Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Meeting No. 35

7th February 2007

1st Floor Meeting Room, States Greffe

Present Deputy G. P. Southern, Chairman

Deputy J. A. Martin Deputy K. C. Lewis

Apologies Connétable M. K. Jackson

In attendance Nathan Fox, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1.	Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2006 were considered and approved.	NJF
2.	Matters Arising The Panel agreed to consider a recommendation from Deputy Martin that it review the funding of Jersey Finance Limited. The officer was directed to pass the projet approving the creation of the company to the Panel at its next meeting.	NJF
3.	Retail Strategy Review	
Item 2 24th Jan 2007	The Panel recalled that it had previously agreed that it would undertake a review into the Economic Development Department's retail strategy, and the objections raised by the Chamber of Commerce to the proposed increase in retail space in the Island.	
	The Panel agreed to hold two days of public hearings into the matter at the St. Paul's Centre on either 21st and 22nd or 22nd and 23rd February. Deputy Martin was to determine her availability, and the hearings were to be arranged in order to avoid a clash with the meetings of other Panels.	NJF, JM
	The Chairman had approached the Economic Development Minister and Mr. K. Keen, President of the Chamber of Commerce, about the possibility of altering the format of the public hearing to allow them to conduct a public debate.	
	The Panel noted a request from Mr. A. Smith, Managing Director of the Channel Islands Co-Operative Society to meet with the Panel prior to the hearings.	NJF
	The officer was directed to write to several groups to determine of they would be available to attend, but to take no action until the timings were resolved. The officer was to contact-	

	The St. Helier small traders association	
	The management of Channel Island Traders	
	The operators of the Spar chain	
	Pensioners rights groups including Age Concern	
	The Jersey Consumer Council	NJF
	Consumer groups	
	The Panel received review files, and four submissions from the public. The Chairman directed the officer to reply to these at his discretion.	NJF
	The officer was also directed to-	
	Make the necessary arrangements for the public hearings being mindful of the variable dates.	NJF
	Draft questions for the attendees for the Chairman's consideration.	NJF
	Deputy Lewis reiterated concerns that the proposed increase in retail space might affect his business, and that this might preclude him from taking part in a review on the subject.	
	The Chairman advised that Deputy Lewis ask the Bailiff for a ruling on the matter, although the Panel considered his interests to be marginal.	KL
4.	Annual report 2006	
	The Panel considered a draft Annual Report produced by the officer, detailing the successes the Panel had enjoyed during 2006. The Panel approved the report with additions.	
	The officer was to add the Panel's concerns over the proliferation of Panels and Sub-Panels, the need for the code of practice to reflect the Panel's right to scrutinise Departments other than the Economic Development Department, its disappointment at the lack of access to the Communications Unit, the need for more training for members and the Executive's 'culture of secrecy'.	NJF
5.	Jersey Telecom review briefing	
Item 5 24th Jan 2007	The Panel was informed that the report was approaching completion. The Treasury and Resources Minister intended to lodge the proposition regarding the privatisation as soon as possible, and the Sub-Panel anticipated that it would be in a position to present its report soon afterwards.	
	The Treasury and Resources Minister was set to hold a public meeting on the subject on 19th February 2007, and the Panel was hopeful that it would have completed recommendations to present	

	at that time.	
6.	Date of next meeting	
	The Panel agreed to hold its next meeting on 21st February 2007.	
	This meeting was to occupy a full day, during which the Panel would examine the Economic Development Department's Business Plan for 2007.	
	The officer was directed to make the appropriate arrangements.	NJF

Signed	Date
Chairman Deputy G. P. Southern Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel	