

Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

Date: 9th February 2011

Meeting Number: 65

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| Present | Deputy R. G. Le Hérissier, Chairman Deputy M. Tadier Deputy J. M. Macon |
| Apologies | Deputy T. M. Pitman, Vice-Chairman (from Item 9) |
| Absent | |
| In attendance | M. P. Haden, Scrutiny Officer |

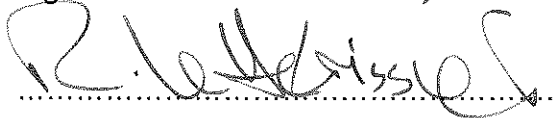
| Ref Back | Agenda matter | Action |
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| | <p>1. Record of Meeting</p> <p>The record of the meeting of 12th January 2011 was approved and signed.</p> | |
| | <p>2. Matters Arising</p> <p>The Panel noted the status of action updates from the previous meeting on the 12th January 2010.</p> | |
| <p>12.01.11 Item 9</p> | <p>3. Annual Work Programme</p> <p>The Panel considered the following suggestions for future reviews to be carried out in 2011:</p> <p>a) Performance Measurement in Education: The Chairman said that a review could examine (i) whether a more open approach to differences in performance between schools would be in the public interest; and (ii) how schools might demonstrate whether they were successful in adding value to students' performance.</p> <p>b) Surveillance (this review had been postponed in 2010)</p> <p>c) Drug Strategy: Deputy Tadier said that a review could examine issues such as the implications of prosecuting individuals for possessing small amounts of classified drugs and possible alternatives to holding large numbers of non resident couriers in the island's prison. It was recognised that this would be a controversial subject as well as requiring a great deal of careful investigation. Deputy Tadier was requested to refine the scope of his proposal.</p> <p>d) Licensing hours/declining role of pubs in the community: The Panel decided to invite members of the Economic Affairs Panel to form a Sub Panel to consider the cross cutting issues which could be examined in this proposed review.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to give more consideration to these proposals at its next meeting.</p> | <p>MT</p> |

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| | <p>4. Public Hearings</p> <p>The Panel discussed a question plan for its meeting with the Minister for Home Affairs on 11th February 2011.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to invite the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture to attend a public hearing on his department's priorities for 2011 on 9th March.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Chief Officer of the States of Jersey Police was scheduled to meet the Policing of Beaches Sub Panel on 9th March and agreed to invite him for an introductory meeting with the main Panel on the same day.</p> | <p>EL</p> <p>EL</p> |
| <p>12.01.11 Item 11</p> | <p>5. GST Exemptions for Educational Establishments</p> <p>The Panel noted correspondence from the Treasurer of the States, dated 20th January 2011, together with a policy review paper dated 11th January 2011. Having been satisfied that the treatment of St Brelade's College was consistent with providers of commercial courses at Highlands and the private sector it was agreed not to pursue the matter.</p> | |
| <p>12.01.11 item 4</p> <p>516/26(8)</p> | <p>6. Policing of Beaches and Parks Review</p> <p>The Sub-Panel Chairman updated the Panel on review progress. The Chairman said that some additional witnesses had been identified. Once these had been interviewed the Sub Panel would be in a position to start drafting its report.</p> | |
| <p>15.11.10 item 6</p> <p>516/19(8)</p> | <p>7. School Suspensions Review</p> <p>The Panel noted the updated Ministerial response to the Panel's findings and recommendations. It was agreed to seek the views of the Chairman of this review on whether there was a need to follow up any of the latest comments.</p> | <p>MH</p> |
| <p>12.01.11 Item 7</p> <p>516/23(8)</p> | <p>8. Political Education Review</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) had agreed to consider the implications of setting up of States sites on both Facebook and Twitter.</p> <p>It was agreed to convene a meeting of the Review Sub Panel on 15th February 2011 at 1pm to consider the Ministerial response to the Sub Panel's report.</p> | |
| <p>12.01.11 Item 14</p> <p>516/17(8)</p> | <p>9. Prison Board of Visitors Review</p> <p>The Panel agreed that it was minded to proceed with the proposed proposition for the reform of the Prison Board of Visitors as suggested in the report. Deputy Tadier said that he would have further discussions with the Minister regarding the possibility of including Jurats as members of the Board of Visitors.</p> | <p>MT</p> |
| <p>12.01.11 Item 16</p> | <p>10. Haut de la Garenne - proposed Committee of Enquiry</p> <p>The Panel met Senator F.G. Le Gresley to discuss his proposition (P.19/2011) requesting the Council of Ministers to reconsider their decision not to hold a Committee of Enquiry to investigate any unresolved issues in relation to child abuse in the Island.</p> <p>The Panel was of the opinion that there were a number of fundamental</p> | |

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| | <p>questions about the past management of children's homes, the monitoring of staff and procedures for dealing with any reports of abusive behaviour.</p> <p>It was noted that the previous Council of Ministers had outlined these questions in a report to the States (R27/2008) in which the then Council had indicated the intention to hold a full public enquiry once the criminal process had been completed.</p> <p>Senator Le Gresley said that it was regrettable that the Care Leavers Association had not been consulted before this decision was taken.</p> <p>The Panel regarded the present Council's decision, as reported in R.8/2011 to be unsatisfactory. This report had been received by members on their desks in the States Assembly on 1st February 2011 without prior notice and there had been only a limited opportunity to respond to a statement issued by the Chief Minister at the same meeting.</p> <p>The Panel believed that the States Assembly should be given the opportunity to debate the requirement for an independent public enquiry. The Panel asked Senator Le Gresley whether he would agree to amend his proposition to call for the Assembly to make the decision on holding a committee of enquiry; however, Senator Le Gresley said that he believed it would be more appropriate for the Council of Ministers to take responsibility for the decision as the Council was in a position to determine the source of funding for this purpose. He believed that if the Assembly agreed to ask the Council to reconsider their decision the Council would be morally obliged to approve an independent public enquiry. In the event that they did not agree to change their decision it would still be open to a private member to bring a proposition to the States proposing a public enquiry.</p> <p>Senator Le Gresley believed that there had been precedents for such public enquiries elsewhere in the UK and that the cost could be less than that estimated by the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to support the Senator's proposition. Deputy Tadier was requested to prepare a press release and the Scrutiny Officer was requested to prepare a draft comment on the proposition.</p> | |
| | <p>11. Ministerial Decisions</p> <p>The Panel noted receipt of recent Ministerial Decisions pertinent to its remit.</p> | MT/MH |
| | <p>13. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted that its next meeting was scheduled for the 9th March 2011 at 1pm, Le Capelain Room, States Building.</p> | |

Signed

Date:



9 March 2011

Chairman
Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel