

# Supervisory Committee Connétables de Jersey

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022**  
at the Parish Hall, St John.

## Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman  
Connétable de St Héliér - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman  
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson  
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre  
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur  
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert  
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly  
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan  
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone  
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan  
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy

## In attendance:

Mr C R Le Quesne, Senior Procureur du Bien Public, St Saviour  
Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

## Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

2022 Annual  
Island Wide  
Rate Figure  
(AIRF)

2. The Supervisory Committee was reminded that Article 20(1) of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 provided that -

*“The sum to be levied from the Island-wide rate for any rateable year, known as the Annual Island-wide Rates Figure, shall be the Annual Island-wide Rates Figure for the previous year adjusted by the percentage change in the Jersey Retail Prices Index calculated by comparing the annual figure compiled for the quarter ending in March of that year with the annual figure compiled for the quarter ending in March of the previous year.”*

Noting the headline increase in the Retail Price Index (RPI) at March 2022 was 6%, and that the Annual Island Wide Rates Figure (AIRF) for 2021 was £13,754,277, the Committee confirmed the 2022 AIRF was £14,578,335, the calculation being -

$$2021 \text{ AIRF} \times 2022 \text{ March index} / 2021 \text{ March index} = 2022 \text{ AIRF}$$

In accordance with the Rates (Apportionment) (Jersey) Regulations 2006 -

- (1) 55% of the Annual Island-wide Rates Figure shall be met from the domestic rate (£8,018,084).
- (2) 45% of the Annual Island-wide Rates Figure shall be met from the non-domestic rate (£6,560,251).

The Committee discussed the headline RPI increase and the challenging economic circumstances that many islanders were facing. The Committee also recalled that in 2020, the States Assembly had approved the COVID-19 (Rates) (Jersey) Regulations 2020 to maintain the AIRF at the 2019 level – this took into account the assistance being offered

by the Government to support the economy during the coronavirus pandemic and the impact of the pandemic on ratepayers. However, there was now no ability to make such emergency legislation and the AIRF was therefore as prescribed by the Law. The Committee decided that this should be considered further and noted that the Domestic and Non-domestic rates for 2022 would be determined, following the June 2022 elections, when the Rates Lists for all Parishes had been finalised.

Empty Property  
Tax –  
P.48/2022

3. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, noted the adoption by the States of the proposition “Empty Property Tax” (P.48/2022) which agreed -

*(a) that an effective mechanism should be introduced to discourage domestic properties from being left vacant for long periods; and*

*(b) to request the Minister for Housing and Communities to initiate the necessary arrangements for the preparation of an options paper identifying potential mechanisms with a view to publication before the end of September 2022.*

The Committee noted that officers from the Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance team, Government of Jersey were considering possible definitions of ‘vacant property’ and also second homes. A meeting would then be sought with the Committee to discuss possible amendments to the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 which would enable the collection of data.

Rates Lists –  
approval

4. The Supervisory Committee recalled that Articles 14 and 21 of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 required the Rates List for a Parish to be approved following which a Parish Assembly could set the rate. Having noted the proposed dates for Parish Assemblies, the Committee agreed a meeting should be held in the week the newly elected Connétables were sworn to office and requested the Secretary to make arrangements accordingly.

Chairman ..... Date .....