

# Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Record of Meeting

Date... **19th June 2008**

Location....**Blampied Room**

Meeting **No 67**

Present	Deputy P J D Ryan, Chairman Connétable D Murphy Connétable J L S Gallichan Deputy C Egré, Vice-Chairman Deputy R Le Hérissier Connétable P. Hanning (for items 4 and 7(c))
In attendance	Mr M. Haden, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1	<b>Minutes</b> of meetings held on 8th, 15th and 28th May 2008 were approved and signed.	
2	<b>Matters arising</b> - Action update noted. The Panel requested a copy of a model efficiency statement from the Treasury.	MH
3. Item 5 080508	<p><b>Procurement Strategy</b></p> <p>The Panel welcomed the Director of Procurement to discuss progress with the Procurement Strategy. The Panel was briefed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Centre Lead Action Network (CLAN) policy for devolving procurement strategies across the States organisation</li> <li>• The factors which have contributed to difficulties in implementing procurement disciplines through all departments</li> <li>• The activities of the Procurement Lead Group</li> <li>• The reasons for the lack of savings in 2007</li> <li>• The current targets for savings of £2.25 million</li> <li>• Staffing</li> </ul> <p>The Panel thanked the Director for her informative briefing and requested access to copies of recent reports to the Corporate Management Board</p>	MH
4	<p><b>States Annual Business Plan: Financial Forecasting</b></p> <p>The Panel welcomed Professor Michael Oliver to discuss his potential role in assisting with the monitoring the process and outcomes of the financial forecasts which are produced to inform the States Business Planning and Budgeting process.</p> <p>In a briefing paper for the Panel Professor Oliver outlined six key</p>	

	<p>questions on how forecasting is conducted. In working with the Panel he suggested that he would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• address the questions and draw upon and examine the experiences of other jurisdictions with relevance to Jersey</li> <li>• provide the panel with regular updates on the wider macroeconomic framework and how these might impact on the economic forecasts</li> <li>• offer advice on economic issues under the Sub Panel's remit.</li> </ul> <p>The Panel considered that it was important to examine more rigorously the assumptions made by the forecasting group and to question the current presentation of economic information. There needed to be some clarity on how to measure the success or failure of forecasts. The Panel suggested that the current forecasts did not demonstrate an adequate level of risk analysis and it believed that the public expected a more sophisticated debate on economic prospects.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Fiscal Policy Panel (FPP) would provide comments on the appropriateness of the States financial position and forecasts. The Panel considered that by scrutinising the financial forecasts it could complement and not duplicate the work of the FPP.</p> <p>The Panel thanked Professor Oliver and he withdrew from attending the meeting.</p> <p>Deputy R.G. Le Herissier, who was a colleague of Professor Oliver at Highlands, also withdrew from the meeting while the Panel considered whether to engage Professor Oliver as an adviser.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that Professor Oliver could provide valuable economic expertise and that this would strengthen its ability to ask searching and relevant questions on the work being done on forecasting. It agreed therefore to engage Professor Oliver as adviser for the period of the remaining life of the Sub Panel (that is until the reappointment of Panels after the forthcoming elections). The Panel agreed that it would aim to prepare a report on forecasting to inform the debate on the States Budget in December.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer was requested to draw up an estimate of expenditure for its consideration, together with a scope setting out clearly the terms of reference for the work to be undertaken by the adviser.</p>	MH
5.	<p><b>Review of States Spending: Report of Comptroller and Auditor General:</b></p> <p>The Panel considered a briefing paper prepared by the Scrutiny officer on issues relevant to the Panel's remit. The Panel considered the following cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Procurement</b> (see item 3 above). The Panel agreed to give further consideration to procurement issues once it had received the reports requested from the Director of Procurement.</li> <li>• <b>Property management</b> - The Panel noted issues regarding the funding of maintenance had been highlighted in the draft 2009 States Business Planning process. Deputy Egré informed the Panel that he had already had a number of private meetings with the Director of Property Holdings. He believed that it would be now appropriate to continue these meetings on behalf of the Panel on a formal basis. It was agreed to delegate responsibility for this matter</li> </ul>	MH



090408	<p>the Scrutiny Officer and agreed to forward it to the Chairmen's Committee.</p> <p>(b) The Panel considered a summary of evidence received in respect of commercial property transactions. It was agreed to formally request the Treasury and Resources Minister to inform the Panel how he was going to progress this project.</p>	MH MH
8.	<p><b>Matters for noting:</b></p> <p><b>Briefing Notes of Chairmen's Committee meeting on 23rd May 2008</b> - The Panel noted the Chairmen's Committee request to consider the proposal for an away day for Scrutiny members to consider the Internal Review into Working Practices but agreed that this was not required.</p> <p><b>Forthcoming draft legislation</b> - The Panel noted P.79/2008, P.80/2008 and P.81 relating to draft Regulations on confiscation orders and external forfeiture orders and agreed that they did not require scrutinising.</p> <p>The Panel also noted P.90/2008 (draft Food Costs (Offset of Average GST) Bonus (Jersey) Regulations 200-). The Chairman indicated that he had certain concerns with this item.</p> <p><b>Ministerial decisions in May</b> - The Panel noted the Treasury and Resources Minister's proposition on funding for the Child Abuse enquiry. It agreed to request the Public Accounts Committee to consider requesting the Comptroller and Auditor General to review these costs.</p> <p><b>ITIS</b> - The Chairman informed the Panel that he would be meeting Mr. Hamel and associates to discuss concerns regarding ITIS.</p> <p><b>Date of next meeting - 1st August 2008</b> - The Panel agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 4th July due to the current workload on individual reviews and States sittings.</p>	PR MH PR

Signed

Date

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Chairman, Corporate Services Panel

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