

## Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel

Meeting 21

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008

Location: Le Capelain Room, States Building

Present                      Deputy J.A. Martin, Vice Chairman  
                                  Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier  
                                  Deputy S. Power

Apologies                      Deputy A. Breckon, Chairman

Absent

In attendance              Mr C Ahier, Scrutiny Officer  
                                  Mr M Orbell, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<b>1. Minutes of previous meetings</b> Minutes of the meeting of 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2008 were approved and signed.	
	<b>2. Matters arising</b>  <b>Chairman and Panel Members' Actions</b>  The Panel noted that it would address actions under separate agenda items.	
	<b>3. Forthcoming Propositions</b>  The Panel noted the following propositions lodged for debate in the States on:  <u><b>3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008</b></u>  <b>P60/2008/ Esplanade Quarter, St. Helier: Masterplan</b> Council of Ministers  <u><b>17<sup>th</sup> June 2008</b></u>  <b>P185/2007/ Draft Taxation (Land Transactions) (Jersey) Law 200-</b> Minister for Treasury and Resources  <b>P185/2007/Amd. Draft Taxation (Land Transactions) (Jersey) Law 200-</b> <i>P185/2007/Amendments</i> Minister for Treasury and Resources  <b>P185/2007/ Com. Draft Taxation (Land Transactions) (Jersey) Law 200-</b> <i>P185/2007/Comments</i> Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel	

	<p><b><u>1<sup>st</sup> July 2008</u></b></p> <p><b>P67/2008/ Flu Pandemic Funding</b> Minister for Treasury and Resources</p> <p>The Panel noted that Deputy Martin would not be in the Island for the States sitting of 3<sup>rd</sup> June.</p>	
	<p><b>4. Questions to Ministers</b></p> <p>The Panel noted the forthcoming arrangements for questions without notice to Ministers.</p>	
	<p><b>5. Recent States Sitings</b></p> <p>The Panel received and noted a summary of issues raised at the States sitting of 13<sup>th</sup> May relevant to the Panel. The Panel further noted that the process of summarising was labour intensive. It was agreed to consider at a future meeting the merits of continuing with the summaries.</p>	
	<p><b>CURRENT REVIEWS:</b></p> <p><b>6. Telephone Mast Sub-Panel</b></p> <p>The Panel were informed that an Officer meeting had been arranged for Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May at which progress to date with the Sub-Panel's recommendations would be discussed.</p> <p><b>7. Income Support Sub-Panel</b></p> <p>The Panel were informed that the Sub-Panel had conducted a Public Hearing on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May with members of the public and the Minister for Social Security. The Panel noted that the Minister had acknowledged that there were issues with the changes to Attendance Allowance under Income Support. It was further noted that the Minister had agreed to review the situation and report back to the States at their sitting of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 with a proposed solution to alleviate the financial hardship inflicted upon recipients.</p> <p>The Panel noted that officers of the Social Security Department had confirmed that the next phase of Income Support involving negotiations with care homes and the agreement of a standard contract for care was due for completion by the end of 2008.</p> <p><b>8. Housing Sub-Panel</b></p> <p>It was noted that a meeting between Scrutiny and Population Office officers was held on 14<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the proposed review of housing market conditions and activity. It was further noted that an additional meeting would take place between the Sub-Panel Chairman and the Housing Minister on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></p>	

	<p>June.</p> <p>The Panel noted that Sub-Panel members had already indicated their willingness to conduct a review over the summer subject to the Panel's decision whether or not to progress the review of 'New Directions'. The budget for such a review had already been approved and terms of reference would be completed once preliminary investigations had identified what support and information could be obtained from Departments and other sources.</p> <p><b>9. New Directions</b></p> <p>The Panel considered the outcome of their meeting with the Minister for Health &amp; Social Services. The Panel noted that the Council of Ministers would be considering the New Directions proposals on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June. It was further noted that should the document be approved on that date there was still uncertainty as to whether public consultation by the Department of Health &amp; Social Services would commence prior to the election of the new Council of Ministers in December.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to defer a decision about the review until after the meeting of the Council of Ministers on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June. In the interim the Panel agreed to cancel all public hearings prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p><b>10. Long Term Care of the Elderly</b></p> <p>The Panel considered progress with the review and agreed to make arrangements to visit Guernsey on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June to gain a greater knowledge of their Social Insurance Scheme. It was noted that Deputy Martin would not be available for this visit.</p> <p>The Panel further considered arrangements for the proposed visit of their adviser on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June and agreed the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange an evening meeting at 8:15pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June at a suitable restaurant;</li> <li>• Arrange a morning meeting on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June and request an overview of current issues in the area of long term care from the Adviser;</li> <li>• Arrange for the Adviser to meet with Officers from both the Health &amp; Social Services Department and the Social Security Department to discuss Jersey's current status regarding long term care, and progress with the long term care component of the Income Support scheme; and</li> <li>• Arrange for the Adviser to visit local examples of long term care facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>CA/MO</p> <p>CA/MO</p> <p>CA/MO</p> <p>CA/MO</p> <p>CA/MO</p>
	<p><b>11. Annual Business Plan</b></p> <p>The Panel noted the information on the Capital Programme 2009-2013 and agreed to consider the issue in more detail at their next</p>	<p>CA/MO</p>

	meeting.	
	<p><b>12. Pandemic Flu Vaccine</b></p> <p>The Panel received and noted '<u>P67/2008/ - Flu pandemic funding</u>' lodged au Greffe on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008 by the Minister for Treasury &amp; Resources with draft comments by the Scrutiny Office for their consideration. The Panel agreed to submit comments to the Scrutiny Office by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May and subsequently to develop a set of questions for submission to the Minister for Health &amp; Social Services. It was further agreed to invite the Minister for Health &amp; Social Services to a Public Hearing on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Deputy Martin indicated that her availability was subject to arrangements for public hearings being made in respect of the 'Review into the proposed importation of bovine semen'.</p>	<p><b>CA/MO</b></p> <p><b>CA/MO</b></p>
	<p><b>13. Social Security Statistics</b></p> <p>The Panel were informed that a request to the Social Security Department for updated statistics had been made and that the resulting data was being reviewed by the Department prior to its release to the Panel. The Panel noted that the Chairman had made an additional request to the Social Security Department for statistical information.</p>	
	<p><b>14. Future Meetings</b></p> <p>The Panel noted that the next meeting would be at 9:30am on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in the Le Capelain Room, States Building</p>	

Signed

Date

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Chairman, Health, Social Security and Housing Panel