

## Environment Scrutiny Panel

### PUBLIC MEETING

#### Record of Meeting

Date: 11th September 2009

Meeting Number: 11

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

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
<p><b>Item 4</b> <b>07/07/09</b></p>	<p><b>Environmental taxes</b></p> <p>The Panel, having received a copy of the Treasury and Resources Department Summary of Consultation Responses on States environmental initiatives, and having been informed that the Treasury and Resources Minister was about to lodge a Report and Proposition on the principles of environmental taxation, agreed that it would be appropriate to review the Minister's proposals and prepare a report building on its initial comments on the Green Paper. The Panel believed that such a report would be a useful contribution towards an informed States debate on the subject.</p> <p>The Panel was concerned that the proposals as set out in the Green Paper represented a narrow concept of environmental taxation. They were designed principally as a revenue raising measure to meet a funding shortfall. In the Panel's view the intention in the draft Annual Business Plan to link continuation of support for certain environmental initiatives with the introduction of environmental taxes was flawed as this appeared to reflect a perception that these environmental initiatives were an optional extra. The Panel believed that these initiatives were core departmental functions which should compete for departmental funding alongside other priorities.</p> <p>The Panel believed that environmental taxes had a broader potential as an instrument to promote behavioural change and/or recover disposal costs from harmful waste products. The Panel suggested that it would be more appropriate to term the Treasury's more limited proposals 'pollution charges' as this would better describe the nature of the measures and would improve the public perceived them.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to prepare a separate report, based on the study that had been carried out by its officers on the waste recycling operation, to accompany the report on environmental taxes.</p> <p>The Panel was conscious that in the absence of a confirmed Sustainable Transport Policy it was impossible at this stage to prepare a similar study on specific sustainable transport initiatives. However, comments on the draft Consultation Document were in</p>	

	<p>preparation.</p> <p>The Panel recalled that it had received a briefing note on behalf of the Jersey Energy Trust relating to the Planning and Environment Department's energy efficiency service. It was agreed that it would be premature to review this recently introduced service.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to invite the Ministers of Treasury and Resources and Transport and Technical Services to public hearings in connexion with the above reviews</p> <p>The Panel requested its officers to prepare scoping documents for the agreed reviews.</p>	<b>MH/MO</b>
<p><b>Item 2</b> <b>03/09/09</b></p>	<p><b>2. Energy from Waste Plant and Ramsar: review of planning process</b></p> <p>It was noted that the Transport and Technical Services Department had made a number of requests for detailed clarification of the question plan that had been supplied. The Panel agreed that providing the additional clarification requested would not be a constructive use of the adviser's time.</p>	

Signed

*P. S. Kendall*  
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Date:

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Chairman Environment Panel