

## Environment Scrutiny Panel

### PUBLIC MEETING

#### Record of Meeting

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009

Meeting Number: 10


Present	Deputy P Rondel (Chairman) (PR) Connétable J Réfault (JR)
Absent	Deputy D Wimberley (Vice Chairman) (DW)
In attendance	M Haden M Orbell

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Records of Meetings</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were approved and signed.</p>	MH
<p><b>Item 7</b> <b>7.07.09</b> <b>514/9(8)</b></p>	<p><b>2. Energy from Waste Plant and Ramsar: Review of planning process</b></p> <p>Members received an oral update on progress since the last meeting. It was agreed that the Panel would follow up a report of an alleged pollution incident at La Collette received via the Jersey Evening Post. Officers were asked to contact the former sub-contractor who made the claim and to inform the Transport and Technical Services Department and the Assistant Director - Environmental Protection of this action and request further information.</p> <p>It was noted that the Minister for Planning and Environment would not be able to attend the next Ramsar review hearing on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Officers were asked to check whether the Assistant Minister would attend in his place.</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>MO</p>
<p><b>Item 5</b> <b>7.07.09</b> <b>514/10(8)</b></p>	<p><b>3. Energy efficiency in States Buildings</b></p> <p>Officers reported that approaches had been made to potential local consultants for assistance with this investigation and that meetings had now taken place with two, with one more to follow. Candidates had been asked to prepare scoping on how they would propose to assist the Panel prior to an interview/selection process. A specific requirement was that they should be able to provide advice on practice in the UK as well as the local context.</p> <p>It was agreed to call candidates for interview on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009, starting at 8.30am.</p> <p>Briefing notes from the Assistant Director for Policy (Environment Department) for States members concerning the Jersey Energy Trust were circulated together with a preliminary draft (in confidence) of the Eco-Active Business Annual Review.</p>	MH
<p><b>Item 5</b> <b>11.06.09</b></p>	<p><b>4. Environmental taxes</b></p> <p>A summary of consultation responses received by the Treasury and Resources Department was circulated. It was noted that</p>	

	<p>officers had requested further details of more substantial submissions received from stakeholder organisations and individuals. It was understood that the Minister for Treasury and Resources intended to bring forward proposals on environmental taxation in October and members agreed that time should be found for a meeting to discuss this matter in more detail. It was decided to add this to the meeting already proposed for interview purposes on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Members also felt that it would be appropriate to invite the Minister to a public hearing once his proposition had been lodged but prior to debate.</p>	<p>MH  MH/MO</p>
	<p><b>5. Recycling</b></p> <p>The Panel considered papers received from the Department in response to its letter of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and subsequent officer meetings. It was agreed that there was some lack of clarity in respect of financial and other arrangements for the collection and treatment of certain individual waste streams; further information was still awaited. There was a need to investigate the financial and subsidy arrangements in more detail.</p> <p>Officers were asked to research what approach Guernsey took concerning recycling as recent news reports suggested that they had recently agreed arrangements for shipping bulk cardboard off the island.</p> <p>Members agreed that a visit to view waste processing operations in France could offer a good insight into best European practice and officers were asked to investigate possible sites.</p> <p>The Panel concluded that Jersey needed the best system for solid waste treatment/recycling today; continuing to follow policies agreed in a very different economic and environmental climate several years ago might no longer be appropriate. In particular the effect of allowing tonnage targets to drive recycling policy was considered. It was noted that green waste processing and arrangements for recycling bulk cardboard and paper accounted for a very large proportion of the total recycling budget in 2008, yet the carbon content of such materials was considered to be low, and the comparative environmental benefits of recycling these materials as opposed to directing greater resources to recycling or safe disposal of more toxic waste streams were not clear. It was also noted that some of the materials considered by the Department to be most suitable for energy recovery (by way of incineration) at present included low grade plastics, tyres, treated timber and bulky fibres including carpets. Members were concerned that several of these constituents appeared likely to generate toxic or otherwise undesirable emissions, especially in the light of poor environmental performance of the existing Bellozanne incinerator; they questioned whether this was an appropriate route for disposal of such materials.</p>	<p>MH/MO  MH/MO</p>
	<p><b>6. Sustainable Transport Policy</b></p> <p>Members noted the Minister's response to the Panel's letter of 17th June 2009. It was considered that the draft consultation document on the re-named policy contained little solid evidence and nothing that was new compared with the previous Integrated Travel and Transport Plan. It was agreed that a comment expressing the Panel's disappointment with the apparent lack of progress should be sent to the Minister.</p>	<p>MH/MO</p>

<p><b>Item 8</b> <b>7.07.09</b></p>	<p><b>7. States Annual Business Plan 2010</b></p> <p>It was noted that the approach adopted by the Planning and Environment Department did not appear to involve any real savings; increased charges or reduced services were being proposed instead. Members discussed a question plan prepared for the Quarterly Briefing Meeting with the Minister for Planning and Environment due to take place the following day (4<sup>th</sup> September).</p>	
<p><b>Item 3</b> <b>7.07.09</b></p>	<p><b>8. Building Bye Laws</b></p> <p>Officers reported on the latest correspondence with Jersey Gas. The Panel agreed to receive a new written submission and noted that the company was still pushing for an independent study of the carbon intensity of imported electricity, for which it had now offered to pay. Members felt that while the arguments put forward previously had been fully justified and had resulted in positive changes to the draft Building Bye Laws, the company's latest comments appeared to have a more commercial bias. It was felt that the Panel would need to look carefully at the new submission before deciding whether any further involvement in this matter was appropriate.</p>	<p><b>MH/MO</b></p>
	<p><b>9. Sustainable Development Conference</b></p> <p>The Panel noted a written report from Deputy Wimberley following his attendance at a conference on Sustainable Development on behalf of the Panel.</p>	
	<p><b>10. Forthcoming Meetings</b></p> <p>Friday 4th September 2009 at 10.30am in the Blampied Room: Quarterly Briefing with the Minister for Planning and Environment</p> <p>Friday 18th September 2009 commencing at 8.45 and 11.15: Public Hearings for the Energy from Waste Plant and Ramsar: Review of Planning Process</p> <p>The next scheduled Panel meeting would be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 at 08.30am in the Blampied Room, States Building.</p>	

Signed



Date:

01/10/09

Chairman Environment Panel

