

Chairmen's Committee

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: 29.01.09

Meeting No: 2

Present	Senator B. E. Shenton, President Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier, Vice-President (items 1 - part 6) Senator A. Breckon Deputy P.J. Rondel
Apologies	Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy M.R. Higgins
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

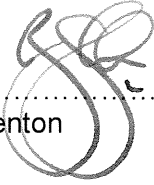
Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
22.01.09 item 5	<p>1. Ministerial Decisions</p> <p>The Committee continued its consideration of issues surrounding Ministerial Decisions which had arisen during the joint meeting with the Council of Ministers. It was agreed that the majority should be in the public domain and easily accessible. With regard to the latter, the Committee considered the possibility of the Department informing the Scrutiny Office once a Ministerial Decision had been made.</p> <p>The Committee, noting that some work had been undertaken in respect of a review of Ministerial Decisions, agreed to await a paper which was being prepared for the next Council of Ministers meeting..</p>	
	<p>2. Green papers</p> <p>The issue of Green Papers containing broad options had been discussed with the Council of Ministers and uncertainty as to the definition of what a Green Paper should contain seemed to remain. The Committee agreed, however, that its view was that a Green paper should contain a range of options.</p>	
22.01.09 item 17	<p>3. Strategic Plan</p> <p>Some concern had been expressed by the Committee at the meeting with the Council of Ministers that the latter appeared to be writing a new plan rather than reviewing the last one and building on it.</p> <p>It was agreed to await the next phase of its development.</p>	
22.01.09 item 4	<p>4. Forward Work Programmes</p> <p>The Panel approved a paper on the preparation of Panel annual work programmes and agreed that these should be available by the end February 2009.</p> <p>It was noted that the work programmes should focus on the work of the Ministers within the individual Panels' remit.</p>	

	It was also agreed to include the paper prepared for the Chairmen's Committee on all Panel agendas.	
	5. Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel: Deemed Rent review The Committee noted the scoping document, terms of reference and project plan for a review into Deemed Rent [estimated budget £9,500].	
	6. Environment Scrutiny Panel: Jersey RAMSAR site: impact of EfW plant review The Committee noted the Assessment and Scoping documents for a review into the Jersey RAMSAR Site: impact of EfW plant [estimated budget £8,000];	
22.01.09 item 3	7. Health, Social Security and Housing: Income Support Sub-Panel [revised terms of reference] The Committee noted the revised terms of reference for the above review.	
22.01.09 item 14	8. Training - questioning skills The Committee recalled that it had requested the Scrutiny Manager to approach John Sturrock QC who had trained Scrutiny Members on previous occasions in the art of questioning witnesses to ascertain his charges. Noting that his costs were considerably high, the Committee explored other options. However, recalling the resounding success of such previous training and the fact that the training was for about 20 Members and lasted over a three year period, agreed that it was preferable to pay for recognised and known quality. The Scrutiny Manager was requested to negotiate a more cost-effective price and to take the necessary action to progress this training without referring back to the Committee.	KTF
	9. Conflicts of Interest Consideration was given to the importance of Panel Members recognising when there may be a Member with a conflict of interest in a review topic. It was agreed that it was very important to declare these and to stand down from all reviews where there were such conflicts. The Committee agreed that: a) all consideration and/or declarations of conflicts of interest must be included on the Panel template of information for the Chairmen's Committee and forwarded to the Chairmen's Committee; b) the Code of Practice 4.23 to 4.25 must be followed and any doubts about this matter raised at the Chairmen's Committee meetings; c) the promotion of personal agendas through the scrutiny function must also be avoided.	
	20. Future meetings. 19th February 2009 12.30pm - 2.30pm - next scheduled meeting, Le Capelain Room	

Signed

Date:

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Senator B. Shenton
President



..... 19th February 2009