



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 26 March 2020

Venue: Council Chamber

Time: 09.00 am

Present: **Chairman** Hon Lawson Henry
 Members: Hon Clint Beard
 Hon Gavin Ellick
 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
 Chief Executive for Economic Development, Mrs Dawn Cranswick
 Economic Development and Prosperity Advisor, Mr Karan Garcha
 IT Section Manager, Mr Jeremy Roberts (Item 36.6)
 Crown Counsel (Commercial), Mr Richard Holland (Item 36.6)

Apologies **Members:** Hon Cruyff Buckley
 Hon Financial Secretary, Mr Dax Richards

OPEN SESSION

36.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Buckley, attending a radio session on COVID-19 and the Financial Secretary who was on sick leave. No members of the public were present.

36.2 Declaration of Personal Interest

No personal interests were declared.

36.3 ESH Update: Agricultural Support Programme – Director of Enterprise (DoE)

The DoE advised this was an ESH Board paper for information and feedback from EDC. The DoE provided an overview stating this was an aspirational proposal in collaboration with ANRD and each component would need an accompanying business project proposal for consideration; the following key points arose from discussion:

- Funding would require around £250k therefore the programme was likely to be rolled out over multiple years.
- Whilst £50k has been budgeted this financial year, £45k has already been committed. It was therefore proposed to increase by another £50k for the new financial year but this was still subject to ESH Board approval and agreement with DFID.
- The overarching intention of the scheme was to move away from individual grant funding of small producers, to collective funding of projects, for example ESH would look collectively at water security across all farms on Crown land rather than individually. Each project component would be dependent on a formal proposal being approved by the ESH Board.
- The main infrastructure aspects of the programme related to Crown land and the Director of ENRPD agreed to check the number of tenant farmers who were currently operating on Crown land.

Action: Director of ENRPD

Post Meeting Note:

The number of licencees/tenants on land within the Agriculture Estate by land use are:

▪ Pasture	53
▪ Arable	99
▪ Fodder	21
▪ Bee Hives	3

- The DoE agreed ESH would look further into supporting the youth to encourage sustainable agriculture for the future.
- It was noted this paper was written before Covid-19 thus was more about addressing the drought situation. However the Director of ENRPD advised a Bronze meeting of the Resourcing arm of Covid-19 had been set up to consider food security, including looking at local agricultural input.
- It was suggested focus should be concentrated on less projects, as the funding seems to be spread too thinly in order to make an impact. Funding should be focused on projects such as water security.
- Training – the intention is for a mixture of offshore programmes and offshore call down support, plus local training, as in renewing the training facility at Harpers in conjunction with Education.
- PVC Windbreakers had been proposed but was still to be determined if practicable; it was suggested corn could be grown instead, being two fold also as a crop.
- EDC was made aware there was also a proposal in the EDIP programme for the next 2 years focusing on SHG estates. Once approval was received it would be brought to EDC to discuss implementation.

In keeping with the tight timing, members agreed if they had further questions, they would be sent to the DoE by the end of the next week.

Action: All Members

36.4 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 27 February 2020

The minutes of the open meeting held on 27th February 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

36.5 Matters Arising

36.5.1 Dark Skies (Joint Meeting with ENRC) Memo No 7/2020

Members noted this item was being processed and it was hoped the final draft legislation would come back to committee in July 2020.

Action: Deputy Chief Secretary/ Legislative Drafter

36.5.2 ESH Updates to EDC – January 2019

The DoE had raised member's suggestion of broadcasting the Dan Snow videos on Sure TV, with the marketing team. They has agreed but would check first with Mr Snow whether it was permissible to use his materials.

In terms of the 3 approved investors, the party investing in eco-lodges was in the process of organising permits through Immigration however had since been impacted by the current restrictions on travel. Individuals were progressing the other activities.

36.5.3 Review of Fees and Charges 2020/21, Memo No 4/2020

EDC noted the agreed increase of 2.9% in fees and charges, on Trade Marks and Companies, was still to be taken forward to Executive Council.

Action: Deputy Financial Secretary

36.5.4 Farmers Association

The Director of ENRPD reported he had spoken to the main driver and it appeared that although every effort had been made, farmers were not interested in resurrecting the Farmer's Association and subsequently there was no progress since the Governor's visit. However it was noted the Chamber had been facilitating dedicated meetings for the farming sector, which farmers seemed to prefer.

EDC expressed disappointment but felt there was little else the committee could do.

36.5.5 Port Regulations

Action: Deputy Financial Secretary – Ongoing

36.5.6 Meeting with Chief Statistician

It was agreed the Chief Statistician would be invited to the April meeting, along with the Director of Tourism to discuss tourist numbers.

Action: Chief Economist

36.6 Approval of the Policy Statement on the Licensing of Permanent Earth Stations (pes) and Receive Only Earth Stations (roes) Memo 8/2020 – Chief Economist

The Chairman welcomed the attendees and invited the Chief Economist to introduce the memo. EDC was asked to approve the Policy Statement on the licencing of Permanent Earth Stations and Receive Only Earth Stations (as per Annex A) so that it could be put into practice immediately.

Members felt the policy was very technical therefore whilst appreciating the detailed overview, felt that each section of the policy needed to have been discussed separately or alternatively in future the detail should be delivered through a presentation.

Following discussion it was agreed the fee schedule should be removed and set in Regulations and the Policy should be processed through Executive Council. It was also felt the underlying policy (the policy on Communications Networks and Services) should reflect that the bandwidth should be sold through SHG to the Earth Stations rather than by the public Communications licence holder. EDC endorsed the Policy Statement with these caveats.

Action: Chief Economist

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

Minutes Approved: *L. Allen*
Chairman

Date: 23-04-20