

**JOB OPPORTUNITY SCHEME:
CONTINUATION.**

**Lodged au Greffe on 1st July, 1986
by the Education Committee.**



**STATES OF JERSEY
STATES GREFFE**

175

1986

P.96

Price : 35p

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -

to authorise the Education Committee to continue to operate the Job Opportunity Scheme for a further period of three years commencing October 1986.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NOTE: The Finance and Economics Committee supports the Proposition.

Report.

1. The Job Opportunity Schemes were begun in 1981 in order to alleviate juvenile unemployment and, following a Report to the States in June 1982 (P.83/82), were extended for a period of three years subject to an annual review.
2. The numbers of young people participating in the schemes over the past five years are set out below. The first column gives the number of young people taking part in the scheme for the first time; the second column gives the number of young people returning for further support in a second year.

1981/2	131	-
1982/3	120	26
1983/4	111	15
1984/5	103	12
1985/6	52	3

Although the numbers of young people taking part in the scheme have declined, reflecting the reduction in the numbers of school leavers as well as the increased opportunities for juvenile employment, the Economic Adviser, the Careers Officer and the employers engaged in the Job Opportunity Support Group all believe that in the coming year some young people will continue to meet problems in finding employment.

3. It is, therefore, proposed to run a single Job Opportunity Scheme for 1986/7 to be effective from 6th October, 1986 to 25th April, 1987, catering mainly for 15- to 16-year-olds who leave full-time education during the year, but also providing for young unemployed persons up to the age of 18 (including those who will have had previous experience of the Job Opportunity Scheme). During the period of the scheme these young people will work with an approved employer and spend one day a week on day release at Highlands College. Where employment, attainment and timing are appropriate, young people will be enrolled in recognised day release courses and, wherever possible, will be

encouraged to take appropriate qualifications. Where there is an identified demand for specific training, the provision of short training courses will be arranged at Highlands College for participants.

4. The wage payable to participants in the Job Opportunity Scheme will be a minimum of £33 a week and it is anticipated that for young people over 16-years-old, employers will raise wages above the minimum. For four weeks the minimum wage will be fully paid by the Education Committee and for the remaining period up to two-thirds of the minimum wage will be paid by the States and a minimum of one-third met by the employer.
5. Costs are estimated as follows (figures for 1984/5 and 1985/6 are given for comparison) -

	1986/7	1985/6	1984/5
	£	£	£
Payment to employers, and for teaching materials	26,800	68,800	97,200
Staff costs F.T.E. of 3.0 staff	<u>40,400</u>	<u>53,700</u>	<u>60,800</u>
	<u>£67,200</u>	<u>£122,500</u>	<u>£158,000</u>

6. On present trends it is likely that the demand for the Job Opportunity Scheme will continue to decline. Nevertheless, the Education Committee believes that the scheme has proved of considerable value in dealing with the problem of juvenile unemployment and wishes to retain the authority to continue to operate the Job Opportunity Scheme for a further period of three years presenting annual reports on its operation to the States.