

# Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

## PUBLIC SESSION

### Record of Meeting

Date: 30th September 2009

Meeting 48

Present	Senator S.C. Ferguson, Chairman Deputy T.A. Vallois Deputy M. Higgins (Co-opted and present for item 6)
Apologies	Deputy C.H. Egré, Vice-Chairman Connétable D.J. Murphy
Absent	
In attendance	Mr M. Robbins, Scrutiny Officer Mr W Millow, Scrutiny Officer.

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Records of Meetings</b></p> <p>The Panel approved the records of its meetings on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009.</p> <p>The approved Minutes were signed by the Chairman.</p>	
	<p><b>2. Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The Panel noted the update on actions it had requested at previous meetings.</p>	
02/09/09 Item 3	<p><b>3. Finance Sub-Panel</b></p> <p>Following an update of the Forecasting of Expenditure Review, the Panel approved that the Chairman, advisor and an officer investigate the formal process undertaken by a successful national company in forecasting of expenditure. A meeting was available with 'Whitbread' in London on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009. This company had several medium-sized hospitality companies within its portfolio. The Panel approved the cost of travel for this one-day visit.</p> <p>The Panel also noted that a meeting of the Sub-Panel was arranged for the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 and that hearings had been arranged for the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Members who sat on the Sub-Panel would have draft questions circulated for consideration.</p>	MR  MR
02/09/09 Item 4	<p><b>4. Migration and Population Sub-Panel</b></p> <p>The Panel recalled that Deputy D.J. de Sousa had joined the Sub-Panel. It was noted that there had been no movement on this topic and the meeting scheduled for 14.30 on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 was therefore</p>	

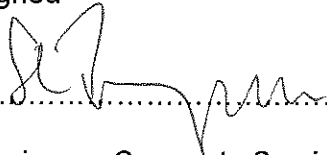
	cancelled.	
<b>02/09/09 Item 5</b>	<p><b>5. Jersey Development Company Sub-Panel</b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the draft report of the Jersey Development Company Sub-Panel. It was noted that comments had been received from the expert advisor that would require three amendments to the report. The Panel approved the amendments and the report, as amended, subject to confirmation from Deputy C.H. Egré, Chairman of the Sub-Panel, that he too approved the amendments. It was noted that this work would potentially lead to a delay of one day in presenting the report.</p> <p>It was noted that the Sub-Panel Chairman would meet Senator T.A. Le Sueur, Chief Minister, on 2nd October 2009 to discuss the report.</p>	<b>WM</b>
<b>24/09/09, Item 1</b>	<p><b>6. Economic Stimulus Plan 2 Review (ESP2)</b></p> <p>The Panel noted that the scoping documents, Terms of Reference and time line had been accepted by the Chairman's Committee.</p> <p>The Panel received a folder with all current documentation as supplied by the Treasury Department relating to the bids along with other relevant documents. Referring to those documents and a briefing from the Fiscal Stimulus Programme Manager, from the Treasury, on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009, the Panel noted that there appeared to be a position of openness taken by the Department which was both very welcome and confirmed the good working relationship between the Panel and Executive within its remit.</p> <p>An oral update was received relating to a meeting between the Panel's advisor, the officer and the Economic Advisor of the Chief Minister's Department. A written report would follow in due course.</p> <p>Members agreed to read the documents contained within the file and to supply the officer with an e-mail outlining questions which would assist the hearing arranged for 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009. The Panel agreed to meet for the entire day on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 to examine the individual bids and to receive witnesses in hearings.</p> <p>In considering the first term of reference for the review, the Panel considered the evidencing of where the Island currently was on the recession curve. Whilst the Treasury would have information about this, the Panel agreed that it needed an independent source of information. It agreed that a United Kingdom firm should advise the Panel on the national situation and the advisor, Professor M. Oliver, be requested to use that information to describe the local position. The Panel agreed that a company with a respected reputation, such as Lombard Street Research, would be suitable for the role. The company were to be approached and a budget of £3000 was approved for the work. The company was also to be asked to look at the local data at the same time.</p> <p>The Panel noted that arrangements were in hand for a briefing by the Economic Stimulus Steering Group between 1430 and 1600 hours on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009. This was to be a private meeting to apprise the Panel of the work to date by the group.</p>	<p><b>MR</b></p> <p><b>MR</b></p> <p><b>Panel/ MR</b></p> <p><b>MR</b></p> <p><b>MR</b></p>

	<p>The Panel further considered how to obtain independent evidence of the effects of the recession on the local economy at this time and decided to undertake a survey of local firms. The Panel accepted that there were insufficient resources available for the office to undertake this task and that there was insufficient time available to engage a local market research company to do the work. It therefore decided that Members would undertake the work assisted where possible by the office. A member was tasked with liaising with the officer to undertake the task. It was agreed that the survey should enquire from sole traders, medium sized traders and larger traders in various sections of the business community such as tradesmen, retail and communications etc.</p> <p>The questions to be asked were to be discussed with the Statistics Unit to ensure they were robust and impartial and the results would be collected by the Member on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and returned to the office.</p>	TV / MR
	<p><b>7. Work Programme</b></p> <p>The Panel considered its future work programme and decided that on completion of the Jersey Development Company Review, it would spend the time required to deal with some smaller outstanding matters such as Bovine Semen, Overseas Aid and International Relations. An element of work would also be required in relation to the Budget in due course. In relation to the 'Whistle blowing' review, it was considered that the review was not time sensitive and could therefore be dealt with at a later time than had initially been foreseen.</p>	WM / MR
06/05/09 Item 5	<p><b>8. Bovine Semen</b></p> <p>The Panel noted correspondence from the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society relating to the importation of bovine semen.</p>	
	<p><b>9. Additional Staff</b></p> <p>The Panel noted a report submitted from the Chairmen's Committee relating to contractual staff.</p>	
	<p><b>10. Public Consultation</b></p> <p>In considering the use of the publication 'Isle' for advertising, the Panel noted a level of political membership at director level. It expressed concern that as the publication had political affiliations, it would not be commensurate with the impartiality required by Scrutiny. Not only did Scrutiny have to be independent but equally importantly, it had to be seen to be independent. The 'Isle' was not to be used by the Corporate Services Panel for advertising.</p>	
	<p><b>11. Newsletter</b></p> <p>The Panel noted that a draft had been produced for the autumn edition of the newsletter. It required that the successes of the Deemed Rent Report and the Economic Stimulus Reports be included. The officers were requested to deal with the remaining drafting and submit it in order to meet the deadline.</p>	MR / WM
	<p><b>12. Forthcoming Propositions</b></p> <p>The Panel noted forthcoming propositions within its remit.</p>	

	<p><b>13. Ministerial Decisions</b></p> <p>The Panel noted Ministerial Decisions that had been taken by the Chief Minister and Minister for Treasury and Resources and which had appeared on <a href="http://www.gov.je">www.gov.je</a> between 16th and 23rd September 2009. Further information was required to be obtained in relation to Jubilee Wharf - Budget Transfers between Departments (MD-TR-2009-0148).</p>	<p><b>MR / WM</b></p>
	<p><b>14. Future Meetings</b></p> <p>The Panel noted its next scheduled meeting would take place at 9:30am on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009.</p>	

Signed

Date:

  
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14/10/09  
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Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel