



## Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

**Date:** 7 June 2018

**Venue:** Council Chamber

**Time:** 9.00 am

- Present:**
- Chairman** Hon Lawson Henry
- Members:** 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 ENRD, Mr Derek Henry  
Director of Commercial Develop & Enterprise, Mr Martin George
- Secretary** Miss Anita Legg
- In Attendance:** Head of Governor's Office, Ms L MacMorran (Item 10.3 to 10.7)  
Hon Chief Secretary, Mrs Susan O'Bey (Item 10.7)  
Mrs Elizabeth Clingham (Item 10.7)  
Representatives of Bank of St Helena (Item 10.7)  
Representatives of Fisherman's Association (Item 10.7)  
Representatives of St Helena Independent (Item 10.7)
- Apologies:** Hon Cruyff Buckley

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **10.1 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Cllr Buckley was unable to attend this meeting. No members' of the public were present.

#### **10.2 Declaration of Personal Interest**

Councillor Ellick declared his interest with regards to his fish retail business.

#### **10.3 Appointment of Elected Member to the SHFC Management Board**

The Chairman advised that following his resignation, a second Elected Member from the EDC, which oversees Government's involvement in the sector, needed to be appointed to the SHFC Management Board. He added it would be down to Cllrs Beard and Scipio-O'Dean to make a decision, as Cllr Buckley was absent and Cllr Ellick had declared his interest. Both agreed to consider this appointment and respond to the Chairman shortly.

EDC noted the role and composition of the board was likely to change at some stage and be more commercially focused but in the interim, the SHFC needed to comply with legislation. With regards to Cllr Beard's involvement in the Fisheries Working Group, the HOGO apologised for the lack of communication.

**Action: Chairman**

**Post Meeting Note:** Cllr Scipio-O'Dean was appointed to the SHFC Board as per June Gazette.

#### **10.4 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 3 May 2018**

The minutes of the open meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **10.5 Matters Arising**

##### **10.5.1 Shoe Repairs**

It was noted that an advert would be published in the weekend's newspapers; this had also been extended to include other traditional trades.

##### **10.5.2 Coffee Investor**

Due to work pressure, the DCDE was still to distribute the credentials of the investor.

**Action: Director of Commercial Development & Enterprise**

##### **10.5.3 Aerodrome Charges (Amendment Regulations 2018)**

A paper was still to be presented to ExCo.

**Action: Financial Secretary**

##### **10.5.4 Port Regulations**

The Assistant Financial Secretary to circulate the draft Port Regulations to members.

**Action: Assistant Financial Secretary**

##### **10.5.5 Telephone Kiosk**

Information on the new location of the Kiosk that had previously been located near Greenlands was still awaited from Sure.

**Action: Assistant Financial Secretary**

##### **10.5.6 Maps**

A draft was still awaited.

**Action: Director of ENRD**

**Post Meeting Note:** Ms Cherrett later notified the Secretary to say that the island mapping project had been handed back to Mr Yon in GIS and the next draft was still awaited from the GeoInformation Group.

#### **10.6 Update on ESH Report April 2018 – Director of Commercial Development & Enterprise**

The above report had been circulated for advance reading and the DCDE gave a brief update. The Chairman thanked the DCDE for keeping the committee updated.

#### **10.7 Discussion with Mr Adrian Duncan and Offshore Fishermen**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Duncan and other attendees. Mr Gavin Benjamin, owner of the Amalia fishing vessel was unable to attend this meeting. The Chairman also explained the presence of members of the St Helena Fisherman's Association as Mr Duncan expressed his disappointment regarding their attendance.

Mr Duncan explained the business of his fishing vessel, the Extractor and the concerns he had with offshore fishing. He stated the main purpose of calling this meeting was to seek assistance in keeping his boat in operation, as he could not afford to fish at 90p per kilo any more. Nevertheless he felt it was in the best interests of the island, and himself that the Extractor continued to fish thus had previously approached the SHFC Board for assistance to help cover overheads; as yet he had not received a direct response. On a trial period SHFC was offering £1.30 per kilo for premium grade tuna across the board and the Extractor was content with this price in fishing under normal conditions. However Mr Duncan was not content with this offer in terms of the new requirement of bleeding fish and placing on slurry afterwards, as there were little skills and capacity to carry this out with volumes of up to 13 tonnes. Mrs Clingham explained the technical activities around bleeding fish and recognised the difficulties the Extractor would be placed under however under the Corporation's current financial situation, felt it would be difficult to entertain Mr Duncan's request. His request for a compromise price between 90p and £1.30 was also turned down. It was recognised the Amalia would also experience difficulties as they did not have slurry facilities on board.

The ultimate aim of the trial period, with the involvement of ESH, was to understand the fishing community's needs in being able to facilitate the landing of premium products. The GE explained that any excess standard tuna would be exported but the current price obtained barely covers variable costs however a premium price could be gained for quality fish hence the bleeding method. EDC noted the trial period would run for six months and would be assessed within the first six weeks. Mr Duncan expressed disappointment that the trial had started without participation from the Extractor and the Amalia but was advised there was scope for extending the trial period to collect clear data and allow their participation; a decision could not be made on the day but EDC was hopeful some assistance would be found for Mr Duncan.

The Chair advised there was work on-going in ESH to try and support Mr Duncan and the DCDE confirmed that it was permissible for Mr Duncan to submit a proposal for financial assistance. ESH was currently putting together a bespoke programme for DFID's consideration but the criteria did not allow for the payment of wages; ESH would therefore try to be creative towards seeking assistance for appropriate skills for fishermen.

In a related matter Mr Duncan informed EDC of his intention to explore the reopening of a Cannery; the Bank advised that any loan approval would depend on the quality of the business plan submitted.

Mr Duncan also reported that IPNLF had rendered his long-lining equipment redundant and asked what options there might be in seeking a refund or selling the equipment. The FS agreed to follow this up with ESH and would come back to Mr Duncan shortly.

**Action: Financial Secretary**

Following lengthy discussion on various issues, EDC advised Mr Duncan to engage with ESH to explore the available options there.

The Chairman thanked all attendees and they left the meeting.

### **10.8 Anaerobic Digestion on the Island of St Helena – Director of ENRD**

A paper had been circulated for advance reading. The Director gave a brief review and invited comments.

It was noted that the Specialist undertaking the feasibility study had recommended against the route of anaerobic digestion as had been planned originally. Instead he had recommended SHG look at smaller projects in terms of the two piggeries on the island and also to develop composting options. The Director informed EDC that financial implications are still being understood but it was deemed unlikely the EU Commission would want the original funding returned. It was confirmed that a significant proportion of the funding is already on island and an 18 month extension had been given.

Members were content to endorse this document and the Director was tasked to give periodic updates to EDC as the project progresses.

**Action: Director of ENRD**

### **10.9 Investment Policy 2018 – Government Economist**


The GE presented this paper and gave a brief review on how the previous policy had been tidied up.

Members discussed the likely difficulties for the private sector in the current economy under the heading "Aim, No iv". The GE advised that in going forward more information on criteria scoring would be coming to EDC at an earlier stage and timelines will be added as soon as the policy is signed off. Members felt that no proper consultation was needed but radio interviews should be arranged. It was agreed the background and context page should be changed as it still referenced the MoU.

EDC was content to support this paper.

**Action: Government Economist**

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

Minutes Approved:  .....

Chairman



Date: 2-08-18 .....

