

CHAIRMEN'S COMMITTEE

Meeting of Chairmen held on 17th January 2006

Present	Deputy R C Duhamel, President Deputy F J Hill Deputy G P Southern Deputy S C Ferguson Deputy P J D Ryan [Item 1 only]
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs C. Le Quesne, Scrutiny Officer Mr M. Robbins, Scrutiny Officer

Ref. back.	Agenda matter	Action
<p>1.</p> <p>09.01.06Item 4</p>	<p>Receive a practical guide to Scrutiny booklet and consider publication and distribution method.</p> <p>The Committee considered the proposed printing options and methods of distribution. It discussed the various options and was of opinion that the proposed booklet whilst requiring some amendment may not provide the correct information or be in an appropriate format to raise the profile of Scrutiny effectively. The effort of producing the document was noted but it was suggested that an alternative approach may reach a wider audience and ensure increased value for money.</p> <p>The Committee decided that some discussion should take place with the Communications Unit in an effort to secure assistance in the production of some sort of information booklet for distribution. Their advice on using other forms of media and the best format should also be sought. It was suggested that a half or full page advertisement in the Jersey Evening Post may prove equally effective as the distribution of the proposed booklet at a lesser cost. The option of a page of advertising in the Telecoms telephone directory should also be investigated as a potential option together with closing dates for inclusion. Costings for circulating information in some other publications such as Jersey Now or the Consumer Council publication should be obtained.</p> <p>It was agreed that any form of information circulation would not include a topic proposal form but that this should be made available on the Scrutiny Website. On a related matter it was agreed that the current Website would require further development to introduce a more interactive feel.</p> <p>It was suggested that a reduced rate of postage should be negotiated and achievable if an information booklet was decided upon at a later date. It was noted that further discussion would be required with regard to providing any such information booklet in other languages such as Portuguese.</p>	<p>KTF</p>

	<p>The Booklet if used in the longer term would require the following amendments -</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Inclusion under remit of PAC: a note explaining that it would publicise its own hearings in due course;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Scrutiny website; a note about the submission form being available on it;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Open process: removal of bullet point 2 expansion of 1 to explain that some evening meetings will be held by some Panels at a variety of venues at which the public will be provided an opportunity to participate</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>10.01.06</p> <p>Item 2</p>	<p>Update on meeting with Chief Minister, Chief Executive and H.M. Attorney General regarding access of Scrutiny to legal advice given to Ministers and legal advice to Scrutiny Panels.</p> <p>It was noted that the draft protocol was being prepared by the Scrutiny office by way of summary of the discussion which would be circulated to the Chief Minister and H.M. Attorney General and that this should be emailed to the Committee members with the Chairmen's revisions for information.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>/KTF</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Independent member reviews</p> <p>The Committee discussed Scrutiny members also fulfilling the rôle of independent member. It was suggested that in the best interest of communication, good practice and courtesy, any Scrutiny member undertaking an in depth independent review of a subject within the remit of its own or another Panel should advise the relevant Panel. Whilst some members accepted this suggestion it was agreed that this should remain the decision of the individual member. It was accepted that the remit given to Panels was extensive and that individual members were more likely to address issues involving particular members of the public that had a specific problem or in pursuing areas which had been of concern to them for some time.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Update PAC</p> <p>The Committee received an update from the Chairman of PAC and its investigation into the annual accounts of the States and any disparity with the original budget proposals.</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>20.12.05</p> <p>Item11</p>	<p>Update Social Panel</p> <p>The Chairman of the Social Affairs Panel advised that the Social Security Minister would attend its meeting on 23rd January 2006 and that the meeting would be open to the public.</p>	

6	Nomination of independent members to the Scrutiny Chairmen's Committee The Committee considered nominations as independent members and agreed that the President should nominate Deputies R.J. Le Herissier and J.G. Reed.	
7	Date of next meeting: This was agreed as 27th January 2006 at 9.30am in Le Capelain Room, States Building.	

Signed

.....

President, Chairmen's Committee