

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

The records of the Panel meeting include Public and Private minutes in accordance with the Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information

Record of Meeting

Date: 6th May 2009
Meeting 23

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| Present | Senator S.C. Ferguson, Chairman Connétable D.J. Murphy Deputy T.A. Vallois |
| Apologies | Deputy C.H. Egré, Vice-Chairman |
| Absent | |
| In attendance | Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer |

| Ref Back | Agenda matter | Action |
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| | 1. Records of Meetings The Panel approved the records of its meetings on 8th April [Private Session] and 22nd April 2009. | |
| 11/02/09, Item 4 | 2. Annual Business Plan It was noted that the Chairman had undertaken work on how the Annual Business Plan could be scrutinised and would circulate a copy of her notes to the Panel. The Panel was advised that the Chairman also intended to propose to the Chairmen's Committee that Mr C. Swinson OBE, Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) be invited to brief Scrutiny Panels on how the Annual Business Plan could be scrutinised. It was noted that the C&AG had been provided with the legacy report of the former Corporate Services (Finance) Sub-Panel. The Officer was requested to ascertain when information on the 2010 Annual Business Plan would become available. | SF SF WM |
| | 3. Action Updates and Matters Arising The Panel noted the update on actions requested at previous meetings. The Panel noted receipt of briefing notes of the Chairmen's Committee meeting of 23rd April 2009. | |
| 22/04/09, Item 9 513/16(8) | 4. Waterfront Enterprise Board The Panel noted that correspondence had not yet been despatched to Senator T.A. Le Sueur, Chief Minister, regarding his initial response to <i>Waterfront Enterprise Board (P. 12/2009) (SR1/2009)</i> . The Panel noted that a Part B paper of the Council of Ministers relating to the appointment of directors to the Waterfront Enterprise Board (WEB) had been distributed to the Panel following a request by the Chairman in accordance with Paragraph 9.23 of <i>Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee</i> . The paper had been considered by the Council on 23rd April 2009 in private session under Article 3.2.1(a)(xiv) of <i>Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information</i> . | |

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| | <p>The Panel noted that Connétable D.J. Murphy had declared an interest with regard to the Panel's subsequent work in relation to WEB as he had recently been appointed a States Director; he would therefore take no direct involvement in any subsequent work.</p> | |
| <p>22/04/09, Item 11</p> <p>513/14(8)</p> | <p>5. Bovine Semen</p> <p>The Panel noted that correspondence to the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society had been approved and would be despatched.</p> | <p>WM</p> |
| <p>08/04/09, Item 7</p> <p>513/15(8)</p> | <p>6. Deemed Rent</p> <p>The Panel noted that Mrs W. Martin had recently been appointed to the Chief Minister's Department as Director of International Tax. It was agreed that a copy of <i>Deemed Rent (P.161/2009)</i> (SR2/2009) should be sent to the Director of International Tax in order to garner her views on the matter. It was noted that the request would be made in line with standard procedure.</p> <p>The Panel further noted that a Ministerial Response had not yet been received to SR2/2009. It was agreed that correspondence would be sent to Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources, to ask when the Response would be received.</p> | <p>WM / MR</p> <p>WM / MR</p> |
| <p>22/04/09, Item 14</p> | <p>7. Public Finances Law – Proposed Changes</p> <p>The Panel recalled its agreement to present comments on <i>Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005: Proposed Changes (P.54/2009)</i> as lodged by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). It was noted that comments had not yet been drafted but would be prepared in time for the debate on the proposition on 2nd June 2009.</p> | |
| <p>08/04/09, Item 19</p> <p>1444/2(2)</p> | <p>8. Part B Council of Ministers Papers</p> <p>Further to papers noted elsewhere, the Panel noted that a Part B paper of the Council of Ministers relating to pay awards had been distributed to the Panel following a request by the Chairman in accordance with Paragraph 9.23 of <i>Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee</i>. The paper had been considered by the Council of Ministers on 23rd April 2009 in private session under Article 3.2.1(a)(xiii) of <i>Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information</i>.</p> | |
| | <p>9. 2010 Law-Drafting Programme</p> <p>The Panel noted that a Part B paper of the Council of Ministers relating to the 2010 law-drafting programme had been distributed to the Panel following a request by the Chairman in accordance with Paragraph 9.23 of <i>Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee</i>. The paper had been considered by the Council on 23rd April 2009 in private session under Article 3.2.1(a)(xiv) of <i>Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information</i>. Consideration was given to the paper in private session under Article 3.2.1(a)(xiv).</p> | |
| <p>01/05/09, Item 1</p> <p>513/19(8)</p> | <p>10. Economic Stimulus Plan</p> <p>The Panel received an update on the status of its review of the Economic Stimulus Plan. It was advised that a report had been received that morning from the Department of Economic Development and would be circulated. It was further noted that the Fiscal Policy Panel had published a report that day which would be of relevance to the Panel's review.</p> <p>The Panel considered the outcomes of the Public Hearings that had</p> | |

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| | <p>been held on 1st May 2009. It was noted that a second Public Hearing had been arranged with the Minister for Treasury and Resources for 11th May 2009; the Officer was requested to ascertain whether the Hearing could begin at 8:45am. It was noted that the Chairman would advise the Minister of the Panel's intended areas of questioning. It was further noted that a Hearing with Dr G. Jones, Deputy Principal of Highlands College, would also be beneficial. The Panel was advised of the procedure to be followed when Panels wished to speak directly to a specific officer and the Officer was therefore requested to draft correspondence to Deputy J.G. Reed, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, to request that Dr Jones be allowed to appear. It was further agreed that Panel Members would circulate questions for the Hearing with Dr Jones.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the subsequent course of action on the review. It was agreed that information should be sought from the Department of Social Security on the number of construction jobs currently being advertised. It was also noted that the Panel would most likely need to speak to Mr D. Flowers, Director of Property Holdings. The Panel further noted that it would present comments on <i>Economic Stimulus Plan (P.55/2009)</i>.</p> | <p>WM SF</p> <p>WM Panel</p> <p>WM / MR</p> |
| <p>22/04/09, Item 6</p> <p>513/20(8)</p> | <p>11. Finance Sub-Panel</p> <p>The Panel received an update on the status of the work of the Finance Sub-Panel. The Panel was advised that Professor M. Oliver, expert advisor to the Sub-Panel, was due to hold further meetings that day. It was also noted that Public Hearings would be held on 26th May 2009.</p> | |
| <p>22/04/09, Item 7</p> <p>513/18(8)</p> | <p>12. Migration and Population</p> <p>The Panel received an update on the work of the Migration and Population Sub-Panel. It was noted that Public Hearings had been held on 27th April 2009 and that a Public Hearing with Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St Helier would be held that afternoon. It was further noted that correspondence would be sent to the Chief Minister to request flexibility with the timescale when the draft report was circulated for comment on the factual accuracy.</p> | |
| <p>22/04/09, Item 8</p> | <p>13. Rapporteur: Information Technology, Human Resources and Emergency Planning</p> <p>Noting that the Vice-Chairman had given his apologies for the meeting, the Panel noted that there was no update on the work of the rapporteur.</p> | |
| <p>11/02/09, Item 11</p> <p>513/1(25)</p> | <p>14. 2009 Work Programme</p> <p>The Panel gave consideration to its 2009 Work Programme, noting a paper prepared by the Scrutiny Office with an update on work that had been accomplished since the Programme had been agreed on 11th February 2009. The Panel noted the position in relation to the following specific topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEB • Property Holdings • Complaints Procedure and Whistle-blowing Policy • Migration Legislation • Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) <p>The Panel noted that, on 29th April 2009, the Chairman had advised the States Assembly that the Panel would undertake work on complaints</p> | |

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| | <p>procedures and the whistle-blowing policy in the latter part of the year. It was agreed this should be reflected in the Work Programme. It was also agreed the Work Programme should reflect work to be undertaken on the Annual Business Plan and the Budget.</p> <p>Consideration was given to how the Work Programme met the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Panels as stipulated in Standing Order 136. Noting that it was necessary to scrutinise international conventions and agreements before they were extended to Jersey, it was agreed to make provision in the Work Programme for a specific Public Hearing on that matter with the Chief Minister.</p> <p>The Panel further noted that Standing Order 136(d) indicated that scrutiny should be undertaken of subordinate enactments which had been made by a Minister. It was agreed that provision should be made in the Work Programme for work on Ministerial Orders, in particular the procedure surrounding them. It was noted that work had previously been undertaken by the Chairmen's Committee on the scrutiny of Ministerial Orders and the Officer was requested to ascertain what work had been done.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that provision should be made in the Work Programme for work on suggestion schemes.</p> <p>The Panel requested that the Work Programme be amended to reflect the decisions it had made at the meeting.</p> | WM |
| | <p>15. Complaints Procedure and Whistle-Blowing Policy</p> <p>Subsequent to its agreement to insert work on complaints procedures and the whistle-blowing policy into its work programme, the Panel was advised that the whistle-blowing policy had been agreed. The Officer was requested to circulate a copy to the Panel.</p> | WM |
| 08/04/09, Item 12 510/3(5) | <p>16. 'Scrutiny Matters' Newsletter</p> <p>The Panel noted that the next edition of the 'Scrutiny Matters' newsletter would be publicly distributed on 14th May 2009. It further noted the agreement of the Chairmen's Committee that it would be beneficial for reference to be made to the newsletter in any media interviews that Scrutiny Members might undertake over the following few weeks.</p> | |
| | <p>17. Proposed Renaming of Scrutiny Panels</p> <p>The Panel noted a request from the Chairmen's Committee to consider a proposal it had received that Scrutiny Panels be renamed Select Committees. Consideration was given to the matter and it was ultimately agreed that it was too soon for such a change to be contemplated and it should therefore not occur. The Panel noted, however, that efforts were being made to improve and develop public involvement in Scrutiny. It was therefore agreed that if, in the future, these attempts proved to be unsuccessful, further consideration could be given to a name-change as a means of engendering interest and improving public involvement. It was agreed this view should be communicated to the Chairmen's Committee.</p> | WM |
| | <p>18. Legal Advice for Scrutiny Panels</p> <p>The Panel noted receipt of a paper from the Chairmen's Committee with information regarding the provision of legal advice to Scrutiny Panels.</p> | |
| | <p>19. Citizenship</p> | |

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| 510/3 (2) | The Panel noted receipt of a paper outlining the current position of the 2009 Citizenship Project. It was noted that the identified topic was youth custody and that a timetable of sessions had been developed. The Panel further noted the request from the Chairmen's Committee that Members sign up to those dates for which they would be available. | |
| 22/04/09, Item 10 | <p>20. Strategic Plan</p> <p>The Panel recalled its agreement that Panel Members would consider the Draft Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014 and identify comments. It was noted that no comments had been received by the Scrutiny Office. The Panel was advised that work had begun on drafting comments and would be circulated to the Panel by the week-end.</p> | |
| | <p>21. Ministerial Decisions</p> <p>The Panel noted the decisions that had been made by the Chief Minister and the Minister for Treasury and Resources and which had appeared on www.gov.je between 16th and 29th April 2009.</p> <p>Specific consideration was given to the provisions of <i>Drug Trafficking Confiscation Fund (DTCF) Grant Recommendations - December 2008</i> (MD-TR-2009-0055). The Officer was requested to circulate the report attached to this Decision and to ascertain the membership of the DTCF Steering Group. It was noted that the C&AG had previously produced a report on the use of the DTCF and the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund (COCF).</p> <p>Specific consideration was also given to the provisions of <i>Rayner Fund - HSBC Rights Issue</i> (MD-TR-2009-0046). It was noted that, at the Public Hearing on 23rd January 2009, advice had been received from the Minister for Treasury and Resources on plans for the development of a Common Investment Fund. It was noted that follow-up questions on this matter should be included at a subsequent Hearing with the Minister.</p> | WM |
| | <p>22. Questions to Ministers</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture and the Minister for Health and Social Services would answer questions without notice at the States sitting of 12th May 2009.</p> | |
| | <p>23. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted its next scheduled meeting would take place on Wednesday 27th May 2009.</p> | |
| 28/04/09, Item 1 | <p>24. Review of British Offshore Finance Centres</p> <p>The Panel recalled that it had met Mr M. Foot CBE on 28th April 2009 in relation to his review of British Offshore Finance Centres. It was noted that the information gleaned from this meeting would be of most relevance to the Panel's Economic Stimulus Plan Review or the work of the Finance Sub-Panel.</p> | |

Signed

Date:



27/05/09

Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

6th May 2009

