

OPEN AGENDA

Copy No:

No: 37/2019

Memorandum for Executive Council

SUBJECT

High Knoll Fort Lease to St Helena National Trust

Memorandum by Chief Secretary

- ADVICE SOUGHT** 1. **Executive Council is asked to consider and advise whether the attached Heads of Terms for the Lease of High Knoll Fort, to the St Helena National Trust should be approved.**
- BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS**
2. In August 2017, Executive Council noted that the St Helena National Trust had expressed interest in taking ownership of High Knoll Fort (Land Registry Parcel Number HTH 513) so that the Trust could apply for funding for this heritage site from outside donors.
3. Subsequent meetings of Executive Council noted that Heads of Terms for the lease was being drawn up by the Property Section within ENR Directorate and would be brought to Council for approval.
4. In May 2019, the Director of the SHNT and the President of the SHNT made a further representation for the Heads of Terms to include Land Registry Parcel Number HTH 1386. This land surrounds the Fort and is in addition to the Land Registry Parcel Number HTH 513. (See copy of site plan attached.)
5. Parcel Number 1386 falls within a National Conservation Area preventing further development. SHNT believes the additional land will enable them to manage and preserve the property more efficiently.
- FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
6. The transfer of High Knoll Fort to the SHNT will remove the financial liability of the repairs of the property from the St Helena Government. The removal of the repairs will assist in making the Crown Estate more sustainable.
7. No negative financial implications have been identified.
- ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**
8. The lease of the property will assist in the economic development of the Island through improving this tourist attraction. Furthermore, the SHNT envisage using this property as a wedding venue and camping site.
- CONSISTENCY**
9. This decision is consistent with the following Investment Policy

This document is the property of the St. Helena Government; it is protected by copyright laws and by the Official Secrets Acts.

The unauthorised possession or copying of the document may result in civil or criminal penalties.

OPEN AGENDA

WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

Principles:

1. Make Saint Helena a desirable and competitive destination to do business by removing barriers to investment.
2. Support an economy which is accessible to all potential investors and promote investments across the economy.
3. Promote fair, consistent, timely and transparent decision making.

PUBLIC / SOCIAL IMPACT

10. No adverse public or social impact is anticipated, noting that the SHNT is likely to be in a better position to maintain the property and make it available as a wedding and camping venue.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

11. No environmental impact has been identified Parcel 1386 is a National Conservation Area and as such is protected under the Environmental Protection Ordinance 2016.

PREVIOUS CONSULTATION / COMMITTEE INPUT

12. The principle of a lease for the property under Land Registry HTH Parcel Number 531 was noted by the Executive Council in 2017. However no Heads of Terms were presented and neither was the additional parcel number HTH 1386 included at that time. This lease has not yet been presented to ENRC.

PUBLIC REACTION

12. There is likely to be majority public support particularly from those who wish to see the property repaired and/or who are interested in economic development.

PUBLICITY

13. The decision will be mentioned in the Ex Co report and associated broadcast.

SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

14. This paper supports the following National Goal / Objective:
Altogether Wealthier: 3.1 Ensure sustainable economic development
Altogether Safer: 4.1 Develop a safe environment

INITIALS OF PRESENTER
SOB

OPEN /CLOSED
AGENDA ITEM
Corporate Support
Corporate Services
DATE OF MEMO

Open Session

19th August 2019

This document is the property of the St. Helena Government; it is protected by copyright laws and by the Official Secrets Acts.

The unauthorised possession or copying of the document may result in civil or criminal penalties.