

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

Minutes of 18th meeting held on 27th July 2006
Blampied Room, States Building

Present Deputy P J D Ryan, Chairman
Senator J L Perchard, Vice-Chairman
Connétable J L S Gallichan
Connétable D Murphy
Deputy J Gallichan

Apologies

Absent

In attendance Miss S Power, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1.	Minutes – The Panel approved the minutes of the meetings held on the; 5 th May; 12 th May; 18 th May; 23 rd May; 16 th June and the 7 th July.	
2. Item 1 07.07.06	<p>Notes –</p> <p>a. The Panel approved the notes of the meeting held with the Council of Ministers on the 1st June 2006.</p> <p>b. The Panel approved the notes of the meeting held with the Treasury and Resources Minister to discuss the 20 means 20 proposals on the 4th July 2006. The Panel noted that it had not received a response to the letter sent to the Treasury and Resources Minister following this meeting, which highlighted several areas of concern the Panel had with the 20 means 20 proposals. The Panel agreed that a response to this letter should be sought as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Panel discussed one of the issues raised in this letter, which was the fact that under the 20 means 20 proposals, individuals would lose their tax allowance for private health insurance, whereas companies providing employees with private health insurance as part of a remuneration package would continue to receive tax relief on these policies as an allowable business expense. The Panel agreed that this anomaly did not warrant an immediate review, however it was agreed that this was an issue for the Panel to monitor.</p>	SP
3.	Chairmen’s Committee – The Panel noted the briefing sheets from the Chairmen’s Committee meetings held on 19 th May and 30 th June 2006.	
4.	Rôle of Scrutiny Officers – The Scrutiny Manager, Kay Tremellen-Frost, attended the Panel meeting to discuss the role of Scrutiny Officers. The Panel noted the relevant papers.	
5.	Scrutiny Topic Proposals – The Panel received two scrutiny topic proposal forms from a member of the public, and a response from Mr. D. Peedle, States Economic Adviser. The proposals suggested that a tax should be introduced to all empty commercial property and on any unsold dwellings. The Panel requested for a response to be drafted highlighting the fact that the owners of both commercial and residential property continued to pay both fonciers and occupiers rates on unoccupied premises. The Panel also	SP SP

	requested for Mr. Peedle to be contacted to establish whether he would object to his response to the proposals being sent in conjunction with the Panel's response.	
6.	<p>Review evaluations –</p> <p>a. Age of Consent Review – The Panel agreed that an addition should be made to the evaluation stating that the clarity and rapid responses from H.M. Solicitor General to the Panel's queries greatly contributed to the speed with which the review was conducted.</p> <p>b. Financial Framework Review – The Panel noted the draft review evaluation, and requested several additions to be included in the document.</p>	SP SP
7.	<p>Panel expenditure –</p> <p>a. The Panel noted its financial report from the 2nd quarter 2006.</p> <p>b. The Panel noted its review costs from the Strategic Plan Financial Framework Review.</p>	
8.	<p>Population Office – The Panel received notes from a meeting between Deputy Gallichan; Mr. P. Bradbury, Director, Population Office; and Mr. W. Ogle, Chief Executive, on the 17th July 2006. The Panel agreed that a letter should be drafted to the Chief Minister, requesting that Deputy Gallichan attends the Migration Advisory Group meetings as an observer.</p>	SP
9.	<p>Sub Panels and Co-option of Members – The Panel noted the paper prepared by the Greffier of the States for the Chairmen's Committee on the co-option of members and sub-panels, and agreed that the paper covered the problems the Panel had encountered with regard to the co-option of members onto a full Scrutiny Panel.</p>	
10.	<p>Proposed Sale of Jersey Telecoms – The Panel noted the decision from the Chairmen's Committee meeting held on the 24th July 2006, where it was agreed that a Sub Panel should be formed to conduct this review, under the chairmanship of Deputy Southern, to include members from cross-disciplinary areas.</p>	
11.	<p>"The good scrutiny guide" – The Panel received an updated version of the pocket guide produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.</p>	
12.	<p>AOB -</p> <p>a. Fiscal Strategy Reviews</p> <p>i. Zero/Ten Design Proposal – The Panel received an update on the progress of this review from the Sub Panel Chairman. The Panel approved the Sub Panel's decision to allow the adviser, Richard Teather, to ask questions of witnesses at Public Hearings, given that he was covered by Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Panel agreed that this should only apply to witnesses that were not States members. The Panel discussed the Sub Panel's proposal to work in conjunction with the Treasury and keep them informed of any significant findings as the review progressed. The full Panel agreed that this would help to build a co-operative working relationship with the department in question, and would be of more benefit to the progression of the consultation document than simply providing the Treasury with the Panel's findings at the end of the review. The Panel also agreed that any publication of findings in advance of the full report should come under the name of the full Corporate Services Panel.</p>	

	<p>ii. GST – The Panel received an update on the progress of this review from the Sub Panel chairman. The Panel was informed that the original timescale proposed for this review was likely to be extended, as additional hearing dates had been allocated for the 31st August and the 7th September. The Panel was informed that it might be necessary for the adviser, Richard Teather, to do some additional work looking at the impact of GST on various Charities. The Panel was informed that this might mean the adviser would need to spend more days working for the Panel than was originally budgeted for.</p> <p>b. States Information Technology Budget – Deputy Gallichan informed the Panel that this was an area with which she was keen to keep up to date. The Panel requested that the officer establish whether this was an issue which more rightly fell within the remit of PAC.</p> <p>c. Future meeting dates – 15th September – 9.30 am 28th September – 9.30 am The Panel requested for the quarterly meetings with the Chief Minister and the Treasury and Resources Minister to be arranged for September or October 2006.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>SP</p>
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Signed

Date

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Chairman, Corporate Services Panel

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