

# Environment Scrutiny Panel

## Record of Meeting

Date: **19th May 2010**

Meeting Number: 24

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

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Records of meetings</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meetings of 29<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were approved and signed.</p>	<b>MH</b>
<p><b>Item 5</b> <b>29.04.10</b></p>	<p><b>2. Food Waste</b></p> <p>Members were advised that the Parish of St Helier's 'Rocket' food waste digester was currently undergoing servicing so a visit was not practical at the present time.</p>	<b>MH/MO</b>
<p><b>Item 4</b> <b>29.04.10</b></p>	<p><b>3. Carbon Intensity / Building Bye Laws</b></p> <p>It was noted that the Planning and Environment Department had confirmed that a new solution had now been proposed that would remove reference to carbon intensity figures from the Building Bye Laws in favour of energy input levels.</p> <p>The Panel was informed that discussion was still ongoing as to who could carry out the study into the carbon intensity of imported electricity; the lead on this matter was now being taken by the Assistant Minister. A further meeting would take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.</p>	
<p><b>Item 10</b> <b>29.04.10</b></p>	<p><b>4. Protecting our Marine Environment</b></p> <p>The Panel considered draft terms of reference for the review discussed and agreed with the Minister for Planning and Environment at a private meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Members considered possible additional concerns in respect of information received about water quality in the Elizabeth Marina, Cavern overflows and pollution of ground water under the Gas Place site. It was agreed that the terms of reference were worded in such a way as to cover all relevant matters and could be confirmed as the Panel's final version to the department, who had indicated that they wished to pass them on for 'audit' by the Centre for Research and Environmental Health.</p> <p>It was suggested that the new review might be launched on Facebook.</p> <p>On a related subject members expressed concerns about the long term future and potential for economic use of the reclaimed land at La Collette. If a more permanent means of disposal for the ash could be found, such as removal to underground storage tunnels, it was considered that the value of land that could be freed up for future development could be set against the cost of remediation. Officers were asked to request information from the Transport and Technical Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MO</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MH/MO</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MH/MO</b></p>

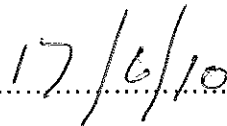
	Department concerning the estimated lifetime of ash pit liners.	
<b>Item 3</b> <b>29.04.10</b>	<p><b>5. Ramsar Review</b></p> <p>Following a meeting with the Minister for Planning and Environment on 18<sup>th</sup> May, members discussed the Minister's offer of a joint Department/Panel/adviser discussion with representatives of Defra to resolve outstanding issues. On reflection it was agreed that this could prove to be a costly and time-consuming exercise, and given the different positions adopted by the Ramsar Secretariat and Defra concerning the need for an Article 3.2 report it seemed unlikely that full agreement would be reached. In the circumstances it was felt that there might be little to be gained from pursuing the suggestion of a meeting. Officers were asked to seek the views of the Panel's adviser to see if an alternative solution could be found.</p> <p>It was agreed that the budget for the Ramsar review should be increased by £3,000 to allow for the possibility of further adviser input.</p> <p>Further questions were raised concerning emissions to air from the Energy from Waste plant, and how it would be verified that the proposed monitoring equipment was working correctly. Officers were requested to obtain clarification from the Regulator as to what legislation was applicable and how it was enforced, together with an update on waste management licence and discharge permit applications.</p> <p>There was discussion concerning the imminent publication of the department's Guidance notes for environmental impact assessments; it was agreed that a public meeting and presentation should be recommended to the department to allow for some degree of consultation on the draft guidance before it was finalised.</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>MO</p> <p>MH/MO</p> <p>MH/MO</p>
	<p><b>6. Public versus Private meetings</b></p> <p>Members discussed the issues surrounding the holding of meetings with Ministers in public or in private. It was noted that some recent meetings had permitted the Panel to receive useful briefings on issues that might not have been open to public discussion; however, this had to be carefully balanced against the need for Scrutiny to hold Ministers to account publicly. Members agreed to maintain the Panel's existing position in that unless there was a clear case for confidentiality, meetings should be held in public and recorded wherever possible, but the appropriate status for individual meetings would often need to be considered at the time they were called.</p>	MH/MO
<b>Item 3</b> <b>7.05.10</b>	<p><b>7. Comprehensive Spending Review</b></p> <p>Following a meeting with the Minister for Transport and Technical Services on 10<sup>th</sup> May the Panel agreed that a letter should be sent commenting on the key proposals and in particular querying the sum allocating to 'invest to save' which was not discussed at the meeting.</p>	MH/MO
<b>Item 2</b> <b>7.05.10</b>	<p><b>8. Liquid Waste Strategy</b></p> <p>Members considered a briefing paper provided by the Transport and Technical Services Department with a confidential draft of the LWS. It was suggested that the department should be asked to provide an away-day (or morning) to include a full briefing and visits to relevant operations (including underground sewers), possibly in July, before the Panel moved on scoping or terms of reference for a possible review. It was felt that media involvement on the day would also be appropriate. The need for inoculations before any visit to sewerage installations was raised and officers were asked to seek advice from the Transport and</p>	<p>MH/MO</p> <p>MH/MO</p>

	Technical Services Department in this regard.	
	<p><b>9. Planning Process</b></p> <p>Following confirmation that the President of the Association of Jersey Architects was unable to attend the meeting owing to a conflicting engagement discussion of planning and Heritage Protection issues was postponed. However, members agreed that the planning process should be kept in mind for a possible future review and the invitation to the President re-issued for a subsequent meeting.</p>	MH/MO
	<p><b>10. Matters for Information</b></p> <p>Members received briefing notes of the Chairmen's Committee meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010 and noted recent ministerial decisions relevant to the Panel's remit, as well as arrangements for questions without notice to the Minister for Transport and Technical Services at the States sitting of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010.</p>	
	<p><b>11. Future Meetings</b></p> <p>The Panel noted the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meeting with UK Planning Inspectors appointed to undertake the Examination in Public of the draft Island Plan, to be held on Thursday 27th May 2010 at 2pm in the Blampied Room (subject to completion of States business that week)</li> <li>• the next scheduled Panel meeting, to be held on 17th June 2010 at 8.30am in Blampied Room, States Building.</li> </ul>	

Signed



Date:



Chairman, Environment Panel

