

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(35th Meeting)

18th March 2010**PART A**

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy A.E. Pryke, Minister for Health and Social Services, from whom apologies had been received.

Senator T.A. Le Sueur, Chief Minister
 Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Senator T.J. Le Main, Minister for Housing
 Senator F.E. Cohen, Minister for Planning and Environment
 Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development
 Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs
 Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, Minister for Transport and Technical Services
 Deputy J.G. Reed, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture
 Deputy I.J. Gorst, Minister for Social Security
 Deputy E.J. Noel, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services

In attendance -

Connétable K.P. Vibert, Chairman, Comité des Connétables
 Deputy J.A. Martin, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services (for item B1)
 J. Richardson, Deputy Chief Executive
 M. Taylor, Chairman of the Jersey Child Protection Committee (for item B1)
 D. Warcup, Acting Chief Officer, States of Jersey Police (for item B1)
 M. Lundy, Director of Education, Sport and Culture (for item B1)
 R. Jouault, Deputy Chief Executive, Health and Social Services Department (for item B1)
 M. Heald, Assistant Chief Executive (for item B3)
 T. Walker, Director of International Affairs (for item B4)
 J. Morris, Policy and Research Manager
 M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 I. Clarkson, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

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

Minutes

A1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2010 (Part B), having been circulated previously, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Scrutiny:
 engagement
 with
 Chairmen's
 Committee
 1444/5(4)

A2. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. B8 of 4th March 2010, recalled that it had committed to meet regularly with the Chairmen's Committee to discuss the working relationship between Ministers and Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee.

The Council, with Mrs. J. Marshall, Strategic Planning Manager in attendance, welcomed a delegation of the Chairmen's Committee comprised as follows –

Senator B.E. Shenton, President, Chairmen's Committee and Chairman of

the Public Accounts Committee
Deputy P.J. Rondel, Chairman, Environment Scrutiny Panel
Deputy T.A. Vallois, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel
Deputy M.R. Higgins, Chairman, Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Mrs. K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager, States Greffe

The President of the Chairmen's Committee chaired the meeting and the following matters were discussed.

Comprehensive Spending Review

The Chairmen's Committee resolved to consider recommending that the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel form a dedicated sub-panel, comprised of States Members representing all 5 Scrutiny Panels, to consider policy issues arising from the ongoing Comprehensive Spending Review.

Freedom of Information

The Council affirmed that it would shortly be meeting with the Privileges and Procedures Committee to discuss the latest draft Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 201- and the possible resource implications arising.

Requests by Scrutiny Panels for Information

The Council agreed that requests for information submitted by a Scrutiny Panel to an Executive Department in connexion with an ongoing review, or during the scoping stage of a proposed review, should be acknowledged promptly. It further agreed that Departments should aim to provide the information requested within 7 days or to request clarification within a similar timeframe as to the information sought and with the intention of responding as soon as practicable thereafter.

The Chairmen's Committee advised that it would consider the process governing provision of information by Executive Departments to Scrutiny as part of its ongoing review of the Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee.

Separation of Scrutiny and Private Member Business

On the basis that the primary purpose of Scrutiny was to hold individual Ministers to account on matters concerning existing and proposed policy, the Council invited the Chairmen's Committee to consider whether it was satisfied that all Scrutiny Panel members were ensuring adequate separation of their Scrutiny and Private Member responsibilities.

Common
Investment
Fund.
447/6(4)

A3. The Council, with J. Turner, Deputy Treasurer of the States and D. Rabet, Strategic Investments Manager, Treasury and Resources Department in attendance, considered a report entitled, 'States of Jersey – Common Investment Fund.'

Ministers were advised that the Treasury and Resources Department Business Plan 2010 had signalled an intent to establish a Common Investment Fund in the form of an administrative management vehicle to pool together and manage assets held by the States. Such action would allow individual funds to benefit from cost savings and potential improved rates of return through economies of scale, while also avoiding the complexities that would arise if the Fund was to be formally established as a separate legal entity. The proposal had been developed in consultation with the States Investment Adviser.

The Council noted that the following existing funds would be considered for inclusion in the Common Investment Fund –

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- (a) the Strategic Reserve Fund;
- (b) the Stabilisation Fund;
- (c) the Social Security (Reserve) Fund;
- (d) the Health Insurance Fund; and
- (e) other special funds.

Establishment of the proposed administrative management vehicle would require the prior adoption of certain amendments to the Public Finances (Transitional Provisions) (No.2) (Jersey) Regulations 2005. Additional resources would also be required during the initial implementation stage in the form of one full-time equivalent post, albeit that funding for the temporary post would be found from within the existing cash limit of the Treasury and Resources Department.

The Council endorsed the proposed establishment of the Common Investment Fund and the proposed changes to the Public Finances (Transitional Provisions) (No.2) (Jersey) Regulations 2005 on the understanding that any accompanying report would afford the States Assembly a concise and comprehensible explanation of the proposal.

The Deputy Treasurer of the States was authorized to take the necessary action.

States
members:
quarterly
presentations.
1444/1(43)

A4. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A3 of 15th October 2009, approved a revised schedule of presentations to States Members in 2010 and 2011 as follows –

20th April – Minister for Planning and Environment (to include an update on the Island Plan, if appropriate), or the Minister for Treasury and Resources (to provide an update on the Comprehensive Spending Review)

19th July – Minister for Transport and Technical Services

12th October – Minister for Home Affairs

Q1 2011 – Minister for Social Security

Q2 2011 – Minister for Housing

The Policy and Research Manager was authorized to take the necessary action.