



## Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

**Date:** 24 September 2020

**Venue:** Council Chamber

**Time:** 09.00 am

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	Hon Lawson Henry
	<b>Members:</b>	Hon Clint Beard Hon Cyril Leo Hon Financial Secretary, Mr Dax Richards Hon Attorney General, Mr Allen Cansick Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Nicholas Yon Director of Enterprise, Mr Robert Midwinter Chief Economist, Mrs Nicole Shamier
	<b>Secretary</b>	Miss Anita Legg
<b>Apologies:</b>		Hon Gavin Ellick Hon Miss Christine Scipio Director ENRPD, Mr Darren Duncan

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **44.1 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting. Elected Members, representatives from the fishing sector and members of the public were present.

Apologies were received from Cllr Gavin Ellick, Cllr Christine Scipio and the Director of ENRPD. The Chairman explained Cllr Ellick had asked to be excused from the meeting due to being a signatory to the petition, which was under discussion in item 3 and therefore had a conflict of interest. Cllr Scipio was attending a virtual conference.

#### **44.2 Declaration of Personal Interest**

Cllr Leo remarked that the people who organised the petition and those who signed the petition were his constituents however the Chairman declared there was no conflict. Cllr Beard declared an interest in regards to paragraph 1.c. in terms of him being a member of that same Council that he was asked to advise, i.e. Executive Council. The Attorney General advised there was no conflict of interest, as this was standard procedure. No other personal interests were declared.

#### **44.3 Response to St Helena Commercial Fishermen's Association Petition Memo 18/2020 – Deputy Financial Secretary**

The Chairman introduced the memorandum and invited the Deputy Financial Secretary to give an overview. Key points raised from discussion were:

- A member stated that a full committee should have been convened, in light of the importance to the wider community and the decision being made for the future of the whole island. Nonetheless the Chairman stated EDC was still quorate.
- It was noted input on the memo had been given by the Deputy Financial Secretary and input on the petition advice note was given by the SHG officers who sit on EDC i.e. the Financial Secretary, Deputy Financial Secretary, Chief Economist and Director of ENRPD; the Chief Economist and Director of ENRPD were also involved in the MOU working group. In response to a query on how impartial this was to the options paper, the Chief Economist advised that EDC were at liberty to ignore the advice note altogether or propose alternative options.
- Officers' clarified, option 1b would mean that NEWCO would take over the Coldstore and that this subsidy, as set out in the financial implications section of the memo would not include fuel rebate.
- It was felt more work should have been carried out on the options, in order to have various alternatives to choose from rather than limiting to "agree or do not agree".
- The Chief Economist confirmed the current investment process is ongoing and has not been completed yet.
- It was felt the petition was mainly concerned about the process therefore SHG needs to ensure a proper process.
- Cllr Leo gave input to the meeting by reading a statement (see Annex A).

The Chairman called for a vote with the following results:

One member approved option 2;

One member approved option 2, excluding the words "Do not agree with the petition" and with the caveat of the inclusion of advice and recommendations contained in annex A;

One member proposed that an additional option 3 be explored, to include input from all stakeholders on sustainable fishing for the whole island and to ensure SHG is proceeding with a process that is fair and equitable.

This advice would now be given to Executive Council.

**Action: Chairman/Secretary**

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

Minutes Approved: .....  .....  
Chairman

Date: ..... 27-10-2020 .....