



## REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM

### EXPLANATORY NOTE BY MR SPEAKER

#### **Motion**

1. I propose to move the following motion:

*That a committee of three Members be appointed with powers to take written and oral evidence pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of the Tynwald Proceedings Act 1876, as amended, to review the committee system and to report.*

#### **Background**

2. The previous Select Committee on the Committee System was appointed in June 2010 and reported in January 2011. I chaired the Select Committee and the other Members were Mrs Christian (as she then was), Mr Gawne, Mr Robertshaw and Mr Watterson.
3. The following resolutions were agreed to in January 2011:

*iv. The size of the “policy review Committees” and the Public Accounts Committee should be reviewed after three years of operation by a Committee not consisting of any of the relevant Chairmen or members of any of the above committees, appointed by Tynwald.*

[...]

*5. That the question of full-time scrutiny Committee chairmen should be reviewed after three years of operation by a Committee, not consisting of any of the relevant Chairmen or members of any of the above committees, appointed by Tynwald.*

4. It was further resolved in May 2011:

*That the new Standing Orders relating to the system of Standing Committees should come into effect in October 2011 and that a Committee be appointed to review the new system of Standing Committees in October 2014. The review should include (among other things) matters such as the number of members of the Committees.*

#### **Timing of the review**

5. The resolution of January 2011 called for the review to take place “after three years of operation”. The resolution of May 2011 called for the review committee to be appointed “in October 2014”. These two resolutions are at odds with one another.

6. In the event Members were first elected to the Public Accounts Committee and the Policy Review Committees in November 2011. However, the Committees did not commence operation until February 2012.
7. I consider that the time is now right to appoint a review committee.

#### **Membership of the review committee**

8. The resolution of January 2011 called for a review committee “not consisting of any of the relevant Chairmen or members of any of the above committees”. At the time of writing the Chairmen and Members of the Public Accounts Committee and Policy Review Committees are Mr Anderson, Mr Butt, Mr Cannan, Mrs Cannell, Mr Corkish, Mr Coleman, Mr Crowe, Mr Shimmin, Mr Wild and myself. Mr Butt and Mr Crowe will shortly go out of office as MLCs but under Standing Order 5.5(1) will continue to serve as committee members until replaced. Mr Shimmin is no longer eligible to serve as a committee member, having recently been appointed a Minister.
9. I do not believe that current scrutiny committee members should be ineligible to serve on the review committee. I would favour a review committee with a balanced membership including some members who have served mainly in an executive capacity and some who have been involved in scrutiny as committee members.
10. The resolutions of 2011 did not specify the size of the review committee. The 2010 Select Committee on the Committee System had five members but I consider that, for the purposes of a review at this stage, a committee of three members would be sufficient.

#### **Terms of reference of the review**

11. The resolutions of 2011 identified two specific issues for review: the size of the PAC and policy review committees, and the question of full-time scrutiny committee chairmen. I am proposing that the remit of the review committee should be simply “to review the committee system”. The review committee will therefore be able to look at the issues identified in 2011 and any other issues which may have arisen since then.

S C Rodan  
26 February 2015