



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 11 January 2018

Venue: Council Chamber

Time: 9.00 am

Present:

Chairman	Hon Lawson Henry
Members:	Hon Cruyff Buckley
	Hon Clint Beard
	Hon Gavin Ellick
	Hon Mrs Christine Scipio-O'Dean
	Government Economist (GE), Mrs Nicole Shamier
	Assistant Financial Secretary, Mr Nicholas Yon
	Director ENRD, Mr Derek Henry
	Director of Commercial Development & Enterprise, Mr Peter Bright
	Private Sector Development Manager, Mr Martin George
Secretary	Miss Anita Legg

In Attendance: Director of Resources, Mrs Michielle Yon (Item 5.4)

OPEN SESSION

5.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the first meeting of 2018 and wished everyone a happy New Year. Cllr Scipio-O'Dean and Cllr Buckley were given permission to leave the meeting at their convenience to attend other business. No members' of the public were present.

5.2 Declaration of Personal Interest

Councillor Beard declared his interest with regards to agenda item 9.

5.3 Introduction to Mr Martin George, ESH Private Sector Development Manager (PSDM)

The Chairman welcomed Mr George as a new member of EDC and hoped this would help inform the committee of the important work that ESH carries out. Mr George had recently returned to the island following a training course in the UK and was now trying to establish a relationship with the private sector. Leading up the financial year end, he added he would be presenting the ESH Strategy, the SEDP and various other strategies to the Board.

Members were informed there were over 600 businesses registered on the island but only 400 were active, which was monitored by the business development team. Since his return to the island, Mr George felt businesses had responded well in terms of the air service delay and had observed motivation and enthusiasm. He added that until the island sees an increase in tourism, there will

always be oversaturation of some businesses but on the other hand competition would help to drive others.

The Chairman thanked the Private Sector Development Manager for updating the committee.

5.4 ESH Monthly Management Accounts – September & November 2017, ESH Director of Resources

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Yon and invited her to update the committee. This would be the first time for EDC to receive an update of ESH management accounts and members were interested in how the SHG contribution had been spent. Concern was expressed that there was little information on how £1.2m had been spent thus the Director of Resources agreed that future accounts would show the SHG funding separately. In response to queries, members were informed that: the tourism website does have links to all businesses that have registered; as part of ESH efficiency savings, the major objective that had not been achieved was the sports field due to being delayed; other savings related to delays in expenditure until the new financial year. The Assistant Financial Secretary also advised there was no decision as yet regarding the £100k for 2018/19, as a response was still awaited from DFID.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Resources for updating the committee.

5.5 Update on ESH Report October 2017 – Director of Commercial Development & Enterprise

The above report had been circulated late which members felt was unacceptable. The DCDE apologised and later advised this was due to “some internal processes that took a little longer than usual”. Key points that arose from discussion were:

- St Helena Corporation PLC show house – The DCDE had challenged the principals of using South African labour but he had been informed that only one island contractor had submitted an application and was found to be too expensive. Construction was expected to be completed by Easter.
- Signage – It was noted that tourists were visiting the Library to carry out their own research therefore it was suggested that historic plaques or similar could be installed.
- Investors – It was felt that incentives offered by St Helena needs to be pinned down and with regards to foreign and local investors there needs to be consistency; the balance needs to be fair and correct. The DCDE advised support for investment is neutral.
- Waterfront Plan – Members queried whether any activity could be progressed without DFID funding and Cllr Scipio-O’Dean advised the plan would be implemented on a phased approach.
- Land – The Chairman reported that at the Blue Hill meeting, land issues had been raised therefore SHG needs to decide on the type of land they intend to lease or sell e.g. for coffee plantations.
- Coffee Growers – It was confirmed that a Malawian coffee grower had acquired land in the Sandy Bay area. The DCDE agreed to research the status of historical grants that had been issued to potential coffee growers; it was thought some related to Mr David Henry who was overseas and others had taken over by Solomons.

Action: Director of Commercial Development & Enterprise

- Longwood Enterprise Park – EDC were informed that the storage unit has a pack house related theme and the criterion for “The Rock” was related to the social enterprise element.
- Road Show – The DCDE advised a second show was being planned for February in Jo’berg but would be much more business focussed.
- Sports Field – Members queried why an EIA needed to be carried out when wire bird surveys had already been completed. Members were informed that the consideration of grazing grounds would form part of the planning process.
- CSL Sewerage Proposal – It was felt a cost benefit analysis would need to be carried out on how to deal with grey water before being used for flowering plants.
- Banking System – The DCDE explained how an international method of securing the transfer of monies could work, which would be a fairly new idea to the island.
- Jamestown Run – EDC were advised that maintenance was on the ESH project list but needed to be prioritised. However in terms of health and safety and as a tourism attraction, the PSDM agreed to investigate the possibility of funding for a small project.

Action: Private Sector Development Manager

- Egg Production – It was reported that a particular business method might have been questioned by the SVO therefore it was agreed to invite the Head of ANRD to the next meeting to discuss what can be done to enhance egg production.

Action: Secretary

- DFID Private Sector Advisor’s (Richard Boulter) Report – The DCDE advised this report should be available by end of the month, and would be circulated to EDC.

Action: Director of Commercial Development & Enterprise

The Chairman thanked the DCDE for keeping the committee updated.

5.6 Update on SA Avian Influenza

Due to the Head of ANRD being unable to attend the meeting, members were asked study his report and contact him direct with any queries.

5.7 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 18 December 2017

The minutes of the open meeting held on 18th December 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5.8 Matters Arising

5.8.1 Tourism Questionnaire

The Chairman had raised the matter of security clearance with the Airport Contracts Manager, who advised he would arrange meetings with interested parties on his return to the island and subsequently progress from there.

Action: Chairman / Airport Contracts Manager

5.8.2 Road Traffic Ordinance

Following a query regarding best practices for public service vehicles and tour operators, Cllr Ellick reported this ordinance was currently with the Attorney's General's chambers.

Action: Hon Gavin Ellick

5.8.3 Public Liability Insurance

Action: Government Economist to follow up

5.8.4 Maps

The Chairman had contacted the Environmental Data & GIS Manager, who advised she was progressing with a first draft.

Action: Director of ENRD

5.8.5 Flight Practices

Cllr Beard reported that resolution in trying to get improvements was an on-going process. A new Cape Town flight was expected to take place Friday afternoon, which needed to be communicated sufficiently to the public. Concerns regarding hotel bookings in Jo'berg were being picked up in weekly meetings.

5.8.6 Marketing Strategy

The Assistant Financial Secretary informed members that this strategy would be circulated to members on Monday.

Action: Assistant Financial Secretary (& Tourism Director)

5.8.7 Basic Veterinary Training

The Head of ANRD to provide a status update for the next meeting.

Action: Secretary

5.8.8 Fisheries Legislation

Action: Attorney General to progress

5.8.9 Port Regulations

The Port Regulations had been drafted by the Attorney General's Chambers and would be circulated to members by Monday.

Action: Assistant Financial Secretary



5.8.10 Terms of Reference for EDC


Action: Attorney General to amend

5.8.11 St Helena's Sustainable Economic Development Plan 2018 – 2028 (SEDP)

The GE updated on progress so far with the SEDP meetings. A lot of passionate issues had been raised such as agriculture, honey and tourism and people were optimistic about the satellite ground stations and cable project, to name a few topics. The Chairman added that attendance at other meetings had been poor but similar issues had arisen.

There being no further business, this session of the Agenda was concluded and the Committee moved to closed session.

Minutes Approved: .....
Chairman 

Date: .....

