

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: **17th May 2007**

Meeting Number: **38**

Present	Deputy P J D Ryan, Chairman Senator J Perchard, Vice Chairman Connétable D Murphy
Apologies	Connétable J L S Gallichan Deputy C Egré
In attendance	Mr M Haden, Scrutiny Officer Miss S Power, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1.	<p>Minutes –</p> <p>The Panel approved the minutes of the meetings held on the 15th March; 21st March; 30th March and 1st May 2007.</p>	
2.	<p>Ministerial Decisions –</p> <p>The Panel noted Ministerial Decisions within its remit for the period from 15th April up to 10th May 2007, especially with regard to the Framework for developing the international identity in Jersey. The Panel agreed that this was an area it wished to monitor, and requested for the Scrutiny Officer to provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The letter from Advocate Lakeman published in the Jersey Evening Post earlier in the week; b. The Bailiff's Liberation Day speech; c. To establish progress made by the Constitutional Review Group since the confidential Council of Ministers paper dated 29th January 2007. 	<p>MH</p> <p>MH</p> <p>MH</p>
3.	<p>Scrutiny Topic Proposals –</p> <p>The Panel considered the following correspondence from members of the public and requested for the following actions to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Tax allowances for unmarried couples: a response to be drafted advising that the issue was on the agenda for the Legislation Advisory Committee, however it is unlikely to be addressed within the next two years. b) Timescales and budgets for States projects: a response to be drafted explaining the since the Public Accounts Committee had been introduced 	<p>MH</p>

	<p>to the States, the issue of timescales and budgets for States projects have been rigorously examined.</p> <p>c) Declaration of welfare payments on Income Tax returns: Social Security Department to be contacted to request for clarification on this issue.</p> <p>d) The Island's ageing population & pensions: It was agreed that the issue of an ageing population would be partially covered by the Sub Panel's Review into the Migration Policy Proposals. The Panel agreed to give further consideration to a review of pension provision later in the year. Meanwhile an update was requested from the Minister on negotiations to fill the gap left by the departure of Norwich Union.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>MH</p> <p>MH</p>
4.	<p>Panel expenditure –</p> <p>a. The Panel noted a summary financial report as at 10th May 2007.</p> <p>b. The Panel approved an extension of the contract for the Panel's tax adviser, for a combined overall total of £10,410.00 for the GST and Zero/Ten Reviews.</p>	
5.	<p>Overseas Aid Review –</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Overseas Aid Sub-Panel was nearing completion of its Report. It was agreed that the final draft would be approved by the Panel by way of a telephone meeting.</p>	
6.	<p>GST Review –</p> <p>The Panel noted that the next stage of the GST Sub-Panel's Review would involve consideration of the treatment of the financial services industry; the treatment of imports at customs; and the forthcoming GST Regulations.</p> <p>It was noted that the next stages of this Review would be progressed once the JCG Sub Panel had completed its Review, as the necessary Officer resources would then be available.</p>	
7.	<p>Zero/Ten Review –</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Zero/Ten Sub-Panel had now received a confidential copy of the draft legislation from the Treasury and Resources Department, and the Panel's adviser was currently considering the document with the view to providing the Sub-Panel with his comments within the next three weeks.</p>	
8.	<p>Migration Policy Review –</p> <p>The Panel welcomed Deputies Southern and Martin to the meeting to discuss the next stage of the Migration Policy Review.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that the data protection issues concerning the Migration Policy proposals should form the basis of an interim report, which the Panel would aim to present to the States in advance of the summer recess.</p>	

	<p>The Panel requested confirmation of the timescale for the public consultation on the Population Register and the Population Study.</p> <p>It was noted that given the Panel's current workload the Officer resources would only be available for this stage of the Review once the Overseas Aid Report had been presented to the States.</p>	SP
9.	<p>Former JCG Site Review –</p> <p>The Panel was informed that the JCG Sub Panel's Review was now nearing completion, and the Report would be presented to the States on the 22nd May 2007. It was noted that the Sub-Panel had held a confidential meeting with the Minister for Treasury and Resources to discuss the content of the draft Report in advance of publication, and had been pleased to note that the Report had been well received by the Minister.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the possibility of the Sub-Panel making a statement to the States Assembly; however it was agreed to wait for the response from the Minister for Treasury and Resources before taking this route.</p>	
10.	<p>States Annual Business Plan –</p> <p>a) Scrutiny of the Departmental Cash Limits</p> <p>The Panel deferred discussion on this issue until its update meeting during the States lunch break on the 5th June 2007.</p> <p>The Panel noted that it would receive a briefing from the Treasury and Resources Department on the next stage of the Annual Business Planning process at its next meeting on the 21st June 2007.</p> <p>b) Scrutiny of the Financial Forecasting</p> <p>It was noted that an officer briefing had been arranged in advance of the involvement of the panel's lead members.</p>	MH
11.	<p>The Island's International Tax Agreements –</p> <p>The Panel noted that with its current heavy workload it would not be possible to begin this Review within the next few months as a result of a lack of resources. It was therefore agreed to postpone this issue until the Panel was able to dedicate the necessary time to the Review.</p>	
12.	<p>Forward Work Planning –</p> <p>The Panel requested for the Scrutiny Officer to produce a paper highlighting the reporting timeline for all current Reviews, in addition to officer time commitments for the next 15 weeks, to ensure the Panel could plan its workload accordingly.</p>	MH
13.	<p>Future Meetings:</p> <p>Panel update meeting – 5th June 2007 at 1 pm</p> <p>Full Panel meeting – 21st June 2007 at 9.30 am</p>	

Signed

Date:

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Chairman
Deputy P J D Ryan