

Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Meeting No. 41

11.00am, 23rd May 2007
Interview Room, States Building

Present Deputy G. P. Southern, Chairman
Deputy J. A. Martin
Deputy K. C. Lewis

Apologies Deputy A. Breckon
Connétable M. K. Jackson

Absent
In attendance Nathan Fox, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1.	<p>Minutes of previous meetings</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2007 were signed and approved.</p>	
2.	<p>Scrutiny general meeting 22nd May 2007</p> <p>The Panel recalled that it had attended a meeting of all Scrutiny members and officers at Maritime House on 22nd May 2007.</p> <p>The Panel further recalled that the draft Code of Practice for Scrutiny had been discussed, with particular reference being made to the provision for the availability of legal advice to Scrutiny from the Attorney General and the Executive Departments.</p> <p>The Chairmen's Committee had at the aforementioned meeting agreed to bring forward the draft Code of Practice to be lodged and debated in the States without altering the section relating to legal advice. This section stated that Scrutiny had the right to access legal advice provided to the Executive.</p> <p>The Panel did not anticipate that this would meet with a positive response from the Attorney General, but was hopeful that the States would be supportive.</p> <p>The Panel expressed concerns that the projet might eventually reach the States in a modified form after compromises had been made. The Panel considered that compromise at this stage would not be in the interests of Scrutiny.</p> <p>The Panel also noted that-</p> <p>the Scrutiny function should meet more often as a whole;</p> <p>the Panel should meet more often;</p> <p>inter-Panel communication should be improved; and</p>	

	<p>a standardised format should be introduced for Ministers to report back to Panels on the action taken following Scrutiny reports.</p> <p>After a discussion of the means by which Scrutiny might improve its public profile, the Panel directed officers to forward copies of its meeting agendas to all local media organisations prior to all future meetings.</p>	NJF
3.	<p>Questions to Ministers</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Economic Development Minister was to answer question without notice in the States on 5th June 2007.</p>	
4. Item 6 10th May 2007	<p>Enterprise and Business Development Strategy</p> <p>The Panel recalled that it was to meet the Minister and officers of the Economic Development Department on 25th May 2007 in respect of the Department's Enterprise and Business Development Strategy.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the information in the, literature provided in respect of this meeting did not deal with the specific use of funds allocated to the Strategy, and it intended to question the Minister on this subject.</p> <p>The Panel also intended to question the Minister on the Department's overall future expenditure plans. In particular, the Panel was interested in the flow of funds away from tourism and agriculture expenditure towards finance industry support.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to meet at 8.30am in the Le Capelain Room of the States Building to prepare questions for the Minister prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Officers were directed to take the appropriate action.</p>	NJF
5. Item 4 10th May 2007	<p>Retail Strategy Review</p> <p>The Panel noted that the recent strategy for St. Helier produced by EDAW consultants contained plans for a significant revision of the current arrangement of retail space.</p> <p>The Panel therefore considered that this would be an integral part of any further review of the Economic Development Department's Retail Strategy, not least because the Experian market size figures that the Panel had challenged in its recent report had been carried over into the EDAW report.</p> <p>The Panel decided that it would be appropriate to comment on this strategy. It was agreed that the Chairman and officers would be delegated to produce a draft comment and to return it to the Panel for approval.</p> <p>Officers were directed to take the appropriate action.</p>	NJF
6. Item 13 10th May 2007	<p>Telecoms Privatisation cost/benefit analysis</p> <p>The Panel was informed that the Economic Affairs Sub-Panel (Telecoms Privatisation) had received amended terms of reference</p>	

	<p>from the forthcoming cost/benefit analysis on the privatisation of Jersey Telecom from the Treasury and Resources Department.</p> <p>The Sub-Panel had initially indicated that it was dissatisfied with the terms of reference as drafted as it noted that several areas of consideration raised by the Chairman had not been included. The Chief Minister's Department had then provided written assurances that the analysis would cover these areas.</p> <p>The review was therefore ongoing, although concerns were expressed over the intended completion date of July 2007, which the Panel conceded was beginning to appear overly optimistic.</p>													
7.	<p>Possible finance industry review topic</p> <p>The Chairman recommended to the Panel that it should at some point consider the draft Money Laundering (Jersey) Order 200-, which was intended to replace the Money Laundering (Jersey) Order 1999.</p> <p>The Chairman was aware of concerns regarding the risk-based approach that companies were encouraged to take under the draft Order. It had been suggested that were companies to classify a given risk as 'low' as opposed to 'medium' or 'high', then less precautions would have to be taken than was currently the case.</p> <p>Concerns had also been raised that addresses would no longer have to be provided by some parties, which would complicate the implementation of the European Union savings tax directives and the application of the 0/10 tax structure.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the possibility of forming a Sub-Panel to consider the subject. It was agreed that a decision on this matter would be taken at a later date.</p>													
8.	<p>Future meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted a list of future meeting prepared by the officers.</p> <p>The Panel directed officers to amend the list to remove extraneous meetings on 17th July and 22nd August. The scheduled Panel meetings for the remained of 2007 were therefore as follows-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>13th June</td> <td>27th June</td> <td>11th July</td> <td>8th August</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5th September</td> <td>19th September</td> <td>3rd October</td> <td>17th October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31st October</td> <td>14th November</td> <td>28th November</td> <td>12th December</td> </tr> </table>	13th June	27th June	11th July	8th August	5th September	19th September	3rd October	17th October	31st October	14th November	28th November	12th December	
13th June	27th June	11th July	8th August											
5th September	19th September	3rd October	17th October											
31st October	14th November	28th November	12th December											

Signed

Date

.....
Chairman Deputy G. P. Southern
Economic Affairs Panel

.....