

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: 23rd November 2007

Meeting Number: 53

Present	Deputy P J D Ryan, Chairman Connétable J L S Gallichan (Item 2 onwards) Connétable D Murphy (Items 1-3 only) Deputy R Le Hérissier Deputy C Egré
Apologies	
In attendance	Mr M Haden, Scrutiny Officer Miss S Power, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1.	Minutes The Panel approved the minutes of the 24 th , 25 th , 31 st and the 6 th November 2007.	
2. Item 2c 25.10.07 Item 7 25.10.07	Matters arising a. Private Pension Provision – The Panel requested for the Scrutiny Officer to contact the Income Tax Department to request for an update on progress made to date on private pension provision on the Island, to include the key areas that are being specifically looked into. b. Drug Trafficking Offences (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 200- Connétable Murphy informed the Panel that he had discussed his concerns regarding this amendment with the Comptroller and Auditor General. Rather than the funds collected from this amendment being transferred into the Consolidated Fund, Connétable Murphy wished for the money to be used to assist those recovering from drug addictions with rehabilitation. It was noted that Connétable Murphy had previously asked a question in the States regarding the confiscation funds run by the Treasury and Resources Department, and that he would review the response that he had received to this question.	SP DM
3. Item 3 25.10.07	States Annual Business Plan and Budget 2008 a. The Panel noted that Deputy Reed had lodged an amendment to the 2008 Budget, seeking to transfer an increased amount of £38 million into the stabilisation fund, rather than the proposed £25 million. It was further noted that the Chairman did not support this amendment. b. It was noted that the Scrutiny Officer had recently attended a course on Business Planning in the UK, and would be producing a paper for the Panel to outline the methods adopted in other jurisdictions for Scrutiny of their Business Plans. c. The Panel considered the outcome of the Chairmen's Committee discussion with the Chief Minister on 14 th November. It was agreed that	MH

	<p>the Panel wished to form a Sub-Panel to undertake Scrutiny of the Business Plan and Budget. The focus of the Sub Panel would be on the overall financial strategy and financial framework and the business planning process.</p> <p>It was agreed to seek a local adviser, possibly a former Chief Officer in the States.</p> <p>It was noted that valuable assistance had been received from the Head of Financial Planning in understanding the operation of the Consolidated Fund</p> <p>The following members agreed to form the Sub Panel: Deputy Ryan (Chairman); Connétable Murphy; and Deputy Le Hérissier. It was agreed that the Chairman should contact Connétable Butcher, to see if he wished to be a member of the Sub-Panel.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Sub-Panel should be constituted as soon as possible, and the Panel therefore requested that a scoping document and draft terms of reference be prepared accordingly.</p>	<p>PR</p> <p>MH</p>
<p>4. Item 9 17.09.07</p>	<p>Financial Forecast</p> <p>The Panel noted a draft report and recommendations for the States Financial Forecasts. It was agreed to defer consideration of this item until the Business Planning Sub-Panel had been formally constituted.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Draft Code of Practice</p> <p>The Panel noted the proposed alterations to the Draft Code of Practice, and agreed that it wished to comment on the following items:</p> <p>9.9. Dialogue with departmental officers has been very useful on specific issues such as GST and the operation of the Consolidated fund. Mutual confidence has grown as a result. This has included occasions when officers have been prepared to come to the Scrutiny office to meet the Chairman. Taken strictly 9.9 would limit this opportunity.</p> <p>11.8. The Panel was relaxed about sending its findings and recommendations to Ministers along with factual sections of its draft reports. It believed that the two way flow of information was likely to be beneficial to both sides.</p> <p>The Panel requested for these matters to be passed to the Scrutiny Manager, who would be co-ordinating all Panels responses for the Chairmen's Committee.</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Machinery of Government Review</p> <p>The Panel discussed the report by the Privileges and Procedures Committee review group, and agreed that it had strong concerns regarding the balance of the report. In general it was felt that this review was heavily focused on the Scrutiny function, with little analysis of the Executive side of Government.</p> <p>It was further felt that to base analysis of the Scrutiny function on its first year of operation was the incorrect approach to take, as the Department had moved on considerably in its second year. Initiating the review to focus on the first year of operation meant that the conclusions and recommendations had been reached based on very limited information.</p> <p>The Panel requested for the Scrutiny Officers to produce a short report highlighting its concerns with the recommendations made, to be circulated to members for consideration before being forwarded to the</p>	<p>SP</p>

	Chairmen's Committee.	
7.	<p>2008 Work Programme</p> <p>It was noted that the Panel was committed to the following reviews during 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration Policy Review • Resource implications of the draft Freedom of Information legislation – The Panel requested for a draft Scoping Document and Terms of Reference to be prepared. • States Business Plan and Budget • Possible further work on the deemed rent proposal for non-locally owned non-finance companies, once the Minister for Treasury and Resources brings his proposals to the States. • GST – Financial Services Industry and De Minimis level issues • Level Playing Field Review <p>The Panel agreed the following course of action for the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Stamp Duty on Share Transfer Property Transactions – it was requested for the draft legislation to be sent to Richard Teather for comment. • Constitutional Review – it was noted that the briefing for States Members would take place on the 17th January, and it was agreed that this matter should be considered further following this event. <p>The Panel requested for the Scrutiny Officers to compile a paper outlining reviews scheduled for 2008, to incorporate the proposed timescales, and estimated Officer time.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>MH</p> <p>MH</p>
8. Item 4 24.10.07	<p>Property Holdings Department</p> <p>The Panel noted that Deputy Ryan, Connétable Murphy, and Deputy Egré had attended a meeting with Mr David Flowers, Director, Property Holdings Department, and noted the notes from this meeting. It was felt that this had been a very helpful meeting, and that Mr Flowers had been very informative.</p>	
9.	<p>Departmental Budgets</p> <p>The Panel noted a request from Deputy Ferguson to list any areas where the Panel believes their departments could be more efficient or effective in their use of funds. The Panel requested for the following issues to be highlighted:</p> <p><u>Chief Minister's Department</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Department (Deputy Egré has had an initial meeting with the new Director of IT to discuss the Panel's concerns, and a second meeting date has been arranged) • Human Resources Department <p><u>Treasury and Resources Department</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of States office utilisation (Property Holdings Department) 	SP
10.	<p>Forthcoming Legislation</p> <p>The Panel noted the items of draft legislation within its remit scheduled for debate by the States within the next month.</p>	
11.	<p>Current Reviews</p>	

	The Panel noted an update summary for its current reviews and requested for the Waterfront Report that would shortly be presented to the States to be circulated to the full Panel for consideration.	MH
12.	Future Meetings – Full Panel Meeting – 13th December at 9.30 am (Blampied Room)	

Signed:

Date:

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Chairman
Deputy P J D Ryan