

2.4 Deputy G.C.L. Baudains of St. Clement of the Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Panel regarding reviews being undertaken by the Panel:

Would the Chairman advise Members what reviews his Panel is currently undertaking and when will they be completed?

Deputy R.C. Duhamel of St. Saviour (Chairman of the Environmental Scrutiny Panel):

The Panel is currently finishing its Design of Homes review, which will be completed by 31st July 2007. At its meeting on 11th July it considered a number of further reviews, but has not as yet decided which of the shortlist it will consider. Among those topics considered were air quality strategy, the integrated travel and transport strategy, the Hopkins' master plan and the energy strategy and policy.

2.4.1 Deputy G.C.L. Baudains:

It appears the Panel is not doing a great deal. Could the Chairman advise why he has not undertaken to start reviews in the full knowledge that the Waste Review is coming to an end. Why is there this period of virtually nothing happening before terms of reference are sorted out and a review is started?

Deputy R.C. Duhamel:

The questioner is well aware that there was an outstanding body of work that had to be completed and due to the nature of those reviews, which were in themselves large issues for consideration, the amount of work involved was quite extensive. The Committee therefore felt that it was right and proper in order to complete those outstanding bodies of work before entering into a final decision as to what is the next course of action for review. The questioner will also be aware that although I have mentioned 4 items that were short listed, in fact there were 9 items considered, so it is not true to suggest that there is not a lot available to be reviewed, there is.

2.4.2 Deputy G.C.L. Baudains:

The Chairman has outlined 3 areas that he is considering; could he tell me whether or not he is considering following on from the Planning Report, because many things have happened in the planning policy since that was finished? He has also mentioned energy, another item that needs looking at, as with transport. I would be obliged if the Chairman could tell me when these reviews that he is anticipating are likely to start and what timescale is envisaged; when are they also likely to be completed?

Deputy R.C. Duhamel:

That is not completely possible to do at this moment. All I can inform the House is that, as per the minutes for the last meeting, the Panel did select a number of possible areas for review to enable initial research and the preparation of scoping documents to be undertaken. When those initial scoping reports are considered at the next meeting, to be held on 26th July, I will be in a better position to inform the House, or indeed the questioner, as to the overall timeframe for the completion of those issues.

2.4.3 Senator J.L. Perchard:

The Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Panel described the Waste Strategy report that he made publicly available last sitting as a large body of work. What was his reaction when he heard that the Minister for Transport and Technical Services said it should be immediately directed to the recycling bin?

The Deputy Bailiff:

I think, Senator, it is really hard to see how that arises out of the work currently being undertaken.