



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 28 May 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 Economic Development and Prosperity Advisor, Mr Karan Garcha Marine Conservation Officer, Rhys Hobbs (Item 39.3) Senior Fisheries Officer, Mr Gerald Benjamin (Item 39.3) Senior Veterinary Officer, Mr Joe Hollins (Item 39.5) Agriculture Development Officer, Ms Andrea Timm (Item 39.5)

OPEN SESSION

39.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting. Approximately 11 members of the public were present. Apologies were received from Cllr Buckley for the first part of the morning due to the IEG visiting the Covid-19 testing facilities.

The Chairman advised, the first item on amendments to Enterprise St Helena Ordinance, had been withdrawn from the agenda and deferred to a later date.

39.2 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 in relation to his fish retail business hence the Chairman ordered, in relation to agenda item 3 and in accordance with S12 (2) of Committee Procedures, that Cllr Ellick be allowed to remain and participate in the discussion but not be allowed to vote. No other personal interests were declared.

39.3 Fish Catch Limits Annex to Fishing Licencing Policy, ENRPD Memo 2/2020 – Director ENRPD

Cllr Ellick raised a concern, as the Hon Speaker had advised that he should not be excluded from any meeting, only from the event of voting. The Chairman clarified this was a matter for the Chairman to rule and that Cllr Ellick had not been excluded from any meetings, he had been disallowed to participate on an occasion due to his private interest.

The Fisheries Catch Limits Annex had been presented to the Committee on 30th January as part of Fishing Licencing Policy endorsement however EDC had requested the table be taken out of the policy, until it could be updated and brought back to committee with further justification on the proposed limits.

The Director of ENRPD gave a brief overview where EDC were now asked to endorse the Annex, for those fish species where limits were included. The objective was to secure agreement to proceed with the implementation of catch limits for all of the fish species caught in St Helena's waters (apart from the bigeye and yellowfin tuna species under commercial fishing) across the different fishing types. Approval for catch limits for the above two tuna species under a commercial fishing licence would be sought at a later date once Committee had an opportunity to see the St Helena Tuna Fishery Report and these species would be added to the Annex once their catch limits were approved. It was noted the catch limits table would be a live document.

It was noted the CEFAS report was mainly delayed due to the global pandemic plus other issues however the report related to specific species therefore had no bearing on other species in the table. The Director ENRPD also advised the annex had no impact on the drafting of legislation but without a catch limit, the new licencing system could not be taken forward in June.

Although EDC were asked to only endorse the species where limits were listed, following discussion, some members felt they were unable to endorse an incomplete table where all the information was not available. The two voting members present voted against the Annex; the Chairman did not vote but made a decision, as a matter of national importance to refer this matter to the next Executive Council meeting.

The Chairman thanked E&NRPD officers for their input and they left the meeting.

Action: Director ENRPD

39.4 Draft Company Registry Policy, Memo 12/2020 – Chief Economist

The Chief Economist gave a presentation on the draft Company Registry Policy. St Helena Government, with support from Orgueil Consulting, was developing its existing Company Registry and followed the principles of openness and transparency, sound business practice, non-discriminatory taxation and anti-tax avoidance. Following discussion it was agreed for a six week consultation on the draft Policy to go ahead, with EDC Members in attendance for public meetings. It was suggested the questions would need to be restructured from appearing open or closed.

The SEDP supports growth of exports in order to attract more money to St Helena and become Altogether Wealthier therefore once feedback was received from the consultation, a decision would

be made whether to add the Company Registry as an export sector to the SEDP. It was also agreed a review of the fees and charges would be brought back to EDC.

Action: Chief Economist

39.5 Options for the Re-supply of Chicks for Egg Production, ENRPD Memo 3/2020 – Director ENRPD)

The Director of ENRPD presented the memo and EDC were asked to endorse the following options to direct the establishment of an SHG policy and procedures, in support of local egg production:

- Re-supply option, option 3: Day old chick imports via ANRD
- Distribution option, option 3: Import for all but with different price thresholds

The Senior Veterinary Officer summarised the options and following discussion the key points raised were: in response to a query on importing chicks with a long life span, it was noted this breed does not exist in commercial egg layers; the egg supply on island had decreased due to weather conditions and the shortage of feed; there was no interest from the Egg Producers group to import day-old chicks themselves due to the high cost; the chicks would need to be imported properly in terms of safeguarding bio-security; ANRD has now learnt how to properly care for the chicks as they can easily be lost; the number of imports would need to be 1000 in order to be viable; ANRD, from their side is looking at introducing personal inspections on egg producers; the intention is to establish a mid-term policy in going forward hence is not necessary for import figures to be included.

EDC agreed that once flights were operational, ANRD should continue to import day-old-chicks and the distribution option should be for all but involve a price differential for small-holders on a full-cost recovery basis, which could possibly offset the subsidy to commercial producers.

EDC felt the Subsidies Policy also needs to be finalised and implemented soon, to include an exit strategy from subsidy towards overall full cost recovery.

Action: Director ENRPD

39.6 ESH Updates to EDC, April 2020 – Director of Enterprise

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

- Zulu Remembrance Monument – the DoE was surprised to note this matter had been referred to ExCo as he had been present when LDCA had approved the application, at their meeting on 6th May and no letter of advice had been received from the Planning Office.
- Main Street Project – there is no funding within the ESH budget to complete phase II due to uncertainty beyond 2021, noting it would cost £20k to complete the zone in front of the Atlantic Store. ESH will therefore handover the designs to PMU. This has not been budgeted for in the main budget and cannot be taken from the DFID project, the original funding was taken from retained surplus however there is currently only sufficient remaining to cover liabilities in the event of ESH winding-up.
- Investors – the number of investors have dropped and tourism decimated this year. ESH felt the situation is difficult but looking at what can be delivered in terms of economic development, such as the agricultural programme and refreshing the tourism strategy. When asked whether or

not the CTO conference would still take place, it was noted there had been discussion with the CTO on hosting an event in February next year however nothing had been confirmed yet.

- Sandy Bay Beach Road - When the project was originally being proposed by ESH in 2015, a sum of approximately £30k had been estimated for a black top road however at that time the Roads Section had requested £5k per annum from ESH for ongoing maintenance thereby causing a delay in progressing the works. The road had since suffered from extensive storm damage, so a new costing had to be produced and this had come out in the region of £120k. Noting the previous point regarding ESH retained surplus, repairs to the road cannot be progressed due to being too costly.
- Picnic Facilities – the DoE agreed to follow-up whether any picnic tables were available for the High Peak area.

Action: Director of Enterprise/ Tourism

Post Meeting Note:

Tourist Office staff had checked the High Peak area and then decided not to purchase new picnic tables. Instead they would move some of the inventory around, so that some tables could be placed in this area as well. Staff are currently in the process of carrying this out.

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

39.7 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 23 April 2020

The minutes of the open meeting held on 23rd April 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

39.8 Matters Arising

39.8.1 Presentation on Tourist Numbers by Statistical Commissioner & Director of Tourism

The DoT was still to circulate information on how people first learn about St Helena.

Action: Director of Enterprise/ Tourism

Post Meeting Note:

This information was not being recorded as first thought but the Tourism Office will now ensure this is added to the new survey form.

39.8.2 Dark Skies Legislation (Joint Meeting with ENRC)

Following the proposed changes to legislation, this matter was currently with the Attorney General's Chambers. The Director of ENRPD agreed to discuss a way forward with the Deputy Chief Secretary.

Action: Deputy Chief Secretary/ Director ENRPD

39.8.3 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

39.8.4 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: 
Chairman


Date: 25-06-20

