

Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Meeting No. 37

21st March 2007

Blampied Room, States Building

Present Deputy G. P. Southern, Chairman
Deputy J. A. Martin
Connétable M. K. Jackson
Deputy K. C. Lewis

Apologies

In attendance Mr N. Fox, Scrutiny Officer
Ms. E. Kingston, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1.	Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2006 were considered and approved.	NJF
2.	Matters Arising The Panel received briefing notes from the Chairmen's Committee meeting of 9th March 2007.	
3. Item 3 7th March 2007 Item 3 7th March 2007	Retail Strategy Review Documents received The Panel received additional information for its review files, and two new submissions from the public. The Panel considered the second draft of the report and while it acknowledged that much additional work needed to be carried out, it concluded that was progressing in the appropriate manner. Public hearings The Panel recalled that it had cancelled the hearings planned for 28th February 2007 and 15th March 2007 due to the Economic Development Minister's absence. The Panel noted that the Minister was unlikely to be available for any hearing prior to the intended completion date of the review. The Panel considered that it would therefore it would not be possible to finalise a full report, as the Minister's contribution would be essential. Completion of review The Panel noted time and staffing concerns regarding the completion of a full report by the current completion date of 5th April 2007.	NJF

	<p>Accordingly, the Panel decided that it would produce an interim report for the consideration of stakeholders by 5th April, and that a final report would be produced at a later date.</p> <p>The officers were directed to complete a final draft of the interim Retail Strategy Review report by 31st March 2007.</p>	NJF
4.	<p>Jersey Telecom Sub-Panel</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Chairman had held preliminary discussions with the Treasury and Resources Minister and the Chief Minister regarding the undertaking of a cost benefit analysis in respect of the privatisation of Jersey Telecom.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Sub-Panel had remained in existence after the production of its report, and that it would be the body responsible for the Scrutiny element of the cost/benefit analysis.</p> <p>The Chairman was of the opinion that the Sub-Panel should re-engage Dr. D. Parker, the consultant involved in the production of Jersey Telecom Privatisation, (S.R.5/2007) to represent Scrutiny on any body formed to carry out the analysis.</p> <p>The Panel agreed in principle to provide funding to re-engage Dr. Parker as necessary, subject to clarification of an exact figure at a later date, although it expressed reservations over the remaining annual budget.</p>	
5.	<p>Receipt of information</p> <p>The Panel noted that it had not received responses to correspondence sent to the Economic Development Minister and regarding progress against initiatives within the Strategic Plan, and had not yet received the terms of reference of the Experian retail report, as requested at the public hearing held on 22nd February 2007.</p> <p>Officers were directed to contact the Department in respect of these matters.</p>	NJF
6.	<p>Future meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted that while the next meeting was scheduled for 4th April 2007, the timescale for production of the interim Retail Strategy report required that the Panel meet prior to this to consider drafts. The Panel therefore decided that it would meet on Wednesday 29th March 2007 at 1.00pm.</p> <p>Officers were directed to an initial draft of the report available by the evening of Monday 29th March for consideration.</p>	NJF

Signed

Date

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Chairman Deputy G. P. Southern
Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

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