

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 10th October 2012

Present	Deputy T.A. Vallois, President Deputy S.G. Luce, Vice-President Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy J.M. Maçon Deputy J.H. Young Deputy K.L. Moore
Apologies	
Absent	Deputy G. Baudains
In attendance	Connétable of St. Ouen Connétable of St. Brelade Connétable of St. John Connétable of Grouville Connétable of St. Martin Deputy S. Power Deputy J. Hilton Deputy J. Reed Deputy R. Rondel Mrs. K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
510/1(61)	<p>1. Scrutiny Report recommendations: follow-up on implementation of accepted recommendations.</p> <p>The meeting agreed to the importance of following up accepted recommendations and that all Panels would follow-up on the implementation, or otherwise, of accepted recommendations.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the importance of ensuring that the Minister had completed a target date for each accepted recommendation on the Ministerial Response Template to assist Panels with timely follow-up.</p> <p>Consideration was also given to the use of written, oral and questions without notice in the States although it was recognised that there had been previous criticism of Members using the States Assembly to carry out Scrutiny business.</p> <p>The meeting was apprised of the modus operandi of the Public Accounts Committee in monitoring accepted recommendations and that some of the recommendations may be referred to Scrutiny Panels when the progressing the matter fell more within Scrutiny's remit than within PAC.</p>	
08.10.12 Item 1	2. Medium Term Financial Plan [MTFP]	

<p>513/35</p>	<p>The meeting noted that the Corporate Services Scrutiny Sub-Panel was nearing completion of its report and that it was currently with stakeholders for factual checking. However, findings and recommendations have not been finalised yet. The Sub-Panel was minded to prepare two amendments to the MTFP but these had yet to be determined and agreed.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the difficulty of tracking and monitoring the implementation of the MTFP, the lack of flexibility within the Plan, especially during 2014 and 2015, which made the Plan financially binding with insufficient flexibility.</p> <p>The meeting considered an away-morning for Scrutiny Members to discuss any amendments and other issues relating to the MTFP, but decided that a preferable way forward was for the draft report of the Corporate Services Sub-Panel to be circulated to all Scrutiny Members.</p> <p>It was noted that the individual Panel reports would be presented prior to the Sub-Panel's report and hopefully these would also be able to inform Members prior to the debate.</p> <p>It was also noted that there may be a few amendments from Scrutiny and a few more from Members in an individual, independent capacity.</p>	
<p>465/1(169)</p>	<p>3. Electronic Devices: use in Scrutiny Hearings</p> <p>The meeting considered whether Panel Members and witnesses at Scrutiny Hearings should be permitted to use electronic devices such as iPads and laptops. It was also considered whether members of the public should be permitted to use such devices but it was agreed that this was inappropriate.</p> <p>As there was currently a trial of using electronic devices in the States Assembly which was optional for Members, the meeting agreed that in principle, a similar trial should operate within Scrutiny Hearings. Consideration was given to individual Panels making their own decisions about whether to permit this but there was a strong feeling that there must be a standardized approach.</p> <p>It was agreed that Panel Chairmen should discuss the matter with their individual Panels and revert back to the Chairmen's Committee.</p>	<p>Chairmen</p>
<p>510/1(45)</p>	<p>4. Microphones in Blampied and Le Capelain Rooms</p> <p>The meeting considered fixing additional microphones to the tables in the Blampied and Le Capelain Rooms as when there are a large number of witnesses some have to sit away from a microphone.</p> <p>The meeting was advised that information on undertaking this work had been requested.</p>	<p>KTF</p>
<p>1240/9/1 (89)</p>	<p>5. Lunches for Scrutiny meetings</p> <p>The meeting was advised that the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel had employed an adviser working on a voluntary basis and were concerned that there was no possibility to use the Scrutiny budget to provide the adviser with lunch when at all day meetings.</p> <p>The meeting, recalling that the Chairman of the Privileges and</p>	

	Procedures Committee had commented in the States Assembly at the start of the year that he was going to investigate the possibility of reinstating lunches for States meetings and Scrutiny, requested the representative of the Committee on PPC to look into the matter.	KM
510/1(75)	<p>6. Reimbursements for parking charges</p> <p>The meeting noted that the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel had not been able to reimburse an adviser working voluntarily on behalf of the Panel for costs incurred for parking.</p> <p>The meeting was advised that a decision had been made at the outset of that review that if evidence of parking charges were provided to the Scrutiny Office, these could be reimbursed.</p> <p>Furthermore the possibility of using States Members car parking spaces for such advisers on non-States meeting dates had been explored but this had been unsuccessful.</p>	
510/1(74)	<p>7. Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel [HSSH]: remit</p> <p>The Chairmen's Committee was requested to consider the current structure of the Scrutiny Panels in terms of the exceedingly heavy workload of the HSSH Panel. It was suggested that consideration could be given to moving Housing to join up with Environment.</p>	CC
<p>04.10.12 Item A1(a)</p> <p>Joint meeting of Chairmen's Committee and Council of Ministers</p> <p>511/1(33)</p>	<p>8. Green and White Papers</p> <p>The meeting was advised that at the joint meeting of the Chairmen's Committee and the Council of Ministers, the Chief Minister agreed to produce a procedure note for Ministers in respect of Green and White Papers.</p> <p>This could be particularly useful from the point of view of factoring Scrutiny into Ministerial planning of policies. It was noted that if Scrutiny had to work around scheduled debates which couldn't be moved, frustrations would occur within Scrutiny which could have detrimental results.</p> <p>The President undertook to discuss this with the Chief Minister at her next formal meeting with him.</p>	TV