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Copy No

No 65/2017

Memorandum for Executive Council sitting as Land Development Control Authority

SUBJECT Discharge of Rupert's Wharf Planning Condition 1

Memorandum by Financial Secretary

ADVICE SOUGHT

1. Council is asked to consider the Standard Operating Procedures for the partial use of Ruperts Wharf and to discharge Planning Condition No 1 (2013/92) and advise whether Condition 1 of the Planning Conditions is now capable of being discharged. Alternatively, Council is asked to consider variation of the planning condition: the wharf at Ruperts cannot be used unless the condition is discharged (or varied).

**BACKGROUND &
CONSIDERATIONS**

2. On 29 August 2017, Executive Council considered the application to discharge planning conditions 1, 5 and 8 of the Amendment to the Development Consent for the Airport Project in respect of Rupert's Wharf, the Sea Rescue Facility and Rupert's Pipeline.
3. SHG has since announced the withdrawal of the RMS St Helena from its service in February 2018. This will then see the start of the new shipping service using the MV Helena shortly after. It is therefore important that SHG can bring the wharf in to use to allow the MV Helena to dock alongside the wharf facility to allow the safe and efficient unloading of cargo onto the barges to be brought into Jamestown.
4. Members will be aware of the problems encountered by the MV Helena during unloading in the open waters of the James' Bay with a heavy swell previously. These issues should be mitigated through the use of the Rupert's Wharf and the shelter it provides.
5. The letter of discharge is attached as Annex 1. Full discharge of planning condition 1 was not granted. Officials were then asked to develop a Standing Operating Procedure for Rupert's Wharf.
6. The Harbour Master has since finalised a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which would allow for the safe use of the wharf facility during cargo operations. The SOP also takes into consideration the concerns of Elected Members given the risk of rock fall in the immediate areas at the entrance to the wharf.
7. The SOP attached as Annex 2 limits activities in the

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immediate vicinity of the wharf, addresses a number of Health and Safety issues and it defines the roles and responsibilities of the key users on the wharf.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are minimal financial implications for the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedure. There are however significant implications for the Island if the MV Helena cannot discharge its cargo in the open waters of James' Bay.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

9. The adoption of the SOP will not have a direct economic impact, however if the wharf is not brought into use there are likely to be impacts resulting from any possible delay in the discharge of cargo which is the essential life line for the Island and a key element of the supply chain to maximise the benefits of economic development that air access is expected to bring.

PUBLIC / SOCIAL IMPACT

10. The implementation of improved Health and Safety procedures and clear roles and responsibilities will be welcomed by those working in difficult conditions during the unloading of vessels.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

11. There are no environmental impacts.

PREVIOUS CONSULTATION / COMMITTEE INPUT

12. This SOP has been discussed with all Elected Members during Info LegCo on 22 September 2017.

PUBLIC REACTION

13. Public reaction is likely to be minimal, the SOP will mainly target the activities of those involved in cargo operations. However with a strong emphasis on Health and Safety this is likely to be welcomed by all.

PUBLICITY

14. The SOP has been consulted on with Solomon's and other key stakeholders; key roles and responsibilities will be publicised through the appropriate signage.
15. The decision will be publicised through the normal ExCo Report and associated broadcast.

SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

16. This paper supports the national goal – Altogether Wealthier

OPEN/CLOSED SESSION

17. This item should be discussed in the open session.

DLR

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Corporate Services
The Castle

13 October 2017