



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 23 July 2020

Venue: Council Chamber

Time: 09.00 am

Present:	Chairman	Hon Lawson Henry
	Members:	Hon Gavin Ellick Hon Clint Beard Hon Cyril Leo Hon Miss Christine Scipio Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Nicholas Yon Director of Enterprise, Mr Robert Midwinter Director ENRPD, Mr Darren Duncan Chief Economist, Mrs Nicole Shamier
	Secretary	Miss Anita Legg
In Attendance:		Senior Economist, Mrs Amanda Curry Brown Economic Development and Prosperity Advisor, Mr Karan Garcha Director of Tourism, Mrs Helena Bennett (Item 42.3) Digital Development Manager, Mr Lloyd Weedon (Item 42.3) Deputy Chief Secretary, Mrs Gillian Francis (Item 42.5)
Apologies:		Hon Financial Secretary, Mr Dax Richards

OPEN SESSION

42.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting, including those in attendance; a member of the media was present. Apologies were received from the Financial Secretary for the open session. The Chairman then announced a change in membership: Cllr Buckley had been elected as Chairman of E&NR Committee therefore had resigned from the EDC thus Cllr Ellick had been appointed Deputy Chairman of EDC in his place. Cllr Leo had been appointed as a new member of EDC.

42.2 Declaration of Personal Interest

Cllr Scipio declared her interest in respect of any item related to farming, her father being a registered part time farmer. No other personal interests were declared.

42.3 ESH Updates/ Quarterly Report from Tourism, June 2020 – Director of Enterprise/Director of Tourism

The May progress and performance report had been circulated for advance reading and the Director of Enterprise provided a brief overview. In terms of the Agricultural proposal, the Chairman requested that a paper be brought to committee, as funding for agriculture is important. The Chairman thanked the Director of Enterprise for keeping the committee updated.

Action: Director of Enterprise/ Director of ENRPD

The Director of Tourism (DoT) gave a brief overview on activities for the last quarter, key topics included: the launch of an online travel platform; preparation for a workshop for transport providers; digital marketing and promotion, including a virtual Bird Fair this year; an upcoming slot for St Helena to be featured on BBC Travel Online and also live on Sky News. As part of her update the DoT then invited the ESH Digital Development Manager (DDM) to give a presentation on the new St Helena Tourism Website. Key points raised from discussion were:

- Similar Services – In terms of service providers offering a similar business, such as the Inside St Helena App, the DDM felt St Helena needs as much digital exposure as possible, noting this website gets 300,000 views per year. Collectively if everyone puts out information, this will bring much needed revenue to the island.
- Booking Service – It was confirmed this service had stopped 18 months ago and any further inquiries are now pushed out to the DMC's.
- EDC suggested this presentation would be worth giving to the wider Tourism sector.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Tourism and the Digital Development Manager for their participation and they left the meeting.

42.4 Update on Sustainable Economic Development Plan (SEDP) – Chief Economist

The Chief Economist gave an overview on the SEDP end of year progress report 2019/20. During discussion, key concerns included:

- the decline in population, which was considered important for the island and should therefore be kept under observation;
- the recent price hikes on products, as there are no corresponding increase in salaries;
- the need for a clear path in the Labour Market Strategy, in trying to encourage St Helenians back to the island to work, recognising various definite steps have already been taken;
- the need to put more money and effort in producing local products and the buy local campaign, although it was noted ESH is working with sectors such as the Beekeepers Association and looking to give £220k in agricultural support, subject to DFID approval;
- the lack of access to agricultural land and what is currently available, noting persons could also liaise with the private sector to lease land; the Director ENRPD explained the review of lands and what recommendations were proposed;
- development of the digital economy and whether SHG is sufficiently proactive in preparing islanders for the cable however it was noted that one of the work streams relates to the Community College in delivering courses.

EDC agreed this paper should be published as well as promoted over the radio.

Action: Chief Economist

42.5 Internal Audit Recommendations: Governance Review Council Committees – Deputy Chief Secretary

The Deputy Chief Secretary briefed EDC on the Governance review of the five Council Committees, carried out by Internal Audit during the latter part of 2019, as part of the Internal Audit Work Plan approved by the Audit and Risk Committee.

EDC noted the Internal Audit Report and progress on implementation of the various recommendations, which were mainly on target, with the exception of terms of reference for council committees. EDC also asked for a further amendment to the Council Committees (Rules of Procedure) Order, for papers to be circulated to the committee at least five working days before a meeting.

Action: Deputy Chief Secretary

42.6 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 25 June 2020

The minutes of the open meeting held on 25th June 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

42.7 Matters Arising

42.7.1 ESH Updates

The DoE confirmed he had rectified the ratings in the combined report and redistributed in this month's report.

42.7.2 Draft Policy for Communication Networks and Services, Memo 15/2020

The draft Policy for Communication Networks and Services was currently out for consultation. Officers were reminded the public should be made aware of the consultation meeting via the radio and the time should be changed to the evening, to convenience businesses.

Action: Chief Economist

42.7.3 Fish Catch Limits Annex to Fishing Licencing Policy, ENRPD Memo 2/2020

A member requested an update on the action being taken, following the special meeting held on the fishing catch limits table, which the Director provided, in that it was proposed for further work to be carried out on the table, to see how it could be changed in respect of those species that had not been approved. ENRPD would hold discussions with the sector stakeholders and would commence arrangements the next Monday, in contacting the different specific groups.

Members made known their desire to attend these stakeholder meetings however the director advised there were no plans to have a joint meeting with EDC, as discussions would be specific to that sector. The intention had been to feedback results to EDC however he would now ask each group whether they would be content with EDC

members sitting in on discussions and would revert with the outcome and also the dates of the meetings.

Action: Director ENRPD

Post Meeting Note:

The Director later provided a schedule of meeting dates and times, which was circulated to members.

42.7.4 Draft Company Registry Policy, Memo 12/2020

Public consultation on the draft Company Registry Policy was complete and the policy would now be tracked-changed from feedback. Once the Policy is endorsed, should any legislation need to be changed, it would be processed through the normal procedure.

Members had asked if it was correct that the Co-operative Ordinance is being consulted on as Councillors were unaware of this. The Chief Economist advised that business structures were part of the overall considerations of the Company Registry Policy and the Co-Operative Societies Ordinance was not being consulted upon stand alone, only that it was included in a list of ordinances in Annex A 'Legislative Changes Required' as an area of review. Another area of review that the consultation had been flagging up so far was how St Helena Law treats Trust Structures.

Action: Chief Economist

42.7.5 Options for the Re-supply of Chicks for Egg Production, ENRPD Memo 3/2020

There was no further update on this matter, as there was uncertainty on the next date for when chicks could be brought to the island.


Action: Director ENRD

42.7.6 Port Regulations

The Deputy Financial Secretary reminded EDC, this was part of the work being carried out on the Maritime Audit and at this time had no further update.

Action: Deputy Financial Secretary

There being no further business, this session of the Agenda was concluded and the Committee moved to closed session.

Minutes Approved: 
Chairman

Date: 27-08-20