

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 18th September 2012

Present	Deputy T.A. Vallois, President Deputy S.G. Luce, Vice-President Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy J.M. Maçon Deputy J.H. Young Deputy K.L. Moore (item 6 onwards)
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Minutes of previous meetings</p> <p>The minutes of the meetings of 24th July and 6th, 7th and 15th August 2012, having been approved, were accordingly signed.</p>	
<p>24.07.12 Item 10 510/1(72)</p>	<p>2. Confidential documents: use of.</p> <p>The Committee recalled that it had considered the situation whereby information received in confidence by a former Scrutiny Member had been used in the States Assembly.</p> <p>The Committee had previously agreed that, although the Member in question had breached the confidentiality agreement, the Committee had no powers to do anything about this specific occurrence. The Committee had also considered that such matters were relevant to all Members in receipt of confidential information not solely Scrutiny Members.</p> <p>The Committee noted that since the last meeting the President had requested that the letter from the Privileges and Procedures Committee be forwarded to the Executive to seek their views.</p> <p>The Committee also noted that the matter had been considered by the Corporate Management Board on 23rd August 2012 and that the Law Officers Department had requested that it should review the matter in the first instance.</p> <p>The Committee also considered the introduction of the Freedom of Information Law and resulting possible effects of this and considered whether a Code should be drawn up in the interim. There was also consideration of the need for protection of the private citizen and the difference between confidentiality of commercial matters and that of policy matters.</p>	<p>KTF</p>
<p>15.08.12 Item 1</p>	<p>3. Medium Term Financial Plan: increase in Adviser budget – Corporate Services Sub-Panel</p>	

513/35	The Committee noted an increase in the budget for the adviser due to the need of a further five additional days works.	
13.06.12 Item 5 510/1(45)	<p>4. Hearings and Briefings: written documentation for Panels</p> <p>The Committee recalled that it had previously agreed that, in order for the Panels and the PAC to be able to perform to the best of their ability, all written documentation must be with the relevant Panel or PAC at least twenty-four hours in advance.</p> <p>It recalled that this had been a matter for discussion between the President and the Chief Minister and the existing Guidelines for the Executive responding to Scrutiny requests was being revised to include the twenty-four hour clause.</p> <p>The Committee considered a request from the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel to amend this decision to request information being with Panels/PAC at least forty-eight hours prior to the hearing or briefing.</p> <p>Given that this could fall over a weekend period the Committee agreed that it would request that information be provided at least two working days in advance of a briefing or a Hearing.</p> <p>The President undertook to discuss this with the Chief Minister at the next meeting.</p>	
24.07.12 Item 6 530/1(51)	<p>5. Skills Strategy Review</p> <p>The Committee recalled that during its previous consideration of a review into the Skills Strategy, there was uncertainty as to which would be the “parent” Panel for a review given the working arrangements across three Ministers.</p> <p>The President had discussed this with the Chief Minister and it was agreed that as funding was provided through the Education Department that it would properly fall within the remit of the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>The Committee noted that a Sub-Panel would need to be established in order to include Members from the Economic Affairs and Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panels.</p>	
15.08.12 Item 1 513/35	<p>6. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)</p> <p>The Committee received an update on the work by each of the Scrutiny Panels on the MTFP. It also noted work which was ongoing by a Sub-Panel of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel which was co-ordinating the work on the MTFP.</p> <p>Having discussed a number of issues in respect of the MTFP, the Committee agreed to the following proposed timetable:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">17th Sept (week of) – Panel reports to Sub-Panel 20th Sept – Sub-Panel receives advisers’ reports; 24th Sept – Sub-Panel meeting; 26th Sept – Panels to advise Scrutiny Office of intention of bringing amendments; 1st Oct – FPP presentation 1st -10th Oct – finalise any amendments</p>	

	<p>10th October – all Scrutiny Member meeting 16th October – Chairmen’s Committee meeting/Budget presentation 17th October – Sub-Panel meets to sign off report 19th October – presentation of report & presentation to all States Members</p> <p>It was also agreed that the individual Panel reports would be published by way of an Appendix to the Corporate Services Sub-Panel report.</p> <p>Individual Panel amendments would be discussed at the all Scrutiny Members meeting of 10th October.</p>	
<p>19.06.12 Item 7</p> <p>511/1(33)</p>	<p>7. Council of Ministers and Chairmen’s Committee: joint meeting</p> <p>The Committee, noting that a joint meeting had been arranged for 4th October 2012, 9.30am to 10.30am, agreed that it wished to put the following matters on the agenda:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan: working practices in order to progress the priorities contained within; • Use of Green and White Papers: standardisation across Departments and involvement of Scrutiny at the appropriate time; • Level of detail included in Projets; • Departments’ ability to meet target deadlines for policies, strategies and legislative matters. 	
	<p>8. Panel Activity Reports</p> <p>These were noted.</p>	
<p>512/16</p>	<p>9. Public Accounts Committee [PAC]: constitution and Financial Report and Accounts</p> <p>It was noted that the PAC is now constituted and will be undertaking work on the Financial Report and Accounts 2011. The Committee noted the scoping document in respect of this and the request for a budget for transcription purposes.</p>	
<p>10.07.12 Item 1</p> <p>1443(1)</p>	<p>10. Comptroller and Auditor General [C&AG]: update</p> <p>The Committee received an update from the President on the situation pertaining to filling the post of C&AG. The Committee noted that the position had moved from a permanent appointment to a full time appointment and back to a temporary one. Matters under consideration were the possibility of amending the Public Finances Law to include the provision of some Quality Assurance verification of the work of the C&AG, whilst retaining the independent status of the office of the C&AG and the immediacy of signing off the Social Security Accounts which fell within the remit of the C&AG.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed in respect of consideration regarding quality assurance as it was considered essential to have a completely independent office to provide accountability and for there to be no inhibitions to the C&AG undertaking his work and producing reports which (s)he saw fit.</p>	

	<p>Consideration was currently being given to Article 51 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005 and the interpretation in respect of delegation of the responsibilities of the C&AG.</p> <p>The Committee considered whether it would be appropriate for the Chairman, PAC to make a statement in the States but given the joint responsibility of the post of C&AG lying with both the Chief Minister and the Chairman, PAC and given the background leading to the resignation of the former C&AG, this was to be left to the PAC Chairman's discretion.</p>	
<p>14.03.12 Item 2</p> <p>515/23</p>	<p>11. Aircraft Registry Scrutiny Report: Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>The Committee noted the presentation of the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel Report on the Aircraft Registry.</p>	
	<p>12. Future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th October 2012, 9.30am to 10.30am: joint meeting with the Council of Ministers, 9th floor Cyril Le Marquand House; • 10th October 2012, 1.00pm-2.00pm: all Scrutiny Member meeting, Blampied Room, States Building • 16th October 2012, 9.30am-11.30am: Chairmen's Committee meeting, Le Capelain Room. 	