

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 10th June 2014

Present	Deputy T.A. Vallois, President Deputy S.G. Luce, Vice-President Senator S.C. Ferguson Connétable of St. John (representing the Environment Scrutiny Panel) Deputy J.A. Hilton
Apologies	Deputy K.L. Moore, Connétable S. W. Pallett, Deputy J.H. Young
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs. K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager Miss L. Stoodley, Scrutiny Administrator Ms. P. Staley, Law Draftsman (item 3 only)

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Minutes of previous meetings</p> <p>The records of the meetings held on the 8th, 9th, 14th and 25th April and 1st, 7th, 15th, 20th and 22nd May 2014 were approved and signed accordingly.</p>	
511/1/56	<p>2. Annual Report 2014: timing for completion</p> <p>The Committee, noting that it was obliged through Standing Orders to present an Annual Report to the States Assembly, agreed that all Panels and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) would aim to have their Report pages completed by 22nd August 2014 for consideration at a meeting to be held the following week.</p>	
450/2(25)	<p>3. Standing Orders: amendments following debate on P.33/2014</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the Law Draftsman to the meeting. Following consideration of a number of matters, the Committee agreed to the following:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Chairmen's Committee should lodge "<i>au Greffe</i>" the amendments to the Scrutiny function whilst the Chief Minister should lodge those applicable to the Executive. The Connétable for St. John requested that his dissent from this decision be recorded; 2. The structure of fixed Panels should be retained in accordance with the views of the majority of Scrutiny Members. It was, however, agreed that an amendment should be lodged "<i>au Greffe</i>" to transfer Housing from the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel to the Environment Scrutiny Panel; 3. An amendment to Standing Orders would be lodged "<i>au Greffe</i>" to provide for the possibility for the future Chairmen's Committee to establish "Review Panels" as and when appropriate to undertake specific reviews. The Deputy of St. Martin requested that his dissent from this decision be 	

	<p>recorded;</p> <p>4. To amend Standing Orders 141 and 143 to reflect the adoption by the States Assembly of the amendment to Scrutiny of the States of Jersey Law 2005, P.33/2014 that an “interface” code between those engaged in Scrutiny and the Ministers and Assistant Ministers be agreed.</p> <p>The Law Draftsman agreed to proceed with Law Drafting and would revert to the Committee through the Scrutiny Manager. The Law Draftsman withdrew from the meeting.</p>	Law Draftsman/KTF
<p>08.04.14 Item 9</p> <p>511/1(46)</p>	<p>4. Legacy Report: Chairmen’s Committee Heads of Report and timing for approval.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the draft Heads of Report in relation to the Chairmen’s Committee overarching section of the Legacy Report.</p> <p>The Committee considered the training that had been provided during this term of office. A lot of positive feedback had been given about the questioning training delivered by H.M. Solicitor General and it was, therefore, agreed that the Committee would recommend that more training would be sought from the Law Officers’ Department, as opposed to training from external providers and for this to be included in the Legacy Report.</p> <p>The Committee also decided that future Scrutiny Members should also be apprised of the situation which had occurred in respect of workload towards the end of this term of office. It was suggested that this be included in the introductory section of the report to highlight the serious concerns the Committee had with the issue and to recommend that action was taken early in the next term of office to avoid this in the future.</p> <p>On a related matter, it was also agreed that the Panel and the Public Accounts Committee would aim to complete their Legacy Report pages by 22nd August. A final Committee meeting would be scheduled during the week of 25th August to consider these and the overarching Committee report. The date would be confirmed in due course by the Scrutiny Manager and sent out via a meeting request. That meeting would be scheduled to consider these two matters solely.</p>	
<p>08.04.14 Item 4</p> <p>510/1(5)</p>	<p>5. Codes of Practice</p> <p>Given the adoption by the States Assembly of the provision of a joint Code of Practice between those undertaking Scrutiny and Ministers and Assistant Ministers, the Committee initially noted that the existing Code fulfilled this requirement.</p> <p>However, it was acknowledged that further work on the Code to separate the issues which were “joint” matters between Scrutiny and the Executive and “working” matters for Scrutiny alone was essential. Due to Panel and Public Account Committee workloads, Members voiced concerns on the amount of time they would have available to produce a well thought out, well produced piece of work. The Committee also noted some matters which would be likely to be contentious and where negotiation with the Executive would be required.</p>	

	<p>It was further noted that work on the joint Code had been commenced and therefore, it was agreed that it should be referred to in the Legacy Report as work in progress with recommendations of work needing to be undertaken.</p> <p>The President, Chairmen's Committee undertook to advise the Chief Minister of this decision at the next joint meeting.</p>	
	<p>6. Panel Activity Reports</p> <p>These were taken as read.</p>	
511/1(57)	<p>7. Electronic File Storage: Shared Area</p> <p>The Committee was apprised by the President of a matter which had been considered by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in respect of the development of a shared area of electronic file storage in relation to PAC work, and possibly other Scrutiny Panels, to which States Members would have access.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the Scrutiny Office had been aware of work on this for a while and that it was in favour of progressing such an initiative. The Committee also noted that the matter had been discussed with the Greffier of the States who had agreed to progress the matter accordingly. In knowledge of this, the Committee agreed that the Greffier should undertake to do this and report back to the Committee on progress made.</p>	
	<p>8. Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC): update on matters relating to Scrutiny</p> <p>The Committee noted the update received from PPC. This concerned matters relating to backbenchers' propositions and issues surrounding the Machinery of Government.</p>	
	<p>9. Future meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee noted that its next meeting was scheduled for 8th July 2014, but given that the States had agreed to meet on that date, a revised meeting date of 7th July had been convened from 2pm-4pm in Le Capelain Room, States Building. Apologies had already been received from the Chairman, Environment Scrutiny Panel and apologies were given by the Chairman, Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel in the event that he may be late or unable to attend due to other commitments; 2. 28th or 29th August 2014: the Committee agreed to meet on one of these dates, to be agreed, specifically to consider the Annual and Legacy Reports; 3. 16th September 2014: this meeting would now be cancelled. 	