

Environment Scrutiny Panel

23rd December 2005
Le Capelain Room, States Building

Present Deputy R.C. Duhamel (Chairman)
 Connétable K.A. Le Brun of St. Mary
 Deputy G.C.L. Baudains
 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier
 Deputy S. Power

Apologies None

Absent None

In attendance K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager
 I. Clarkson, Scrutiny Officer
 M. Robbins, Scrutiny Officer

Item No	Agenda matter	Action
1	<p>Welcome/Introduction The Chairman welcomed the Panel to the first meeting.</p>	None
2	<p>Appointment of Vice Chairman The Panel, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 135(5), appointed Deputy G.C.L. Baudains as its Vice Chairman.</p>	
3	<p>Methods of Working</p> <p>Meeting dates - The Panel agreed that ordinarily it should meet on a fortnightly basis; however, it considered that a significant volume of work was necessary in the short term to allow for the commencement of a new work programme. It agreed that meetings should be held on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons of alternate weeks with effect from Tuesday 10th January 2006 until further notice.</p> <p>Public access and engagement – Increasing the degree of public involvement in the scrutiny process was considered a priority. The Panel decided to hold one meeting per month in public. Although the format of public sessions was to be determined at a subsequent meeting, the Panel agreed that public involvement should not be limited to the observation of proceedings. Having noted that the Economic Affairs Panel had elected to hold public meetings in the 12 Parish Halls on a rotating basis, the Panel agreed that it would wish to adopt a similar practice. The Panel also considered whether communication between individual members and between the Panel and the public could be improved by various methods including revisions to the existing Web site, development of a separate website and the production and distribution of a newsletter. With regard to modification of the existing gov.je website the Panel was advise to discuss this with the Greffier of the States. Individual Panel members agreed to review the existing Scrutiny Web site, to consider websites of other jurisdictions and local United Kingdom County and Borough Councils. However, it was agreed that the Chairman would pursue the matter. The Panel also</p>	<p>IC/MR</p> <p>RD</p>

	<p>noted that the Chairman would raise the issue at the next meeting of the Chairmen's Committee.</p> <p>Media contact - It was agreed that all media contact should be through the Chairman unless specific arrangements concerning a particular review were agreed at a future date.</p> <p>Contact through office - The Panel acknowledged the importance of ensuring that all work undertaken be audited effectively. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Office was to be advised of all actions carried out in connection with a review and that all communications with States departments should be directed through the Scrutiny Office.</p> <p>Rôle of Scrutiny Officers - It was clarified that two Scrutiny Officers had been assigned to each of the four Scrutiny Panels until further notice. The rôle of the Scrutiny Officers was to provide a comprehensive research and administrative support service to the Panel and to assist with the general management of reviews.</p>	
4	<p>Panel's remit and invitation to Ministers to Panel meeting.</p> <p>The Panel determined that its areas of responsibility could be summarized under four headings as follows –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Planning, b) Environment, c) Transport, and d) Infrastructure. <p>Resources were considered insufficient to allow for major topic reviews in each of the four areas during the course of 2006. It would therefore be necessary to prioritize potential topics for review. In order to facilitate the prioritization process the Panel concluded that it would invite the Planning and Environment and Transport and Technical Services Ministers to a Panel meeting early in 2006 to discuss the priorities of each Ministry for the coming year. The Minister could be accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer, Environment and Public Services.</p> <p>The Panel, having reviewed Section 11 of the States Business Plan 2006 – 2010, recalled that the former Environment and Public Services Committee had secured law drafting time for a number of items of draft legislation. This would also be discussed at the meeting with the respective Ministers.</p>	IC/MR
6	<p>Indications of areas of interest from Panel members.</p> <p>The Panel discussed possible topic areas for review in 2006. Potential subject areas included -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the existing Planning process, b) Heritage planning, c) the Building Bye-Laws (Jersey) 2004, d) the ongoing effectiveness of the Agri-environment scheme, e) agriculture related restrictions on property use, f) the Strategic Travel and Transport Plan (P.174/2005), g) car parks and effect of proposed price rises, h) the promotion of energy efficiency in vehicles, i) infrastructure quality and maintenance, j) waste strategy, 	

	<p>k) energy policy, and l) the draft Water Resources (Jersey) Law 200- (P.206/2005).</p> <p>The Panel deferred further consideration of potential topics to its next meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Training</p> <p>The Panel provided favourable feedback on the training day held on 15th December and noted that additional training days had been arranged as follows -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work programming:20th January 2006 • Questioning Skills: 24th January 2006. 	
8	<p>Date of next Meeting</p> <p>10th January 2006 in Le Capelain Room, States Building, 9.00am .</p>	