

Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: **2nd January 2009**Meeting Number: **1**

Present	Deputy R. G. Le Hérissier, Chairman Connétable G. F. Butcher Deputy T. M. Pitman
Apologies	Deputy M. Tadier
Absent	
In attendance	E. Liddiard and S. Power, Scrutiny Officers

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Vice-Chairman appointment</p> <p>The Panel agreed that the appointment of a Vice-Chairman should be deferred until all Panel Members were present. This item was therefore deferred until the next full Panel meeting.</p>	
	<p>2. Previous Panel's Reviews</p> <p>a) The Panel noted receipt of correspondence from the Secretary to the Comité des Connétables, with regard to the previous Education and Home Affairs Panel's review into 'The Rôle of the Centenier in the Magistrate's Court'. Consideration was given to the invitation to attend a Comité des Chefs de Police meeting to discuss the recommendations that the previous Education and Home Affairs Panel had made in its report, however, it was agreed that it would be more beneficial, especially for new Panel Members, to meet the relevant Ministers on general terms outside of this review issue.</p> <p>b) The Panel noted receipt of correspondence from the previous Minister for Home Affairs regarding the previous Education and Home Affairs Panel's review into the 'Policing of Events'.</p> <p>c) The Panel noted receipt of correspondence from the previous Minister for Education, Sport and Culture regarding the establishment of the Children's Commissioner. Officers were asked to provide a progress report as to the recommendation put forward to the Minister by the previous Education and Home Affairs Panel in its review of 'Early Years', which was <i>'to establish the position of an independent Children's Commissioner in Jersey'</i>. It was agreed that this issue should form part of the Panel's question plan for its Public Meeting with the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, that was scheduled to take place later in the month.</p> <p>d) The Panel noted receipt of correspondence from the Chief</p>	EL/SP

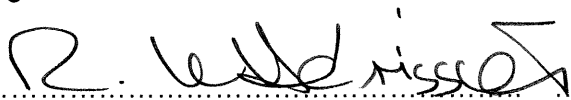
	Minister regarding the previous Education and Home Affairs Panel's Early Years' Review.	
	3. Assessment and Scoping Process The Panel noted the Scrutiny Assessment and Scoping forms used for the assessment and scoping of Scrutiny reviews.	
	4. Legacy Report The Panel considered and noted the Legacy Report of the previous Education and Home Affairs Panel.	
	5. Strategic Plan The Panel noted the proposed dates for the development of the new Strategic Plan. It was noted that Scrutiny's involvement in the Strategic and Business Planning process had been difficult to date, however it was hoped that Scrutiny would become more involved in this process from now on.	
	6. Departmental Business Plans The Panel received the Education, Sport and Culture 2009 Business Plan. It was noted that the Home Affairs Department's 2009 Business Plan had not yet been received; however it would be distributed to the Panel as soon as it was available.	EL/SP
	7. Forthcoming Propositions The Panel noted items of draft legislation within its remit lodged for debate by the States. The Panel requested Officers to provide a summary paper regarding the Draft Sex Offenders (Jersey) Law 200- (P.178/2008), which had been lodged for debate by the States on 24 th February 2009.	EL/SP
	8. Forward Work Programme The Panel agreed to defer consideration of its forward work programme for 2009 until all Panel Members were present. It was, therefore, agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next full Panel meeting. The Panel also discussed potential methods of raising the public profile of Scrutiny Reviews, in order to gain more interest.	
	9. Ministerial Decisions The Panel noted recent Ministerial Decisions from the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture and the Minister for Home Affairs. With regard to the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture's Ministerial Decision to accept findings of the report into the Jersey Youth Service – October 2008 (MD-ESC-2008-0031), the Panel agreed to send a letter to the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture asking for further information regarding the analysis of the management structure for the Youth Service, as it was believed that this item had been underplayed to date. The Panel also agreed to request the Chairmen's Committee to re-examine a 'call in period' for Ministerial Decisions., as it was agreed that consideration should be given to the potential for a two week window in which a Panel could consider the Decisions before they were finalised in order for Scrutiny Panels to have more impact.	EL/SP/ RLeH SP/KTF

	<p>10. Previous Education and Home Affairs Panel</p> <p>The Panel welcomed the proposal from Connétable D. Mezbourian, the Chairman of the previous Education and Home Affairs Panel, to attend a Panel meeting and discuss the work undertaken by the previous Panel. They extended the invitation to all previous Panel Members to attend, and requested Officers to contact the relevant Members and invite them to attend the Panel Meeting scheduled for the 11th February 2009.</p>	EL/ SP
	<p>11. Questions to Ministers</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Minister for Economic Development and the Chief Minister would be taking questions without notice at the States sitting of 20th January 2009.</p>	
	<p>12. Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>The Panel considered any likely conflicts of interest and looked for clarification of non financial conflicts of interest. The Officers were requested to look into this issue and feedback to the Panel at the next Panel Meeting.</p>	EL/SP
	<p>13. Chairman's Committee Requirements</p> <p>The Panel noted the requirements of the Chairman's Committee with regard to information from Scrutiny Panels.</p>	
	<p>14. Relevant Documentation</p> <p>The following documents were distributed to Panel Members: the Code of Practice and Relevant Standing Orders; Public Engagement Strategy; Financial Direction No 5.1; States of Jersey (Powers, Privileges and Immunities) (Scrutiny Panels, PAC and PPC) (Jersey) Regulations 2006; and the Draft Guide for Scrutiny Members.</p>	
	<p>15. Scrutiny Training</p> <p>The Panel noted that the 14th and 15th January 2009 had been set aside for the training of all Scrutiny Members. It was noted that it was essential that all Panel Members attended as much of this training as possible, as Members would be working as Panels throughout the two day period.</p>	
	<p>16. Education, Sport and Culture IS Strategy</p> <p>The Panel noted receipt of the Education, Sport and Culture IS Strategy. It was agreed that questions on the content of this document should be included in the Panel's question plan for its Public Meeting with the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, that had been scheduled for later in the month.</p>	EL/SP
	<p>17. Working Practice</p> <p>Members were advised by Officers regarding various aspects of working methods and practice, including the need to advise Officers if Members had infrequent access to emails. The Panel noted and agreed that copies of any documents that were sent to Panel Members, which were of relevance to the whole Panell must be provided to the Scrutiny Office, so that a copy of all documents</p>	

	could be kept centrally.	
	<p>18. Future Meetings</p> <p>a) The Panel agreed the proposed schedule of meetings for 2009.</p> <p>b) The Panel agreed to the proposed date of 16th January 2009 for meetings with the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture. The Officers were requested to prepare draft question plans to be distributed to the Panel for consideration in advance of the meetings.</p>	EL/SP
	<p>19. Next Meeting</p> <p>The Panel noted that the next meeting would be on 16th January 2009 in Blampied Room, States Building (time to be confirmed).</p>	

Signed

Date:

 . 26th January 2009

Chairman
Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel