

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

(11th Meeting)

20th July 2009PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier, Mr. K. Keen, Mr. A.C. Fearn, Mr. P. Ryan and Mr. C. Swinson, O.B.E., Comptroller and Auditor General, from whom apologies had been received.

Senator B.E. Shenton, Chairman
 Senator A. Breckon
 Connétable J.M. Refault of St. Peter
 Deputy T.A. Vallois
 Mr. M. Magee

In attendance -

Miss A-C. Heuston, Clerk to the Public Accounts Committee

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A and Part B.

Minutes.

A1. The Minutes of the meetings of 15th June 2009 (Part A and Part B); 18th June 2009 (Part A only); and 29th June (Part B only), having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Financial
 Management
 in the States:
 review June
 2009.
 512(10)

A2. The Committee noted the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) entitled: Financial Management in the States: review June 2009, lodged "au Greffe" on 30th June 2009.

The Committee noted paragraph 23(4) of the report, which stated that ensuring central financial management was as professional as possible in all its functions would require the Treasury and Resources Department to: "*review all its functions and to plan how each should be improved.*"

Discussions continued under Item B1 of this Agenda.

Procurement.
 512(5)

A3. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A1 of 18th June 2009, received a report in connexion with its review of procurement.

The Committee recalled that it had met with Mrs. C. Hastings, Director of Strategic Procurement, and Mr. J. Richardson, Deputy Chief Executive – Chief Officer Resources, on 18th June 2009, to discuss the procurement of goods and services within the States.

The Committee requested Connétable J.M. Refault of St. Peter to lead on the review and to draft and publish a press release requesting feedback from members of the public in respect of the States' procurement process. It was agreed that it would not be necessary to incur the cost of advertising a call for evidence unless the press release was unsuccessful. The Committee agreed that written submissions

in respect of the current procurement process should be requested from the Jersey Chamber of Commerce and Jersey Enterprise, as well as suppliers and prospective suppliers, and that a draft questionnaire on the subject should be publicly distributed.

The Committee Clerk was directed to take the necessary action.

Review of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General entitled: 'Energy from Waste Plant – management of foreign currency exchange risks'.
512(6)

A4. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A2 of 15th June 2009, gave further consideration to its report: Review of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General entitled: "Energy from Waste Plant – management of foreign currency exchange risks".

The Committee recalled that an initial draft of the report had been circulated for members' consideration on 2nd July 2009 and a revised draft would shortly be available incorporating members' comments and amendments.

Discussions continued under Item B1 of this Agenda.

States of Jersey Financial Report and Accounts 2008.
447/1/1/2(3)

A5. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. B1 of 29th June 2009, gave further consideration to its review of the States of Jersey Financial Report and Accounts 2008, lodged "au Greffe" by the Minister for Treasury and Resources on 16th June 2009 (R.C63/2009 refers).

The Committee noted that Mr. M. Pollard, Chief Executive, Health and Social Services, and Mr. S. Austin-Vautier, Chief Officer, Home Affairs, were scheduled to attend public hearings with the Committee that afternoon. It was also noted that Mr. I. Black, Treasurer of the States and Mr. R. Bell, Chief Officer, Social Security, would attend public hearings in respect of the accounts on Tuesday 21st July 2009.

Financial forecasts.
512(7)

A6. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A4 of 16th March 2009, received an invitation from the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel to attend a Panel meeting to discuss financial forecasting.

Members accepted the invitation to attend on Wednesday 2nd September 2009 and the Committee Clerk was directed to make the necessary arrangements.

