

NOTICE of PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Proposed Amendment to Item 4 Report and Ordinance for the Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas – 18th January 2017

Under the Provisions of Rule 12(9) of the Rules of Procedure of the Chief Pleas of Sark, two Conseillers have proposed and seconded an amendment to a draft Ordinance and have sent the Amendment to the Policy & Performance Committee bringing the legislation forward no later than ten working days before the Chief Pleas Meeting. The proposed Amendment is as follows:

- Item 4. To CONSIDER an Amendment entitled “**A Report with Proposition to Change the Election Dates Promulgated in The Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2017**” (copy enclosed).

4th January 2017

Arthur Rolfe
President of Chief Pleas

Anyone wishing to see the Amendment may do so at the Committee Support Office, Monday – Thursday, between 2.30pm and 5.00pm and at other times when the offices are open; copies may be obtained from the Committee Support Office. The Amendment may also be seen on the Sark Government Website at www.sark.gov.gg

ITEM 4 Proposed Amendment

Proposed Amendment with Proposition to Christmas Chief Pleas, 18th January 2017

A Report with Proposition to Change the Election Dates Promulgated in The Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2017

We, the undersigned Conseillers, under the provisions of Rule of Procedure 12 (9) propose that the dates listed for the Further Election, in the Report of the Policy and Performance Committee, at Item 4 of the Agenda for the 2017 Christmas Meeting and of the accompanying Ordinance should be amended to allow the Election to take place at the later date of 5th April.

There is seen to be no advantage in holding the election 'as soon as possible' as proposed in the Report, currently given as 15th February, for the following reasons:

Any person so elected on the 15th February would not take a seat to deal with business and election to Committees until the Easter Meeting to be held on the 26th April, less for the election of the Speakers on the 27th February.

The election date proposed falls in the middle of the dates surrounding the election of Speakers.

The choice of an early date does not allow sufficient extra time for residents to go onto the electoral register, especially as the register was closed during the period 4 November to 15 December 2016 and closes again on the 20th January 2017 with Christmas and New Year in the intervening time, when generally offices are closed. Under our proposal residents would be able to apply to go on the electoral register until 3rd March, thereby increasing the potential pool of candidates which currently stands at over 350. A later date will also allow a further mailshot from the Greffier to go out asking that residents not only consider applying to go onto the electoral register but to update their personal details, such as name (where this has changed by marriage) and address, many of which are well out of date.

With the election of Speakers set for the 27th February a later date would allow for extra vacancies to be filled, should the successful candidates be Conseillers of Chief Pleas.

A date set after the Speakers election will enable those two officers, as Returning and Deputy Returning Officers, to conduct the election, both for the first time.

We therefore propose that the Further Election be held on the 5th April 2017 and that the following time table be adhered to:

Friday 3rd March 2017: Electoral Register Closes until the Further Election is completed.

Friday 10th March 2017: Nominations open

Friday 24th March 2017: Nominations close

Wednesday 5th April 2017: Further Election

Wednesday 19th April: Further Election rerun for any tied candidates

Friday 21st April: Candidates sworn into office by the Seneschal's Court

Wednesday 26th April 2017: Easter Chief Pleas (including election to Committees for new Conseillers)

We strongly recommend that Chief Pleas supports the dates as provided for in this report.

Proposition -

That Chief Pleas amend The Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2017 to reflect the dates as provided in this report and to approve the Ordinance, as amended.

**Proposed by Conseiller Edric Baker
Seconded by Conseiller Sandra Williams**