

# Chairmen's Committee

## Record of Meeting

Date: 22nd January 2013

Present	Deputy T.A. Vallois, President (Present for all items except 10,11,12,13, 15,16 &17) Deputy S.G. Luce, Vice-President Deputy J. Reed (representing Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel) Deputy J.M. Maçon Deputy J.H. Young Deputy K.L. Moore
Apologies	Senator S.C. Ferguson
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Minutes of previous meetings</b></p> <p>The record of the meeting of 18th December 2012 was approved subject to some typographical amendments. The records of the meetings of 2nd and 11th January 2013 were also approved and accordingly signed.</p>	
510/1(45)	<p><b>2. Quarterly Hearings: efficiency</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that it was not incumbent on Panels to hold quarterly hearings; indeed the original intention had been to hold quarterly meetings with the purpose of sharing information about respective work programmes. However, quarterly hearings had evolved and the Committee agreed that these were beneficial in terms of public accountability. They provided opportunities to explore the work of the Ministers and any delays on policies, to drill down on specific matters, to follow up on previous reviews and to question recent events. It was agreed that quarterly hearings should only be used to question live reviews when it related to recent information which could not be left for a review-specific hearing.</p> <p>On a related matter, the Committee considered that both the Podcasts and Hansards of Public Hearings may be accessed more readily if they were indexed. An efficient way of achieving this would be explored.</p> <p>It was agreed that Panel Chairmen needed to consider how they would deal with cross-cutting issues.</p>	<b>Chairmen</b>
18.12.12 Item 4 530/1(51)	<p><b>3. Skills Strategy Review</b></p> <p>It was noted that an attempt to meet with the three Ministers involved, with relevant officers present, remained ongoing. The Committee reiterated the importance of Scrutiny undertaking a cross-cutting review into this, however, noted that in order to be</p>	

	able to organise itself it needed to be appraised of the progress and the timelines of the Executive. It was agreed that the President would discuss the matter with the Chief Minister at their next regular meeting.	<b>TO</b>
<b>24.04.12 Item 16 510/3(5)</b>	<b>4. Newsletter – edition 11</b>  The Committee agreed to circulate Edition 11 of the Newsletter in Spring 2013. In view of a possible price increase after that time it agreed to review whether to circulate a further autumn edition at a later date.	<b>KTF</b>
<b>510/3(9)</b>	<b>5. Social Networking</b>  The Committee noted that the Scrutiny Office had attempted to operate a Facebook site for a period of time in previous years. Due to a wide number of administrative complications and reasons this had been disbanded. However, the possibility of using Twitter was considered as a possible alternative. Whilst recognising that this could be managed within the office from the point of view of circulating information on factual matters such as Scrutiny Public Hearings and press releases, it was noted that any comments of a political nature would need to be referred back to the relevant Panels. The establishment of a Twitter site would be investigated.	<b>KTF</b>
<b>18.12.12 Item 7 510/3(2)</b>	<b>6. Citizenship Programme</b>  The Committee was advised that two schools [Les Quennevais and Le Rocquier] had initially agreed to take part in this project. This was perhaps beneficial given the large number of new Scrutiny Members who had not previously been involved in this programme and the demand the programme required on Member time. Confirmation from these schools was currently being sought as were possible timings.  The Committee considered topic selection and agreed that this should rest with the educationalists with the input of Scrutiny to ascertain if a live topic would be feasible.	<b>KTF</b>
<b>510/1(69)</b>	<b>7. Intervention of Scrutiny into executive work: timing</b>  The Committee considered the outcome of the meeting between itself and the Council of Ministers on 9th January 2013 in respect of the timing of intervention of Scrutiny into Executive matters. It was felt that the meeting had shown a divide between the Ministers and Scrutiny with no subscription to inclusivity on the part of the Ministers. The Committee considered requesting H.M Attorney General to opine on Standing Order 136(a) in respect of what constituted a review, what constituted a matter of public interest and equally what the role of Scrutiny was in the existing Machinery of Government. However, after considerable debate, it was agreed that it was not necessary to involve H.M. Attorney General and no contact would be made.  It was considered that as all matters involved public money, everything should be available for Scrutiny. All Business Cases across the Executive should be signed off by Ministers, therefore should be considered as policy and should be subject to Scrutiny if Scrutiny so chose.	

	<p>It was also noted that the PAC would not be bringing in Accounting Officers on every matter as had been suggested at the joint meeting, as it had its own full and important work programme.</p> <p>It was agreed that this matter would be further considered by the President at her forthcoming meeting with the Chief Minister.</p>	
<b>510/1(80)</b>	<p><b>8. Ministerial Oversight Boards</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the President should request the Chief Minister for a list of all Ministerial Oversight Boards/Political Oversight Groups which included the membership of each Board, who served on each and information about the remit of each.</p>	
	<p><b>9. Panel Activity Reports</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the Panel Activity Reports.</p>	
<p><b>10.10.12</b> <b>Item 1</b></p> <p><b>510/1(61)</b></p>	<p><b>10. Ministerial responses: follow-up on accepted recommendations</b></p> <p>A brief discussion was held on this matter but it was agreed to hold it over to the next meeting when time would be set aside to dedicate to this.</p>	
<p><b>13.11.12</b> <b>Item 13</b></p> <p><b>510/1(70)</b></p>	<p><b>11. Scrutiny Members meeting</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that this was scheduled for 20th February 2013. Consideration was given to the benefit, or otherwise, of holding meetings over a States lunchtime recess. The Committee agreed to invite all Scrutiny Members if there were any items they wished to discuss at the meeting. The Committee considered the date of the debate on the Electoral Commission proposition in respect of a forthcoming referendum which was 19th February and deliberated whether an open discussion on reform, Machinery of Government Reform issues would be timely. It was agreed that it would be put down as an initial agenda item which if it became inappropriate, could be removed closer to the time.</p> <p>Consideration was given to inviting Members who were co-opted to Scrutiny Panels or who sat on Sub-Panels. The Committee was advised that in previous years it had been decided that, as such Members were not appointed to Scrutiny by the States and their rôle was purely review-specific, they should not be invited to attend Scrutiny gatherings of this nature.</p>	
<p><b>18.12.12</b> <b>Item 13</b></p> <p><b>1240/25(7)</b></p>	<p><b>12. Annual Report 2012</b></p> <p>The draft was considered and approved. Some discussion took place in respect of progress to be made during 2013 &amp; the use of success criteria for the 2013 Annual Report.</p>	
<p><b>12.12.11</b> <b>Item 8</b></p> <p><b>510/1(63)</b></p>	<p><b>13. Statement of Common Purpose</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the Statement of Intent remained an essential document for all involved in Scrutiny to sign up to, be that as a full Panel or Public Accounts Committee Member appointed by the States, a co-opted Member or a Member sitting on a Sub-Panel. It was agreed that, on any occasion a new Member was either appointed to a Panel by the States, was co-opted onto a main Scrutiny Panel or was to sit on a Sub-Panel for a specific review, they should be forwarded the Statement of Intent. The relevant</p>	<b>Chair</b>

	<p>Chairman would be responsible for carrying this out. The Committee also agreed that, in the event that the Code was breached by a Member, the Chairman should take the necessary action and advise the Chairmen's Committee of the circumstances.</p> <p>On a related matter, it was agreed that the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Panels and PAC would be included on the Statement. The revised Statement would be circulated to all Members by way of a reminder.</p>	<p><b>men</b></p> <p><b>KTF</b></p>
<p><b>18.12.12</b> <b>Item 15</b>  <b>1443(1)</b></p>	<p><b>14. Comptroller and Auditor General [C&amp;AG]: update</b></p> <p>It was anticipated that the proposition to appoint the next C&amp;AG would be adopted by the States on 29th January. In the event that this was successful, the incumbent was due to undertake an induction visit to Jersey on 5th-7th February.</p>	
<p><b>512/19</b></p>	<p><b>15. Grants and Subsidies Review: Public Accounts Committee</b></p> <p>The Committee noted a Scoping document for the above review.</p>	
<p><b>513/37(2)</b></p>	<p><b>16. Starter Homes Deposit Loan Scheme: Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel</b></p> <p>The Committee noted a Scoping document for the above review.</p>	
<p><b>515/26</b></p>	<p><b>17. Innovation Fund Review: Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel</b></p> <p>The Committee noted a Scoping document for the above review.</p>	
<p><b>510/1(35)</b></p>	<p><b>18. Staffing</b></p> <p>The Committee was apprised of the current staffing situation in relation to Scrutiny Officers which has now reached its maximum permitted headcount.</p>	
<p><b>514/1(34)</b></p>	<p><b>19. Conflict of Interest</b></p> <p>The Committee considered the matter of a perceived conflict of interest on the part of the Environment Scrutiny Panel Chairman in respect of scrutinising Planning matters. The Committee noted that the Chairman had left his previous rôle as Chief Officer of the Planning and Environment Department in 2004, some 8 years ago and considered that this was sufficient time to have overcome the majority of conflicts of interest. However, the Chairman was advised to take certain precautions if the Environment Scrutiny Panel were to review planning matters, namely, appoint an independent adviser, always have a Scrutiny Officer present at all meetings to provide the independent, impartial and objective note-taking rôle and to avoid contact with officers with whom he had previously worked.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the Chief Minister had indicated that he would be undertaking his own review into planning matters and in light of this it was agreed that the Panel should avoid duplication but determine its terms of reference to shape a review around that being undertaken by the Chief Minister.</p> <p>The President undertook to discuss this at the forthcoming meeting with the Chief Minister.</p>	

	<p><b>20. Future meetings</b></p> <p>a) All Scrutiny Members meeting: 22nd February 2013, 1.00pm – 2.00pm, Blampied Room</p> <p>b) Chairmen’s Committee: 26th February 2013, 9.30am-11.30am, Le Capelain Room.</p>	
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Signed

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President  
Chairmen’s Committee