

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 27th April 2016

Present	Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré, President and Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel Deputy L.M.C. Doublet, Vice-President and Chairman, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel Deputy A.D. Lewis, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee Deputy R. Renouf, Chairman, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel Deputy S.M. Brée, Chairman, Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel Deputy D. Johnson, Chairman, Environment, Housing and Technical Services Scrutiny Panel
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	Mr T. Oldham, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
01.03.16 Item 5	<p>1. Panel Names and Remits</p> <p>The Committee considered its previous agreement that Panel names should incorporate, where practical, the terminology used to identify Ministers. It was noted that further consideration had been given by the Corporate Services Panel to amending its name in line with the agreed position. The Panel had unanimously agreed that it did not wish to amend its name in the absence of what it considered to be a suitable alternative. The Committee agreed that in the circumstances it did not want to impose a revised name on the Panel, but agreed to retain the agreed principle for future reference. The Vice-President requested that her preference that the name be changed at this stage, in accordance with the agreed principle, should be recorded.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that all Panels would include an advisory note at the end of media releases detailing the relevant Panel's remit. Officers would draft the necessary paragraph for Panel approval, following which it would be sent for noting to Chairmen's Committee.</p> <p>In addition to the matter of the Corporate Services Panel, the Committee recalled its previous agreements regarding the names of Panels. No amendments would be required, except revision of the name of the Environment, Housing and Technical Services Panel to Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel. This change would come into effect immediately. The Committee requested that the Greffier of the States be informed of this change in order that the Constitution of the States of Jersey could be updated.</p> <p>The Committee recalled and upheld other previous decisions, firstly regarding the naming of the 'Scrutiny Chairmen's Committee' and secondly that the term 'Panel' should be replaced with 'Committee' to more precisely reflect the Panels' role and status and the recognised terminology used in many other Parliaments. It approved associated law drafting instructions.</p>	

	Regarding Panel remits, the Committee approved law drafting instructions in line with its previous deliberations on proposed updates to Standing Orders. It was agreed that the approved drafting instructions should now be forwarded to the Law Draftsman.	
01.03.16 Item 4	<p>2. Protocol for Engagement between Scrutiny Panels and the Executive</p> <p>The current status of the draft Scrutiny and PAC Protocols for Engagement and draft Scrutiny and PAC Proceedings Codes of Practice was discussed. It was noted that feedback from most Panels about the draft Scrutiny Protocol had been submitted, which would be given full consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 17th May. In the meantime, it was noted that feedback had favoured reducing the number of proposed Protocols and Codes. The Committee agreed that in place of the 4 proposed documents there should be 2; a joint <i>Scrutiny/PAC Protocol for Engagement with the Executive</i> and a joint <i>Code of Practice for Scrutiny and PAC Proceedings</i>.</p> <p>The Committee also approved associated law drafting instructions in relation to the <i>States of Jersey (Powers, Privileges and Immunities)(Scrutiny Panels, PAC and PPC) Regulations 2006</i>. The proposals would extend the current scope of immunity from prosecution in relation to evidence provided to a Panel, and provide the ability for witnesses to be placed on oath, excluding States Members. It was agreed that all approved drafting instructions should now be forwarded to the Law Draftsman.</p>	
	<p>3. Statement of Intent/Core Objectives</p> <p>The Committee considered a discussion paper on a range of public engagement and impact initiatives available to Scrutiny Panels a paper, in addition to a report recently published by the UK Institute for Government called <i>Select Committees under Scrutiny: The impact of parliamentary committee inquiries on government</i></p> <p>It was agreed that Chairmen would seek at Panel level to put in to practice some of the relevant initiatives where appropriate. This included a general aim to be more pro-active in media and public engagement, and to use Assembly mechanisms available to Panels, such as Statements, to promote their work. It was agreed that Panel Officers would be requested to include an update on activity in these areas on each Panel's activity report to the Chairmen's Committee.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that further consideration would be given to the 'Statement of Intent' as agreed by the previous Chairmen's Committee, and development of a similar set of core objectives, at its next meeting.</p>	
	<p>4. Future Meetings</p> <p>It was noted that the Committee was next scheduled to meet on 19th April at 9.30am, Le Capelain Room, States Building.</p>	