

**Minutes of the Social and Community Development Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, 9 September 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 Catherine Turner, CEO/ Commissioner, Equality & Human Rights Commission (CT) – <i>for item 2 only</i> One member of the public/media was present.

Open session

Hon TG welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests to declare on the open agenda. Members were reminded to declare their interest when necessary throughout the meeting.

2. Equality & Human Rights Commission Update

CT was welcomed to the meeting.

CT reported the following:

- The EHRC had been reviewing various policies issued recently for consultation e.g. the Communications Networks and Services policy and a number of comments the EHRC had submitted to the Chief Economist on this policy which had also been shared with the Committee. One of the concerns the EHRC had was around how peoples personal data would be managed so as to prevent a breach to right of privacy which was an aspect that was not covered in the policy. Investors have also expressed in writing their concern around no data protection being in place. *GF advised that she was still waiting to receive the legal advice on data protection from the AG's Chambers. The Committee requested GF to follow this up with some urgency, given the advent of the Cable.*

(Action: GF)

- A number of concerns were raised at the public meetings where the new governance system was discussed and people raised concerns around eroded democracy, therefore the EHRC is now in the process of rolling out a survey to the public, looking at how people feel about democracy etc.

CT agreed to document the EHRC's concerns on the Governance reform process in a letter to HE and the Commission and send a copy to the Committee for information.

(Action: CT)

- The EHRC have been provisionally advised that their application to the Commonwealth forum for National Human Rights Institution has been agreed and this

gives the EHRC access to limited funding to attend conferences etc. SCDC was happy to hear this.

- The St Helena EHRC have been asked to work with Bermuda on Human Rights.
- The EHRC annual report has been completed and will need to be laid on the table at the next LegCo meeting. CT agreed to ensure that the EHRC annual report is sent to Corporate Support 10 days before the next Formal LegCo to be laid on the table by Hon TG.

(Action: CT/Hon TG)

3. SCDC Work-Plan update

Hon TG gave the following update on the SCDC work-plan:

- *Fixed Penalty Notices* – SCDC awaits draft legislation from the AG's Chambers. NP to KIV for the Committee. Public information/education sessions will also be held.

(Action: NP)

- *Elections Ordinance review* – the sub-committee has completed their review and will be discussed with SCDC today.
- *Immigration Ordinance review* – a special SCDC meeting is scheduled to be held next week to discuss this.
- *Asylum Bill* – this is currently with Immigration to take forward.
- *Social Security Review Working Group Recommendations* – the Social Policy Planner, Ann Muir has drafted a number of policies from this review and a further special SCDC will be held later this month to discuss these.
- *Review of the Minimum Income Standard basket* is being undertaken by the Social Policy Planner.
- *Freedom of Information/Data Protection Legislation* – legal advice is needed on data protection which GF is taking forward with the AG's Chambers.

(Action: GF)

- *Adult's legislation* – no further progress had been made. TPN had sent a draft outline of the legislation to the AG's Chambers to mirror the UK Act and adapt it to St Helena. TPN had also met with the Legislative Drafter in relation to the timescale etc. but it was also recognised that this is a huge piece of work to take forward however, it is on the legislative programme. The Committee noted the importance of having this legislation in place and therefore requested TPN to continue to follow this up with the AG's Chambers on a regular basis.

(Action: TPN)

- *Liquor Amendment Ordinance* - progress have been delayed due to another issue that has come to light which will be taken forward with the Chief Magistrate. Hon TG to take this forward.

(Action: Hon TG)