

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

Date: 14th March 2013

Meeting No: 76

Present	Senator S.C. Ferguson, Chairman Deputy J.G. Reed, Vice-Chairman Connétable D.J. Murphy
Apologies	Deputy S. Power Deputy R.J. Rondel
Absent	
In attendance	Miss S. McKee, Scrutiny Officer Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of Meetings</p> <p>The Panel agreed to defer approval of the records of meetings until its next meeting on 27th March 2013.</p>	
<p>25/02/13 Item 4 513/37(3)</p>	<p>2. Minister for External Relations</p> <p>The Panel received an update on the status of its review of External Relations. It was noted that, following the Panel's agreement at its last meeting, a request for written submissions had been sent to the Minister for Treasury and Resources, the Minister for Economic Development, the Bailiff of Jersey, HM Attorney General and His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. It was also noted that those identified above had been asked to provide the Panel with written submissions by the end of March 2013.</p> <p>The Panel identified further individuals it would like to request written submissions from to assist in its review. Subsequently the Scrutiny Officer was requested to contact those identified.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that it would be beneficial for the review to ascertain the structure of Ministerial Government, and the policy behind that structure, in other jurisdictions such as the Isle of Man and Guernsey, in order for a comparison to be made. The Scrutiny Officer was therefore requested to undertake research into this matter.</p> <p>In order to inform the media and general public of the Panel's review, the Scrutiny Officer was requested to draft a press release and circulate to the Panel for approval. The Panel also agreed that a call for evidence should be made to the general public. The Scrutiny Officer was requested to undertake the necessary actions.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>SM</p> <p>SM</p>
	<p>3. Quarterly Public Hearing with the Chief Minister</p> <p>The Panel considered areas of questioning for the Quarterly Public Hearing with Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister, on 21st March 2013.</p>	

	<p>The Panel requested that a draft question plan be put together and circulated for Panel consideration. It was agreed that the plan should take into account the previous Quarterly meeting held with the Chief Minister and the 2013 Departmental Business Plan for the Chief Minister's Department.</p> <p>It was noted that 21st March was a States continuation day and it was for that reason that the Public Hearing with the Chief Minister had been arranged for 1:00pm that afternoon.</p> <p>Deputy J.G. Reed provided his apologies to the Panel as he would be unable to attend the Quarterly Hearing with the Chief Minister on 21st March 2013.</p>	SM/WM
<p>27/02/13 Item 9</p>	<p>4. GST De Minimis</p> <p>The Panel recalled that it had been due to meet the President of the Chamber of Commerce on 13th March 2013 to discuss his topic proposal regarding GST De Minimis levels. However, due to bad weather conditions the Panel meeting had been unfortunately cancelled. The Panel was advised that consequently the President had been invited to attend the Panel meeting today but was unavailable.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer was requested to arrange another meeting with the President of Chamber and Commerce. The next Panel meeting, due to take place on 27th March 2013, was identified as a potential meeting date.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Panel would question the Minister for Treasury and Resources on the subject of GST De Minimis Levels at the next Quarterly Hearing, which was due to take place on 18th April 2013.</p>	SM
<p>27/02/13 Item 5</p> <p>513/1(43)</p>	<p>5. Public Finances Law</p> <p>The Panel recalled its decision at its last meeting to seek an opinion from the Public Accounts Committee in regards to the proposed amendments to the <i>Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005</i>. In this regard, the Panel was advised that this matter had been added to PAC's agenda to discuss at its next Committee meeting. The Panel was further advised that, although the Committee was due to meet on 11th March 2013, due to bad weather conditions the meeting had been postponed until Monday 18th March 2013. The Panel noted, therefore, that an update on this matter would be provided at its next meeting on 27th March 2013.</p>	SM
<p>27/02/13 Item 8</p> <p>513/1(41)</p>	<p>6. Work Programme</p> <p>The Panel noted and approved the following briefings that had been arranged in respect of potential future review topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 18th April 2013: Briefing on Amendments to the <i>Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005</i>. • Wednesday 22nd May 2013: Briefing on Capital financing of major projects. • 19th July 2013: Briefing on 2014 Budget: 19th July 2013. • 18th September 2013: Briefings on capital financing of major projects and 2014 Budget. 	

	<p>In respect of the Panel's work programme, it was recalled that the timetable for the development of the Population Policy had not yet been finalised by the Executive and, as a result, there was uncertainty as to when a review on this matter could be carried out. It was further recalled that the Council of Ministers was due to meet on the 27th March 2013 to discuss the Population Policy timetable and that an update would be provided to the Panel after such time.</p> <p>The Panel noted receipt of information it had received from the CMD regarding the various advisory groups that had been established to co-ordinate policy.</p>	
<p>27/02/13 Item 3 513/37(2)</p>	<p>7. Deposit Loan Scheme</p> <p>The Panel considered the draft report and identified amendments which it requested the Scrutiny Officer to enact.</p> <p>The Panel noted that arrangements had been made for it to speak to the expert advisor from the Chartered Institute of Housing. The Panel noted that not all Members could be present for the discussions and it was therefore agreed that they would be undertaken by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.</p>	
	<p>8. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place at 8:30am on 27th March 2013. The Panel further noted that, ahead of that meeting, it would receive Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister, for a Quarterly Public Hearing on 21st March 2013.</p> <p>The Panel noted that a Citizenship Programme had been arranged for the morning of 26th June 2013, for which some Members of the Panel had been requested to attend. It was also noted that a Panel meeting was due to take place the morning of the 26th June 2013. The Panel agreed, therefore, to re-arrange its meeting for the afternoon to allow Panel Members to attend the Citizenship Programme. Subsequently, the Scrutiny Officer was requested to enact the changes and send an update to the Panel.</p>	<p>SM</p>