

Environment Scrutiny Panel Meeting 23

31st July 2006

Business conducted by e-mail and telephone.

Present Deputy R.C. Duhamel (Chairman)
Deputy G.C.L. Baudains (Vice Chairman)
Deputy Le Hérissier
Deputy S. Power

Apologies

Absent Connétable K. A. Le Brun of St Mary

In attendance I. Clarkson, Scrutiny Officer
M. Robbins, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
<p>1 (21/07/06 Item 3)</p>	<p>Work Programme – Design of Homes</p> <p>The Panel considered e-mail correspondence sent by the Scrutiny Office concerning expenditure on the fact finding visit to London. It was reported that total costs arising from the visit were expected to exceed the allocated budget of £3,000. Anticipated expenses were –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flights & Hotel - £1587 D. Mason's expenses claim - £569.38 BedZED tour fee - £300 Lunch / Evening Meal allowance - £320 based on 2x lunches at £15 and 2x dinners at £25. Car hire (minibus & driver) - £760 <p>Total = £3536.38</p> <p>The Panel recalled that it had previously approved a separate payment of a £500 flat fee for D. Mason as compensation for time spent away from his business as a result of the series of visits. Officers reported that on 27th July 2006, and in response to a further written request for information, Mr. Mason had clarified in writing that he would not be submitting any further claims for time away from his business, irrespective of whether the Panel subsequently elected to conduct further visits to housing schemes in his company.</p> <p>Regarding specific expenses incurred, it noted that a tour fee arising from the planned visit to the BedZED scheme near London Gatwick Airport had not previously been budgeted for. It was also reported that neither the Housing Department nor the Planning and Environment Department would be represented on the visit. The travelling party would therefore consist of Deputy R.C. Duhamel, Deputy S. Power, Mr. D. Mason and one Scrutiny Officer. Deputy Duhamel submitted that the proposed booking of a 16 seat air conditioned minibus and driver remained justifiable for the revised party of 4 persons on grounds of cost and functionality.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to set a revised budget for its fact finding visits not exceeding £3,700 and exclusive of the £500 previously agreed as payment to Mr. D. Mason for time away from his</p>	<p>MR / IC</p>

business. The purpose of the revised budget of £3,700 was specifically to facilitate the series of visits to BedZED and various other housing schemes in London, and also to cover expenses totalling £569.38 as claimed by Mr. D. Mason and arising from his preliminary visit to assess suitable sites in the London area.

The Panel noted that it would review the information obtained from the London visit in early course and that a decision on whether the Panel should undertake further visits would not be taken until such time as that information had been fully evaluated.

Signed

Date

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Chairman, Environment Panel

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