

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 27.01.11
Meeting No: 69

Present	Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier, Vice-President Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy G. P. Southern Deputy P.J. Rondel Deputy M.R. Higgins
Apologies	Senator B. E. Shenton, President
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs. K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer (item 13 only) Ms M. Pardoe, Public Accounts Committee Officer (item 13 only)

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	1. Minutes The minutes of 25th November, 10th,13th December 2010 (with a minor amendment) and 6th and 14th January 2011, having been approved, were signed.	
	2. Panel Reports The Committee noted the Panel activity reports for the previous month.	
25.11.10 item 3 515/21(8)	3. Economic Affairs Scrutiny Sub-Panel: Jersey Post Due to the change in circumstances regarding Jersey Post, it was noted that two of the three Members of the Sub-Panel had agreed that a report on the matter would have no impact and the review, therefore, should not be continued.	
25.11.10 item 4 515/19(8)	4. Economic Affairs Review of Jersey Airport It was noted that this review would get underway with immediate effect and that a scoping document and Terms of Reference would shortly be forwarded to the Committee.	
15.07.10 item 3 513/21(8)	5. Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel: States of Jersey Development Company (SoJDC) The way in which the SoJDC was being established was questioned and the Committee considered whether this should be subject of a review.	
514/1(1)	6. Environment Scrutiny Panel: Co-option of Members to reviews The Committee noted that Connétable Hanning had been co-opted onto the Environment Panel for the Review into the Marine Environment. Also Senator Breckon had been co-opted onto that Panel for the Review into Speed Limits.	

514/18(8)	<p>7. Environment Scrutiny Panel: Speed Limits Review (budget)</p> <p>The Committee noted the scoping document and Terms of Reference for a review into Speed Limits together with the initial estimated budget of £6,000</p>	
	<p>8. Panel/Committee Membership matters</p> <p>The Committee noted that Deputy J. Le Fondré had been appointed to the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel and the Public Accounts Committee.</p>	
	<p>9. Executive Departments: internal reviews</p> <p>The Committee noted that both the Health and Housing Departments were undertaking so many reviews that it was difficult to select topics for scrutiny reviews. A similar situation was occurring within the Education Department.</p>	
<p>25.11.10 item 8 465/1(156)</p>	<p>10. Raising the profile of scrutiny reports</p> <p>The Committee recalled that on 25th November 2010, it had been agreed to defer this matter to its December 2010 meeting, however, that meeting had been cancelled.</p> <p>The Committee reconsidered all the papers: the original proposal and options, communication between the Committee and the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC), a previous Chairmen's Committee paper with options and views of Panels and individual Members.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that Panels should have as much flexibility as possible to enable them to select the best way forward in consideration of the review topic and political circumstances surrounding the topic.</p> <p>It was consequently agreed to contact the PPC to explain the following:-</p> <p>The Committee would wish to retain the current options of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting the report as an SR as currently applies; • Lodging a proposition; • Making comments; • Making a statement. • <p>It was also agreed that arrangements should be made to permit the following options:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting the report as an SR with a verbal statement and the possibility of questioning the review chairman; • Presenting the report as an SR and requesting a debate once the Ministerial Response had been received (after 6 weeks of presentation of SR); • Presenting the report as an SR with a verbal statement and the possibility of questioning the Chairman and a debate after receipt of the Ministerial Response. 	

	<p>The Committee also agreed that, in respect of timings for the purpose of debating an SR, 10 minutes should be permitted for the presentation, 10minutes for the Minister to respond with 30 minutes for an open debate. The Committee also agreed that it would like Members to have the opportunity to speak more than once.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Committee agreed that for a debate on an SR to be successful it was imperative that the Review Chairman was able to present that report and take questions as opposed to the main Scrutiny Panel Chairman who might not have been involved in the review.</p> <p>Finally the Committee agreed to forward the views of individual Panels and Scrutiny Members to the PPC.</p>	<p>BS KTF</p>
<p>511/1(41)</p>	<p>11. Appointment of Members from Scrutiny/Public Accounts Committee to Executive positions</p> <p>The Committee considered the impact on scrutiny/PAC that was caused by immediate transfers from Panels to Executive positions. The Committee expressed concern that neither the PAC nor the Environment Scrutiny Panel had been given any notice that the Connétable of St. Peter was to take up a position as an Assistant Minister. Had Deputy Le Fondré, having left a Ministerial post not been willing to serve on PAC it would have left that Committee not properly constituted and unable to undertake any formal work. Also if Members involved in scrutiny reviews transferred with immediate effect, the review lost continuity.</p> <p>The Committee also expressed its concern in respect of the small number of Members who served on neither scrutiny nor the Executive. It was agreed that PPC be formally requested to consider these matters and identify a means whereby they could be overcome.</p>	<p>BS KTF</p>
<p>25.11.10 item 10</p> <p>510/3(5)</p>	<p>12. Scrutiny Matters newsletter: responses to questionnaire</p> <p>The Committee, having considered the price for producing, printing and mailing a 2011 Newsletter, agreed that there should be one more edition for this session. It was agreed that information should be included about the outcome of the questionnaire in the last edition.</p>	
<p>25.11.10 item 12</p> <p>465/1(4)</p>	<p>13. Chairmen's Committee representative on the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC)</p> <p>The Committee recalled that Deputy Higgins, the current representative of the Chairmen's Committee on PPC, has expressed the wish to stand down. The Committee also recalled that it has agreed that Deputy Southern should be nominated.</p> <p>However, following consideration of procedures to do this and to nominate other Members, Deputy Higgins had decided to continue as the Committee's representative for the remainder of this session.</p>	<p>KTF</p>
<p>510/3(7)</p>	<p>14. Public Engagement</p> <p>The Committee welcomed Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer and Ms.</p>	

	<p>M. Pardoe, Public Accounts Committee Officer to the meeting for this item.</p> <p>The Committee was appraised of a body of work undertaken by the officers in respect of public engagement and raising the public profile of scrutiny through its review work.</p> <p>The Committee noted various proposals for the stages during a review when a more proactive approach could be taken to inform the public about matters which had arisen. The Committee also advised that it would welcome a checklist which advised at which points of a review information should be put into the public domain and the alternative methods for achieving this. The Committee also noted that scrutiny now had a Facebook site and requested a presentation on this be prepared for all Scrutiny Members.</p>	KTF
<p>28.10.10 item 14</p> <p>510/1(5)</p>	<p>15. Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee</p> <p>The Committee considered the paper prepared by the Review Group into the above Code which had included its findings and in which a number of recommendations had been made. The Committee noted that it had initially received this paper in June 2010 but that it had been deferred due to the lodging "<i>au Greffe</i>" of firstly P70/2010: Machinery of Government: Amended Structure and subsequently P120/2010: Ministerial Government: Establishment of Ministerial Boards and Revised System of Scrutiny.</p> <p>Having considered some of the matters which made a review of the Code of Practice difficult, it was agreed that an additional Committee meeting should be arranged with Deputies Vallois and De Sousa (remaining Members of the Review Group) in attendance.</p>	
	<p>16. Date of next meeting</p> <p>Noting that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for 24th February 2011 which was during half-term week, it was agreed that Members availability would be checked before proceeding with that date.</p>	