

Public Accounts Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 27th July 2015

Present	Deputy A.D. Lewis, Chairman Connétable C.H. Taylor Deputy J.A. Martin Deputy S.M. Wickenden Mr. G. Drinkwater Mr. M.J. Robinson
Apologies	Mr. R.J. Parker
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs. K. McConnell, Comptroller and Auditor General Mr. I. Clarkson, Clerk to the Public Accounts Committee

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	A1. Minutes The minutes of the meetings held on 6th July and 8th July 2015 were approved.	
512/1/1(8)	A2. Conflicts of Interest No new conflicts of interest were declared. The Committee noted that, in the event of a decision by the Committee to pursue a review of the JT Group shareholder relationship with the States, Mr. G. Drinkwater would declare a conflict of interest and withdraw from Committee proceedings.	
Item A4 06.07.15 512/1/1(1)	A3. Work Programme The Committee noted an updated report concerning the status of its work programme for 2015 and beyond. The Committee revisited the reports entitled, 'Car Parks Trading Fund' (PAC.3/2013 refers) and 'Health and Social Services: Integrated Care Records Programme' (PAC.2/2014 refers), which had been produced by the Committee as previously constituted. It was noted that both reports had made recommendations designed to improve the content and clarity of information within the next Medium Term Financial Plan. Having considered the content of the Draft medium Term Financial Plan 2016 – 2019, the Committee remained to be convinced that the relevant recommendations had been implemented. On that basis the Committee instructed its officer to prepare a draft comment to the Draft Medium Term Financial Plan for consideration by the Committee at its next scheduled meeting. Committee members resolved to familiarise themselves with the detailed findings of PAC.3/2013 and PAC.2/2014 in the intervening period. The Committee agreed that it should give consideration to the States of	Officer Cttee

	<p>Jersey Financial Report and Accounts 2014 during the latter part of 2015. In this regard, it agreed that contact should be made with the States of Jersey external auditors with a view to securing a presentation regarding the process of compiling the Independent Auditors' Report.</p> <p>The Committee, having recalled its decision of 6th July 2015 to defer a follow-up review of R.109/2014, noted that the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel had yet to launch a review of the offer by the owner of the Airtel telecommunications business to purchase a partial stake in JT Global. It was agreed that the Chairman should make contact with the Chairman of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel and establish whether that Panel intended to launch such a review.</p>	<p>Officer</p> <p>Chair</p>
	<p>A4. Terms of Reference (Standing Order 132) The Committee received a report concerning Standing Order 132 ('Public Accounts Committee: Terms of Reference').</p> <p>The Committee deferred consideration of the report to its next scheduled meeting.</p>	<p>Officer</p>
<p>Item A8 06.07.15 512/27</p>	<p>A5. Public Sector Reform The Committee gave further consideration to the transcript of the public hearing held on 15th June 2015 and considered a breakdown of budgets allocated to, and monies expended on, specific elements of the Public Sector Reform programme.</p> <p>The Committee considered the extent to which the programme appeared to be being managed as a discrete and auditable change programme with readily identifiable key milestones and a clear programme end date. It further considered how or whether specific change projects were being progressed separately from activities which might ordinarily be classified as business as usual.</p> <p>The Committee recalled the restrictions placed on the Committee by the Chief Minister's Department regarding the alleged confidential status of certain documents supplied during the course of the review.</p> <p>Certain provisional concerns were expressed regarding the manner in which the programme was being coordinated and regarding indications that the original vision for the programme had been or was being overtaken by recent developments concerning the relative strength of public finances. In this regard, the Committee considered whether the programme vision and key objectives had been refined or reset accordingly.</p> <p>The Committee agreed –</p> <p>(a) that a draft report reflecting the Committee's views should be prepared for subsequent consideration by the Committee, and</p> <p>(b) that it would be minded to invite the Comptroller and Auditor General to consider undertaking a review of one or more aspects of the Public Sector Reform programme in relatively early course.</p>	<p>Officer</p> <p>Cttee</p>
<p>Item A1 08.07.15</p>	<p>A6. Financial Directions The Committee considered a written response from the Treasurer of the</p>	

<p>512/25</p>	<p>States to the Committee's draft report entitled: 'Financial Directions.'</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the Treasurer of the States.</p> <p>The Treasurer of the States expressed various concerns regarding aspects of the Committee's draft report and invited the Committee to consider amending its draft report accordingly. He summarized certain implications that the planned development of revised, principles-based Financial Directions might have for the organization and he outlined the workload of the Treasury and Resources Department since the summer of 2014 relative to the resource available. The Committee was advised that the Department had somewhat unexpectedly experienced the highest number of applications for information made since the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 had come into force. The Treasurer explained that a plan for the necessary work had been devised, albeit that the plan could not yet be supplied to the Committee in documentary form. A report describing the outcomes of an Internal Audit review of the implementation of previously agreed audit recommendations would assist the planned work.</p> <p>The Treasurer withdrew from the meeting following further discussion of aspects of the Committee's draft report.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that a series of minor amendments to its draft report should be made and that a suitably revised draft should be circulated for Committee approval in early course.</p>	<p>Officer</p>
<p>Item A9 06.07.15 512/1/1(1)</p>	<p>A7. Comptroller and Auditor General – Work Programme</p> <p>The Committee –</p> <p>(a) received a briefing on the status of the Jersey Audit Office Audit Plan, and</p> <p>(b) received an oral briefing on the status of the following ongoing follow-up reviews being undertaken by the Jersey Audit Office –</p> <p>(i) Internal Audit,</p> <p>(ii) Management Information in Health and Social Services Department Operating Theatres, and</p> <p>(iii) Procurement.</p>	

Signed

Date:

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Chairman
Panel