

EXCO REPORT - TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2016

All items today were considered under the Closed Agenda.

The first item was a report from Rob Bryson, the Head of Housing and Property, on the Comprehensive Development Area (CDA) at Bottom Woods. Members were conscious of the considerable public interest in the Bottom woods CDA and indeed in the issue of land and housing generally. Members welcomed the progress report, which included details of the forthcoming invitation to tender to complete design and enabling work - which it was anticipated could be completed on-Island. Funding for part of the works has been identified and the matter is currently with Procurement.

Expressions of Interest are also being prepared for the construction of new Government Landlord homes (GLH) on the Bottom Woods CDA. Councillors were keen to ensure that these projects were managed together to ensure there is a consistent approach to development and the provision of land, plus affordable and social housing. In addition, a further site has been identified in Half Tree Hollow that may be suitable for the construction of two or more GLH apartment buildings, Expressions of Interest are also being prepared for this, on a design and build basis.

Members then considered a paper on aviation fuel. It was agreed that the selling price for aviation fuel should be set at £1 per litre and that there should be a fuel surcharge applied to air ticket prices. It was noted that the cost of providing fuel would reduce over time once there were regular and increased flight operations to and from the Airport. It was also noted that work is being undertaken to encourage airlines to use the Airport for technical stops.

The mid-level return ticket price indicated by Comair between St Helena and Johannesburg - based on the proposed aviation fuel price and including taxes - will be around £680. This, it was noted, is considerably cheaper than the current cheapest RMS return fare to Cape Town. Cheaper return air fares from Comair will also be available, with prices ranging from about £580. A press release from Comair will follow later today.

Members were keen to keep this matter under review and to encourage any actions which would reduce the cost of fuel for air services. It was recommended that there should be a review before the end of 2016 to ensure that there was no impact on fuel prices on the Island generally.

ExCo then considered the outstanding matter of the planning application for Broad Bottom, which was a Closed Agenda item because there was a 'matter arising' from the previous meeting. It was noted that this application had been thoroughly interrogated and all objections taken into account. Following discussions with the Chief Planning Officer and the Attorney General, ExCo was pleased to be able to report that full Development Permission is now granted, subject to a number of strict conditions. It was hoped that this development could now move quickly to commencement of construction and early completion to support the development of the Island's economy.

Under 'Any Other Business' the Acting Governor advised ExCo that **the Bank Holiday in Lieu of St Helena Day would now fall on Friday 20 May 2016. This**

would enable the St Helena Day celebrations to take place on that Friday and for the Airport opening ceremony to take place on Saturday 21 May. Further information about the opening ceremony will be issued shortly.

The Acting Governor also advised Members that arrangements for the Royal visit were well in hand - as were arrangements for the arrival of the new Governor (arriving on 26 April) - with further details to be provided as soon as possible.

The Acting Governor welcomed the ASSI team to St Helena and all Members wished them well in the hope and expectation of a successful outcome.

ExCo

12 April 2016