

Summary of Public Health Committee Meeting in September 2013

The Public Health Committee (PHC) meets regularly on the first Wednesday of each month. The first meeting was held on the 4th of September in the Conference room at the Hospital. It should be noted that this committee has different terms of reference to the previous Public Health and Social Services Committee as the new committee no longer has responsibility for Social Services or Social Welfare. These are now part of the Social and Community Development Committee (SCDC). Due to the restructuring of the Health and Social Welfare Directorate the CCC, Sheltered Accommodations, Barnview and CBU are now part of the Social Services Division and so come under the SCDC.

The committee consists of Councillor Ian Rummery (Chairperson), Councillor Tony Green (Deputy Chairperson) and Councillors Bernice Olsson, Brian Isaac and Tony Duncan. This was the first committee meeting for Mr David Jenkins as the new Director of Health and Social Welfare. Tina Sim continues to act as secretary. The Terms of Reference allows others to be invited to the committee as required.

Matters discussed were as follows:

Plans were shown to committee members of a proposal for hospital refurbishment. It was recognised what a complex operation the redevelopment of an existing hospital will be. It was further noted that while this project has been going on for a number of years there is still work to be done in finalising the approach that needs to be taken and the new Director and SMO are working together on this.

A letter had been received regarding the costs of licensing fishing vessels. There was a discussion as to the number of licenses that are required by fisherman and it was agreed that the PHC would liaise with other committees with a view to rationalising the fees for fisherman.

The issue of home slaughtering is one that has been discussed but not resolved for some time. This is a food safety issue and further discussions would be held with legal services to determine the law surrounding home slaughter.

There was a general discussion about sanitary services. Sanitary services provide a vital public health function and one that is expanding in light of the Horse Point Landfill redevelopment. It was recognised that there is a need to explore again the possibility of divestment and this will be taken forward.

The Director advised that there had been a review of existing medical equipment and a risk matrix had been developed identifying equipment that is required. Funding had been agreed by Councillors in the Capital Programme for equipment to be procured and the Director was taking this forward through the new procurement process.

Feedback was given on the NHS link with Devon NHS Trust. A contract had yet to be signed but it was recognised that this would provide valuable support to the island's health directorate.

Ian Rummery
Chairperson – Public Health Committee

