

Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

21st September 2016

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

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of meetings</p> <p>The Minutes of meetings held on 20th and 27th July, and 5th, 7th and 12th September 2016 were approved and signed.</p>	MO
<p>Item 1 12.09.16 515/33(2)</p>	<p>2. Medium Term Financial Plan Addition</p> <p>Members considered draft Comments previously circulated by email. A number of amendments were agreed, and the Scrutiny Officer was asked to make the necessary changes and circulate a final version for Panel approval early the following day, to enable the Comments to be presented to the States on 23rd September. It was also agreed to circulate the final draft to the adviser, to ensure that he was content with references to his report included in the Comments.</p>	MO
<p>Item 5 04.05.16</p>	<p>3. Rural Economy Strategy</p> <p>The Panel welcomed Officers of the Environment Department for a briefing on the draft strategy. It was explained that the two main aims of the strategy were to reduce environmental damage and to improve the economic development of the industry. The strategy was described as being essentially 'business as usual', apart from the need to restructure the subsidy regime, in particular to move away from the current system of single area payments.</p> <p>Members expressed some surprise that there were no costings or financial details included in the latest draft of the strategy. It was pointed out that the Panel would need these to be able to carry out a meaningful review, and Officers agreed that a fully costed approach would be preferable. It was suggested that some financial information could probably be shared without too much difficulty, although more time might be required to ensure that the Panel could receive full details.</p> <p>It was noted that the draft strategy had yet to receive approval from the Corporate Management Board and the Council of Ministers. This gave rise to some concern over the limited time remaining in which to carry out a review, produce a report and make recommendations if the</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>MO</p>

	strategy was to come into effect from the beginning of 2017 (as intended). Officers indicated that if necessary, they would be prepared to recommend a delay in order to allow scrutiny to take place.	
	<p>4. Forthcoming meetings</p> <p>Next scheduled Panel meeting: 9.30am on 5th October 2016, Blampied Room, States Building.</p>	MO