

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 16th October 2012

Present	Deputy T.A. Vallois, President Deputy S.G. Luce, Vice-President Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy J.H. Young Deputy K.L. Moore
Apologies	Deputy J.M. Maçon
Absent	
In attendance	Mr. T. Oldham, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	1. Minutes of previous meetings The minutes of the meetings of 18th September and 8th October 2012, having been approved, were accordingly signed.	
02.05.12 Item 1 517/20	2. Health Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Panel - Housing Transformation Programme The Committee noted the revised Terms of Reference for the Sub-Panel's Review of the Housing Transformation Programme, to incorporate examination of the forthcoming Report and Proposition.	
517/19	3. Health Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel Health White Paper Review The Committee was informed that following presentation of its report on 15th October, the Panel would be scoping follow up work in relation to the business cases associated with the Report and Proposition 'Health and Social Services: A New Way Forward'. This would be a significant piece of work, requiring the full attention of the Panel between this point and the New Year.	
10.10.12 Item 7 510/1(74)	4. Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel [HSSH]: remit The Committee discussed the large remit of the Health Social Security and Housing Panel, and its suggestion that consideration should be given to relocating responsibility for the scrutiny of Housing. The Environment Panel would be discussing this as part of its work programme consideration at its forthcoming meeting. Consideration was given to a proposal to establish a Social Policy Sub-Panel, with the Committee acknowledging the importance and scale of potential work in this area. The proposal would be raised for discussion by the Chairman of the Corporate Services Panel at a forthcoming meeting of that Panel. It was thought that with its proposed remit, the Sub-Panel could potentially alleviate some of the workload on the Health Social Security and Housing Panel in relation to Housing, although it was acknowledged that that Panel	

	would formally remain responsible for the scrutiny of Housing under Standing Orders.	
10.10.12 Item 7 510/1(75)	<p>5. Chairmen's Committee Expenditure</p> <p>The Committee was informed about correspondence from the Chief Minister advising the President of an upcoming Jersey and Guernsey Law Review Conference 'Confederation of the Channel Islands? Next Steps'. It agreed that there was merit in sending representation on behalf of the Committee, and that one Member should attend and report back. As the conference appeared to be of particular relevance to the Corporate Services Panel, its Chairman agreed to confirm her availability after checking a possible clash with a pre-arranged commitment. The Committee also considered more generally its ability to use the Scrutiny budget to attend conferences and other similar events, noting the role of the Greffier as Accounting Officer in relation to all Scrutiny expenditure.</p> <p>Discussion was also held with regard to which expenses incurred by voluntary advisers to Panels during Reviews might appropriately be recompensed by Panels, and how this might be achieved. The Committee also considered its ability to purchase small gifts in recognition of the work of unpaid advisers at the end of a Review. The Committee was advised that this expenditure would most appropriately be made by the Panel in question, using the relevant Review budget.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that clarification should be sought from the Greffier regarding the above matters, and the ability of the Chairmen's Committee to agree discretionary expenditure. Accordingly, the President and Vice-President would seek a meeting with the Greffier.</p>	TO
511/1(52)	<p>6. Media Ombudsman</p> <p>The Committee considered the suggestion by Deputy T.M. Pitman for scrutiny of the provision of a media ombudsman. It agreed that it would be premature to take a decision on the matter before the UK Leveson Inquiry had reported, which it was scheduled to do in November 2012. The Committee would write to Deputy T.M. Pitman to advise him of this decision.</p>	TO
465/1(177)	<p>7. Troy Rule</p> <p>The Committee noted ongoing political discussion regarding the future of the Troy Rule. The Committee agreed that no decisions relating to an amendment of the Troy Rule should be made until the Privileges and Procedures Committee's Machinery of Government Review Sub-Committee had reported. It further agreed that this point should be relayed by the President to the Chief Minister at their next scheduled meeting.</p>	TV
10.10.12 Item 3 465/1(169)	<p>8. Electronic Devices: use in Scrutiny Hearings</p> <p>The appropriate use by Panel members and witnesses of electronic devices during Public Hearings was discussed by the Committee. It was agreed that their use would be permitted as it was a matter of individual preference between paper and an electronic device. However, the impact of this decision would be monitored through the Committee, and any use should be directly related to the</p>	

	proceedings, with devices being set to silent mode. It was agreed that the relevant protocols for witnesses should be amended to reflect this decision. The protocol for members of the public observing would remain the same, this being that all electronic devices must be turned off.	TO
	9. Panel Activity Reports The Committee noted the Panel Activity Reports.	
512/1(5)	10. Public Accounts Committee: Officer resources Consideration was given to the Officer resources available to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). It was noted that the role of the PAC differed from that of the Scrutiny Panels, and consequently the requirements placed on its Officer in providing support were not identical to those of the other Officers within the Scrutiny Office in their roles supporting the Scrutiny Panels. The Committee agreed that continuity of Officer support was vital, and whilst there was clear flexibility to maintain this in regard to Scrutiny Panels, there was concern raised regarding cover in the absence of the single PAC Officer. The Committee agreed that the Scrutiny Manager would be requested to consider the merits of providing specific PAC training for one or more Scrutiny Officers to address concerns regarding PAC cover.	TO
12.12.11 Item 7 511/1(48)	11. President's meeting with the Chief Minister The next meeting between the President of Chairmen's Committee and the Chief Minister was scheduled to take place on 19th October 2012. The Committee agreed that in addition to the Troy Rule, the President should raise the issues of the proposed Social Policy Sub-Panel and the use of electronic devices at Scrutiny Hearings for discussion.	
12.12.11 Item 19 510/3(2)	12. Citizenship Programme The Committee recalled previous discussions about Scrutiny's involvement in the Citizenship Programme, and that the project had not continued in 2012. It was agreed that the Department of Education, Sport and Culture would be contacted to establish whether there were plans to re-establish this project in 2013.	TV/TO
	13. Future meetings The Committee noted that its next meeting was scheduled to take place on 13th November 2012, 9.30am-11.30am, Le Capelain Room States Building. The Chairman of the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel gave her apologies and informed the Committee that she would request the Panel's Vice-Chairman to attend in her place.	