



Terms of Reference

Government Work Plan Scrutiny Panel

Purpose

The purpose of the Government Work Plan Sub-Committee (GWP) of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) will be to provide information to the Members of the SMC to allow effective scrutiny of the GWP over the course of this political term.

The GWP sets out four priorities for a “focused, efficient States”, Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Managing the effects of Brexit, Re-Shaping Government and Delivering Recovery Actions. It identifies actions for the short and medium term alongside government work that should be phased to ensure resources are used “where most urgently needed”.

It is clear that the GWP has given significantly increased autonomy to the Policy & Resources Committee and consequently this change requires a corresponding increase in the level of ongoing Parliamentary scrutiny throughout the remainder of this political term.

SMC GWP Scrutiny Panel

The SMC GWP Scrutiny Panel (the Panel) is designed to specifically focus on the progress made by the GWP. The Panel will be led by the President of the SMC. The Panel will have a core Membership of the three political SMC Members.

The Panel will also appoint additional temporary States Members usually for an initial period of six or twelve months, which can be rolled over, to assist with specific areas of scrutiny within the GWP and these will be supplemented by appropriately experienced and knowledgeable panel members from and outside the States Assembly, also on a time-limited membership. Only panel members who are serving deputies will be entitled to a vote on the Panel. There will be no fixed limit on the number of panel members at any one time, but in order to manage meetings effectively, it is suggested that between five and seven members is optimum.

The Panel will also be able, with the prior agreement of the SMC, to engage appropriately skilled external resources that have a financial cost attached to assist with specific tasks.

It is envisaged that public hearings will be held with the Policy & Resources Committee regarding the GWP. The Panel for such hearings will include members of the GWP Scrutiny Panel.

The GWP Scrutiny Panel will report to the SMC.

Scope

The SMC intends to review the ongoing implementation of the GWP process and consider the following objectives as part of its ongoing review:

- What progress has been made regarding policy implementation;
- Whether the proposed governance arrangements are fit for purpose;
- Whether Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are agreed and appropriately measured;
- Whether the programme is on schedule to be completed this in a timely manner;
- That financial reporting is transparent and appropriate across the GWP;
- That Capital Projects are delivered in a timely and efficient manner; and
- Other policy or financial matters related to the delivery of the GWP.

Outcome

A balanced programme of evidence-based scrutiny will be put in place to monitor the implementation of the GWP over the next four years. The Panel will meet regularly and produce reports highlighting the progress being made and include any recommendations as necessary. The GWP Scrutiny Panel will measure its success against its delivery of the objectives identified in this Terms of Reference.