

# Environment Scrutiny Panel

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Record of Meeting

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009

Meeting Number: 13

Present	Deputy P Rondel (Chairman) (PR) Deputy D Wimberley (Vice Chairman) (DW) Connétable J Refault (JR) Deputy P Le Claire (PLC)
In attendance	M Haden M Orbell

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<b>1. Records of Meetings</b>  The minutes of Panel meetings held on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2009 were approved and signed.	
	<b>2. New Panel Member</b>  The Chairman welcomed Deputy Le Claire to the Panel.	
<b>Item 8 3.09.09</b>	<b>3. Building Bye Laws</b>  It was noted that Deputy Le Claire had lodged two private member's propositions on the 30 <sup>th</sup> September (P.156/2009 & P.157/2009) relevant to the Panel's interest in Building Bye Laws and previous contacts with the Jersey Gas Company. The first called for the Planning and Environment Minister to instruct his department to participate in an independent review of the carbon intensity of imported electricity. The second requested the Council of Ministers to commission a strategic study into the benefits of providing Jersey with a natural gas pipeline.  Officers confirmed that a further submission to the Panel in respect of Building Bye Laws and carbon intensity, promised some weeks before by the gas company, was still awaited.	MH
<b>Item 9 3.09.09</b>	<b>4. Sustainable Development (SD)UK Conference</b>  It was noted that promotional material for the SD (UK) Conference to be held in March 2010 had been received in the Scrutiny office. Officers were asked to add this to the agenda for the next Panel meeting.	MH/MO
<b>514/1(3)</b>	<b>5. Chairman's Correspondence</b>  Members noted correspondence from the Chairman to the Minister for Planning and Environment regarding the States Annual Business Plan; and to the Minister for Transport and Technical Services concerning the Sustainable Transport Plan. (Both letters dated 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2009). Members agreed that a request for further information regarding budget allocations for Environmental Protection could be followed up at a later date. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Minister for Transport and Technical Services requesting details of key dates for the next bus contract	


	tendering process and confirmation of a date for the promised briefing on the consultants' final report to the department, together with the projected timetable for the Sustainable Transport Policy.	MH/MO
<b>Item 2</b> <b>11.09.09</b>  <b>514/9(8)</b>	<b>6. Energy from Waste Plant and Ramsar: Review of planning process</b>  It was noted that this review was nearing the end of the evidence-gathering phase, but there had been delays in obtaining key evidence from departments and the Panel had been unable to question certain witnesses for various reasons. It was agreed that any requests for evidence arising from the public hearings on 18 <sup>th</sup> September should be co-ordinated in consultation with the Panel's adviser as soon as possible; however in view of commitments to complete two new reviews in time for the budget debate it was accepted that completion of the Ramsar report might have to be delayed.	MO
<b>Item 1</b> <b>21.09.09</b> <b>514/10(8)</b>	<b>7. Energy efficiency in States Buildings</b>  It was agreed that the original scoping for this review was too broad and there needed to be a closer focus on manageable objectives for it to progress within a reasonable timescale. It was suggested that one way forward would be to liaise with the Energy Manager to see if there were an opportunity to cooperate on a short series of targeted energy audits in a range of different building types, to obtain evidence of the sort of savings that could be expected if a States-wide energy saving programme were put in place. This could usefully be linked to staff surveys to assess attitudes in the workplace. It was also proposed that officers should investigate options for engaging an expert to visit the Island to make a presentation on best practice, possibly from a local authority which had experience of developing such policy, to which relevant department representatives could also be invited. It was agreed that in view of other Panel commitments (and to allow time for potential energy audits to be undertaken) this activity would probably have to be delayed until early 2010.	MH
<b>Item 1</b> <b>11.09.09</b> <b>514/12(8)</b>	<b>8. Environmental taxes</b>  It was agreed that the Panel should aim to produce a short report on Environmental Taxes in time for the budget debate in December. This would require an early start on evidence gathering and it was noted that a relevant report to the Council of Ministers from early September had already been requested, subject to a confidentiality agreement. A draft scoping document was circulated. Members discussed the possible content of the Panel's report and it was decided that this could enlarge on its previous response to the Treasury and Resources consultation by including information on environmental tax reforms elsewhere, to stimulate a wider debate on how Jersey could take such taxes forward in future. Officers were asked to produce draft terms of reference to incorporate these suggestions. It was believed that another States member was also considering putting forward a proposition on environmental taxes and officers were asked to obtain further details so that these could be considered by the Panel in its report. It was suggested that officers should look into the possibility of obtaining advice from an expert in the field, perhaps from outside the UK, who could be called in to make a presentation to the Panel and possibly other interested parties.	MO

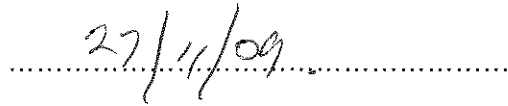
<p><b>Item 5</b> <b>3.09.09</b> <b>514/13(8)</b></p>	<p><b>9. Waste Recycling</b></p> <p>The Panel agreed that a review should also be carried out into Waste Recycling prior to the budget debate. This would focus on the current Transport and Technical Services Department budget for recycling, new funding requirements for 2010-2011, and questions of prioritisation. A draft scoping document was circulated. Members felt there were issues to be addressed in terms of some harmful waste products (such as CFC's from discarded refrigerators) not currently being dealt with according to EU standards, while a large proportion of the overall recycling budget was devoted to processing green waste, cardboard and paper which were questionable as environmental priorities. Officers were referred to the previous Environment Panel's reports on Green Waste and the Waste Strategy as useful sources of information. It was also agreed that the Transport and Technical Services Minister should be contacted with a view to arranging a public hearing on the subject of waste recycling, ideally to be held before the end of October.</p>	<p>MH</p>
	<p><b>10. Chairmen's Committee</b></p> <p>The following documents were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Briefing Notes from the Chairmen's Committee meeting of 17.09.09;</li> <li>ii. The President of Chairmen's Committee's letter to the Chief Minister concerning Ministerial responses to Scrutiny reports (and accompanying template);</li> <li>iii. Comments on the possibility of employing additional staff through contractual posts;</li> <li>iv. Public engagement – information concerning 'The Isle' free newspaper. (Deputy Le Claire advised the Panel of a conflict of interest regarding this item.)</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>11. Scrutiny Newsletter</b></p> <p>Draft text content for the Environment Panel page in the forthcoming newsletter was circulated and approved.</p>	
	<p><b>12. Ministerial decisions</b></p> <p>Recent Ministerial Decisions pertinent to the Panel's remit were noted.</p>	
	<p><b>13. Ends Report</b></p> <p>Deputy Le Claire drew the Panel's attention to this publication, to which the previous Panel had an annual subscription. It was noted that the current Panel had agreed not to renew the subscription at one of its early meetings, partly on grounds of cost, but also as it was felt to cover a very broad range of environmental news. It was thought that information relevant to particular reviews could be readily researched elsewhere. The Panel agreed to review this decision at the next meeting; officers were asked to check the current cost of subscription and investigate alternative sources of information.</p>	<p>MH/MO</p>
	<p><b>14 Forthcoming Meetings</b></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting would be on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 8.30am in the Blampied Room, States Building. Officers were asked to investigate opportunities for earlier meetings and</p>	<p>MH/MO</p>

	circulate possible dates to Panel members.	
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Signed

Date:

  
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Chairman Environment Panel