

Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

8th February 2017

Present	Deputy S.M. Brée, Chairman Deputy D. Johnson, Vice-Chairman Connétable J.E. Le Maistre Connétable M.J. Paddock
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	Mr M. Orbell, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of meetings</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2017 were approved and signed.</p>	MO
	<p>2. Digital Policy Framework</p> <p>The Panel noted a new media release announcing the launch of the Digital Policy Framework the same day; members expressed some surprise that no information about this had been communicated to the Panel in advance. It appeared that the proposed policy could have implications not only in terms of its own funding, but also potentially for any future population policy. There was some doubt about where ministerial responsibility for the initiative now lay, following the 'stepping aside' of the former Assistant Chief Minister, Senator P.F.C. Ozouf. The Scrutiny Officer was asked to contact the department to request a full briefing for the Panel.</p>	MO
Item 3 25.01.17	<p>3. Rural Economy Strategy (RES)</p> <p>The Panel provisionally approved draft scoping for a review of the strategy. The Scrutiny Officer was asked to prepare suitable terms of reference for the review based on the objectives in the scoping document. As it was still unclear when the strategy would be presented to the States, Chairmen's Committee approval would not be sought until this was known. The Panel would then consider the timing of its review. Bearing in mind prior agreement with the department that any recommendations would be aimed towards implementation from 2018 onwards, early completion of the review was not necessarily urgent, although the Panel would consider the seasonal workload of the industry to ensure that participation was not compromised.</p>	MO
Item 4 25.01.17	<p>4. Tourism (Jersey) Law 1948 - Proposals for Reform</p> <p>The Panel discussed a consultation paper released by Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture on 24th January. The paper highlighted a potential conflict between the desire to increase visitor numbers, and the need for effective regulation and monitoring of the</p>	

	industry. Popular hospitality services such as Airbnb owed much of their success to the ease and apparent lack of formalities when booking over the Internet, but this could raise concerns about potential abuse of population controls and the suitability of letting arrangements. Members agreed to request a detailed briefing.	MO
Item 2 25.01.17 515/35	<p style="text-align: center;">5. Licensing Law</p> <p>The Panel commenced detailed examination of the draft Licensing Law. It was noted that the latest version received awaited final checks on Human Rights compliance and was thus still subject to amendments, although Department Officers had confirmed that no other significant changes were expected. A number of questions about individual Articles were noted for future reference. It was agreed to hold an additional Panel meeting on Friday 17th February to continue scrutiny of the draft law.</p>	MO