

# Environment Scrutiny Panel

## Record of Meeting

Date: **29th April 2010**

Meeting Number: 22

Present	Deputy P Rondel (Chairman) (PR) Connétable J Refault (JR) Deputy P Le Claire (PLC)
Apologies	Deputy D Wimberley (Vice Chairman) (DW)
In attendance	M Haden, Scrutiny Officer M. Orbell, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<b>1. Records of meetings</b> The minutes of the meeting of 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2010 were approved with one amendment.	MH
	<b>2. Liquid Waste Strategy</b> The Panel noted that the draft Liquid Waste Strategy was expected to be available for review imminently.	MH/MO
	<b>3. Ramsar Review</b> Officers confirmed that owing to the changed timetable for the Comprehensive Spending Review, the date agreed for a meeting to discuss Ramsar issues with the Minister for Planning and Environment would also have to change. A new date would be confirmed as soon as possible.	MH/MO
	<b>4. Carbon Intensity</b> It was agreed that a letter should be sent to all stakeholders and the Planning and Environment Department expressing the Panel's concern at the delay in coming to agreement over the terms of reference for the proposed department-sponsored review of carbon intensity of fuels, asking for the reasons for the delay and notes of meetings held so far.	MH/MO
	<b>5. St Helier Food Waste Composting</b> Following the postponement of a previous visit arranged by the Parish of St Helier the Panel agreed that a letter should be sent to the Parish asking when it would be possible for members to visit the composting 'Rocket' to see it in operation.	MH/MO
	<b>6. Public Engagement</b> The Panel noted that officers had discussed difficulties drafting a suitable survey to place on Facebook with the Chairman. The Panel's work programme at present seemed unlikely to encourage strong public interest owing to the nature of topics considered for review, whereas a survey asking for suggestions from members of the public could be counter-productive. As the forthcoming newsletter would generate some publicity in any case it was felt that more consideration of the ongoing work programme was required before a final decision on how best to	MH/MO

	present the Panel's work to the public was made.	
	<p><b>7. Bottled Water</b></p> <p>Following some discussion of the aims of this proposed review it was agreed that a scoping exercise should be carried out and results brought to the next meeting. Members agreed that in the first instance the review should focus on consumption of bottled water by States Departments. The Panel was not aware of any evidence pointing to specific health or quality issues with the public water supply, the primary interest was in raising awareness of the environmental impacts of using bottled water as well as obtaining evidence of the costs incurred to the public purse through its use. With this in mind it was felt that timing the review to follow the Eco-Active campaign believed to be planned for May/June 2010 might be beneficial.</p>	MH/MO
	<p><b>8. Comprehensive Spending Review</b></p> <p>The Panel noted recent changes to the CSR timetable. Quarterly briefing meetings had provisionally been re-arranged with the Minister for Transport and Technical Services to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> May and remained to be confirmed with the Minister for Planning and Environment.</p>	MH/MO
	<p><b>9. Sustainable Transport Policy</b></p> <p>In the absence of the lead member due to illness officers reported very briefly on the outcome of three meetings held with the Assistant Minister and departmental officers between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April. An amended version of the draft policy was awaited soon; while the discussions had been positive it was not possible to be sure of any changes which may have been agreed subsequently by the Minister.</p> <p>The Panel looked forward to receiving more detailed feedback from the lead member but in the meantime considered the way ahead. The department now proposed to lodge the policy during the summer for debate soon after the recess. It was noted that this amended timetable would after all allow the Panel sufficient time to consider taking expert advice if it was minded to produce a more comprehensive report on the draft policy, rather than limiting its contribution to comments on the proposition as had previously been proposed. In view of this possibility officers were requested to prepare a draft scoping document for circulation and investigate potential consultants for a review.</p>	MH/MO
	<p><b>10. Monitoring and Regulation of Coastal Water Quality</b></p> <p>Officers gave an oral briefing on a meeting held earlier in the week with the Head of the Health Protection Service in respect of the proposed review. It was noted that this matter would feature on the agenda for the re-arranged quarterly briefing meeting with the Minister for Planning and Environment (date to be confirmed), with a view to agreeing terms of reference and establishing a timetable. Suggested amendments had now been received from department officers on discussion notes previously circulated to inform the scoping process; these would be assessed by officers and any pertinent comments forwarded to members prior to the quarterly briefing meeting.</p>	MH/MO
	<p><b>11. Funding Waste Recycling</b></p> <p>Members considered a briefing paper on the ministerial response to the Panel's report S.R.9/2009. Officers were requested to draft a letter to the Minister acknowledging his detailed response, welcoming his plans for an evidence-based review re-examining current priorities and requesting reports on the following:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the department's analysis of waste management options</li> <li>• the Minister's formal approach to UK authorities to enable the Island to participate in the disposal scheme for WEEE</li> <li>• the review of charging and costs in particular with regard to green waste composting and the payments to farmers for accepting compost products on their fields</li> <li>• improvements to fridge recycling, upgrading the scrap-yard and diversion of WEEE and batteries.</li> </ul> <p>In addition was agreed that the Panel should make a submission to the consultation on the Rural Economy Strategy to formally register its recommendations regarding a phased reduction in payments to farmers and the conditioning of area payments under the Strategy to farmers' acceptance of compost products on their fields. It was felt that it may also be time to consider the introduction of some kind of means-testing for such payments.</p>	
	<p><b>12. Matters for Information</b></p> <p>Members noted recent ministerial decisions relevant to the Panel's remit, the financial report for the first quarter of 2010 and arrangements for questions without notice to the Minister for Planning and Environment at the States sitting of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010.</p>	
	<p><b>13. Future Meetings</b></p> <p>The Panel noted the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (provisional) private meeting to discuss TTS proposals (8.30am in the Blampied Room)</li> <li>• the next scheduled Panel meeting on 20th May 2009 (8.30am in the Blampied Room).</li> </ul>	

Signed



Date:

18. 5. 10

Chairman Environment Panel

