

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 9.30am in the Council Chamber

Present: Acting Governor (Ms L MacMorran)  
The Chief Secretary (Mr R Burke)  
The Financial Secretary (The Hon D L Richards)  
The Attorney General (Mr A Berbotto)  
The Hon A A Green  
The Hon L A Henry  
The Hon C L Scipio-O'Dean  
The Hon D F Thomas  
The Hon R K Yon

In attendance: Chief Secretary Designate (Mrs S O'Bey)  
Attorney General Designate (Ms S O'Donnell)  
Assistant Chief Secretary (Support) (Mrs G Francis)  
Clerk of Councils (Miss L H Buchanan)

Overseas: Her Excellency the Governor (Ms L Phillips)

**OPEN SESSION**

10.1 Welcome

The Acting Governor welcomed all present including members of the public who were in attendance.

10.2 Welfare of Children (Children's Residential Home) Regulations 2017 (ExCo Memo 78/2017)

The Chairperson of the Social and Community Development Committee introduced this memorandum and explained the importance of these Regulations to provide the best possible environment for children in the care of the Government. He explained further that there is due to be a Safeguarding of Children's Board meeting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December and they will be discussing these Regulations and he would therefore like to ensure that they also agree to the new legislation. All agreed that safeguards need to be put in place in order to protect the most vulnerable within society and all welcomed the new Regulations, but agreed that approval from the Safeguarding of Children's Board needs to be sought before this comes into effect.

Council advised and the Acting Governor approved the memorandum pending approval from the Safeguarding of Children's Board.

**The Chairperson of the Social and Community Development Committee will inform members through email on their decision.**

**(Action: Hon Anthony Green/Clerk of Councils)**

10.3 Petroleum (Amendment) Regulations, 2017 (ExCo Memo 79/2017)

The Chairperson of the Public Health Committee introduced this memorandum and explained that there hadn't been an increase in the price for 30 years for petroleum licence holders. He explained that the licence holders are aware of the proposed increase in price and that he does not envisage a price increase at the pump for consumers. Concerns were raised that it could not be guaranteed that there wouldn't be an increase at the pump for consumers, but the Chairperson of the Health Committee explained that these changes are needed to cover the cost of administration fees and are necessary. He further explained that these Regulations would come into force from the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 to ensure they are in place for the licences that are required from the 1st January 2018.

Council advised and the Acting Governor agreed to approve the amendment to the Regulations and bring them into force on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

#### 10.4 Application for Outline Development Permission to Develop the Half Tree Hollow (HTH) Comprehensive Development Area (CDA) (ExCo Memo 77/2017)

Executive Council sat as the Planning Authority for this item of business and the Chief Secretary introduced the memorandum.

The Acting Director of the Environment and Natural Resources Department (ENRD), David Goodrick, was present and gave Executive Council a presentation outlining the key points of the outline planning proposal. He highlighted that there are still many issues with the HTH CDA, including that relating to sewerage, and stated that that is why only outline planning permission had been sought. He explained the proposed building options and highlighted that the HTH CDA will not be as densely packed with residential units in comparison to the rest of HTH and that this is intentional, due to mitigating storm water risks. He stated that most houses will consist of 1 and 2 bedrooms and will have disabled access, with 25 units being held for Government Landlord Housing. He did state that there is currently one objector to the proposal, and that they have concerns over an obstructed view.

After much discussion, all agreed that there is a great need for Government Landlord Housing, but that the issue of sewerage needs to be rectified first. All felt that a meeting would be needed with Connect Saint Helena Ltd in order to solve this problem and progress with the project.

The majority of Council advised and the Acting Governor agreed to approve the outline planning permission, **but all agreed that an urgent meeting needs to be had with Connect Saint Helena Ltd to discuss the sewerage problem in HTH.**

**(Action: Clerk of Councils)**

#### 10.5 Rabbit Control and Destruction Trial Rules 2017 (ExCo Memo 80/2017)

The Chairperson of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee asked that this item be deferred to the next meeting of Executive Council as the Island Vet has asked for time to look at the trial rules.

(Action: Clerk of Councils)

10.6 Port and Aerodrome (Health) Bill, 2017 (ExCo Memo 82/2017)

The Chairperson of the Public Health Committee introduced this memorandum and suggested that this piece of legislation did not need any public consultation. It was highlighted that this Bill will not be going to the next formal meeting of Legislative Council set for the 19<sup>th</sup> December as it did not satisfy the requirements for a certificate of urgency and that it will instead go to the following meeting, which is expected to be in January 2018.

All agreed that public consultation was not needed but that the public need to be made aware of the changes and the **Chairperson of the Public Health Committee agreed to go on radio to discuss the Bill.**

(Action: Hon Derek Thomas)

Concerns were raised over detainee capacity at the Airport and whether there is a quarantine area that is suitable at the site. **The Attorney General agreed to address this issue within the Regulations that will follow the Ordinance.**

(Action: Attorney General)

Council advised and the Acting Governor agreed to approve the Bill for publication to go forward as Government business at a meeting of Legislative Council in January 2018.

(Action: Clerk of Councils)

10.7 Any Other Business (Open Session)

There was nothing to note in the open session.