

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 28th February 2017

Present	Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré, President and Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel Deputy S.M. Brée, Chairman, Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel Deputy D. Johnson, Chairman, Environment, Housing and Technical Services Scrutiny Panel Deputy A.D. Lewis, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee (except Item 1) Deputy R. Renouf, Chairman, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel Deputy T.A. Vallois, Vice-Chairman, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Apologies	Deputy L.M.C. Doublet, Vice-President and Chairman, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Absent	
In attendance	Mr T. Walker, Chief Officer, Community and Constitutional Affairs (Item 3 in part) Mr D. Le Marquand, Policy Officer, Community and Constitutional Affairs (Item 3 in part) Dr. M. Egan, Greffier of the States (Item 3 in part and Item 4) Mr T. Oldham, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of meetings</p> <p>The Committee approved the records of its meetings held on 24th, 25th and 27th January, and 8th and 20th February. The records were signed accordingly by the President.</p>	
24.01.17 Item 2	<p>2. Activity Reports</p> <p>The Committee noted Panel and PAC activity reports.</p>	
510/1(46)	<p>3. Role and Appointment of Assistant Ministers</p> <p>The Committee welcomed Mr T. Walker and Mr D. Le Marquand, Chief Officer and Policy Officer respectively of the Community and Constitutional Affairs Department, who provided a briefing on work being undertaken in response to <i>P.53/2016 States' approval of Assistant Ministers' appointments</i> as amended.</p> <p>The Committee was provided with a short paper outlining draft proposals developed from the perspective of the executive, which would now form the basis of consultation with wider stakeholders. The meeting with the Committee was an early example of this consultation.</p> <p>It was noted that, amongst other matters, this work sought primarily to address concerns expressed by some Members about 'inclusivity' in the work of the executive. It was recognised that proposals relating to the issue of inclusivity might have significant impact on the Scrutiny</p>	

	<p>function, and important principles of the current machinery of government. The Committee was informed that the paper had deliberately not sought to pre-empt the Scrutiny perspective, as it was the intention for this work to be appropriately informed by the Committee during the consultation phase. The Committee's feedback on the proposals would therefore be welcomed, as would its suggestions concerning any alternative proposals that may be developed during its discussions.</p> <p>Following the departure of the Chief Officer and Policy Officer, the Committee was joined by the Greffier of the States to assist the Committee's consideration of the possible impact of the proposals on Scrutiny and the machinery of government more broadly.</p> <p>It was agreed by the Committee that important matters of principle and more detailed aspects of the proposals would require further consideration. To assist this, the Committee agreed to request further information from the Chief Officer and Policy Officer about the rationale behind the work, the associated objectives and the timeframe.</p>	TO
517/36	<p>4. Conflict of Interest: Long Term Care Review</p> <p>The Committee considered the potential conflict of interest of the Chairman of the Health and Social Security Panel. The Committee noted that the Chairman was potentially financially conflicted as his spouse was registered under the Long-Term Care Scheme. In addition, the Chairman had advised that he was seeking clarification from the Social Security Department about the composition of this benefit, but it was hoped that this would be resolved in the near future.</p> <p>The matter had been considered by the Chairman's own Panel, which had looked at the interest in relation to the Code of Practice and Standing Orders of the States of Jersey. The Panel had acknowledged the Chairman's desire to participate in the review and supported him doing so, but in line with the Code of Practice had agreed that the matter would be passed on to the Chairmen's Committee for its consideration.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the openness of Chairman and the declaration that he had made. It gave particular attention to the matter of a direct financial interest, which if applicable would have required the recusal of the Chairman. It was agreed, however, that precedent in the Assembly had established that a direct financial interest could not be an interest shared with a large class of persons, and therefore being in receipt of financial support from the Long Term Care Scheme did not represent a direct financial interest.</p> <p>It was agreed accordingly that the Chairman should not be excluded from participation in the Review. Nevertheless, it would be appropriate, and mitigate potential perception issues, for the Chairman to continue to be open and transparent throughout the Review about his indirect financial interest. This might also include taking steps to avoid actions that could be interpreted as being of direct influence on his declared interest, for example in relation to the nature of the questions he might ask at Public Hearings.</p>	RR

<p>24.01.17 Item 4</p> <p>510/1(86)</p>	<p>5. Protocol for Engagement between Scrutiny Panels/PAC and the Executive</p> <p>The Committee received an update on the progress of the Working Group. It was agreed that the Working Group would be delegated responsibility to continue to progress the Engagement Protocol and the Scrutiny Proceedings Code of Practice, updating the Committee at each scheduled meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that as a next step the President, on behalf of the Working Group, should meet the Director of Corporate Policy, to discuss its feedback on the comments received about the draft Protocol from the Chief Minister.</p>	<p>JLF</p> <p>JLF/DJ/ RR</p>
<p>24.01.17 Item 5</p> <p>511/2/1</p>	<p>6. Residential Property Transactions Review Panel</p> <p>Deputy D. Johnson, Chairman of the Review Panel, updated the Committee about the progress of the Review. It was noted that the Panel would seek to meet shortly to progress its draft report.</p>	<p>DJ</p>
	<p>7. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Committee noted that its next meeting was scheduled to take place on 21st March at 9.30am, Le Capelain Room, States Building.</p>	