



Government of Sark

Press Statement

Chief Pleas Approves Revised Mandate for Scrutiny Management Committee

At its Christmas meeting on 21st January, Chief Pleas approved Item 9 on its Christmas meeting agenda, adopting a revised mandate for the previously unpopulated Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) to strengthen scrutiny, transparency and good governance.

The approved changes confirm the SMC as a standing committee of Chief Pleas, clarify its role and operating arrangements and reinforce the independence of scrutiny panels.

Key elements of the approved mandate include clearer terms of reference, enhanced protections for the independence of scrutiny panels and a structured two-year initial phase focused on reviewing the core functions of Chief Pleas and its committees. The mandate also adds voting rights for two non-Chief Pleas members of the SMC, supported by an approved amendment to the Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees.

Following approval of Item 9, Conseillers Christopher Bateson, David Curtis and Patrick Dewe were subsequently elected to serve on the inaugural Scrutiny Management Committee.

The Scrutiny Management Committee will now move to begin its work, including establishing an independent Scrutiny Panel Pool and developing an annual scrutiny programme for approval by Chief Pleas. It is hoped that the pool of independent Scrutiny Panel Pool members can be populated by members of the public, experts and ex-politicians from Sark, the other Channel Islands and possibly further afield.

Commenting on the decision, the Policy & Finance Committee welcomed the outcome as an important milestone in reinforcing accountability and public confidence in Sark's system of government.

The revised scrutiny arrangements are intended to ensure robust oversight, promote transparency, and support continuous improvement across the work of Chief Pleas and its committees.

22nd January 2026