

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 16th May 2017

Present	Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré, President and Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel Deputy S.M. Brée, Chairman, Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel Deputy R. Renouf, Chairman, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel Deputy D. Johnson, Chairman, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel
Apologies	Deputy L.M.C. Doublet, Vice-President and Chairman, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel Deputy A.D. Lewis, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee
Absent	
In attendance	Dr M. Egan, Greffier of the States (Item 5) Mr T. Oldham, Head of Scrutiny

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	1. Records of meetings The Committee approved the records of its meetings held on 25th April and 4th May 2017. The records were signed accordingly by the President.	
	2. Activity Reports Panel and PAC activity reports were noted by the Committee.	
25.04.17 Item 5 510/1(46)	3. Role and Appointment of Assistant Ministers The Committee noted correspondence sent from the President to the Chief Minister expressing the Committee's significant reservations about his previously circulated proposals.	
25.04.17 Item 6 510/1(86)	4. Protocol for Engagement between Scrutiny Panels/PAC and the Executive The Committee received an update from the President on the progress of the Working Group. It was noted that the Committee awaited information from the Law Officers' Department in respect of the legal advice section. The Committee received comments from the Chairman of the PAC in relation to the existing Code of Practice. The Chairman had also forwarded comments from the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in respect of the same document. Noting apparent confusion with the draft 'Protocol for Engagement between Scrutiny Panels/PAC and the Executive', which was almost complete, it was agreed that the Chairman of PAC and the C&AG would be contacted and updated accordingly. Although specific observations made in the comments were largely superseded as they were based on the existing Code, it was agreed	TO TO

	that certain points raised, such as the independence of the C&AG, were reflected in the draft Protocol and would also be taken into account during drafting of the accompanying 'Scrutiny/PAC Proceedings: Code of Practice'. Both the C&AG and PAC would be provided with an opportunity to separately feedback on that Proceedings Code once it had been suitably progressed.	TO
25.04.17 Item 5 511/2/1	5. Residential Property Transactions Review Panel The Committee noted that the Review Panel's planned re-scoping of its work would remain on hold as it awaited the availability of the agreed Officer resource from the Corporate Services Panel.	
25.04.17 Item 6	6. Measures of Panel Output and Financial Reports 2016 and Q1 2017 and Members Services The Committee noted the financial reports for 2015, 2016 and the first quarter of 2017. It also welcomed the Greffier of the States to discuss future Scrutiny resources. The Committee was informed of progress being made with regard to the recruitment of a digital communications officer to the States Greffe staff, along with related internal re-organisation. It was envisaged that this post would provide valuable additional, specialised support to the work of the scrutiny section. On Members services more broadly, it was considered that resources were less comprehensive than in many comparable jurisdictions, such as the Isle of Man. Examples discussed included a research/library service, the limitations/lack of which respectively were notably different to other British and Irish parliamentary resources, as well as the level of individual administrative support. The Committee recalled previous related work of PPC and an associated Commonwealth Parliamentary Association benchmarking report, which would be circulated to the Committee subject to clarification of its status. Particular attention was given to the potential value of extending the research capacity of the States Greffe. Current provision included assistance provided to Members with the preparation of their individual Propositions, and research conducted by Scrutiny Officers on behalf of Scrutiny Panels. It was considered that there could be merit in establishing additional capacity, at least initially dedicated to the proactive preparation and publication of briefing material based around upcoming States debates. Such a function might require only limited additional resources to establish. It was also observed that the existing research support available to Members was not widely known or taken up by Members, something which would be taken into account by the Greffier when preparing the future induction programme. Discussion was also held in respect of enabling Members to access similar services provided in other parliaments, and to improving Members' access to relevant online library facilities. The Greffier identified the need for there to be clarity and co-ordination of the various ideas for Members' resources, to enable informed assessment of demand and prioritisation. Any case to secure additional budget for such services would need to be made on that basis.	

	The Committee agreed that it would write to PPC relaying its consideration of the value of the research function as discussed, and to request it to co-ordinate the necessary work to establish the level of wider Member support for such a service.	TO
22.11.16 Item 4	<p>7. Review Panel Proposal: Medicinal Cannabis</p> <p>The Committee noted that the Vice-President had intended to request the establishment of a Review Panel to examine the proposed use of medicinal cannabis in the Island. Consideration was given by the Committee to its previous decision regarding a similar Review Panel proposal in November 2016, which it had not approved. Due to the apologies received from the Vice-President, it was agreed that the matter would be deferred until the next meeting.</p>	
	<p>8. Future Meetings</p> <p>It was noted that the Committee's next meeting was scheduled to take place on 13th June at 9.30am, Le Capelain Room, States Building.</p> <p>The Committee was advised that it had been offered a briefing from the Chief Minister's Department regarding the Long Term Plan. The Committee agreed that it was grateful for the offer, but due to the timescales involved Members would be content to attend the planned all-Member briefings.</p>	TO