



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 8 February 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
 Hon Financial Secretary, Mr Dax Richards
 Government Economist (GE), Mrs Nicole Shamier
 Assistant Financial Secretary, Mr Nicholas Yon
 Director of Commercial Development & Enterprise, Mr Peter Bright
 Private Sector Development Manager, Mr Martin George
 Secretary Miss Anita Legg

In Attendance: Head of ANRD & Senior Veterinary Officer (Item 6.5)
 Acting Attorney General (Item 6.6)
 Financial Services Regulatory Authority (Item 6.7)
 Mrs Natalie Peters-Martin (Item 6.8)

Apologies: Member: Director ENRD, Mr Derek Henry

OPEN SESSION

6.5 Update on SA Avian Influenza & Egg Production (Head of ANRD)

The Head of ANRD advised that following a recommendation from the Resilience Forum, the prohibition on the landing and importation of poultry and poultry products, originating from South Africa had been lifted. The Chairman enquired whether the withdrawal of the Gazette Notice should have been processed through the EDC, who had political oversight. It was subsequently agreed a link from the Resilience Forum to committees should be formed and the Chairman undertook to write a note to key players.

Action: Chairman

Members were advised that there were no assurances on ostrich products due to the long delays in reported risks therefore they were still prohibited.

It was reported that a PPP had been completed with Roddy's Farm and Egg Production and following discussions with him, ANRD was now looking at how to continue egg and pullet production i.e. whether to bring in another private producer or run this operation themselves.

6.6 Friendlies Societies Ordinance (Acting Attorney General)

The Acting Attorney General presented a note on the Friendlies Societies Ordinance and EDC were generally content for legislation to be drafted. However it was queried why the proper process to amend legislation had not been followed and what would happen in the event that someone wishes to revive the friendly benefits ordinance.

Action: Acting Attorney General

Post Meeting Note:

It was later discovered that the Attorney General had already discussed the matter of Friendly Benefit Societies at an Informal LegCo meeting and members had felt strongly the Legislation should remain on the statute book.

Therefore, the Chair and AG Designate agreed not to proceed with repealing the ordinance.

6.7 Mr Chris Duncan, Chair, Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) – Insurance Competition (Government Economist)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Duncan and his successor Mr Charles Ilako, to discuss the issue of insurance on St Helena. It was agreed there were two main issues: a) the price of insurance as a whole and was it feasible to have other service providers and b) public and employer liability insurance for businesses.

There was only one provider on island, Solomon & Company and it was felt some conflict of interest existed within the company between the insurance section and Solomons other businesses. FSRA advised that Solomons should be made aware of public opinion and associated problems and practices; and it should totally be the view of SHG to dictate its wishes as the major shareholder of Solomons and if necessary should replace the directors.

Members felt it was unacceptable not to have liability insurance in place, even though there were some contributing factors such as heavy premiums and requirements for substantial personal information however FSRA suggested that liability insurance could be made obligatory with little difficulty. They also suggested that Solomons' operator (Guardrisk) could be invited to St Helena, to consider providing a standard level of liability for an affordable cost, to island businesses; there could also be a role for SHG to consider subsidising the level of public liability insurance.

An action plan was now needed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Duncan and Mr Ilako and they left the meeting.

Action: EDC Members

6.8 Presentation by Mrs Natalie Peters-Martin – “Natalie Simone Creative” (Hon C Buckley)

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Peters-Martin and her husband to the meeting. Mrs Peters-Martin presented on how she felt the Tourism website could be improved e.g. the web should be referencing 2018 news rather than 2017; digital marketing should be the number one priority. ESH had also heard this presentation, which was well received and treated as constructive criticism. Mrs

Peters-Martin informed EDC she had set up business in the Market and was seeking a marketing budget from SHG to assist her in promoting the island; she was then advised to liaise with ESH.

Members were inspired by the presentation. The Chairman thanked Mrs Peters-Martin and wished her well.

6.9 Update on ESH Report December 2017 – Director of Commercial Development & Enterprise

The DCDE briefed EDC on the above report and key points that arose from discussion were:

- Jamestown – Members agreed the “sleepy town” on a Saturday afternoon needs to be looked at, although it was noted that Solomons had already advised this was not financially viable.
- Coffee Investor – It was noted the investor’s background was in an established coffee business and he was currently researching and working closely with ANRD.
- St Helena Corporation PLC – The DCDE advised an interest was expressed in October and the contractors were working with ESH to explore the feasibility of a long term project.
- Website – In relation to the earlier discussion members hoped to see the Tourism website improved within a few months.
- Investor Business Cases – It was noted the investor approval process involved different tiers, which should be included in the Investment Strategy; members stated the need for ESH to ensure the benefits that any investor would bring to the island.
- Storage Space for Merchants – ESH were engaging with stakeholders in finding alternative solutions for space. The FS advised the Ruperts Development Plan will move forward soon.
- Coffee & Banana Growers – The DCDE advised they were collecting data on historical grants to bring to the next EDC meeting.

Action: Director of Commercial Development & Enterprise

- Jamestown Run – EDC were advised that any maintenance still hinges on budget priority for 2018/19 however consideration would still be given to this project.

The Chairman thanked the DCDE for keeping the committee updated.

6.10 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 11 January 2018

The minutes of the open meeting held on 11th January 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

6.11 Matters Arising

6.11.1 Tourism Questionnaire

The Secretary agreed to follow-up the matter of security clearance for Tourism officers, with the Airport Contracts Manager.

Action: Secretary / Airport Contracts Manager

6.11.2 Road Traffic Ordinance

Following a query regarding best practices for public service vehicles and tour operators, Cllr Ellick

reported that this ordinance was still with the Attorney's General's chambers.

Action: Hon Gavin Ellick

6.11.3 Maps

Action: Director of ENRD to follow-up with the Environmental Data & GIS Manager.

6.11.4 Marketing Strategy

Action: Assistant Financial Secretary (& Tourism Director) to follow up. ✓

6.11.5 Basic Veterinary Training

The Head of ANRD to provide a written response on the current status.

Action: Secretary

6.11.6 Fisheries Legislation

Action: Acting Attorney General to progress

6.11.7 Port Regulations

The draft Port Regulations were still awaited from the Attorney General's Chambers.

Action: Assistant Financial Secretary

6.11.8 Terms of Reference for EDC

Action: Acting Attorney General to amend

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

The GE reported that public consultation had ended and responses would be circulated for the next meeting.

Action: Government Economist

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

Minutes Approved: [Signature]

Chairman

Date: 1-3-18'