Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

10th July 2015

Present	Deputy S.M. Brée, Chairman
	Connétable M.J. Paddock
	Deputy D. Johnson
Apologies	Connétable J.E. Le Maistre
Absent	
In attendance	Mr. M. Orbell, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	1. Records of meetings	
	The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June were approved and signed.	МО
Item 1	2. Vice-Chairman	
19.11.14		
515/1(1)	Following the recent resignation of Connétable Le Maistre from the chairmanship of the Panel and Deputy Brée's subsequent election as Chairman by the States on 16th June, the Panel agreed to appoint Deputy Johnson as Vice-Chairman.	МО
Item 2	3. Ports of Jersey Incorporation	
10.06.15		
515/32	a) Members agreed that the draft transfer regulations received from the Economic Development Department appeared to be acceptable and the Panel would make no comments on them.	МО
	b) Members discussed P.68/2015 (Ports of Jersey Limited: Approval of First Board and Terms of Office) lodged by the Minister for Treasury and Resources on 30th June 2015. It was noted that this included a somewhat selective quote from the Panel's comments on the Incorporation (Draft Air and Sea Ports (Incorporation) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.5/2015): comments), which acknowledged the Panel's request for the States to approve the appointment of the first Board of Directors for Ports of Jersey Limited, but not the reason why this had been requested. It was agreed that the Chairman would address this matter during the debate, by reminding States Members of the Panel's concerns about the possibility of undue influence being wielded by individuals holding more than one directorship of Statesowned bodies, and/or sitting on other States-appointed panels or committees at the same time. Members also considered the question of the identity of the Shareholder, which in the latest version of the Memorandum and Articles of Association had been changed from the Minister for Treasury and Resources and the Treasurer of the States to States of	SB

	Jersey Investments Ltd. The Panel had queried this but the department's initial response was not considered to explain the matter satisfactorily; the Scrutiny Officer confirmed that a request for a more detailed explanation had already been submitted. It was agreed that Deputy Johnson would consider the Memorandum and Articles in more depth and liaise with the Scrutiny Officer regarding possible additional questions.	DJ/MO
Item 3	4. Work programme	
10.06.15		
515/1/1(1)	Rural Economy Strategy (RES) The Panel noted an email received from the Economic Development Department on 6th July concerning the Rural Economy Strategy. It indicated that no substantive information regarding the strategy would be available until after a meeting of Senior Officers due to take place on 23rd July. It was suggested that earlier enquiries at officer level might elicit some information on the options being considered.	мо
	Visit Jersey The Panel noted an offer to meet with representatives of Visit Jersey. It was agreed to follow this up in September.	
	Condor Ferries The Panel noted a draft scoping document for a possible review of the new fast ferry service on the northern route. The Panel noted that another sailing of the Condor Liberation had been cancelled (on 8th July) owing to a technical problem causing delay which took the crew outside their permitted working hours. Members agreed to ask for a detailed briefing from the department on the latest situation. The Scrutiny Officer was asked to arrange for this to take place if possible during the Panel's next scheduled meeting on 22nd July.	МО
	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) The Panel agreed that the embargoed presentation provided to all States Members immediately before the Panel meeting was too general in nature to allow any conclusions to be drawn. It was agreed that members would await more detail when the full MTFP package was lodged.	
	Transfer of functions Members briefly discussed the trend for significant ministerial responsibilities to be moved either from one department to another, or outside the public sector, as in the case of Visit Jersey. It appeared that some portfolios were being reorganised according to the personal interests and abilities of individual ministers, rather than established departmental roles and competencies. The Economic Development Department in particular appeared to be gradually giving up much of its responsibility for economic activities other than those related to tourism, a large proportion of its previous work being re-directed towards the Chief Minister's Department. The Panel noted that these changes might need to be discussed by the Chairmen's Committee to ensure that effective Scrutiny could continue, in view of the potential impact of departmental reorganisation on the remit of individual Panels.	SB
	5. Treatment of Confidential Documentation by Scrutiny Panels	

510/1(72)	The Panel considered a message circulated by the Chairmen's Committee following its meeting on 7th July 2015. Members unanimously agreed to the suggested commitment that:	
	 All documents received in confidence will be respected by all Panel Members If any Panel Member wants to challenge the confidential nature of any documents received, that Member will raise any issues, in the first instance, at the next Panel meeting for further discussion Should any challenges occur in the future, open dialogue will take place with the Minister 	
	It was further agreed that from now on the Panel would request clarification as to the status of any document received under confidential cover in terms of its classification under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 (as amended).	МО
	Next scheduled Panel meeting: 9.30am on 22nd July 2015, Blampied Room, States Building	МО