

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: 14th April 2010

Meeting 75

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

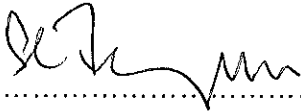
Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of Meeting</p> <p>The Panel approved and signed the records of its meetings, both private and public, of 31st March 2010.</p>	
	<p>2. Matters Arising and Action Updates</p> <p>The Panel noted the action updates from its last Panel Meeting.</p>	
	<p>3. Code of Practice Review</p> <p>The Panel welcomed Deputy D. De Sousa who was a member of the Code of Practice Review Sub-Panel. The Panel made the following observations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Code of Practice had no major problems. 2. It would be difficult to work with if it were too prescriptive. 3. There should be freedom to work as the Panel saw suitable. 4. Panels should not be restricted to scrutinising a particular Minister. 5. Problems in Scrutiny included personality politics, adversarial attitudes and leakage of confidential information. There needed to be the power to deal with such poor conduct. 6. Politics here was frequently point scoring and headline seeking. 7. The committee system worked better because there was a better mix within the decision making process. 8. The function of the Chairmen's Committee was purely co-ordinating, it had no executive powers. 	

	<p>9. Should Chairman, either individually or as the Chairmen's Committee, be able to impose their will on Panels or not?</p> <p>10. Scrutiny was being used by the executive as a committee of advisors. This Panel was refusing such offers.</p> <p>11. Scrutiny was functional. It may not be what the executive liked, but it made a difference</p> <p>12. Scrutiny was only as good as the people who worked in it.</p> <p>Following an expression of gratitude from the Panel, Deputy De Sousa retired from the meeting.</p>	
<p>31/03/10</p> <p>Item 3 513/25(8)</p>	<p>4. Data Protection</p> <p>The Panel noted that the publishing of the report had been put back a week due to extensive comments from the Data Protection Commissioner in response to the circulation of the report for factual checking in accordance with 11.7 of the Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee. The report had subsequently been amended accordingly and a further problem had then arisen with the advisor who had issued advice to the Sub-Panel based upon incorrect legislation. The report therefore needed additional changes. Publication was expected to be Monday 19th April 2010.</p>	<p>KB / MR</p>
<p>31/03/10</p> <p>513/23(8) Item 7</p>	<p>5. Economic Stimulus Plan 2</p> <p>The Panel noted the ministerial response from the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture and required clarification of exactly who was responsible for the monitoring of the process that ensured that the extra places at Highlands College and the Advance to Work Scheme continued to meet the criteria as laid out in the Fiscal Stimulus Strategy. The Panel noted that the Fiscal Policy Panel (FPP) was not due in the Island until 7th and 8th July 2010. Although it had expressed an interest in meeting, there was no urgency to require the FPP to travel to the Island solely for that purpose. The Panel requested that arrangements were made for a meeting to take place when convenient during the period the FPP was in the Island.</p>	<p>MR / KB</p> <p>MR / KB</p>
<p>31/03/10</p> <p>Item 9 513/27(8)</p>	<p>6. Comprehensive Spending Review</p> <p>The Panel considered a letter from The Minister for Treasury and Resources inviting the Panel to receive documents relating to the Comprehensive Spending Review on 23rd April 2010 and to issue a response to the Council of Ministers by 12th May 2010. In recognising that there were less than 12 working days in that period, the Panel considered the quality of work that might be undertaken. It decided that there was insufficient time to undertake a review to the standard required of scrutiny, particularly as one Member of the Panel was out of the Island and another not in a position to commit sufficiently to a period of very intensive work at that time. It was agreed that, in principle, the Panel would only commence a review once resulting policy was developed to a point where it could be scrutinised without involving the Panel in its development. The Panel retained the option to review that decision once the documentation had been received.</p> <p>The Panel was to discuss this with the Minister for Treasury and Resources during a Public Hearing on 16th April 2010.</p>	
<p>Part B</p>	<p>7. Human Resources Review</p>	

<p>31/03/10 Item 1. 513/26(8)</p>	<p>The Panel recalled the briefing from the Director of Human Resources and agreed that this had been very useful. It noted that the meeting had been recorded on 'B Minutes'. The decision to become involved in a Human Resources Review was deferred to the next meeting to allow consideration of the Comprehensive Spending Review documentation.</p>	<p>MR / KB</p>
<p>17/03/10 Item 4</p>	<p>8. Forecasting of Expenditure Review</p> <p>The Panel accepted the draft of the report submitted by the Corporate Services Finance Sub-Panel entitled Forecasting of Expenditure (S.R.5/2010). Following examination of the document, the Panel approved it for publication on 16th April 2010.</p>	<p>MR / KB</p>
<p>17/03/10 Item 10</p>	<p>9. Quarterly Hearing with the Minister for Treasury and Resources</p> <p>The Panel considered the questions drafted for the Minister for Treasury and Resources to be asked at the scheduled quarterly Public Hearing on Friday 16th April 2010. Discussion of the topic areas resulted in some supplementary questions being agreed. The Minister was to be made aware of certain documentation that would be referred to by the Panel during the hearing. It was further decided that due to the confidential nature of some of the areas to be discussed, a section of the hearing was to be private.</p>	<p>MR / KB</p>
	<p>10. Proposed Programme</p> <p>The Panel noted areas of interest such as 'The Office Strategy', 'Jersey Development Company' and 'East of Albert'. It decided that if there were time, it would broach these subjects with the Minister for Treasury and Resources at the Public Hearing on 16th April 2010.</p>	
	<p>11. Ministerial Decisions</p> <p>The Panel noted recent Ministerial decisions made by the Minister for Treasury and Resources and the Chief Minister.</p>	
	<p>12. Forthcoming Propositions</p> <p>The Panel noted forthcoming propositions within its area of remit.</p>	
<p>17/03/10 Item 2</p>	<p>13. Right of Entry</p> <p>The Panel recalled that it had requested information from the Law Officers Department regarding the right of authorities to enter property. It noted information provided by the Chairman that in the UK there were 1242 'Rights of Entry' by various authorities or bodies. The Panel looked forward to the response from the Jersey Law Officers Department.</p>	
	<p>14. Future Meetings</p> <p>In consideration of future meetings, the Panel noted that many of its meetings which were held on a Wednesday clashed with the visits undertaken by the Planning Advisory Panel of which the Vice Chairman was a member. This had resulted in the Vice Chairman offering apologies to the Panel for several meetings. A discussion was held to establish if there was another day of the week available for the Panel to meet. The discussion was narrowed down to Tuesdays as being a possibility. It was to be established if a venue would be available and if that would suit all members.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the possibility of a change, the Panel noted that it would next hold a scheduled meeting in the Blampied Room, States Building at 9:30am on Wednesday 28th April 2010.</p> <p>It further noted that it was to hold a Public Hearing at 9.00 am on Friday</p>	<p>MR / KB</p> <p>MR / KB</p> <p>MR /</p>

Signed

Date:


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28/4/10
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Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel