

Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Meeting No. 22

Date 20th July 2006
Foreshore Limited site visit

Present Deputy G. P. Southern, Chairman
Deputy A. Breckon
Deputy J. A. Martin
Deputy K. C. Lewis
Apologies Connétable M. K. Jackson
In attendance Carol Le Quesne, Scrutiny Officer

| Ref Back | Agenda matter | Action |
|----------|--|--------|
| 1 | <p>The Panel met with Mr. C. Evans, Managing Director, Foreshore Limited and was afforded an opportunity to visit the hosting facility for high volume internet capacity users.</p> <p>The Panel toured the site and noted that it had been established to accommodate the highest standards set for a hosting facility and provided several fail safe measures to ensure continued services to all of its e-commerce clients. Foreshore operated the facility with contracts with three telecommunications system providers to ensure continued band access and a non interrupted supply to its customers. Back up electricity arrangements and a highly cooled facility provided a basis for continued service for its clients.</p> <p>The client base included local and offshore business, e-commerce clients and many others. Much of the business focused on disaster recovery.</p> <p>Expansion plans for the facility were underway and hosting was a growing area. The Panel noted that many of the employees were highly trained individuals both in information technology or engineering. The continued growth of such a facilities success was linked to the fulfilment and larger e-commerce industry.</p> <p>The Panel discussed issues relating to the impact of the new fulfilment policy on the economy. It noted the view that the Oxera report appeared to have taken a simplistic view of a complex industry, that Third Party Service Providers were being seriously affected by the new policy, that the impact of globalisation, giant superstore chains and e-commerce generally were the reasons for high street decline rather than fulfilment and LVCR. Issues of lobbying and pressure from the UK were noted as was the National Audit Office report.</p> <p>The Panel thanked Mr. Evans for a very informative visit.</p> | CLQ |
| 2 | <p>Legal Advice in principle</p> <p>The Panel received and considered a proposal for the retention of private legal advice in respect of its fulfilment review and agreed in principle that if it was unable to obtain the necessary legal advice from H.M. Attorney General it would go to the private sector.</p> | CLQ |

The Panel noted that the firm Hanson and Renouf had been approached on the basis that they had previously worked with a Shadow Scrutiny Panel. They had suggested favourable terms and were in a position to provide a rapid response to the Panel if necessary.

Signed

Date

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Chairman Deputy G. P. Southern
Economic Affairs Panel

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