**EXCO meeting of 7 February 2012**

Quite a short agenda today, with EXCO sitting from 09.30 to a little after 12.30.

Our first paper invited us to consider an application for St Helenian status made under the terms of the Immigration Control Ordinance 2011.  Following extensive discussion of the matter it was agreed that the application should be granted.

We then took a paper seeking approval of the Tobacco Control Regulations 2012 and a decision on whether they should be brought into force at the same time as the Tobacco Control Ordinance, currently scheduled for 1 July 2012. You may recall that LEGCO passed the Tobacco Control Ordinance in 2011. Among other things, that legislation is to prohibit smoking in public places and in public vehicles. We agreed that the Tobacco Control Regulations 2012, which provide for fines to be imposed on anyone found to be acting contrary to the Ordinance, should come into effect on 1 September 2012. This will allow time to raise awareness of the new Regulations and to give businesses that may be affected more time to make any necessary adjustments to comply with the new requirements.

The next paper sought approval to make progress with establishing the Media Standards Ordinance 2011, pending the appointment of a Chief Magistrate who will be appointed President of the Media Standards Commission.  Council approved the request, recalling the wide public support for the Media Standards Ordinance which creates an accessible means of redress for persons aggrieved by material published in the media.  Interviews for the position of Chief Magistrate will take place later this month.

A useful chat followed on several issues under ‘Any Other Business’ and I then concluded the meeting by thanking Councillor Cranfield for his valuable contribution to the work of EXCO while standing in for Councillor Green, who returns to St Helena this afternoon.

**Mark Capes**

**Governor**

**7 February 2012**