

Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

5th October 2016

Present	Deputy S.M. Brée, Chairman Deputy D. Johnson, Vice-Chairman Connétable J.E. Le Maistre Connétable M.J. Paddock
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	Mr M. Orbell, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of meetings</p> <p>The Minutes of meetings held on 21st and 22nd September were approved and signed.</p>	MO
<p>Item 1 22.10.16 515/33(2)</p>	<p>2. Medium Term Financial Plan Addition</p> <p>The Panel considered the debate on the MTFP Addition and associated matters. In the Panel's view, the level of detail in much of the Addition was unsatisfactory, especially in view of the extra year that departments had been given to prepare it. Sections relating to the Panel's remit were so vague that without further investigation it was impossible to tell whether projected savings were realistic or went far enough, or to come to any meaningful conclusions about spending plans. Unfortunately additional information provided in response to questions from the Panel had not proved very enlightening. It was thought that the lack of transparency was exacerbated by the way spending and savings in the MTFP continued to be based on and compared with previous patterns of expenditure. The Panel's adviser recommended a zero-based budgeting approach, which would be more challenging and much more informative.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that the mechanism and timing of the MTFP was flawed. Following the States approval of the original MTFP in 2015 it was felt that the Addition now delivered was not worth the wait. Members considered that there must be more effective ways of developing and monitoring department spending and savings plans.</p>	
<p>Item 3 21.10.16</p>	<p>3. Rural Economy Strategy</p> <p>The Panel noted that with less than three months to go before the new RES was due to be implemented, the industry appeared not to know the full details of the proposed scheme. This did not seem fair, as farmers needed to have a clear understanding of the proposed subsidy structure and associated environmental requirements to enable them to plan investment in their businesses for the year ahead.</p>	MO

	The Panel asked the Scrutiny Officer to draft a letter to the Minister requesting a delay in the implementation of the strategy to allow time for proper scrutiny.	MO
Item 2 20.04.16 515/35	<p>4. Licensing Law</p> <p>Members were reminded of revised timings for a briefing with the Assistant Minister to take place on 7th October. Some concerns were expressed about the lack of reference in the draft law to positive issues such as economic growth. It was agreed that the review should include the opportunity for discussion with representatives of the tourist industry.</p>	MO
	<p>5. Jersey Sport</p> <p>Apologies had now been received from both the Assistant Minister with responsibility and senior department officers for not sending the recently published Jersey Sport report to the Panel. The Panel noted that the plan appeared to involve yet another arms' length organisation which would receive States' funding but be controlled by its own Board, outside direct department control. Some concerns were expressed about differences between amateur and professional sport, and the need to ensure a suitable balance on the Board. Members also queried whether a memorandum of understanding would be set up, as the organisation was to be established as a trust.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer was asked to arrange a detailed briefing for the Panel, preferably as part of the next scheduled Panel meeting.</p>	MO
Item 3 18.05.16	<p>6. Limited Liability Partnership Law</p> <p>The Panel agreed that it did not wish to revisit the draft law prior to the debate. Changes in the version lodged since the Panel's previous briefing with the Assistant Chief Minister in May were relatively minor in nature.</p>	MO
	<p>7. Forthcoming meetings</p> <p>Next scheduled Panel meeting: 9.30am on 19th October 2016, Blampied Room, States Building.</p>	MO