

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

Minutes of 29th meeting held on 18th January 2007
Blampied Room, States Building

Present	Deputy P J D Ryan, Chairman Senator J. Perchard, Vice-Chairman Connétable J L S Gallichan Connétable D Murphy Deputy C Egré (with the exception of item 4 iii)
Apologies	
In attendance	Mr M Haden, Scrutiny Officer Miss S Power, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	Welcome - The Chairman welcomed Deputy C E Egré as a new member of the Panel.	
1.	Minutes – The Panel approved the minutes of the meetings held on 30 th November, 5 th December and 22 nd December 2006. The Panel received notes of the informal meeting held on 21 st December 2006.	
2. Item 5 21.12.06	Matters arising - The Panel requested for Attac to be invited to the next Panel meeting on the 15 th February 2007 to discuss their Scrutiny topic proposal for a review to be conducted into Government bonds.	MH
3.	Chairmen’s Committee – The Panel noted briefing sheets from the Chairmen’s Committee meetings held on the 15 th and 20 th December 2006.	
4. Item 6 30.11.06 Item 1 21.12.06	Current Reviews i. Overseas Aid Review – The Panel received an oral progress report from the Chairman of the Sub Panel reviewing Jersey’s Overseas Aid. The Panel noted that the Sub Panel had now appointed its adviser, and would be holding public hearings on the 6 th and 7 th February 2007, with witnesses to include the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, the Chief Minister, and the Minister for Treasury and Resources. The Panel was informed that submissions were now coming in regularly for this review, and that the deadline for all submissions was the 19 th January 2007, following which further witnesses would be invited to attend hearings. ii. GST Review – The Panel received an oral update report from the Chairman, and noted that there were still a number of outstanding issues where the requested information had not been provided by the Treasury: a. The Panel noted that, following concern expressed by Jersey Finance regarding the revenue that would be gained from the proposed ISS charge, the Treasury had replied that it would be too difficult to undertake accurate modelling. The Panel requested that the Treasury should be pressed further in order to clarify this issue.	SP MH MH

	<p>b. The draft GST legislation had been delayed due to legal issues regarding Protocol 3 which were currently being addressed by the Attorney General. The Panel agreed that the Treasury should be requested to provide the Sub Panel with at least part of the draft legislation in order to avoid possible further delays in scrutinising the proposed law.</p> <p>c. The Chairman informed the Panel that he was concerned that it was not currently intended to operate a margin scheme in the proposed Jersey GST system whereas it appeared that company cars would be able to avoid GST. The Panel requested that the Treasury should be pressed for a response on the value of vehicle sales.</p> <p>iii. Zero-Ten</p> <p>The Panel noted that there were several amendments that needed to be made to the report as a result of issues which had arisen at the last minute, and agreed to defer final approval. It further agreed that, due to the exceptionally tight timescale involved in presenting this report in advance of the debate on the draft legislation, which was scheduled for the 30th January 2007, the final approval of the report could be given by means of a telephone meeting.</p> <p>The Panel noted a letter from Dr R. Kisch regarding EU recognition of Jersey's constitutional position. It agreed that this letter complemented information received from other sources. However, the issues raised by Dr Kisch were beyond the scope of the current report into the draft legislation.</p> <p>iv. Estimate of expenditure –</p> <p>The Panel received and approved a total estimate of £8,510 to continue the GST and Zero/Ten Reviews, which was broken down to £4,255 per review. The Panel requested for this information to be passed to the Chairmen's Committee.</p>	MH
5.	<p>Migration Policy</p> <p>a. The Panel noted that the implementation of this policy was a major objective in the Chief Minister's Departmental Business Plan for 2007. The Panel therefore agreed to form a Sub Panel, chaired by Deputy Ryan, to conduct a review of the proposals. The Panel agreed that the Sub Panel should include Deputy Ryan (Chairman), Senator Perchard, and Deputy Egré from Corporate Services, and one member from the Economic Affairs and the Health, Social Security and Housing Panels. The Panel requested for the Chairmen of these Panels to be contacted to invite representatives.</p> <p>b. The Panel discussed draft terms of reference for this review, and approved them subject to one amendment, however it was agreed that a Sub Panel meeting should be arranged to scope the review, and that the draft terms of reference should be discussed at this meeting.</p> <p>c. The Panel requested for a letter to be sent to the Chief Minister informing him of the Panel's decision to conduct this review, and including the draft terms of reference.</p> <p>d. The Panel noted that the next Migration Advisory Group meeting was scheduled for the 2nd February 2007, and agreed that it would be beneficial to request a briefing for the Sub Panel following this meeting.</p>	MH MH MH/PR MH
6.	Departmental Business Plans	

	As a result of its currently high workload the Panel deferred this item for consideration at a later meeting.	
7.	<p>Items for noting –</p> <p>i. Forthcoming legislation – The Panel noted a report on relevant propositions scheduled for States debate.</p> <p>ii. Future meetings – The Panel noted that its next meeting was scheduled for the 15th February.</p> <p>The Panel requested for the Chief Minister to be contacted with a view to establishing a convenient date in April for the Panel’s bi-annual public meeting, the focus of which would be the latest Strategic Initiatives Progress Report.</p>	MH

Signed

Date

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Chairman, Corporate Services Panel

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