

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

Date: 12th June 2013

Meeting No: 92

Present	Senator S.C. Ferguson, Chairman Deputy J.G. Reed, Vice-Chairman Deputy R.J. Rondel
Apologies	Connétable D.J. Murphy Deputy S. Power Deputy T.A. Vallois [Co-opted for Item 3 under Standing Order 138(5A), Apologies for Item 3]
Absent	
In attendance	Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer Miss S. McKee, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
513/1(1)	<p>1. Panel Membership</p> <p>The Panel recalled that it had on occasion recently been difficult to establish a quorum at Panel meetings and noted that Connétable D.J. Murphy was likely to be necessarily absent for the next few weeks. The Panel also noted that Deputy S. Power had advised that, in the short term, other commitments would potentially impact upon his capacity to attend Panel meetings. Given that the Connétable was currently unable to attend meetings, it was agreed that the Chairman would correspond with Deputy Power in order to determine more precisely how long his capacity to attend might be affected.</p>	SF
	<p>2. Records of Meetings</p> <p>The Panel approved the records of the meetings held on 15th and 18th April and 2nd, 8th, 20th, 22nd and 29th May 2013, as well as the private record of the meeting held on 20th May 2013. The records were signed accordingly.</p>	
<p>29/05/13 Item 1</p> <p>513/37(4)</p>	<p>3. Public Finances Law</p> <p>The Panel was advised that written questions had been dispatched to both Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources, and Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister, but that responses had yet to be received. The Panel was also advised that a request had been made for the relevant minutes of meetings of the Council of Ministers and that the minutes would be received once signed. It was noted that correspondence from the Comptroller and Auditor General had been received. The Panel recalled that it had agreed to compare the <i>Employment of States of Jersey Employees (Jersey) Law 2005</i> against the <i>Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005</i> and the proposed amendments. It was recalled that Deputy Vallois had suggested the Panel consider the matter and it was therefore agreed to seek clarification from the Deputy as to the purpose of the comparison.</p> <p>Consideration was given to draft heads of report and it was agreed</p>	SM

	<p>that they provided an appropriate structure for the Panel's report. The heads of report were therefore approved.</p> <p>The Panel recalled that it had received correspondence in respect of comments which had been provided by the Fiscal Policy Panel (FPP) to the Department of Treasury and Resources with regard to the proposed amendments as well as the response of the Department to those comments. It was noted that the Panel had not been informed of whether the FPP had made any subsequent comments and the Scrutiny Officer was therefore requested to look into the matter.</p> <p>The Panel was advised that its request for the job description of the Treasurer of the States had been refused. The Scrutiny Officer was requested to make further enquiries. The Panel agreed that, if it were ultimately required, it would write to the Minister for Treasury and Resources about the matter, copying in the Chief Minister.</p> <p>The Panel considered whether there had been a law-drafting brief for the proposed amendments. The Scrutiny Officer was requested to seek clarification on the matter.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the potential impact that adoption of the proposed amendments would have on the role of the Chief Executive and the work of the Corporate Management Board. It was agreed to request a written submission from the Chief Executive on these matters.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the proposed amendments were due to be debated by the States Assembly on 18th July 2013. The Panel was advised that, as matters stood, presentation of the report before that date would most likely be feasible although it would probably not be feasible for the report to be presented two weeks before the debate, as had initially been hoped. The Panel considered whether the subsequent work it had agreed would make presentation before the date of debate difficult and whether, as a result, a request for the debate to be deferred should be made. It was agreed to discuss the matter further at the Panel's subsequent meeting.</p>	<p>SM</p> <p>SM</p> <p>SM</p> <p>SM</p> <p>SM</p> <p>SM</p>
<p>08/05/13 Item 6</p> <p>513/1(41)</p>	<p>4. New Hospital</p> <p>The Panel noted that a briefing on proposals in respect of a new hospital had been arranged for 3:00pm to 4:15pm on 30th July 2013, to which the Health, Social Security and Housing (HSSH) Scrutiny Panel had also been invited. It was noted that information regarding the proposals had been provided by the Minister for Treasury and Resources during the most recent sitting of the States Assembly. It was agreed that the matter needed to be followed up although it was noted that, under current arrangements, the HSSH Scrutiny Panel was leading on the topic.</p>	
<p>20/05/13 Item 1</p> <p>513/1(41)</p>	<p>5. Modernisation Programme</p> <p>The Panel recalled that there had been an undertaking to provide it with information by the Chief Executive and the Director of Human Resources during the briefing on 20th May 2013. The Panel was advised that the information had yet to be received and the Scrutiny Officers were therefore requested to follow up the matter.</p>	<p>WM</p>

<p>10/06/13 Item 1</p> <p>513/37(3)</p>	<p>6. Minister for External Relations</p> <p>The Panel noted that <i>Minister for External Relations</i> (SR9/2013) would be presented to the States on 13th June 2013. The Panel was advised that the report had been distributed under embargo to the Chief Minister's Department and subsequently to all States Members and that it would in due course also be sent that day to the media.</p> <p>The Panel considered the course of the review and noted that challenges had been presented during production of the Panel's report by the difficulty in achieving a quorum at Panel meetings. It was agreed that Panel Members should be diligent in responding to e-mails in which Panel approval was sought. The Panel was advised that work on the review had been affected by the fact that more work had been required on the Starter Home Deposit Loan Scheme review than had initially been planned. The Panel agreed it would undertake a formal evaluation of the Minister for External Relations review at its next meeting.</p>	<p>WM</p>
<p>08/05/13 Item 12</p> <p>513/38</p>	<p>7. Deposit Loan Scheme</p> <p>The Panel recalled its agreement to request an update from the Minister for Treasury and Resources and to write to the Chief Minister to advise that one recommendation in <i>Starter Home Deposit Loan Scheme</i> (SR5/2013) would require consideration by the Council of Ministers. The Panel was advised that correspondence had been dispatched and that both Ministers had responded to advise that the matters in question would be addressed. Consideration was given to whether there was currently sufficient information available about when the scheme would be introduced and how potential applicants would be informed. The Scrutiny Officer was requested to follow up matters with the Chief Minister's Department. The Panel also agreed to request from the Department of Housing the material which it had reportedly been distributing to interested members of the public.</p> <p>The Panel evaluated the process followed during the review. It was noted that the review had involved more work than had been planned when the topic had initially been chosen and that, as a result, some evidence had arrived once drafting of the report had begun. Nevertheless, there had not been too much of a delay in the presentation of the Panel's report. It was noted that expenditure on the review had amounted to £7,720. The Panel agreed that, in future, it would potentially be beneficial to hold a meeting with the relevant Minister(s) both once a Scrutiny Report had been presented and once the consequent Ministerial Response had been presented. The Panel considered whether any improvements could be made to ensure that States Members received information arising from Scrutiny Reviews (including Ministerial Responses) sufficiently far ahead of debates. It was agreed that this was a matter which the Panel could cover with the Chief Minister at a Quarterly Public Hearing and which the Chairmen's Committee should also be asked to consider.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>WM</p>
<p>08/05/13 Item 10</p> <p>513/1(40)</p>	<p>8. Quarterly Public Hearing with Chief Minister</p> <p>The Panel noted that its next Quarterly Public Hearing with the Chief Minister had been moved to 1:00pm on 25th June 2013. Apologies were received from Deputy R.J. Rondel and it was therefore noted that care would need to be taken to ensure that the Panel would not be inquorate. Consideration was given to the question plan and</p>	

	amendments were agreed, which the Scrutiny Officers were requested to enact.	SM / WM
08/05/13 Item 4 513/36	9. Population and Migration The Panel received an update in respect of Population and Migration matters and considered its subsequent course of action. This part of the meeting was held in private session under Paragraph 3.2.1(a)(xiv) of the <i>Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information</i> and a private record was therefore taken.	
08/05/13 Item 7 513/1(41)	10. Work Programme The Panel considered its Work Programme for 2013. It was noted that two significant reviews would be undertaken during the second half of the year, namely of Population Policy and the Long-Term Plan and in respect of the 2014 Budget. The Panel was advised that there was currently some scope for a short review to be undertaken before the summer recess. It was agreed that this time would be used for further follow-up work in respect of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and in preparation for its review of the 2014 Budget. The Panel agreed, however, that a list of propositions currently listed for debate and which had been lodged by either the Chief Minister or the Minister for Treasury and Resources should be compiled in order that the Panel could ascertain whether any significant matters had been missed.	WM
10/04/13 Item 4 513/35	11. Medium Term Financial Plan The Panel considered a paper prepared by the Scrutiny Office in relation to the recommendations made in <i>Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan</i> (SR18/2012) and the current status in respect of those recommendations. The Panel recalled that SR18/2012 had contained eleven recommendations, ten of which had been accepted by the Minister for Treasury and Resources. The Panel noted that Recommendations 4, 7 and 9 had effectively been implemented, although further follow-up work would be possible. The Panel subsequently noted that the target date for action in respect of Recommendations 1, 2, 6 and 10 had yet to be reached and that it was therefore not yet feasible to determine whether or not they had been implemented. The Panel was advised that further work would be required in respect of Recommendations 5, 8 and 11 in order to determine whether or not they had been implemented. The Panel agreed that further work should be undertaken and that consideration would also be given to Recommendation 3, albeit that the Minister for Treasury and Resources had not accepted it. It was agreed to correspond with the Minister with particular regard to Recommendations 6, 8, 9 and 10. The Panel was advised that its review of the 2014 Budget would provide an opportunity to follow up many of the recommendations which had been made in SR18/2012.	WM
513/1(47)	12. 2014 Budget The Panel noted that <i>Draft Amendment (No.21) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey</i> (P.65/2013) had been lodged by the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) and further noted that, if adopted, P.65/2013 would see the lodging period for the draft Budget	

	<p>extended from six weeks to eight weeks. Consideration was given to the impact that such a measure would have on future Budgets, in particular during years in which an election would take place, and the Scrutiny Officer was therefore requested to consult the Greffier of the States about the matter. The Scrutiny Officer was also requested to research the provenance of the proposal.</p> <p>The Panel noted that a briefing on the 2014 Budget would take place at 9:30am on 1st July 2013. The Panel was advised that a subsequent briefing date of 20th September 2013 had been proposed. The Scrutiny Officer was requested to correspond with Panel Members in order that the date could be confirmed.</p>	<p>WM WM</p> <p>WM</p>
	<p>13. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place at 2:00pm on 26th June 2013.</p>	