



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 1 March 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 Private Sector Development Manager, Mr Martin George
	Secretary	Miss Anita Legg
Apologies:	Member:	Director ENRD, Mr Derek Henry Director of Commercial Development & Enterprise, Mr Peter Bright

OPEN SESSION

7.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Mr Derek Henry and Mr Peter Bright.

7.2 Declaration of Personal Interest

No interests were declared.

7.3 Feedback from Sustainable Economic Development Plan, January/February 2018 (Government Economist)

The GE reported there had been a great deal of useful feedback. Feedback has been compiled in a log and answers to each comment are being prepared.

One of the key issues was land availability. Members felt it was essential for a member of EDC to sit on the LDCP working group, forming a link to discussions such as identifying suitable areas. The Chairman would communicate with the LDCP working group to ask if the GE should sit on the LDCP working group as a link from the EDC point of view. The DCDE, as a current member of this working group, would also be asked to update members from time to time, from his perspective.

Action: Chairman

Another key issue was to consider what skills the island has, which links into immigration and ensuring that regulations were in place. The Labour Survey and Saints overseas surveys would be

important to understand skills gap. Likewise it was agreed that the Chairman would ask if Cllr Ellick should sit on the Immigration working group as a link from the EDC point of view.

Action: Chairman

Post Meeting Note: The matter of Government Economist sitting on the LDCP Working Group and Cllr Ellick on Immigration Working Group was discussed with those Groups, who felt whilst the idea was good the work of these Groups is nearing completion. As Legislative Council would have to approve any recommendations for change there would be an opportunity to feed in during the consultation stage.

Other matters included a new idea relating to health tourism but it was agreed the GE would include an action in the SEDP for health tourism opportunities to be explored by the Director of Health.

In terms of the commercial export of endemic seeds, it was discussed as to whether this would put at risk St Helena's special status as a location of many endemics. EDC did not support this idea. It was agreed that this chapter would be removed.

The serious situation with bees was also noted by the committee and the actions on bees and honey in the SEDP were referenced.

It was also agreed that due to some confusion as to what in the SEDP was for government to action, and what was for the private sector to action, the private sector opportunities would be put in one page in the SEDP.

It was agreed the next step should be to set up a small working group to explore the issues arising from consultation and then bring back a proposal to the full committee. Cllrs Beard and Buckley and the PSDM volunteered to work with the GE.

Action: Government Economist

7.4 Update on ESH Report January 2018 – Private Sector Development Manager

The January report had been circulated for advance reading and the PSDM invited comments; key points that arose from discussion were:

- Governor's Cup Yacht Race – Member's felt it would be good to restart the yacht race and the PSDM agreed to take these comments back to ESH.

Action: Private Sector Development Manager

- Coffee Investor – The PSDM advised there was no further information on this investment as sites have not been formally confirmed but would have some background information on the investor's business by the next meeting.

Action: Private Sector Development Manager

- SHFC – In terms of the issue with potential buyers and identifying energy solutions, members looked forward to receiving an update at Informal LegCo the next day.

- Natalie Peters-Martin – Engagement with this business is on-going. The intention of ESH/Tourism is to seek EOI at some stage, which would provide an opportunity through procurement, for Mrs Peters-Martin and other businesses. Members felt this needs to be timely.
- Legislative Programme – The PSDM advised the programme is at the stage where it could be brought back to EDC shortly; EDC offered their support.

Action: Private Sector Development Manager

- ESH Report – The PSDM informed EDC that the composition of their report might change in future for example to encompass data from the ESH working groups.
- Marketing and Communications – Advertising to secure a PR agency will commence in February – the PSDM agreed to check on this statement and respond back. Members noted it also links to the Marketing Strategy, which is currently in first draft and going through a high level internal process.

Action: Private Sector Development Manager

- Coffee & Banana Growers – The PSDM advised there was no data going back to the 90's as they could only find data back to year 2000. Under bananas, three medium scale attempts remain in production, there was one micro attempt that did not succeed, one that holds products and one that holds products and also remains on leased land. Under coffee, two medium scale attempts remain in commercial production and there were three micro attempts that did not succeed, two small attempts remain but unmanaged on private leased land. Based on this data the total funding amounted to approximately £19k.

The Chairman thanked the PSDM for keeping the committee updated.

7.5 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 8 February 2018

The minutes of the open meeting held on 8th February 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

7.6 Matters Arising

7.6.1 Update on SA Avian Influenza & Egg Production

The Chairman had written to the Chief Secretary Designate regarding a link from the Resilience Forum to relevant committees; the CSD responded that she would ensure this process is put in place – item closed.

7.6.2 Mr Chris Duncan, Chair Financial Services Regulatory Authority – Insurance Competition

The Chairman reported that a stream of work was taking place as a result of JMC 2017 and suggested it was best to await the completion of this work, on which the Chief Secretary Designate was working together with Mr Duncan. It was noted ESH was trying to encourage businesses to reincorporate themselves as limited companies to limit their liability. It was noted also that SHG through procurement, requires public liability insurance on large contracts. It was intended to raise this matter again in ExCo.

Action: Chairman

Post Meeting Note: The Chairman met with Chief Secretary Designate; a stream of work on Insurance is on-going and Mr Chris Duncan is supporting this. It will take some time as it is been linked with outcomes of work going on in FCO, arising from Hurricanes last year in the Caribbean.

7.6.3 Tourism Questionnaire

The Airport Contracts Manager had advised that the Tourist Office have completed their visitor surveys at the Airport this year, by interviewing passengers in the departure lounge. A review of the survey questions is planned by the Tourist Office.

7.6.4 Road Traffic Ordinance

It was agreed the issue concerning public service vehicles and tour operators was best left for the ENR Committee to deal with – item closed.

7.6.5 Maps

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

7.6.6 Marketing Strategy

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

7.6.7 Basic Veterinary Training

The Senior Veterinary Officer had reviewed the Routine Veterinary Treatment Programme and ANRD would continue the programme from 1 April 2018 as is, apart from the change proposed and approved by EDC last month for the way ANRD charges for the programme. The Head of ANRD was requested to provide more detail.

Action: Secretary

7.6.8 Fisheries Legislation

This matter was being taken forward by the Working Group and it was therefore agreed to hold in abeyance until a draft was brought back to EDC – item closed.

7.6.9 Port Regulations

Concern was raised that the draft Port Regulations were still with the Attorney General's Chambers due to capacity issues. The Chairman agreed to write to the Acting Attorney General asking that this be given some priority, as the Ordinance was in place but the Regulations were still not finalised.

Action: Chairman

7.6.10 Terms of Reference for EDC

Action: Acting Attorney General to amend

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

Minutes Approved: L. A. Phay
Chairman

Date: 5-4-18

