



PRESS RELEASE

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Immediate release

Scrutiny Review of Proposed Jersey Development Company

The Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel has formed a Sub-Panel to review the proposition of the Council of Ministers to establish the States of Jersey Development Company.

The Jersey Development Company would implement and co-ordinate development in specified Regeneration Zones in the Island in accordance with approved policy. The Company would replace the current Waterfront Enterprise Board. If adopted, the proposition would also separate the function of creating Masterplans from that of promoting and delivering the developments required to meet those Masterplans. Master-planning would be the purview of the Minister for Planning and Environment; co-ordination and delivery of public sector developments to realise the objectives would be the responsibility of the Company, under the guidance of the Regeneration Steering Group (comprised of other Ministers and two Connétables).

The proposition is due to be debated in October 2009 and the Sub-Panel will therefore gather evidence during July and August 2009. It will consider whether the structure and processes proposed by the Council would be appropriate and, in particular, it will explore issues surrounding governance and accountability; and the division of responsibilities between the various bodies described in the proposition. The Council's proposals follow an earlier proposition in 2008 to create a 'Jersey Enterprise Board'. That proposition was ultimately withdrawn following a previous Scrutiny Review and the Panel will also examine whether the recommendations arising from that earlier review have been implemented.

Senator Sarah Ferguson, Chairman of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel stated:

“The efficient use of the States property portfolio to give value for money for all Islanders is absolutely essential. At the same time there is only one chance to get this right and we must have the correct structures in place to accomplish this. Any structure and process must also have the confidence and backing of all Islanders so that we can make the best use of the property for their benefit and which will result in an Island of which we are all proud.”

The Sub-Panel would welcome informed comments from interested parties and stakeholders with any information falling within the Panel's Terms of Reference.

The Panel has agreed the following Terms of Reference for its review:

1. To consider the proposal to establish the States of Jersey Development Company Limited.
2. To consider whether the structure and processes proposed in P.79/2009 in relation to property and infrastructure regeneration would be appropriate, with particular regard to the following:
 - a. Governance and accountability; and
 - b. The division of responsibilities between strategic planning, policy, project management and delivery;
3. To assess whether the recommendations made in SR9/2008 have been followed and implemented by the Council of Ministers.
4. To examine any further issues relating to the topic that may arise in the course of the Scrutiny Review and which the Panel considers relevant.

Ends

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