

# Chairmen's Committee

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Record of Meeting

Date: 15.10.09

Meeting No: 30

Present	Senator B. E. Shenton, President Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier, Vice-President Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy P.J. Rondel Deputy G. Southern (representing Health Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel) Deputy J. Maçon (representing Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel)
Apologies	Senator A. Breckon Deputy M.R. Higgins
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes of the 17th, 21st and 29th September 2009, having been agreed were accordingly signed.</p>	
	<p><b>2. Panel Activity reports</b></p> <p>The Committee noted these and the following additional items:-</p> <p><b>Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel:</b></p> <p>(i) Scoping document and terms of reference for a review into Human Resources would be drawn up. This review would be chaired by Deputy Egré and Members from other Panels would be welcome</p> <p>(ii) A possible review into Information Technology would be discussed with the Public Accounts Committee in the first instance.</p> <p><b>Environment:</b></p> <p>The scoping document and Terms of Reference for a review into Waste Recycling.</p> <p><b>Health, Social Security and Housing:</b></p> <p>The scoping document and Terms of Reference for a further review into Income Support. The Vice-Chairman had met the Minister for Social Security to establish good working practices and co-operation from the outset in respect of this review. The unwillingness of the Social Security Department to forward information in a timely matter had been raised with the Minister and all requests were now copied to the Minister.</p> <p>The work of HSSH was managing to cover all aspects of its large remit: small dental review, then a housing issue but health was now "on the back burner" following the work on the Co-ordination of Services for Vulnerable Children. It was again noted that the remit of this Panel was too large and</p>	

	<p>that Health required a separate Panel. The Committee recalled that it had previously sent correspondence to the Privileges and Procedures Committee requesting that Committee to consider a number of issues which impacted on Member availability for scrutiny work.</p> <p><b>General:</b> The Committee noted that, from an office perspective, the only major concern was in respect of the Economic Affairs Panel's review into the Depositor Compensation Scheme.</p>	
<p><b>23.07.09 item 6 511/1(36)</b></p>	<p><b>3. Ministerial Responses</b></p> <p>The Committee received correspondence dated 5th October 2009, from the Chief Minister acknowledging and welcoming the proposed standardised template for Ministerial Responses. The Committee noted some suggestions by the Council of Ministers to be considered at a later date.</p> <p>It noted that the template would be put into use forthwith and that the guidelines were currently being amended to include completion of the template.</p>	
	<p><b>4. Quarterly financial report: third quarter</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the third quarterly financial report and also noted that there would be a considerable underspend at the year end. The Committee recalled the 2010 Scrutiny budget would be reduced by £100,000 in accordance with the States agreement.</p>	
<p><b>23.07.09 item 9 510/3(5)</b></p>	<p><b>5. Newsletter</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that the newsletter was on target to meet the planned distribution date.</p>	
<p><b>23.07.09 item 13</b></p>	<p><b>6. Joint Chairmen's Committee and Council of ministers: agenda items</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that the next joint meeting with the Council of Ministers was scheduled for 12th November 2.00pm - 3.00pm. It also noted the matters for discussion in respect of the Ministerial Responses template and asked Members to forward any other items for the agenda to the Scrutiny Manager during the forthcoming week.</p>	<p><b>Chairmen/KTF</b></p>
	<p><b>7. Travel and Subsistence Policy</b></p> <p>The Committee considered the current maximum expenditure of £20 per person on a main meal when on either off-Island visits or when hosting Panel Advisers. It also considered information from the Accounting Officer that all expenditure should have prior Panel approval or that the Scrutiny Office should be advised in advance as retrospective payments were unacceptable.</p> <p>The Committee requested that information regarding the expenditure of the Ministers on such matters be sought so that it could be ensured that an equitable system was in place.</p>	<p><b>KTF</b></p>
	<p><b>8. Comité des Connétables: referral of propositions in the States Assembly.</b></p> <p>Procedure to date had been to refer propositions of the Comité des Connétables to the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel, however, there were occasions when the subject matter rendered this inappropriate. The Committee agreed that the propositions should be referred to the Panel in whose remit the subject matter fell.</p>	

<p>23.07.09 item12</p> <p>510/2(1)</p>	<p><b>9. Legal Advice</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that a meeting had been held between the President, Vice-President and Deputy Tadier who had been Chairman of the Sub-Panel which had commissioned both internal and external advice.</p> <p>The Committee noted that correspondence had been sent to H.M. Attorney General to state that in future, Panels should only commission either internal or external advice but not both. It had also advised H.M. Attorney General that, in the event that a Panel wished to make the advice it received public, a Panel would be obliged to seek external advice due to the intransigence of H.M Attorney General in this regard.</p>	<p>BS/RL H</p>
<p>511/1(39)</p>	<p><b>10. States Building</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that the body responsible for the States Building was Property Holdings and that information had been received in respect of various aspects of the building as a whole.</p> <p>However, the Committee, focussing on the areas within its remit only, was appraised that the Scrutiny Rooms were directly under the Royal Court in which was fitted a hearing loop. Should hearing loops be fitted in the scrutiny rooms, hearing users would suffer interference from the Royal Court loop. However, the Committee noted that the Department of Electronics was investigating other options in consultation with the hearing resource centre.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the doors to the scrutiny rooms opened inwards as the corridor outside was an escape route.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the Committee decided that it wished to investigate a means of reducing the size of the tables, perhaps also by utilising the wasted space in the centre of the room. It also agreed to investigate further the possibility of adapting the doors for them to open outwards.</p> <p>Concerns regarding areas of the States Building outside the remit of scrutiny had been forwarded to the Privileges and Procedures Committee.</p>	<p>KTF</p>
	<p><b>11. Away morning</b></p> <p>The Committee agreed to the principle of a scrutiny away-morning before the States resumed in January 2010 and scheduled 14th January as a potential date for this.</p>	
	<p><b>12. Meetings of the Chairmen's Committee 2010</b></p> <p>The Committee agreed to retain its meeting day as Thursday between 12.30pm - 2.30pm. It also agreed to schedule monthly meetings although if there were insufficient matters for the agenda, the meeting would be cancelled.</p>	
	<p><b>14. Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting was scheduled for 12th November 2009 and the start time would be decided on consideration of the agenda. A joint meeting was scheduled with the Council of Ministers after the Committee meeting between 2.00pm and 3.00pm.</p>	

Signed

Date:

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Senator B. Shenton, President

12<sup>th</sup> November 2009