

Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: 9th April 2009

Meeting Number: 10

Present	Connétable G. F. Butcher Deputy R. G. Le Hérissier, Chairman Deputy T. M. Pitman Deputy T. A. Vallois (Item 3 only)
Apologies	Deputy M. Tadier
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs. E. Liddiard, Scrutiny Officer Miss S. Power, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of Meetings</p> <p>The Records of the meetings of 12th March; 23rd March; 30th March and 31st March 2009 were approved and signed.</p>	
	<p>2. Matters Arising</p> <p>a. The Panel noted the status of action updates from the previous meeting on the 12th March 2009.</p> <p>b. The Panel noted briefing notes of the Chairmen's Committee meeting of the 19th March 2009.</p>	
<p>Item 3 12.03.09 516/16(8)</p>	<p>3. Fort Regent Review</p> <p>a. Briefing Paper</p> <p>The Panel noted a briefing paper that had been prepared by the Scrutiny Officer for this review. The Panel discussed the issue of access to the Fort Regent facility, and agreed it would be useful to request the facility's attendance figures from the Education, Sport and Culture Department to include details of any fluctuations in attendance, such as any subsequent decrease following the removal of the cable cars.</p> <p>b. Expert Advisors</p> <p>The Panel noted a summary of the individuals that had expressed an interest in advising the Panel. The Panel agreed that it wished to interview three of the individuals, and requested the Scrutiny Officer to contact them to establish their availability in terms of coming to the Island for an interview. It was agreed that if coming to Jersey for an interview at short notice posed any problems, it would be possible for two members of the Panel to invite the individuals to meet them in London instead. In advance of the interviews, the Panel requested for any publicly available background reports to be sent to the relevant individuals, to include the conservation statement regarding the heritage issues surrounding the Fort Regent site.</p>	<p>EL</p> <p>EL</p>

09.04.09

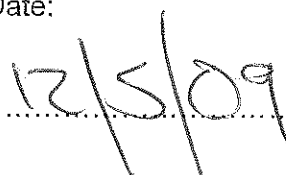
	<p>c. Public Hearings</p> <p>The Panel noted that it was available to hold Public Hearings for this review during the afternoon of the 21st May, and all day on the 22nd May; 27th May; and 28th May.</p> <p>The Panel requested the Scrutiny Officer to circulate a suggested witness schedule to Panel Members for comment, following which invitations would be sent to witnesses.</p>	EL
Item 4 12.03.09 516/17(8)	<p>4. Prison Board of Visitors</p> <p>In the absence of Deputy M. Tadier, the Panel received an update from Deputy T. Pitman following the Sub-Panel's visit to HMP Winchester to meet representatives of HMP Winchester's Independent Monitoring Board on the 3rd April. It was noted that the fact-finding visit had been very useful for the Sub-Panel's Review, and that the Officer had taken notes of the discussions that took place during this visit. It was further noted that the Sub-Panel was now in a position to begin drafting its report.</p>	
Item 5 12.03.09	<p>5. Strategic Plan</p> <p>The Panel noted the draft Strategic Plan that had been lodged on the 8th April 2009. The Panel agreed that it was a very difficult document to analyse, as it contained limited specific information. The Panel agreed that it wished to send a letter to the Chief Minister outlining the difficulties involved in responding to and reviewing such a high level document and explaining that although the document contained numerous priorities for the States over the coming years, it was very difficult for the Panel to consider it in any detail, as it did not provide any information outlining how any of the issues would be prioritised. It was further agreed that this letter could make reference to the time it was taking for the various aspects of the Criminal Justice Policy to be implemented, in addition to asking for clarification in terms of the focus that would be placed on 'Ensuring high levels of literacy and numeracy' under Priority 12 of the Draft Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that the Chairman would draft this letter, following which it would be circulated to all members for consideration.</p>	R Le H
	<p>6. Cultural Organisations</p> <p>a. Partnership Agreements</p> <p>The Panel noted confidential copies of the Partnership Agreements for the Jersey Arts Centre; Jersey Arts Trust; and the Jersey Opera House, in addition to the cultural organisations control questionnaire and the financial direction grants document, that had been received from the Education, Sport and Culture Department.</p> <p>b. Meetings with Cultural Organisations</p> <p>It was noted that the Jersey Arts Centre had contacted the Panel to request to meet with Panel members. The Panel agreed a meeting with members of the Board to discuss any current issues would be useful, and requested for the Scrutiny Officer to arrange a meeting in due course.</p> <p>The Panel similarly agreed it would be useful to arrange a fact-finding</p>	EL/SP EL/SP

09.04.09

	meeting with representatives from the Jersey Heritage Trust to discuss any current issues, and requested the Scrutiny Officer to arrange a meeting at their offices in due course.	
	<p>7. Panel Work Programme for 2009</p> <p>The Panel noted that as Deputy R Le Hérissier and Deputy T Pitman were now members of the Health, Social Security and Housing Sub-Panel that had been formed to review the Williamson Report, it would be necessary to defer its review of Higher Education Fees until September.</p> <p>It was agreed that a Sub-Panel would be formed to review the Schools Suspension Policy to begin in May, which would be chaired by Deputy T Pitman; with Connétable G Butcher taking over if Deputy T Pitman was heavily involved in the Williamson Review.</p> <p>The Panel requested the Education, Sport and Culture Department to be notified of the changes to its work programme accordingly.</p>	EL/SP
	<p>8. Scrutiny Matters Newsletter</p> <p>The Panel approved the content of its page for the Spring edition of the Scrutiny Matters Newsletter.</p>	
	<p>9. Forthcoming Propositions</p> <p>The Panel noted items of draft legislation within its remit lodged for debate by the States. With regard to the <i>Draft Loi (200-)(Amendment NO.11) reglant la procedure criminelle P.39/2009</i> the Panel requested for the Scrutiny Officer to contact the Home Affairs Department to establish whether this amendment would be restricting individuals that had been convicted of relatively minor offences from participating in jury service.</p>	EL/SP
	<p>12. Ministerial Decisions</p> <p>The Panel noted receipt of recent Ministerial Decisions pertinent to the Panel's remit.</p>	
	<p>13. Questions to Ministers</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Minister for Economic Development and the Chief Minister would be taking questions without notice at the States sitting of 28th April 2009.</p>	
	<p>14. First Quarter Financial Report</p> <p>The Panel noted its financial report for the first quarter of 2009, and noted that its expenditure to date totaled £2,579.30.</p>	
	<p>15. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted that the next Panel Meeting would be rescheduled from Wednesday 6th May 2009 to 1pm on Tuesday 12th May 2009 in Blampied Room, States Building. The Panel requested this to be confirmed to members by email.</p>	EL/SP

Signed

Date:

Chairman

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