

Environment Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: 11th June 2009

Meeting Number: 8

Present	Deputy P Rondel (Chairman) (PR) Connétable J Réfault (JR)
Absent	Deputy D Wimberley (Vice Chairman) (DW)
In attendance	M Haden, M Orbell

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of Meetings</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 7th May 2009 were approved and signed.</p>	MH
	<p>2. Action Updates</p> <p>The action update report was noted.</p> <p>A written report on the Sustainable Development Conference was still awaited.</p>	DW
	<p>3. Building Bye Laws</p> <p>The Panel was informed that:</p> <p>(a) The Economic Study undertaken by the Department for Economic Development had not yet been finalised due to pressing work on the Economic Stimulus package.</p> <p>(b) terms of reference for the promised independent report to be commissioned by Planning and Environment had not yet been agreed; the JEC apparently believed that it should be a broader study, looking at the carbon intensity of all fuels and including the implications of importing gas, oil etc., to cover the full life-cycle of an energy source. A copy of the letter from the Chief Executive, Planning and Environment, to Jersey Gas was noted. A response from Jersey Gas had not yet been received.</p>	
<p>Item 3 07.05.09 514/9(8)</p>	<p>3. Energy from Waste Plant and Ramsar: Review of planning process</p> <p>The Panel noted progress to date with the review. The advisers were well advanced with a desk-top study of documents supplied by Planning and Environment. Key issues raised so far were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of empirical evidence</i> • <i>Ambiguity around the scoping and consultation process</i> • <i>Concerns regarding elements of the technical assessment</i> <p>Further information had been requested from the Department. The advisers had offered two possible dates for a further visit to include public hearings. Officers were asked to follow up the possibility of holding hearings on 8th-9th July.</p>	MO

	<p>4. States Environmental Initiatives</p> <p>Members considered a discussion paper concerning environmental and sustainable transport spending initiatives put forward by the Transport and Technical Services Department. Proposed improvements were split between the areas of Recycling and Transport. It was noted that the Integrated Travel and Transport Plan was already included as a forthcoming review in the Panel's work programme; the Department had been asked to respond to comments on the draft plan previously submitted by the Panel at the next quarterly briefing meeting.</p> <p>The Connétable of St Peter agreed to lead on this review. The possibility of forming a Sub-Panel was considered, it was suggested that the Deputy of St Mary and one other co-opted member would be required; it was agreed that a younger member of the House with some environmental credentials would be an ideal candidate.</p> <p>A possible site visit was discussed and officers were asked to confirm a date for this with the Department.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>MH</p>
	<p>5. Environmental Taxation</p> <p>The Panel considered the green paper from the Treasury and Resources Department proposing new environmental taxation to provide continued funding for the environmental initiatives noted above. Members were of the opinion that the paper provided no evidence of an aim to improve the environment through the application of these new taxes. It was considered that the targeting of vehicle emissions appeared to be based more on social acceptability and the opportunity for tax revenues than on any realistic environmental benefits that could be expected.</p> <p>Officers were asked to prepare a Panel response to the consultation.</p>	<p>MO</p>
	<p>6. Chairmen's Committee</p> <p>Members noted the six monthly overview report on its work programme.</p> <p>The Panel considered the recent debate on the States Strategic Plan and agreed that a completely different process was required.</p>	
	<p>7. Correspondence</p> <p>(a) Ms S. Harvey: The Panel noted concern about the role of the Minister for Planning and Environment in planning applications where design consultants have been commissioned by the Department. It was agreed to guide her to the previous Panel's report on the Planning Process. It was also noted that the new Jersey Enterprise Board might lead to a new focus;</p> <p>(b) Earth Sheltered Eco Home: The Panel agreed that it was unable to comment on individual planning applications.</p> <p>Officers were requested to draft replies accordingly.</p>	<p>MH</p>
	<p>8. Forthcoming Meetings The following meetings were confirmed:</p> <p>(a) Environmental Protection Regime A meeting with the Comptroller and Auditor General concerning the terms of</p>	

	reference for his review of Environmental Protection on 15 th June (b) Hearings on Energy Efficiency in States Buildings on 24th June 2009 (c) The next scheduled Panel meeting on 7th July 2009 (d) The next quarterly briefing with the Minister for Transport and Technical Services on 7th July 2009.	
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Signed

B. K. ...

Date:

7/7/09.

Chairman Environment Panel

