

Minutes of the Meeting of Executive Council held on Tuesday, 27th November 2018 at 9:30am in the Council Chamber

Present: Her Excellency the Acting Governor (Ms L J MacMorran)
Hon Chief Secretary, (Mrs S O'Bey)
The Hon Financial Secretary (Mr D L Richards)
The Hon Acting Attorney General (Mr A T Cansick)
The Hon A A Green
The Hon B W Isaac
The Hon K M Hercules
The Hon L A Henry
The Hon R K Yon

In Attendance: Clerk of Councils (Miss Anthea Moyce)
Head of Corporate Support (Mrs C A George)

Apologies: Her Excellency the Governor (Mrs L Honan) – on overseas business
The Hon Ms C L Scipio – on overseas business
The Hon D F Thomas – on overseas business

OPEN SESSION

37.1 Welcome

The Governor welcomed all to the meeting, including those members of the public that were present.

37.2 Legislative Programme 2018 (ExCo Memo No. 54/2018)

The Hon Chief Secretary introduced the Memorandum explaining the position of the Legislative Programme. In previous years, the Legislative programme was agreed by Executive Council in order to give a guide to the Attorney General's Chambers and Council Committees of legislation that required development.

The Legislative programme that was presented was a draft programme, which consisted of legislation that had been recently prioritised. There was also other legislation listed which had not been prioritised. Executive Council was asked to advise whether the Legislative Programme should be approved for publication. Members were of the view that the legislation which was almost completed, should be removed from the programme. They also felt that although there were capacity constraints within the Attorney General's Chambers, legislation should be completed within a reasonable timeframe so that the public could hold SHG to account. They were also of the view that the relevant Council Committees should prioritise the legislation they would be responsible for approving. The Acting Attorney General would update Members on the staffing situation and current workload in the Chambers under Any Other Business.

Following discussion, Council advised and the Governor agreed, that the Legislative Programme should be published, once legislation had been prioritised by appropriate Council Committees. It was also agreed that the published programme should not include as much detail as the draft programme that was considered and that the priority numbering should be removed.

(Action: Committee Chairman/Acting Attorney General/ Clerk of Councils)

37.3 Second Increase in the Minimum Income Standard for the up-rating of Income Related Benefits and Basic Island Pension 2018 (ExCo Memo No. 55/2018)

The Chairman of the Social & Community Development Committee presented the Memorandum and reported that in accordance with the Minimum Income Standard Policy the MIS was reviewed every six months to assess the need for any increases in the weekly payments for Basic Island Pension (BIP) and Income Related Benefits (IRB). The purpose of the review was to ensure the BIP and IRB remained in line with price increases and therefore preventing individuals and households that are most in need to from hardship.

The Deputy Financial Secretary was present and reported that a significant number of people were registered as unemployed, which is accounted for in the overall additional funding that would be required for IRB; the BIP budget was based on an estimate of the number of people that may qualify for BIP in the current year.

The Governor was apprehensive to committing to an expenditure that was uncertain to be counter balanced and questioned what plan was in place to increase revenue or counterbalance this issue in the future. The Financial Secretary reported that under the MTEF process, Members would consider how to increase revenue streams. Members commented that data should be collected from population statistics to obtain a more realistic estimate and that an update from the work currently being done by the Social and Community Development Committee, be given on the next Informal Legislative Council meeting; the Hon Chairman, Social and Community Development Committee would arrange this

Following discussion, Council advised and the Governor agreed, that the Social Security (Amendment No 2) Regulations, 2018 should be brought into force with effect from the 01st November 2018 and that an ex-gratia payment backdated to 1 November 2018 should also be paid and be charged to the Consolidated Fund.

(Action: Clerk of Councils/Hon A A Green)

37.4 Confirmation of the Open Session Minutes of 13th November 2018.

The open session minutes of 13th November 2018 were confirmed.

37.5 Matters Arising from the Open Session Minutes of 13 November 2018

37.5.1 (36.4.2) Matters Arising from the 2016/17 SHG Financial Statements Audit

The Financial Secretary advised that work relating to the definition of ‘close of accounts’ was still pending.

(Action: Hon Attorney General)

37.5.2 (36.4.3) Pharmacists (Qualifications) Regulations, 2018

The Acting Attorney General reported that he is currently working on the draft regulations and that this is actually in regard to a Medical Practitioners Bill that should be ready for presentation at the next Executive Council Meeting.

(Action: Hon Attorney General)

37.5.3 (36.4.4) Guidelines for Executive Council

The Acting Chief Secretary advised that she anticipated that the revised guidelines would be presented at the next Executive Council meeting.

(Action: Hon Chief Secretary)

37.5.4 (35.4.5) Medical Services Overseas (MSO) Contract

Executive Council agreed to discuss the Contract report at Informal Legislative Council Meeting when all Elected Members were back on island. The Honourable Lawson Henry advised that he visited Pretoria, Johannesburg on his journey back to St Helena and recognised various issues that needs addressing. He also informed members that the Honourable Derek Thomas would also be visiting patients at Pretoria during his transit in Johannesburg.

37.5.5 (35.4.6) Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of the MOU

The Acting Chief Secretary the decision had been made for the SHG Economist to finalise the SIA, hopefully by the end of the calendar year.

(Action: Hon Chief Secretary)

37.6 Any Other business

37.6.1 (36.5.2) UK's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites

The Acting Governor reported that the Governor met with the Director of the Tourism and it was agreed that the Tourist Office would progress St Helena's position on the UK's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. The Governor would provide Members with a more in depth update on her return.

(Action: Governor)

37.6.2 Closure of Customs Office

The Honourable Anthony Green mentioned that he had received two queries from the Public regarding the Customs Office being closed on weekdays that flights arrive. The Honourable Financial Secretary updated Members that the Custom Officers were working at the airport on those days; however adequate arrangements would be in place when the second weekly flights commence.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.40 am.



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Clerk of Councils



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Governor

11th December 2018

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Date