

Minutes of the Meeting of Executive Council held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 9:30am in the Council Chamber

Present: Her Excellency the Governor (Mrs L Honan)  
The Hon Chief Secretary (Mrs S O'Bey)  
The Hon Financial Secretary (Mr D Richards)  
The Hon Attorney General (Mrs S O'Donnell)  
The Hon A A Green  
The Hon L A Henry  
The Hon C L Scipio-O'Dean  
The Hon D F Thomas  
The Hon R K Yon

In attendance: Acting Clerk of Councils (Miss A R Legg)  
Head of Corporate Support (Mrs C A George)  
Assistant Financial Secretary (Mr N Yon)  
Senior Statistics Assistant (Miss J Joshua)

**OPEN SESSION**

31.1 Welcome

The Governor welcomed all to the meeting. One member of the public was present.

31.2 Increase in the Minimum Income Standard for the Up-rating of Income Related Benefits and Basic Island Pension 2018 (ExCo Memo No 44/2018)

The Assistant Financial Secretary (AFS) and Senior Statistics Assistant were in attendance for this item.

The Chairman of the Social & Community Development Committee introduced the memorandum. He explained the intention was to agree a Minimum Income Standard (MIS) to trigger Income Related Benefits (IRB) and Basic Island Pension (BIP); to also agree the amendment to the Social Security Regulations. The Chairman briefed ExCo on the principles of the proposal.

The date of implementation was agreed to be 10<sup>th</sup> August as the increase could not be backdated. Nonetheless a lump sum ex-gratia payment was agreed to be paid to recipients for weekending 3<sup>rd</sup> August, as increases in water tariffs and telephone charges had taken effect from 1 August 2018.

Concern was raised as the figures did not take account of increase in prices of goods since commencement of the new shipping service, the MV Helena. The AFS advised it was more difficult to determine increases from freight charges however some Members were of the opinion they should be prepared to increase MIS again once the August shopping basket had been completed, others felt it might be best not to move from the six-monthly review. The AFS agreed a further review could be undertaken following the MIS price collection in

August. Members acknowledged that the increases in water and telecommunications had been taken account of in the current increase.

**(Action: Assistant Financial Secretary)**

Members were reminded it had been agreed previously that Minimum Wage would be looked at in tandem with MIS, which was due for review in September.

Following discussion, Council advised and the Governor agreed that the:

- a) Minimum Income Standard should be increased in line with current policy, which will subsequently result in an increase in the weekly payments for both Basic Island Pension and Income Related Benefits; and
- b) Regulations cited as the Social Security (Amendment) Regulations, 2018, should be approved and be effective from 10 August 2018.

**(Action: Hon Financial Secretary / Acting Clerk of Councils)**

In a related matter the Governor advised that the problem with the payment of UK pensions had been resolved and all recipients on island had had their pensions reinstated.

### 31.3 Confirmation of Open Session Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

The open session minutes of 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 were confirmed.

### 31.4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

#### 31.4.1 (27.4.1) Matters Arising from the 2016/17 SHG Financial Statements Audit

The Attorney General advised that the work relating to the definition of ‘close of accounts’ was pending and she would meet with the Assistant Financial Secretary soon.

**(Action: Hon Attorney General)**

#### 31.4.2 (27.4.2) Pharmacists (Qualifications) Regulations, 2018

The Attorney General advised she would meet with the Health Committee to progress this matter soon.

**(Action: Hon Attorney General)**

#### 31.4.3 (27.5.1) Protocols for the Recording Executive Council

The Attorney General advised a protocol to outline rules and a procedure for the recording of Executive Council and Council Committee meetings was due shortly.

**(Action: Hon Attorney General)**

#### 31.4.4 (27.5.3) Guidelines for Executive Council

Hon Lawson Henry agreed to forward a draft of the revised guide for the operations of Executive Council to the Chief Secretary, who would then take this matter forward.

**(Action: Hon Lawson Henry / Hon Chief Secretary)**

31.4.5 (27.5.4) Legislation Changes

The Attorney General advised that the document outlining clear guidelines for fast tracking legislation was currently work in progress.

**(Action: Hon Attorney General)**

31.4.6 (28.2) Telecommunications (Amendment) Regulations, 2018

The Financial Secretary advised there had been some anomalies in the Regulations, which had now been corrected; it was felt this should really have been highlighted to Members before publication.

The Financial Secretary further advised that he was still in the process of checking whether or not the ECCC minutes recorded that SHG would expect to see a decrease in Internet charges, once the sub marine cable is laid and associated infrastructure in place.

**(Action: Hon Financial Secretary)**

31.4.7 (29.2) St Helena Fisheries Corporation (SHFC) Investor Prospectus and Update from Fisheries Working Groups

Members were advised that the paper on SHFC financial difficulties was still work in progress therefore was unlikely to be presented to ExCo before September.

**(Action: Head of Governor's Office)**

It was confirmed the Investment Prospectus had been promoted locally.

31.4.8 (29.3.1) Medical Services Overseas

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee advised that the review on medical services overseas was still in progress and the report would be circulated to Members shortly.

**(Action: Hon Derek Thomas)**

31.4.9 (29.3.2) Social Impact Assessment of the MOU

The Chief Secretary reported that Mr Tom Holvey would send in a report on the Social Impact Assessment, on the effects of the MOU, the following week.

**(Action: Hon Chief Secretary)**

31.5 Any Other Business (Open Session)

31.5.1 Draft Building Regulations 2018

A query was raised as it appeared that different versions of the above Regulations had been published for public consultation. The Chairman of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee agreed to check with the Director and the Attorney General also agreed to investigate.

**(Action: Hon Russell Yon / Hon Attorney General)**