

Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: **11th February 2009**

Meeting Number: **3**

Present	Deputy R. G. Le Hérissier, Chairman Deputy M. Tadier Deputy T. M. Pitman
Apologies	Connétable G. F. Butcher
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs. E. Liddiard and Miss S. Power, Scrutiny Officers

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of Meetings</p> <p>The Record of the meeting of 26th January 2009 was approved and signed.</p>	
	<p>2. Matters Arising</p> <p>a. The Panel noted the status of action updates from the previous meeting on the 26th January 2009.</p> <p>b. The Panel noted briefing notes of the Chairmen's Committee meeting of the 29th January 2009.</p>	
Item 10 02.01.09	<p>3. Previous Education and Home Affairs Panel</p> <p>The Panel welcomed the following members of the previous Education and Home Affairs Panel to the meeting: Connétable D.W. Mezbourian; Connétable J. Gallichan; and Deputy S. Pitman. The Panel discussed the previous Panel's work undertaken during 2005-2008, where the importance of a Panel reaching a consensus when finalising a report was highlighted by members of the previous Panel. The previous Panel also highlighted the need for the current Panel to follow-up recommendations made in reports presented by the previous Panel. The importance of allowing flexibility in the Panel's work programme to allow the Panel to respond effectively to issues as they arose was also emphasised.</p>	
Item 5 26.01.09	<p>4. Panel Work Programme for 2009</p> <p>a. The Panel considered a briefing paper on the development of a work programme for 2009. It was agreed that the Panel wished to begin immediate reviews into the Prison Board of Visitors and the future of Fort Regent. The Panel requested the officers to draft scoping documents; terms of reference and budgets for both reviews, for consideration at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that the review into the Prison Board of Visitors would be conducted by a Sub-Panel chaired by Deputy M. Tadier, with Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier also being a member of this Sub-Panel. The Panel</p>	EL/SP

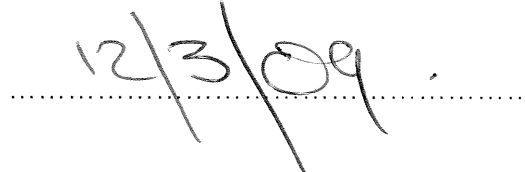
	<p>requested Connétable J. Le Sueur Gallichan to be contacted to establish whether he would also be a member of this Sub-Panel.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that the review into the future of Fort Regent would be conducted as a full Panel, with the co-option of a further member onto the full Panel for the purpose of this review, in accordance with Standing Order 138(5A). The Panel agreed that it wished to approach Deputy C.F. Labey; Deputy T.A. Vallois; and Deputy J.M. Macon to establish if one member would like to be co-opted onto the Panel for the purpose of undertaking this review.</p> <p>The Panel further agreed that it wished to conduct reviews into the following issues in 2009: political education; discrimination proposals; a follow-up to the previous Panel's review into early years' education, with a specific focus on language provision for young children; higher education fees; and the suspension policy used by schools. Based on this information, the Panel requested officers to draft its annual work programme, for approval by email by the end of February 2009 before circulating to the Chairmen's Committee</p> <p>b. The Panel noted a briefing paper from the Chairmen's Committee on Panels' Annual Work Programmes.</p> <p>c. The Panel agreed that in addition to the visits it wished to make to various secondary schools on the Island, it also wished to conduct a fact-finding visit to HMP La Moye, and requested the officers to make the necessary arrangements.</p>	<p>EL/SP</p> <p>EL/SP</p>
<p>Item 6 26.01.09</p>	<p>5. Draft Sex Offenders (Jersey) Law 200-</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Minister for Home Affairs had withdrawn the Draft Sex Offenders (Jersey) Law 200- at the States sitting on the 4th February 2009. The Panel requested the officers to contact the Home Affairs Department to establish the Minister's timescales for bringing the updated legislation back to the States.</p>	<p>EL/SP</p>
	<p>6. Criminal Justice Policy</p> <p>The Panel noted documents from the Home Affairs Department providing an update on the objectives contained within the Criminal Justice Policy. The Panel requested the officers to contact the Home Affairs Department to establish whether the Minister was working towards dated objectives for each section within the Criminal Justice Policy.</p>	<p>EL/SP</p>
<p>Item 7 26.01.09</p>	<p>7. Customs and Immigration Review</p> <p>a. The Panel noted a letter from Mr R. Bale regarding the previous Education and Home Affairs Panel's Review into Customs and Immigration.</p> <p>b. The Panel noted the response from the Minister for Home Affairs to the previous Education and Home Affairs Panel's review into the Customs and Immigration Service.</p>	
<p>Item 12a 26.01.09</p>	<p>8. Provision of Secondary Education</p> <p>The Panel reaffirmed that following its discussion at its meeting on the 26th January 2009, it still wished to undertake fact-finding visits to some of the secondary schools on the Island, in advance of any review into secondary education provision that it may wish to conduct. It was noted</p>	

	<p>that any such visits made by the Panel would be undertaken in an informal capacity, as any formal meetings with representatives from the schools would need to take place in a properly convened Panel Meeting or Public Hearing. It was further noted that the Department for Education, Sport and Culture would be kept informed of any visits the Panel would be organising. The Panel requested the officers to arrange visits to the following: Le Rocquier; Grainville; Highlands College; and De La Salle, and to notify the department accordingly.</p>	EL/SP
Item 12d 26.01.09	<p>9. Corporate Services Finance Sub-Panel Legacy Report</p> <p>The Panel considered a Legacy Report prepared by the previous Corporate Services Finance Sub-Panel, and advised that it did not have any comments to be passed on to the Chairmen's Committee regarding the content of the report.</p>	
	<p>10. Work Programme of Propositions for 2009</p> <p>The Panel noted a paper from the Council of Ministers outlining the proposed timetable of propositions to be lodged by the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture in 2009.</p>	
	<p>11. Forthcoming Legislation</p> <p>The Panel noted that there were no forthcoming propositions lodged <i>au Greffe</i> by the Ministers for Home Affairs or for Education, Sport and Culture.</p>	
	<p>12. Ministerial Decisions</p> <p>The Panel noted recent Ministerial Decisions pertinent to its remit. With regard to a decision made by the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture on the 19th January 2009, Waterfront Pool – Budget Adjustments 2008 (MD-ESC-2009-0001), the Panel requested the officers to contact the Department to establish whether this budget adjustment was within the agreed limit of the deficit for the Waterfront Pool facility, or whether it exceeded the approved deficit.</p>	EL/SP
	<p>13. Questions to Ministers</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Minister for Home Affairs and the Chief Minister would be taking questions without notice at the States sitting of the 24th February 2009. It was agreed that questions without notice to the Minister for Home Affairs would provide a useful opportunity for the Panel to ask the Minister questions on areas pertinent to the Panel's work programme, and the Panel agreed it wished to ask questions of the Minister regarding: the recommendations made by the Howard League Report; updated timescales for the Sex Offenders (Jersey) Law 200-; progression of the Police Authority; and staff turnover within the States of Jersey Police. The Panel requested the officers to circulate the draft questions to members in advance of the States sitting.</p>	EL/SP
	<p>14. Quarterly Meetings with Ministers</p> <p>The Panel requested the officers to arrange quarterly meetings with the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture on the following previously agreed Panel meeting dates:</p> <p>8th April 2009 8th July 2009 14th October 2009</p>	EL/SP

<p>Item 9 02.01.09</p>	<p>15. Any Other Business</p> <p>a. Education, Sport and Culture Departmental Business Plan 2009: The Panel noted that at its meeting with the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture on the 6th February, it had not been possible to cover all of the areas within the question plan for this meeting. The Panel therefore requested the officers to contact the Department to request for an additional meeting with the Minister.</p> <p>b. Youth Service: The Panel noted a letter from the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, following a request from the Panel regarding the management structure of the Youth Service. The Panel agreed it wished to discuss this matter further with the Minister, during the aforementioned follow-up meeting on the departmental business plan that would be arranged in due course.</p> <p>c. Strategic Plan: The Panel noted a briefing paper on the Strategic Plan Consultation Document, highlighting the areas falling within the Panel's remit. The Panel requested for this issue to be placed on its agenda for the Panel Meeting scheduled for the 12th March 2009.</p> <p>d. Corporate Services Sub-Panel (Migration Review): The Panel noted correspondence from the Corporate Services Panel enquiring as to whether a member of the Panel wished to sit on the Corporate Services Sub-Panel reviewing the Migration Policy. It was agreed that once the Panel had approved its work programme, it would be fully occupied with other reviews, and members would therefore not have the availability to sit on this Sub-Panel.</p>	<p>EL/SP</p> <p>EL/SP</p>
	<p>16. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Chairman would be unable to attend the Panel Meeting scheduled for the 4th March 2009, and therefore agreed to rearrange this meeting for 11.30 am on Thursday 12th March 2009.</p>	

Signed

Date:

Chairman
Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel