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(163rd Meeting)

(Business conducted via electronic mail)

25th March 2022**PART A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Senator I.J. Gorst, Minister for External Relations and Financial Services, Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville, Minister for International Development, Deputy G.C.U. Guida of St. Lawrence, Minister for Home Affairs, Deputy J. H. Young of St. Brelade, Minister for the Environment, Deputy K.C. Lewis of St. Saviour, Minister for Infrastructure and Deputy S.M. Wickenden of St. Helier, Minister for Children and Education, from whom apologies had been received.

Senator J.A.N Le Fondré, Chief Minister
 Senator L.J. Farnham, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture
 Deputy R.J. Renouf of St. Ouen, Minister for Health and Social Services
 Deputy R. Labey of St. Helier, Minister for Housing and Communities
 Deputy J.A. Martin of St. Helier, Minister for Social Security
 Deputy S.J. Pinel of St. Clement, Minister for Treasury and Resources

In attendance -

I. Burns, Director General, Customer and Local Services Department
 S. Duhamel, Director, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department
 S. Idiong, Private Secretary to the Minister for Social Security
 K.L. Slack, Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

‘Community Costs Bonus: Increase – Amendment’ (P.39/2022 Amd) decision to present Comments.

A1. The Council of Ministers, with reference to Minute No. B1 of its meeting of 23rd March 2022, recalled that Senator K.L. Moore had lodged a Proposition entitled, ‘Community costs bonus: increase’ (P.39/2022 referred), which was due to be debated by the States Assembly during the week commencing 28th March 2022 and which asked the Council of Ministers to bring forward Regulations to increase the Community Costs Bonus to offset the impact of costs of living increases with regard to groceries and fuel.

The Council was also mindful that Senator T.A. Vallois had lodged an Amendment to P.39/2022, which sought to establish an annual bonus payment of £278.91 for 2022 and 2023. The Proposition, as amended, would require Ministers to lodge an emergency *Projet* to achieve this in time for debate in April 2022.

It was noted that the total costs associated with the Proposition, as amended, were estimated at up to £23 million over the two years and it would only be possible to meet this by diverting monies from existing projects, which had already been agreed, or by augmenting the level of borrowing.

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The Council was of the view that the extension of a single annual payment to a significant proportion of all Jersey households was very poorly targeted and would not provide effective support to those Islanders who were struggling to meet their weekly expenditure.

Accordingly, the Council opposed the Amendment and decided to present Comments to this effect, which it had received and noted. It requested the Secretariat Officer, States Greffe, to request the Greffier of the States to arrange for the same to be presented to the States Assembly.