

**Open Minutes of the Social and Community Development Committee Meeting held on  
Wednesday, 08 May 2019 at 9 am in the CS Conference Room**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	<b>Chairman:</b>	Hon Anthony Green (Hon TG)
	<b>Deputy Chairman:</b>	Hon Cyril Leo (Hon CL)
	<b>Members:</b>	Hon Kylie Hercules (Hon KH) Hon Derek Thomas (Hon DT) Hon Gavin Ellick (Hon GE)
	<b>Non-Voting Members:</b>	Mrs Tracy Poole-Nandy, Director of Safeguarding (TPN) Mr Gillian Francis, Deputy Chief Secretary (GF)
	<b>Secretary:</b>	Mrs Anne Dillon, Temporary Executive Assistant (AD)
	<b>Invited:</b>	Mr Philbert Howell, Team Manager, Adult & Community (PH)
	<b>Public Attendees:</b>	Mr Cyril Gunnell; Mr Ryan Backhouse.

Hon TG welcomed members to the meeting along with GF who would be replacing Nicole Shamier (NS) on the Committee. Hon TG wished to record his thanks to NS for her work with SCDC. He also welcomed those members of the public present.

Hon CL questioned the reason for the change in membership. GF gave the explanation. Hon CL's concerns centred on the work that NS is doing with SSWRG. GF undertook to speak with NS following the meeting.

**(Action: GF)**

**1. Introduction to Philbert Howell**

Hon TG introduced PH who is new in post and would be managing the Adult Social Care Team as well as having an input into formulating Adult Legislation. Each member in turn introduced themselves.

PH gave an overview of his experiences which include areas such as adult care, older people, managing transition teams, hospital discharge team, SEND and children's services and mental health. These also extend to developing teams and pathways to key stakeholders.

PH will be looking at what is available on island and what policies and procedures are needed. He will also be addressing staff development needs, competencies and exploring the training and learning environment. In addition, he will be making links with the community and identifying what their needs are.

Hon TG informed PH that SCDC has policy responsibility for the services provided by the Safeguarding, but cannot get involved in day to day management, however members do advise the Directorate what the public is saying

He trust that PH's tenure will be fruitful and he has a happy two years here.

Questions for PH were then invited from members:

Hon KH commented on PH's experience with SEND and Children's Services, stating that she would welcome some training for the Education and Employment Directorate. PH confirmed that he has already met with Children's Services and Education. Closer links and working relationships will also be forged through the Safeguarding Board. Attention will be given as

part of Transition Education to facilitate entry into the world of work. These processes will enable policies and legislation to be consistently applied across the sectors.

Hon DT mentioned being keen to see local people develop and enquired if there were plans to have a local understudy to ensure succession planning. TPN confirmed that there is a Team Manager Designate in place. She is currently working with HR to amend the job specification. She highlighted that having to live off island for three years to gain a social worker qualification, is currently an obstacle to many staff becoming qualified. She understand the difficulty and saw the needs to contact universities to investigate an alternative study route. PH stated that he is happy to help and support the Team Manager Designate to upskill and develop their confidence within the role. He intends to leave enough for someone to move forward in his role rather than start afresh.

Hon CL questioned PH about his experience with mental health issues and illustrated the reason for his question with an example. PH confirmed that he cannot give a second opinion for medical interventions, but can give advice on the social support aspect.

Hon TG wished PH best of luck.

## **2. Occasional Liquor Licence**

Hon TG explained that a year ago a change was made the Occasional Licence Ordinance. Subsequently, the Judiciary are making a different interpretation to that applied previously. The issue therefore needs to be addressed from both a public and court perspective. He stressed that the item is not up for full discussion as it is currently not part of the legislative programme. However, if it is felt at this stage that there is sufficient appetite based on sound reasons and justification then this would be considered. Next steps would be to take it out for public consultation and liaison with key stakeholders etc.

Hon TG had spoken with the Chief Magistrate and circulated documents illustrating the existing and revised wording that would be acceptable to the Court.

Hon KH Highlighted making the change acceptable to the public as well as the business community in particular, as there is no provision for a mobile licence. She therefore felt that the Ordinance needs to be looked at as a whole.

Hons DT, KH, GE and CL agreed that there was an appetite to amend section 8 of the Liquor Ordinance. Hon KH reiterated that it should not only be Section 8 that needs to change but there should be a bigger piece of work. She has done some minor work but will share this at a later date.

Committee gave a Mandate for consideration to be given to amending section 8 of the Liquor Ordinance. TG said that any suggestions for a larger piece of work would need to be proposed and justified and such would unlikely to be carried out in a short time scale.

**(Action: Hon DT/NP)**

## **3. Social Security Review Update**

Hon CL reported that good progress has been made. The Economist has completed a review of the effectiveness of the currently social security system on St Helena along with costs. Copies of these documents have been shared and there will be a meeting on 14.05.19 to discuss. Legal assistance will be required to rewrite the Ordinance.

Hon DT enquired about the MTEF deadline. GF explained that there is still time and this review will be taken into consideration and identified as a priority.

Hon CL stated that every effort is being made to complete by end of June.

#### **4. Update on Review of Immigration Ordinance**

Hon DT stated that this will not be done by the second quarter. As one of the milestones for capital programme it needs to be completed by the end of December. The challenge is with the AGs Chambers. Andrew Radley (AR) aims to complete by the end of June. It will then go to members in July and then out for public consultation in August/September. Redrafting will be done based on feedback with a completion date set for the end of the year.

Hon DT mentioned that St Helenian Status is a big piece of work; he will provide a clear steer to the group in 2 weeks' time.

Landholding is separated and there is an overarching policy that derives these processes. He added that it would be useful to have Immigration Officials to have a look over. Hon KH reported a lot of concerns being raised by the public but she would wait on the draft before making a comment. KH also asked about the costs involved. Hon GE to send Hon DT previous draft details so he can review. It was found that this draft, the Policy didn't marry up with the Ordinance and that they must go hand in hand.

**(Action: Hon TG/NP)**

#### **5. Confirmation of Open Minutes**

Minutes of the 10 April 2019 were confirmed with no amendments.

#### **6. Matters Arising**

Visitor Insurance Declaration - Hon DT confirmed that procedures were implemented last week. NS had liaised with Health Directorate and the medical cover has been reduced.

Immigration Regulations will be discussed in ExCo tomorrow.

Employment Rights Ordinance on the Informal LegCo agenda for this month

**(Action: TPN to send copy of Ordinance)**