



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 25 June 2020

Venue: Council Chamber

Time: 09.00 am

Present:	Chairman	Hon Lawson Henry
	Members:	Hon Cruyff Buckley Hon Clint Beard Hon Gavin Ellick Hon Miss Christine Scipio Hon Financial Secretary, Mr Dax Richards 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 Work Experience Student, Miss Marcella Mittens

OPEN SESSION

40.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Miss Marcella Mittens, on work experience in Corporate Support. No members of the public were present. Apologies were received from the Financial Secretary and Director of ENRPD for the first item.

40.2 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. Cllr Ellick declared his interest for agenda items 4 and 7, in relation to his fish retail business therefore the Chairman ruled as previously that Cllr Ellick be allowed to participate in discussions but not vote. No other personal interests were declared.

40.3 Draft Policy for Communication Networks and Services, Memo 15/2020 – Chief Economist

The Chief Economist presented the above memo, asking EDC to endorse a 6 week consultation on the draft Policy for Communication Networks and Services. The draft policy had been developed

since the signing of the contract with Google, to set the framework by which to update the Telecommunications Ordinance in future. Following lengthy discussion, EDC endorsed consultation for a period of 6 weeks commencing in July. Members agreed to support the consultation but suggested awareness should be made in advance, via the radio.

Action: Chief Economist

40.4 ESH Updates to EDC, May 2020 – Director of Enterprise

The May progress and performance report had been circulated for advance reading and following a brief overview, the Director of Enterprise (DoE) invited comments:

- Members noted the post box walks and footpaths had received International Accreditation with Green Flag Trails and Mr Anthony Thomas had been appointed as the new Chairman of the ESH Board.
- Zulu Remembrance Monument – The DoE advised that although planning approval had been granted, ESH does not have the funding to take this project forward. The Decision Notice had not included any recommendation relating to the inclusion of British nationals that fought during the war, it was purely around plinth size etc.
- Replica Water Fountain – EDC was made aware this monument is still sitting in the ex-PWD Yard. The previous Tourism and Leisure Committee had suggested it be sited in front of the Canister, which had been endorsed by the Highways Authority however the Planning Authority had now vetoed this idea; the location is still pending receipt of a formal decision notice.
- Annual DFID Review – The DoE advised this had now been completed, and the final report from DFID was awaited.
- Support for Local Businesses – EDC were pleased to hear ESH is seeking support for an extension of the Covid-19 support but were also interested in there being a review of support given to date. Concern was raised regarding lack of support for a specific business, whose owner resided overseas. The criteria for support in response to Covid-19, within sectors, meant that 50% of the income had to be related to the business however EDC felt this criteria needs to be expanded. The DoE advised lessons had been learned regarding the ESH scheme, and the eligibility criteria would be revisited by the ESH Board, when the proposed extension is presented.
- Community Development Organisation – The DoE advised that for “Legacy Projects” the CDO had approached ESH for co-funding support relating to community projects, which is being supported under the ESH Social Enterprise grant scheme.
- Commercial Insurance – In response to a query on the role of ESH in encouraging hire transport, the DoE agreed to share an initial briefing paper that had been requested by an informal Executive Council – this was later circulated.
- Marketing & Communications – In terms of generating revenue digitally, EDC were pleased to hear St Helena had appeared in 4 international media stories, in May and that the media is interested in visiting the island; a great deal of questions are also being received from interested persons.
- Agricultural Support Programme – A proposal would be presented to the ESH Board the next week, looking at a number of key components of sector support, such as water security, increasing chilled storage capacity, training and an extension of the Small Producer grant scheme.
- Combined Report – the DoE explained the table and that some targets need to be amended and colour-coded following Covid-19, looking at what can be practically delivered. He agreed to

update and re-circulate, plus liaise with the Management Team regarding the inclusion of timelines.

Action: Director of Enterprise

- Community College - It was felt there should be more collaboration between Education and ESH.
- Sandy Bay Beach Road - Following concerns on lack of progress with this the project, it was suggested this could potentially be funded under a future year of EDIP and therefore should be taken forward through the ENR Committee.

Action: Hon C Buckley

The Chairman thanked the Director of Enterprise for keeping the committee updated.

40.5 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 28 May 2020

The minutes of the open meeting held on 28th May 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

40.6 Matters Arising

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

This item would be brought back to the table on 9th July.

Action: Director ENRPD

40.6.2 Draft Company Registry Policy, Memo 12/2020

This item was currently under public consultation.

Action: Chief Economist

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

A policy would now follow from what had been endorsed at the previous meeting. There was no indication as yet on a timeline for the arrival of the next batch of chicks due to travel restrictions.

Action: Director ENRD

40.6.4 Dark Skies Legislation (Joint Meeting with ENRC)

The Attorney General had advised the proposed changes to legislation would now fall under the EPO and subsequently under the ENR Committee. It was therefore established that it was unnecessary for a joint meeting, however it was suggested the Deputy Chief Secretary could provide an update to all Elected Members in due course.

Action: Secretary

40.6.5 Review of Fees and Charges 2020/21

EDC noted the fees and charges on Trade Marks and Companies was still to be taken forward to the next Executive Council meeting.

Action: Deputy Financial Secretary

40.6.6 Port Regulations

Action: Deputy Financial Secretary – Ongoing

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

Minutes Approved: L. King
Chairman

Date: 23-07-20