

# Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Record of Meeting

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010  
Meeting 80

Present	Senator S.C. Ferguson, Chairman Connétable D.J. Murphy Deputy T.A. Vallois
Apologies	Deputy C.H. Egré, Vice-Chairman
Absent	
In attendance	Mr M. Robbins, Scrutiny Officer Miss K. Boydens, Scrutiny Officer

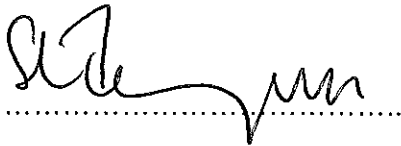
Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Records of Meeting</b></p> <p>The Panel approved and signed the records of its meetings of 16th and 28th April 2010.</p>	
	<p><b>2. Matters Arising and Action Updates</b></p> <p>The Panel noted the action updates from its last Panel Meeting.</p>	
<p><b>13/05/10 Item1 513/27(8)</b></p>	<p><b>3. Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)</b></p> <p>The Panel recalled that it had agreed the scoping document, Terms of Reference and budget of £35,000 for the review and that these documents had been sent to the Chairmen's Committee.</p> <p>The Panel received the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details given to the Council of Ministers of the review.</li> <li>• Details of information required from the meeting between the Panel and the Council of Ministers from 10.00 am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010.</li> <li>• Information of issues the Panel may wish to consider within the review that had been discussed between the Chairman and the Minister for Treasury and Resources during a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010. This document was to be forwarded to the Comptroller and Auditor General to aid discussions in the information he can offer to the Panel.</li> <li>• Press release containing a quote from the Chairman to launch the review.</li> <li>• Dates available for attendance of Ministers at the hearings due to be held at the end of June 2010. The Panel was to obtain details of when Ministers could attend briefings during the meeting with the Council of Ministers.</li> </ul> <p>The Panel confirmed the Terms of Reference to be:</p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To examine the CSR policy of the Minister for Treasury and Resources requiring 10% savings across the board, staggered over three years.</li> <li>2. To determine the nature and sustainability of the 2% savings identified by each department to be delivered in 2011.</li> <li>3. Establish the structural continuity between 2% savings this year and final 10% saving after three years.</li> <li>4. To consider the social impact of proposed cuts.</li> <li>5. To examine any further issues relating to the topic that may arise in the course of the Scrutiny review that the Panel considers relevant.</li> </ol> <p>The Panel agreed that an advert seeking public submissions was to be drafted and the proofing authorised on behalf of the Panel by the Chairman. £800 was authorised for this purpose. In addition, Facebook was to be used to try and reach a different section of the public. The Panel agreed that Facebook reached a younger group than the normal, more traditional methods of advertising.</p> <p>The advisor proposed to deal with the social impact of the cuts was Doctor Susan Harkness. Her Curriculum Vitae was considered to be impressive and suggested that she would fulfil the needs of the Panel. The budget was agreed. Contracts were to be completed in the normal manner. It was emphasised that the role of this advisor was to deal with the social impacts of the proposed cuts at a high level, and that the expected output would be sufficient to guide the Panel in a small section of its report at the conclusion of the review.</p> <p>The Panel recalled that Professor Michael Oliver was to be used to advise the Panel and the budget for this agreed.</p> <p>Arrangements for the briefings from officers responsible for the finances of each department were noted to be well in hand. Members would be in attendance on every possible occasion. The Panel remembered that at least two Members needed to be present for the Panel to be quorate.</p> <p>In noting continued confirmation of the dates for briefings from officers from each department, the Panel recalled that these briefings were strictly fact-finding exercises and that the officers attending were not required to answer political questions. Questions of that nature were reserved for the Public Hearings with the Ministers.</p>	<p>MR / KB</p> <p>MR / KB</p>
<p>513/2(20)</p>	<p><b>4. Proposed Review Topic: Human Rights and Discrimination.</b></p> <p>The Panel noted the proposal, from a member of the public, of a review into the United Kingdom Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The proposal pointed out that Jersey was decades behind all European countries in these areas. The Panel agreed with this, noting that there were no discrimination laws in place in Jersey. The Panel also recognised that if the Minister for Home Affairs proposed to bring a proposition to the States which related to Anti-Discrimination measures, it was appropriate for a Scrutiny Panel to undertake a review. It was noted that this proposal had been forwarded from the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel. The Panel questioned why that Panel had not considered the subject to be within</p>	

	<p>its remit. The Education and Home Affairs Panel was to be requested to supply an explanation. As CEDAW was part of the United Nations strategy on Human Rights a question was to be drafted and put to the Chief Minister at the quarterly meeting due on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010. A note was to be sent to the member of the public propounding the review, advising of the intentions of the Panel.</p>	MR / KB
	<p><b>5. Budget: Quarterly update.</b></p> <p>The Panel noted the quarterly update of the Panel budget.</p>	
	<p><b>6. Chairmen's Committee Briefing Notes.</b></p> <p>The Panel noted that thirteen sets of minutes, previously approved by the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel, remained unsigned as at 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010. It was agreed that this failed to reflect the standards of transparency and good practice expected from Scrutiny Panels as the minutes would normally not have been uploaded onto the web until they were signed. The Panel applauded the Chairmen's Committee requirement that all minutes concerned were to be public with or without the Chairman's signature.</p> <p>Consideration was given to a report from the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel (S.R.4/2010) that was presented to the States on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010 relating to the Sea Fisheries bag limits propositions (P56 to 58/ 2010), all of which were withdrawn by the Minister for Economic Development in July of 2009. The Chairman of that Panel had produced a second report, on the same subject. The Panel questioned why withdrawn propositions should create so much work and why the Chairman of that Panel should see the need to produce a separate report.</p> <p>The Panel noted that these matters were the latest in a long line of problems experienced by the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel and agreed that it reflected badly on Scrutiny. It recognised that there was a solid case for the Chairmen's Committee to take some action in relation to the matter.</p>	
16/04/10 Item 1	<p><b>7. Quarterly Hearings</b></p> <p>The Panel considered the public hearing with the Chief Minister on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 and recognised outstanding questions in relation to the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, strategies for dealing with the new United Kingdom Government and amendments to the Public Finance Law. The Panel were to consider any further subject matters required for the Hearing.</p>	MR / KB
	<p><b>8. Meeting Schedule</b></p> <p>The Panel noted provisional meeting dates for 2011 and required that nothing be arranged for after September 2011 due to elections.</p>	MR / KB
	<p><b>9. Data Protection Guidelines</b></p> <p>The Panel noted data protection guidelines as circulated to all Scrutiny Panels by the Privileges and Procedures Committee in R48, presented to the States on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010.</p>	
	<p><b>10. Ministerial Decisions</b></p> <p>In noting the Ministerial Decisions made by the Chief Minister and Minister for Treasury and Resources, the Panel recognised that in some cases, particularly within the Property Holdings Department decisions, the implementation date preceded the date the decision was made by the</p>	MR /

	Minister. This was to form the basis of a question to the Minister for Treasury and Resources at the next quarterly hearings.	<b>KB</b>
	<p><b>11. Future meetings.</b></p> <p>The Panel noted that it would next meet in the Blampied Room, States Building at 0930 a.m. on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 for a scheduled meeting that would include the quarterly meeting with the Chief Minister.</p>	

Signed



Date:

2/06/2010

Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel