

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC SESSION

The records of the Panel meeting include Public and Private minutes in accordance with the Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information

Record of Meeting

Date: 14th October 2009
Meeting 51

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

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Human Resources and States Employment Board</p> <p>The Panel considered matters relating to Human Resources and the States Employment Board and agreed in principle that provision should be made in the Work Programme for a review on these matters. It was agreed that the Vice-Chairman would meet the Scrutiny Officers to give initial consideration to a scope for the review.</p>	<p>CE/ MR/ WM</p>
<p>30/09/09, Item 7</p>	<p>Consideration was given to the resource implications of undertaking this review. The Panel recalled its previous agreement to spend the time required to deal with some smaller outstanding matters on its Work Programme such as the Importation of Bovine Semen, Overseas Aid and International Relations and that the 'Whistle blowing' review would be dealt with at a later time than had initially been foreseen (potentially the end of November 2009). The Panel therefore noted that its current commitments would not allow a review relating to Human Resources or the States Employment Board to start until late November 2009 and that careful consideration would need to be given at that time to balancing the Work Programme between that review, the 'Whistle blowing' review and the review of Migration legislation which was due to begin again in earnest at that time.</p> <p>The Panel considered the current situation in relation to the 2009 'pay freeze' for public sector employees. It recalled that the first indication it had received that this would be proposed was at a Quarterly Hearing with Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources, on 8th April 2009. The Panel was advised that the Chairman had a copy of correspondence between Senator T.A. Le Sueur, Chief Minister, and Unite the Union relating to the current situation. The Officers were requested to place a copy of the correspondence on file.</p>	<p>MR / WM</p>
<p>30/09/09, Item 6</p> <p>513/23(8)</p>	<p>2. Economic Stimulus Plan</p> <p>The Panel recalled the submissions it had received at its Public Hearings on 13th October 2009 and agreed that it would need to raise</p>	

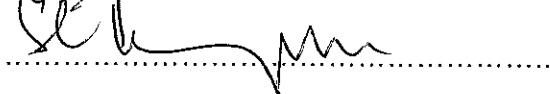
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	<p>its consequent concerns with the Minister for Treasury and Resources at the Public Hearing on 15th October 2009. It was further agreed that correspondence would subsequently be sent to the Minister to highlight the Panel's concerns. Consideration was given to ensuring that sufficient publicity was given to these concerns and the Officer was therefore requested to contact the media to encourage attendance at the Public Hearing.</p> <p>The Panel noted that a survey of 450 companies in relation to the current economic climate was due to be undertaken by the Statistics Unit and that the results would be available by 28th October 2009. As this fitted into the timescale for the review, it was agreed not to continue with the Panel's own survey that it had previously agreed to undertake on the effects of the recession on the local economy.</p> <p>The Panel noted that a briefing from Lombard Street Research would be provided on 19th October 2009, after which the Panel would discuss its Heads of Report.</p>	MR
	<p>3. Records of Meetings</p> <p>The Panel approved and signed the records of its meetings of 24th and 30th September 2009.</p>	
	<p>4. Action Updates and Matters Arising</p> <p>The Panel noted the update on actions requested at its previous meeting.</p> <p>The Panel noted receipt of briefing notes of the Chairmen's Committee's meeting of 17th September 2009.</p>	
02/09/09, Item 9	<p>5. Television Licences</p> <p>The Panel recalled it had received correspondence from a member of the public in relation to the funding of Television Licences. It was noted that a response had been sent to the correspondent and it was agreed that a question on the matter would be put to the Minister for Treasury and Resources at the next Quarterly Hearing.</p>	
30/09/09, Item 10	<p>6. Public Engagement</p> <p>The Panel noted that an editorial on Scrutiny would potentially appear in 'The Isle' and agreed that details of its forthcoming work could be forwarded to that publication.</p>	WM / MR
30/09/09, Item 3 513/20(8)	<p>7. Finance Sub-Panel</p> <p>The Panel recalled that Public Hearings had been held on 9th October 2009 and the advice it had received that a review of the Fiscal Strategy was to be undertaken by the Executive, as well as a Comprehensive Spending Review. It was recalled that briefings on these matters would be arranged. The Panel further noted that these reviews would have implications for the Sub-Panel's own review of the forecasting of expenditure. The Sub-Panel would meet on 19th October 2009 to consider the way forward though a Scrutiny Report would be presented in any case.</p> <p>The Panel noted that a visit to Whitbread Group PLC by the Chairman, accompanied by the expert advisor and the Officer, would take place on 16th October 2009.</p>	MR

30/09/09, Item 4	8. Migration and Population	
513/18(8)	<p>The Panel noted that the Migration and Population Sub-Panel would next meet on 14th October 2009 and that, on 28th October 2009, it would receive a briefing on the information technology systems to be used under the proposed Migration legislation.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Sub-Panel's expert advisor would be asked to assist the Sub-Panel in assessing the work that had previously been undertaken on Migration legislation. The Panel was advised that there remained sufficient budget for this work to be done.</p> <p>It was noted that Deputy T.A. Vallois had been appointed by the Sub-Panel to follow up the recommendations of <i>Population Policy</i> (SR3/2009) and, as such, would hold meetings with the relevant Officers. As a result, the Deputy would be in a position to advise the Sub-Panel ahead of a Public Hearing on the matter with the Chief Minister on 25th November 2009.</p>	
30/09/09, Item 5	9. Jersey Development Company	
513/21(8)	<p>It was noted that no information had yet been received from the Executive on the work being undertaken on <i>Property and Infrastructure Regeneration: The States of Jersey Development Company Limited</i> (P.79/2009) following the presentation of <i>Jersey Development Company</i> (SR9/2009). The Scrutiny Officer was requested to ascertain the current situation in that regard. It was further noted that the date of the briefing for States Members on the proposition had not yet been confirmed. The Vice-Chairman advised that he had spoken with the Sub-Panel's expert advisor regarding the subsequent action that should be taken by the Sub-Panel. It was noted, however, that invoices had yet to be received from the expert advisor and that, consequently, there was no guarantee that any work undertaken at present would elicit payment as the contractual limits might have already been met. The Panel was advised that the expert advisor had been informed of this situation and agreed to await receipt of the invoices prior to requesting further action from the advisor.</p>	WM
	10. Panel Commitments	
	The Panel noted its meeting commitments for October 2009.	
16/09/09, Item 2	11. Jersey Overseas Aid	
513/5(8)	<p>The Panel was advised that confirmation had been received of the attendance of Deputy I.J. Gorst, Chairman of the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, at a Public Hearing at 10:30am on 28th October 2009. It was noted that other members of the Commission would most likely accompany Deputy Gorst. The Panel noted and approved a Scoping Document that had been produced for its work on this topic.</p> <p>The Panel noted the recommendations that had been made in <i>Review into Jersey's Overseas Aid</i> (SR11/2007). Consideration was given to a draft question plan for the Hearing which the Officer was requested to circulate by e-mail.</p>	WM
16/09/09, Item 10	12. Deemed Rent	
513/15(8)	The Panel was advised that Deputy T.A. Vallois had met Deputy E.J. Noel, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources, and Mr. M. Campbell, Comptroller of Income Tax. It was noted that details on the	

	Executive's work consequent to <i>Deemed Rent (P.161/2008)</i> (SR2/2009) would seemingly not be forthcoming until the draft 2010 budget had been published.	
	<p>13. Ministerial Responses</p> <p>The Panel noted correspondence, dated 5th October 2009, that the Chief Minister had sent to Senator B.E. Shenton, President of the Chairmen's Committee, in relation to the format and content of Ministerial Responses to Scrutiny Reports. It was noted that the Council of Ministers had accepted the new format for Ministerial Responses, as proposed by the Committee, but had made suggestions for further discussion. The Officers were requested to ascertain whether all Scrutiny Panels would be using the revised format from henceforth or whether the format would undergo an initial trial period by the Corporate Services Panel.</p>	WM / MR
	<p>14. Forthcoming Propositions</p> <p>The Panel noted the forthcoming propositions that had been lodged for debate by the Chief Minister and Minister for Treasury and Resources. This comprised the propositions P.158/2009, P.159/2009, P.160/2009, P.161/2009, P.162/2009 and P.163/2009.</p>	
08/04/09, Item 11	<p>15. Freedom of Information</p> <p>The Panel was advised that <i>Draft Freedom of Information Law 'Policy Paper': White Paper October 2009</i> (R.115/2009) had that day been presented to the States.</p>	
	<p>16. Ministerial Decisions</p> <p>The Panel noted the Ministerial Decisions taken by the Chief Minister and Minister for Treasury and Resources which had been uploaded to www.gov.je between 24th September and 7th October 2009.</p> <p>The Panel requested that further information be circulated on <i>Community Provisions (Uzbekistan Sanctions) (Amendment) (Jersey) Order 2009</i> (MD-C-2009-0077) and <i>Community Provisions (Restrictive Measures – North Korea) (Amendment No.2) (Jersey) Order 2009</i> (MD-C-2009-0078).</p>	WM / MR
	<p>17. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted it would next meet on 28th October 2009.</p>	
	<p>18. Private Session</p> <p>The Panel moved into private session to discuss information it had received in confidence. This part of the meeting was held in private session under Articles 3.2.1(a)(ix) and 3.2.1(b) of <i>Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information</i> and a private record was taken.</p>	

Signed



Date:



Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

14th October 2009