

**Open Minutes of the Social and Community Development Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, 13 May 2020 at 9 am in the Council Chamber**

<u>Present:</u>	Chairman:	Hon Anthony Green, Chairman (Hon TG)
	Deputy Chairman:	Hon Cyril Leo (Hon CL)
	Members:	Hon Derek Thomas (Hon DT) Hon Jeffrey Ellick (Hon JE) Hon Gavin Ellick (Hon GE)
	Non-Voting Members:	Mrs Tracy Poole-Nandy, Director of Children & Adults Social Care (TPN) Mrs Gillian Francis, Deputy Chief Secretary (GF)
	Secretary:	Mrs Nicole Plato, Executive Assistant, Corporate Services (NP)
	Invited:	Mrs Carol George, Head of Corporate Support (CG) – <i>for item 2 only</i> Mr Adam Sizeland, Museum Director – <i>for item 2 only</i> Mr Nicholas Yon, Deputy Financial Secretary (NY) – <i>for item 5 only</i> Mr Neil Fantom, Statistician (NF) – <i>for item 5 only</i> Mr Allen Cansick, Attorney General (AC) – <i>for item 6 only</i> A member of the public/media in attendance

Hon TG welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome extended to a member of the public.

Open session

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests to declare upfront but Members were reminded to declare their interest when necessary throughout the meeting.

2. Proposal to Amend the Firearms Legislation

CG and AS was welcomed to the meeting. CG explained to the Committee that the amendment to the Firearms Ordinance was to provide for the Museum of St Helena to apply for a Licence to exhibit firearms and ammunition; currently Museum management would need to have a Firearms or Shot Gun certificate. This change would simplify the current arrangements. This amendment brings St Helena in line with the UK and this proposed change has also supported by the Director of Police, who is the Licencing Officer.

AS said that they need a way of holding the firearms legally without having to apply for licences for each individual ones. Otherwise the Police could take them away and destroy them and this would not be pragmatic as they have historical value to the island.

AS advised that the Museum also holds ammunition on behalf of the Police as they did not want to dispose of it and is in a safe at the Museum and the firearms are also in a locked room.

The Committee gave a mandate for this amendment legislation to be processed and for the Museum to also liaise with the Police to ensure appropriate security and safety mechanisms are in place for the firearms that are on display.

(Action: AS)

The Committee also requested CG to produce a policy to accompany the proposal that will be sent to the AG to process.

(Action: CG)

To ensure public safety, the Committee requested AS to ensure that the ammunition is taken back to the Police if possible.

(Action: AS)

AS said that will review with staff at the Museum their Safeguarding policy and reinforce the safety of firearms that they hold which could also perhaps be strengthened in the policy.

(Action: AS)

NP/Hon TG to complete the proposal decision document and send to AG's Chambers together with the policy when received.

(Action: NP/Hon TG)

3. Elections Ordinance Review Update

Hon JE reported that work had started on the above review, teasing out some of the issues at hand. Meetings will be held with the Youth Parliament and Apprentices to discuss the lowering of the voting age to 16.

Hon TG queried whether voter registration had been looked at by the sub-committee. Hon JE advised that they had looked at this but the practicalities might make it difficult to implement this, taking into account the 12 days before the election date that the register need to be in place. GF said that they do allow people opportunities to apply to be on the Register throughout the year and is very accommodating in this respect; a lot of publicity is also done on this.

Hon JE confirmed that they are on track to complete the review in July 2020.

Any further comments/thoughts on the review can be fed back to Hon JE and his team.

Hon JE to keep the Committee updated on the review.

(Action: Hon JE)

4. SCDC Work Plan

Hon TG reviewed the SCDC work plan with the Committee for the next six months and reported the following:

- Fixed Penalty Notices – a working group is in place to take forward the practicalities etc. of having an FPN system in place. Currently the group is working on specifying offences for FPNs and associate practical arrangements to do this. The group will also look at public awareness arrangements etc.
- Review of Immigration ordinance – this is being discussed today as a separate agenda item.
- Landholding bill - a separate working group is taking this forward and will hopefully come to Committee in July 2020. NP to KIV.

(Action: NP)

- Data protection - awaiting advice from the AG's chambers.
- Adult legislation - is being progressed by the AG's Chambers.
- Liquor ordinance amendments – to be progressed.

Hon TG requested that this item is included as a standard SCDC agenda item to ensure progress is made.

(Action: NP)

5. Review of the MIS basket

NY and NF were welcomed to the meeting. It was noted that the last uplift to the MIS was conducted in March of this year and that the basket for the MIS had been in place since it was implemented i.e. 2013. ExCo and other forums felt that it is timely for a review of this basket.

NF clarified that the food element of the basket had been reviewed in 2018 in liaison with the Dietician therefore we might not need to review the food element of the basket as it is only two years old. A number of other choices in the MIS basket which affects the use of the basket in terms of setting IRB and BIP could be looked at.

Members agreed that an element for leisure and travels costs should be included in the basket as currently the transport costs are very minimal and only one trip is taken into account.

The Committee agreed for NY to take forward the work on the review of the MIS basket and to bring back to SCDC a draft work plan to show how the work will be taken forward with timelines, whilst also taking into account that the next price collection for the MIS basket is July.

(Action: NY)

6. Magistrates Court Amendment Bill (outline)

AC was welcomed to the meeting. AC reviewed the principles of the amendment Bill with the Committee with a view of sending the completed documentation to the Committee by the end of week for formal endorsement. NP to KIV.

(Action: AC/NP)

AC explained that this proposed amendment will make provision for the Chief Justice to exercise the powers of the Chief Magistrate if the Chief Justice opts to preside as Chief Magistrate rather than an ordinary Justice and would permit a Justice to attend a sitting of the Magistrates' Court remotely.

The Committee approved in principle the Magistrates Court (Amendment) Bill to be presented at the next formal sitting of LegCo.

(Action: AC)