

Environment Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: 2nd November 2009

Meeting Number: 14

Present	Deputy P Rondel (Chairman) (PR) Deputy D Wimberley (Vice Chairman) (DW) Connétable J Refault (JR) Deputy P Le Claire (PLC)
In attendance	M Haden

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
Item 9 1.10.09 514/13(8)	<p>1. Waste Recycling</p> <p>The Panel received a first draft of the report on Waste Recycling and considered the following issues -</p> <p>(i) The Panel was of the view that current payments to farmers for accepting the immature composting product on agricultural land should be regarded as a subsidy to the farming industry and that they should be linked with the single area payments provided under the Rural Economy Strategy. The Panel believed that it should be possible to phase out these payments to farmers by making acceptance of the immature composting product a condition of the single area payments;</p> <p>(ii) The Panel noted the comments of the Minister for Transport and Technical Services regarding the spreading of the product of liquid on agricultural fields but considered that this was a separate matter;</p> <p>(iii) It was noted that Deputy Le Claire had asked a series of questions in the States on the costs of the green waste composting operation;</p> <p>(iv) It was noted that sales of the department's soil improver were low. This was probably due to the fact that it was not marketed as a commercial product.</p> <p>(v) Deputy Wimberley suggested that the social cost of carbon should be taken into account in the consideration of recycling operations.</p> <p>Panel members were asked to forward any further comments that they had on the draft report to the Scrutiny Officer by the end of the week.</p>	
Item 3 01.10.09	<p>2. Building Bye Laws</p> <p>The Panel recalled that it had received a new submission from Jersey Gas and discussed the presentation that had been offered to States members on 28th and 29th October. The Chairman informed the Panel that the Minister for Planning and Environment had decided, in view of the ongoing disagreement on the carbon intensity calculation of imported electricity, to defer the implementation of the Building Bye Laws to allow for further consultation. The Minister supported an independent enquiry into</p>	

	<p>the carbon content of imported electricity, as recommended by the Panel, with terms of reference set by the Planning and Environment Department and paid for jointly by the fuel suppliers. The Chairman said that he had agreed to a request from the Minister for the Panel to audit the terms of reference. This was endorsed by the Panel. The Panel, however, believed that the Planning and Environment Department should fund the study in order to ensure that it was fully independent and that it was undertaken without further delay.</p> <p>Deputy Le Claire informed the Panel that the Minister had requested him to amend his proposition calling for an independent study. He said that he would consider this after further discussions with the Managing Director of Jersey Gas. He also advised that he would amend his proposition to request the Planning and Environment Department to fund the independent study.</p> <p>The Panel noted that a number of States owned buildings had been installed with Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units. The Scrutiny Officer was requested to enquire about financial savings that had been made as a result of these units.</p> <p>It was noted that the oil supply companies had appeared to be reluctant to engage in the debate on carbon intensity. The Chairman requested that the Scrutiny Officer make contact with the Chief Executives of the oil suppliers in order to promote their involvement in reaching a resolution of the issue.</p>	MH
<p>Item 6 01.10.09</p> <p>514/9(8)</p>	<p>3. Energy from Waste Plant and Ramsar: Review of planning process</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Panel that he had been contacted by a former employee of Fichtner who had previously offered to provide information to the Panel on a pollution incident in April. The Panel was advised that this incident was subject to an investigation under the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000 and that it would not be appropriate to pursue any information from this source until the investigation was complete.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the site diaries requested during the public hearing in September had not yet been made available by the Transport and Technical Services Department. The Scrutiny Officer was requested to chase the production of these documents.</p>	MO
	<p>4. Draft Island Plan Review - invitation to stakeholder meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted a letter from the Minister of Planning and Environment inviting States members to make known their views on the draft Island Plan to the Planning and Environment as early as possible during the consultation phase so that these views could be fed into the next stage of the review process.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that he had some concerns about the policy relating to the use of agricultural buildings.</p> <p>The Panel acknowledged some concern about the possibility of over diversifying the areas in which the Panel was trying to</p>	

	engage. It was agreed that the Panel's involvement in this process should be carefully considered before any commitment was made to particular policy reviews.	
	<p>5. Planning and Environment Department - Annual Business Plan</p> <p>The Panel recalled its correspondence with the Minister for Planning and Environment regarding the implications of the savings proposals within the States Annual Business Plan 2010. It was suggested that these comments might be developed into a report to the States and the Scrutiny Officer was requested to consider how this might be incorporated in the work programme.</p>	MH

Signed

Date:

P. J. Kendall
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27/12/09
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Chairman Environment Panel

