

# Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Record of Meeting

Date: 28th January 2009

Meeting 4

Present	Senator S.C. Ferguson, Chairman Connétable D.J. Murphy Deputy T.A. Vallois
Apologies	Deputy C.H. Egré, Vice-Chairman
Absent	
In attendance	M. Robbins, Scrutiny Officer W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<b>1. Record of Meetings.</b> The Panel received and approved its minutes of 7th January 2009 and 14th January 2009, which were signed accordingly.	
	<b>2. Action Updates</b> The Panel noted the Action updates and examined aspects of Migration, Overseas Aid, Business Plan and PAC Meeting.	
<b>07.01.09 Item 10</b>	<b>3. Overseas Aid</b> The Panel recalled that the previous Corporate Services Panel had presented <i>Review of Jersey's Overseas Aid</i> (SR11/2007). It confirmed that correspondence was to be sent to Deputy I.J. Gorst, Chairman of the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission in order to offer advanced warning of the Panel's interest and notification that the work was expected to be undertaken in June or July.	<b>MR/ WM</b>
<b>07.01.09 Item 5</b>	<b>4. Migration Law (Ref 513.6)</b> The Panel was appraised that the papers relating to the proposed Migration Review supplied to the previous Corporate Services Panel were not available, as they had been issued under cover of confidentiality. The Panel required the drafting of a confidentiality document, which allowed both the Panel and the Sub-Panel access to the relevant documents.  It was confirmed that this review would be undertaken by a Sub-Panel, to be chaired by the Chairman and to include Deputy T.A. Vallois. The Panel requested that email invitations were sent to Members of other Panels to identify Members willing and interested in serving on the Sub-Panel.	<b>MR/ WM</b>  <b>WM/ MR</b>
<b>23.01.09 Item 2</b>	<b>5. Waterfront Enterprise Board</b> The Panel decided to launch a review of P.12/2009 (Waterfront Enterprise Board: Revised Memorandum and Articles of Association). Accepting that there was very little time available before the matter was debated in the States on 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2009, the review was to concentrate on hearings with; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Chief Minister, Senator T. Le Sueur,</li> <li>• Senator B. Shenton and</li> <li>• the Comptroller and Auditor General, Mr C. Swinson,</li> </ul>	<b>WM/ MR</b>

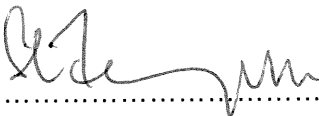
	Scoping documents, Budget, Terms of Reference and Time Lines were to be drafted with dates of hearings arranged. The Panel also expressed concern in respect of the facts behind WEB obtaining its power to manage East of Albert.	
<b>07.01.09 Item 14</b>	<b>6. Business Plans</b> The Panel maintained that it would establish a Finance Sub-Panel, under the chairmanship of the Panel Chairman. It confirmed that the Chairman and Connétable Murphy would meet with officers to progress the matter.	<b>TV  Panel  Panel</b>
<b>23.01.09 Item 2</b>	Following the meeting between the Panel and Senator B.E. Shenton, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, the Panel recalled that Deputy Vallois, as a member of both the Committee and the Panel, would be in a position to act as a conduit between the two bodies. The intended work program of the Committee and Panel were examined and there were no areas of conflict or duplication. Lines of communication would be kept open to ensure this did not change.	
<b>07.01.09 Item 18</b>	Members were to check the Departmental Business Plans and send any comments to the officer.  The Panel noted the request of the Chairmen's Committee that Panels consider the legacy report of the former Corporate Services (Finance) Sub-Panel in order to provide the Panel with views as to whether each Panel wished a representative to serve on a Sub-Panel. The Panel noted that it had previously considered the legacy report and had noted that it would provide a useful framework upon which the new Sub-Panel would base its own work.	
<b>07.01.09 Item 21</b>	<b>7. Freedom of Information</b> The Panel recalled its agreement that the Vice-Chairman would endeavour to ascertain the current status of Freedom of Information legislation. The Officers were requested to liaise with the Vice-Chairman to determine whether this had occurred.	<b>MR / WM</b>
<b>07.01.09 Item 7</b>	<b>8. Review Assessment Process</b> The Panel reviewed assessment documentation prepared in relation to the following topics: a) Migration b) Property Holdings c) Finance Sub-Panel d) Civil Partnerships and Residency e) Tax After Retirement f) Payment of Rates by States.  In each case, the documents were agreed and signed. The documents were to be presented to the Chairmen's Committee for information.	
<b>07.01.09 Item 6</b>	<b>9. Property Holdings</b> The Panel agreed that it would undertake a review relating to Jersey Property Holdings. It further agreed that any such review undertaken would be by a Sub-Panel chaired by Connétable Murphy with the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Vallois.  In attempting to establish the position of the Minister and Department on this matter, the Panel agreed that a briefing from the Department of Property Holdings would assist. The Panel was minded that this was not a priority as there were other matters that would fully occupy the Panels resources for the immediate future.	<b>DM  MR/ WM</b>

<p><b>14.01.09 Item 2</b></p>	<p><b>10. Deemed Rent. (Ref 513.4)</b> The Panel noted the Scoping, Terms of Reference and Time Line for the proposed review on P161/2008 Draft Income Tax (Amendment No 32)(Jersey) Law 200- (Deemed Rent Review). The Panel confirmed that the documents discharged its intentions and agreed to launch the review. It noted that the Time Line was tight in order to meet the debate date of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009. It further confirmed that the Panel, rather than a Sub-Panel, would undertake this review due to the very short time available.</p> <p>Members noted that the Panel might obtain assistance from HM Revenue and Customs, KPMG Accountants and a UK barrister however it also accepted that the time available might not permit this.</p> <p>The Panel also noted that the advisor for the Previous Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel, Mr R. Teather, was available to assist in this review. On confirmation that his rates were commensurate with the past, the Panel required he be employed under contract. In order to maintain continuity it was agreed that this fulfilled Financial Direction 5.1.</p> <p>Dates for hearings were to be arranged.</p>	<p><b>MR/ WM</b></p> <p><b>MR/ WM</b></p> <p><b>MR/ WM MR/ WM</b></p>
<p><b>07.01.09 Item 3</b></p>	<p><b>11. Work Programme</b> The Panel considered its draft work programme for 2009. It was noted that provision had not been made for any work in relation to Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs). The Officers were requested to amend the work programme to reflect the Panel's decisions in relation to specific matters and to ascertain how work on TIEAs could potentially be incorporated.</p>	<p><b>MR WM</b></p>
<p><b>07.01.09 Item 9</b></p>	<p><b>12. Civil Partnerships</b> The Panel noted that advice had been received from the Chief Minister's Department on the timetable of development of legislation with regard to Civil Partnerships. It was noted that a proposal for in-principle approval of the relevant legislation would potentially be brought to the States Assembly later in 2009.</p>	
<p><b>14.01.09 Item 1</b></p>	<p><b>13. Rapporteur</b> The Panel recalled that at its previous meeting it had appointed a rapporteur relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Technology,</li> <li>• Human Resources and</li> <li>• Emergency Planning.</li> </ul> <p>As the Rapporteur was absent from the meeting, the matter was deferred to the next meeting when terms of reference would be set.</p>	<p><b>WM/ MR</b></p>
	<p><b>14. Bovine Semen.</b> In noting the correspondence to the Panel from Professor Geoff Simm, the Chairman of the National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources, the Panel requested a response be sent. This was to explain that the Panel was not in a position to make conditions to the Minister but that there would be some work undertaken to establish what actions had been taken as a result of the recommendations. This was to be followed up at the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>MR/ WM</b></p>
	<p><b>15. Civil Aviation</b> The Panel noted Ministerial Decision MD-C-2008-0037. This related to a decision of 17th December 2008, in pursuance of the Civil Aviation (Jersey) Law 2008, to appoint Mr Jeremy Snowdon as Director of Civil Aviation with effect from 1 January 2009. The Panel requested that further information be sought from the Chief Minister's Department.</p>	<p><b>WM/ MR</b></p>

	<p><b>16. Forthcoming Propositions</b> The Panel noted that no new propositions had been lodged for debate by the Chief Minister or Minister for Treasury and Resources as of 20th January 2009.</p>	
07.01.09 Item 15	<p><b>17. Ministerial Decisions</b> The Panel noted Ministerial Decisions that had been made by the Chief Minister and the Minister for Treasury and Resources and which had been uploaded to <a href="http://www.gov.je">www.gov.je</a> between 19th December 2008 and 20th January 2009.</p> <p>The Panel recalled its previous agreement to request the Officers to ascertain the status of MD-TR-2008-0142. It was noted that advice had been received to the effect that the Ministerial Decision in question had been terminated and consequently had not appeared on the website.</p>	
	<p><b>18. GAAP Accounting</b> In noting Ministerial Decision MD-TR-2009-0006 which related to Consolidation of Capital Votes to comply with GAAP Accounting, where the Minister for Treasury and Resources had agreed to approve the consolidation and transfer of Minor Capital Projects, the Panel required MD – HSS 2008 – 0057 to be circulated to Panel Members</p>	MR/ WM
07.01.09 Item 4	<p><b>19. Future Meetings</b> The Panel approved the proposed dates for its regular meetings with the Chief Minister and Minister for Treasury and Resources.</p> <p>The Panel noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place at 0845 hours on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009.</p>	
	<p><b>20. Questions to Ministers</b> The Panel noted the arrangements for questions without notice to Ministers for the States sitting of 3rd February 2009.</p>	
	<p><b>21. Environmental Taxes</b> The Panel was advised that the Environment Scrutiny Panel would potentially review matters relating to environmental taxation. It was noted that the Chairman could liaise with Deputy P.J. Rondel, Chairman of the Environment Panel, about the work that the Environment Panel would undertake.</p>	

Signed

Date:



11/02/2009

Chairman  
Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel