



Deputy Lyndon Farnham
Chief Minister

BY EMAIL

31st July 2025

Dear Chief Minister

Common Strategic Policy Scrutiny Review Panel

As we approach the presentation of the Proposed Budget 2026–29, I wanted to take the opportunity to outline the intended approach to the scrutiny of both the budget and the Common Strategic Policy (CSP).

As in previous years, each Standing Panel will conduct its own review of the Proposed Budget, with the Corporate Services Panel taking the lead on overarching themes. I understand that the Corporate Services Panel has already written to you regarding the timing of its review.

The Scrutiny Liaison Committee (SLC) has also been considering the CSP and the role of Scrutiny in reviewing the policy framework underpinning the budget. To that end, we intend to reactivate the Common Strategic Policy Review Panel, which will provide additional evidence gathering on the cross-cutting themes of the CSP. While Standing Panels will retain full autonomy over their individual reviews and outputs, they will refer any initial findings relating to agreed cross-cutting themes to the Review Panel for further scrutiny.

Panels, in collaboration with the SLC, have already agreed which CSP priorities fall within their remit for this Government term. The relevant cross-cutting themes will be identified once the budget has been lodged and the Standing Panels' reviews are underway.

The output of the Review Panel will likely be a comments paper, which will include recommendations, to be appended to the Corporate Services Panel's overarching review. Key findings and recommendations from the Review Panel will also be included in a Ministerial Response template, which will be submitted to you via the Corporate Services Panel.

As part of the evidence gathering process, we intend to invite you and the following Ministers to attend Public Hearings:

- Minister for Treasury and Resources
- Minister for Infrastructure
- Minister for Health and Social Services
- Minister for Sustainable Economic Development
- Minister for Social Security

We have provisionally scheduled **Monday 27th October** for these hearings and would appreciate your cooperation in making this date available. Given the tight timeline for budget scrutiny, the ability to hold these hearings is essential to ensure informed and timely analysis and to support any potential amendments.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your availability for the proposed date. I am copying this letter to the relevant Ministers and would appreciate confirmation of their availability as well, so we can finalise arrangements accordingly. As things currently stand, we are looking at approximately 1 hour with each Minister.

In order for Scrutiny to progress its work, the Panel would appreciate a formal written response by no later than **7th August 2025**. Please be aware that it is the Panel's intention to publish the response it receives on the States Assembly Website.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Inna', followed by a horizontal dash.

Deputy Inna Gardiner

Chair
Common Strategic Policy Scrutiny Panel