

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 21st October 2015

Present	Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré, President and Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel Deputy S.M. Brée, Chairman, Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel Deputy R. Renouf, Chairman, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel Deputy A.D. Lewis, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee Deputy D. Johnson, Vice-Chairman, Environment, Housing and Technical Services Scrutiny Panel
Apologies	Deputy L.M.C. Doublet, Vice-President and Chairman, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel Connétable A.S. Crowcroft, Chairman, Environment, Housing and Technical Services Scrutiny Panel
Absent	
In attendance	Mr M. Orbell, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of meetings</p> <p>The Committee approved the records of its meetings held on 7th July (revised), 15th and 21st September, and 13th and 14th October 2015, which were signed accordingly by the President.</p>	
511/1(60)	<p>2. Activity Reports</p> <p>The Committee noted the Panel and Public Accounts Committee activity reports. The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee gave members an oral update on his Committee's report, which led to general discussion of items concerning the States as Shareholder and conflicts of interest for Scrutiny members.</p> <p>It was noted that the Environment, Housing and Technical Services Scrutiny Panel had asked all Scrutiny members if they would like to participate in a review of proposed changes to Taxi Regulations; no positive responses had been received to date.</p> <p>Following a referral back to Scrutiny during the debate on 20th October, it was noted that a review of P.46/2015: Draft States of Jersey (Transfer of Functions No.8) (Miscellaneous Transfers) (Jersey) Regulations 201- would now be shared between the Corporate Services Panel, which had already carried out work on the proposed transfers of Property Holdings and Fisheries, and the Economic Affairs Panel, which would focus on the remaining transfers of Sport and Culture to the Economic Development Department, and Digital, Competition and Innovation to the Chief Minister's Department. The debate would continue on 15th December. Deputy Maçon, having previously been co-opted to work on the review with the Corporate Services Panel, would be approached to see if he wished to join the Economic Affairs Panel on a similar basis for its part of the review.</p>	

	The Committee noted that since the Activity Reports were drafted, following a briefing from the Economic Development Department the Economic Affairs Panel had also agreed in principle to carry out a review of proposals for a revised Licensing Law.	
510/1(5)	<p>3. Draft Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the draft Code of Practice should be prioritised on the agenda for the next Committee meeting. It was anticipated that the discussion would take up about an hour of the meeting.</p>	
511/1(57)	<p>4. Shared information: Livelink</p> <p>Members expressed different views concerning the use of electronic devices to access documents in meetings, as opposed to relying on printed copies. The use of Livelink was not yet common amongst members or their Panels. Some members felt it could not replace the ability to make notes on hard copies in meetings, although it was noted that there were ways of adding notes to documents on some electronic devices. It was suggested that there might be some benefit from additional training in the use of devices provided for Members.</p> <p>Some members reported being able to see Livelink pages relating to States departments, but not individual documents uploaded to them, leading to some uncertainty over what access would be obtained by Members using Livelink. It was explained that a permissions system should ensure that members could only access documents uploaded specifically for their own Panels or Committees. The aim would be for Panel/Committee Officers to upload key documents relevant to specific reviews for members to refer to conveniently when needed; it was not intended to replicate entire review files. Access was also 'read-only', so if members wished to make changes or annotate documents they would have to save these to a local copy.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that it should be left to individual Panels/members to decide whether they wished to avail themselves of the shared document facility. It was noted that no specific training should be required; where needed Officers would be able to demonstrate how to access Livelink to their Panels/Committees.</p>	
510/3(9)	<p>5. Use of social media</p> <p>The President introduced this item on behalf of the Chairman of the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel, who was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. It was suggested that Scrutiny was failing the public by not communicating with them properly, as many people preferred not to use the established media. The Chairman was in favour of using social media (particularly Facebook) for advertising Scrutiny calls for evidence. Scrutiny's previous experience of using Facebook was discussed, and it was explained that the Scrutiny Facebook page had initially attracted some interest, but this had waned after a time, possibly partly because department policy and resourcing issues meant that posts from third parties went unanswered. This one-way communication had earlier been highlighted by advisers as a potential weakness in Scrutiny's approach to Facebook, which users generally thought of as an interactive medium. Subsequently an increasing number of abusive and objectionable messages began to be posted on the Scrutiny</p>	

	<p>Facebook page by third parties; at one point the page was also believed to have been 'hacked'. Without the means to control these incidents it was eventually decided to close the Facebook account to avoid damage to the reputation of Scrutiny. Events and information were still added on Twitter; the States Assembly similarly had a Twitter account but did not use Facebook.</p> <p>Members agreed that this issue should be discussed further at the next meeting. Matters for consideration would include what members wanted to achieve by using Facebook or other social media, how issues of resourcing and time constraints could be addressed, and what to do about third party comments.</p>	
	<p>6. Future Meeting</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting date was 10th November 2015, 9.30am-11.30am, Le Capelain Room, States Building.</p>	