

Proposal for Public Engagement at People's Meeting

Introduction

The following revised approach is proposed for engagement with the public in Part 2 of future People's Meetings. This will be trialled for 3 months starting with July.

Why change?

The change is proposed to:

- a) Respond to feedback from members of the public;
- b) Provide more structure to the discussion;
- c) Enhance the quality of dialogue by advance notification of questions to enable civil servants and States Members to provide better responses;
- d) Ensure the public are provided with sufficient opportunities to engage.

The proposal

The Part 2 meeting will continue following the formal monthly People's Meeting.

The Convenor will Chair the meeting and will be supported by civil servants and other States Members where required by the Chair.

Discussion will focus around questions which members of the public can submit in advance. Questions should be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office and by noon on the Friday preceding the People's Meeting.

Detailed guidance for submitting and asking questions

Questions should relate to wider States policy, operational and strategic matters. Issues relating to individual or personal issues should be dealt with directly with the States in the normal way.

To assist members of the public in the trial phase, the following broad guidelines are suggested.

Questions should:

- Be drafted and presented as concisely as possible to facilitate realistic discussion in the available time;
- Focus on one issue per submission;
- Be clear and not vague;
- Seek information or request action;
- Not seek or offer expressions of opinion;
- Not seek expressions about interpretation of law where this is a matter for the law officers.

The same question or statement cannot be put at every meeting. This is to give a reasonable number of contributors the opportunity to make statements or ask questions.

The question can be read from the Chair or by the contributor.

In the event that civil servants receive an unmanageable volume. Issues will be prioritised and this will be communicated at the meeting.

Response procedure

The response to the question will be presented in the public forum. Where detailed questions require more research in order to provide a proper response, this will be communicated at the time.

Members of the public may follow up the response with supplementary questions and representations. In order to allow meaningful dialogue on a range of topics, the Chair will restrict interventions to 2 minutes per person. After this time, the debate will be closed.

Future

The trial period will be evaluated after 3 meetings in consultation with members of the public with a view to agreeing a future approach that meets the needs of both the public and States.

Developments will be ongoing during the trial period to enhance public engagement through a web based forum. This will allow the public to ask questions at any time with a view to a public response.