

# Education & Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Record of Meeting

Date: 4th September 2007

Meeting 38

Present	Deputy D.W. Mezbourian, Chairman Deputy J. Gallichan, Vice-Chairman Deputy S. Pitman
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer Mr. T. Oldham, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Records of Previous Meetings</b> The Panel approved the records of its meetings of 22nd May, 23rd July (public and private sessions) with one corrective amendment, and 26th July 2007 (public and private sessions).</p>	
[23/07/07, Item 8]	<p><b>2. Ministerial Responses</b> It was noted that correspondence had been sent by the Chairmen's Committee to the Council of Ministers regarding Ministerial Responses to Scrutiny Reports. The Panel was advised by the Chairman that the President and Vice-President of the Chairmen's Committee were due to meet the Chief Minister and that a policy relating to Ministerial Responses was in development. The Chairman undertook to circulate the relevant Chairmen's Committee paper to other Panel Members.</p>	DM
[29/08/07, Item 2]	<p><b>3. Early Years</b> The Panel recalled its agreement that it would be useful for the Officers to remain in contact with the Comptroller and Auditor General in relation to the review. The Panel was advised that the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee had informed the Panel Chairman that the Comptroller and Auditor General was undertaking a general examination of the Department of Education, Sport and Culture and that information would be forthcoming before the debate on <i>Annual Business Plan 2008 (P.93/2007)</i>. The Panel noted the potential benefits of receiving the Comptroller and Auditor General at a Public Hearing.</p> <p>The Panel was advised of the arrangements that had been made for interviews to be held on 14th September 2007 for the position of expert advisor for the review. The Officers were requested to ensure that a one hour gap was left between interviews. The Panel further requested that draft questions be drawn up.</p> <p>The Panel recalled its agreements that it would not take part in the debate on <i>Annual Business Plan 2008 (P.93/2007): amendment (P.93Amd/2007)</i>; would abstain from voting; and would write to the Minister informing him of its decision. It was noted that correspondence had not yet been despatched.</p>	TO/ WM
[29/08/07, Item 1]	<p><b>4. Rôle of the Centenier in the Magistrate's Court</b> This part of the meeting was held in private session under Item 3.2.1(a) (xiv) of <i>Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information</i>.</p>	
	<p><b>5. Matters Arising</b> The Panel noted the actions undertaken in response to requests made at its previous meetings with particular reference to the following:</p>	

	AU 3: The Panel noted that work would continue in relation to the Children's Executive and the Youth Action Team but that this work was not presently a high priority.	
[26/07/07, Item 5]	<p><b>6. GP Out-of-Hours</b></p> <p>The Panel noted that correspondence had been sent to the Health, Social Security and Housing (HSSH) Scrutiny Panel detailing the Panel's comments on <i>The G.P. Co-Operative Out-of-Hours Service (S.R.6/2007) – response of the Minister for Health and Social Services (SR6Res/2007)</i>. The Officers were requested to enquire what further action the HSSH Scrutiny Panel had taken.</p>	WM/TO
	<p><b>7. Chairman and Panel Member Actions</b></p> <p>The Panel was advised by the Chairman that the Panel had been invited to visit Highlands College. The Panel considered the suggested dates and agreed that none were feasible. It was further agreed that the Chairman would advise Highlands College that a later date would need to be identified.</p>	
	<p><b>8. Scrutiny Newsletter</b></p> <p>The Panel noted that the second issue of the Scrutiny newsletter would be produced later in 2007. It was advised that the Chairmen's Committee had agreed that all Scrutiny Panels would contribute towards the newsletter and that the Education and Home Affairs Panel Chairman would take joint responsibility for overseeing its production. The Panel noted that the Chairman would be the subject of the Member Profile.</p>	
[26/07/07, Item 4]	<p><b>9. Future Work Programme</b></p> <p>The Panel received a calendar that detailed potential forthcoming work between September 2007 and January 2008. The Officers were requested to forward a second copy to Deputy S. Pitman.</p> <p>The Panel considered briefing papers relating to the proposal to introduce a 'user-pays' charge for the policing of commercial events; the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme; and the establishment of a police authority.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that its next Scrutiny Review would focus on the policing of events. Initial consideration was given to potential lines of enquiry and it was agreed that further consideration would be given at the meeting on 10th September 2007.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that work would cease for the time being on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and on the establishment of a police authority.</p>	WM/TO
[14/05/07, Item 2]	<p><b>10. Annual Business Plan</b></p> <p>The Panel received copies of <i>On the money: the scrutiny of local government finance</i> that had been published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.</p>	
	<p><b>11. Future Meetings</b></p> <p>The Panel deferred consideration of all other items on the agenda and agreed to meet at 9:30am on 10th September 2007 to consider the remaining items.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to defer its meeting on 1st October 2007 to 8th October 2007.</p>	

Signed

Date:

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Chairman, Education & Home Affairs Panel

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