

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

Notes from meeting held on Wednesday 3rd February 2006
1st Floor Meeting Room, Morier House

Present Deputy P J D Ryan, Chairman
Senator J L Perchard
Connétable J L S Gallichan
Deputy J Gallichan
Connétable D J Murphy

In attendance Mr M Haden, Scrutiny Officer
Miss S Power, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1 Item 5 26.01.06	<p>Age of Consent review - draft Sexual Offences (Jersey) Law</p> <p>The Panel noted</p> <p>(a) the Scoping Document and terms of reference which had been prepared and submitted to the Chairmen's Committee meeting on 27th January 2006. The Panel was conscious of the fact that this review might divert its attention and resources from other necessary projects within its remit and agreed that it was important to stay within its terms of reference; and</p> <p>(b) the project plan outline for the review to be completed on 28th March 2006 with the presentation of a report to the States</p> <p>The Panel agreed to hold public hearings on 9th and 16th February with a reserve date on 2nd March for any additional witnesses.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to the following witnesses -</p> <p>9th February - Advocate Christopher Lakeman, Mr. Luke Small (Jersey Youth Reform Team) and Deputy James Reed;</p> <p>16th February - Law Officers (Solicitor General or substitute) Chief Minister, Minister of Home Affairs.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the majority of witnesses were weighted on the side of an obligation to equalise the age of consent and considered whether there were any additional witnesses who might provide an alternative viewpoint. The Panel agreed to invite the Dean and the head of Christians Together in Jersey to comment if they felt that they had any relevant contribution to make under the review's terms of reference. Constable Murphy said that he would approach an advocate who might be able to provide the balance the Panel was seeking.</p> <p>The Panel requested officers to prepare outline questions for each of the witnesses and to circulate these to members in advance of the public hearings.</p> <p>The Panel asked officers to establish whether Portugal were equalising their ages of consent, as the current ages of consent were 16 for homosexuals and 14 for heterosexuals.</p>	<p>Officers</p> <p>Constable Murphy</p> <p>Officers</p> <p>Officers</p>
2 Item 6 26.01.06	<p>Treasury & Resources Department - Fiscal Strategy</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Treasury and Resources Minister had agreed to meet the Panel on 2nd March to provide an update briefing on the Fiscal Strategy developments since the approval of the approval of the Strategy (P.44/2005) by the States in May</p>	

	<p>2005.</p> <p>The Panel noted that Senator Perchard had approached in the finance industry for advice on local source of independent expertise to advise the Panel on taxation matters. His view was that it would be difficult for anyone involved in the major firms in the Island to be appointed formally as adviser to the Panel, although it was likely that they would be willing to give their independent views on specific issues. Mr. Paul Frith was mentioned as a feasible option.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that he had approached the JCRA for advice on this matter.</p>	Chairman
<p>3. Item 4 16.01.06 (Meeting with Ministers)</p>	<p>Annual Business Plan and Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>The Panel received the Treasury's proposals for the scrutiny of the States Annual Business Plan and Budget processes.</p>	
<p>4. Item 3 26.01.06</p>	<p>Public hearing with Chief Minister</p> <p>The Panel agreed to invite the Chief Minister to appear before the Panel on 16th March 2006 for the first of the agreed quarterly public hearings. The principal theme of this meeting would be on the new role of the Council of Ministers and the States Strategic Plan in the development of policy and the implications of this for the traditional involvement of the States Assembly in approving new policies. Related to this was the issue of recording and promulgating ministerial decisions.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that, in preparation for the above meeting, it would request the Greffier of the States to give a briefing on 15th February 2006 on the States of Jersey Law and Standing Orders as they related to the above.</p>	

Signed

Date

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Chairman, Corporate Services Panel

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