

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING (OPEN SESSION) HELD AT 09:00HRS ON
WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST 2020, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HEALTH DIRECTORATE**

Present:	Hon. Derek Thomas	Chairman	
	Hon. Anthony Green	Member	
	Hon. Russell Yon	"	
	Hon. Jeffrey Ellick	"	
	Mr. Edward Rayment	Director of Health	
	Mrs. Helen Lawrence	Deputy Director of Health	
	Mrs. Peta M Henry	Secretary	
Apologies:	Hon. Brian Isaac	Deputy Chairman (offshore)	
Invited:	Dr. Imran Hasan	Anesthetist	(item 34.03)
	Dr. Charles Laubscher	General Practitioner	(item 34.03)
	Ms. Vanessa Matthews	ICU Nurse	(item 34.03)
	Ms. Deborah Mosca	Nurse	(item 34.03)
	Ms. Chantelle Bosch	Nurse	(item 34.03)
	Mr. Kabelo Dipholo	Nurse	(item 34.03)
	Mr. Mngqobi Shude	Nurse	(item 34.03)
	Mr. Steve Dwyer	Biomedical Scientist	(item 34.03)
	Mr. Nicholas Yon	Assistant Financial Secretary	(item 34.06)
	Miss. Kate Heneghan	HP & Social Marketing Lead	(item 34.07)
	Mrs. Georgina Young	Snr. Env. Health Officer	(item 34.07)
	Mr. David Price	Chief Inspector	(item 34.07)
	Dr. Kamar Tanyan	Senior Medical Officer	(item 34.09)

OPEN AGENDA

34.01 Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present. A special welcome was extended to Cllr Russell Yon, who had recently been appointed a Member of Committee. It was noted that the Membership of Cllr Cruyff Buckley had been revoked due to his appointment as Chairman of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee (ENRC). Apologies were extended on behalf of Cllr Brian Isaac.

It was noted that there were no members of the public present for the meeting.

34.02 Declaration(s) of Interest

There were no 'declarations of interest'.

34.03 Introduction(s) to New Staff

Staff recruited as part of the Island's Covid-19 preparedness, were welcomed to the meeting, introduced to Committee and vice versa. They were invited to give an overview of their backgrounds and roles in St Helena. Much discussion followed. The Chairman advised that whilst the Island remained Covid-free, it was reassuring to have additional clinical support amidst a time of uncertainty. On behalf of Committee, all were wished well in their roles and left the meeting at 09:20hrs.

34.04 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the 'open' session of the Public Health Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 3 July 2020, were confirmed and signed.

**34.05 Matters Arising
Health & Safety**

The Chairman advised that there was nothing further to report by way of progress. He undertook, however, to raise at the next meeting of the IEG in view of the fact that Health & Safety was a matter affecting the whole of SHG. Committee agreed this course of action.

Action: Chairman

Primary Care Facility (Sundale)

Committee was informed that the relevant Room Data Sheets had been forwarded to ENRP, however, work had shortly thereafter been put on hold due to competing priorities; most associated with Covid-19 preparedness. The Senior Design Draughtsman/Surveyor had therefore agreed a meeting to kick-start the project was necessary and would be arranged within the week ahead.

Action: Secretary

National Health Insurance Scheme Project

The Chairman advised that ToR's for the Consultancy were being drafted by Corporate Services.

Proposed Amendment to Mental Health & Mental Capacity Ordinance

Committee was informed that from a legal perspective it appeared the relevant amendment/addition to Legislation was not as straight forward as previously thought. A paper from the AG's Chambers would therefore be forthcoming. Cllr Green undertook to keep-in-view/follow up if necessary.

Action: Cllr Green

Update - Visiting Delegation from Mauritius

It was confirmed that there was nothing further to report by way of progress.

Medical Referrals Data

It was noted that a Paper on Medical Referrals would be forthcoming.

Action: DoH

Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

Committee was informed that the Programme Manager was in the process of preparing a paper by way of an update, following discussion at the last PHC Meeting. This paper was expected within the week ahead. It was reported that whilst there had been some indication additional planning approval might become necessary, it was hoped design changes could be approved within the discretionary powers of Chief Planning Officer, Ismael Mahomed, at Environment Natural Resources & Planning (ENRP). Committee was informed that there had also been an indication that the new costing albeit incomplete, would fall in the region of +/- £23,000.00 and thereby enable the project to remain classified as a micro-project, eligible for funding under the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP).

Action: PM

34.06 Medical Fees & Charges

The Assistant FS was welcomed to the meeting. The Chairman gave an overview of the background to the subject-matter and commented on the options paper, subsequent discussions and recent advice from the AG's Chambers. He advised that regardless of the decision, there would inevitably be an impact on the wider SHG and in light of this, he had brought the matter to the attention of Executive Council. The Chairman informed Committee that Executive Council had subsequently assured of its support in ensuring local rates for all TC Officers/expatriate employees, whilst having recognised the potential loss in revenue. He advised that it was envisaged local rates would apply to medical treatment received on island only. Costs associated with a Medical referral/evacuation would have to be covered by an individual's Medical Insurance Policy. Much discussion followed. The proposal was supported by the majority of Committee Members. The Chairman therefore asked that the relevant Policy be amended and published with a view to implementation with effect from 1 September 2020. It was agreed this arrangement be reviewed within a six month period.

Action: DDoH

The Assistant FS left the meeting at 10:05hrs.

The Chairman advised that provision within the Policy for St Helenians stranded on island, to be eligible for local rates for a specified period, would also be advantageous in light of the situation faced by many due to Covid-19. Committee supported this. The DDoH undertook to arrange the necessary provision following advice from the AG's Chambers on the text to be used.

Action: DDoH

The Chairman undertook to contact the FS regarding the need for provision within the Quarantine Policy for recipients of BIP who might have been holidaying/stranded offshore. It was acknowledged that such individuals would return to St Helena and be required to undergo a period of quarantine for which they would be charged but quite possibly, unable to afford. Committee therefore agreed provision should be made for such individuals.

Action: Chairman

34.07 Tobacco Control Legislation (Supporting Regulations/Communications Strategy)

The HP&SML, SEHO and CI were welcomed to the meeting at 10:45hrs. The Chairman advised that buy-in from Committee was absolutely necessary to ensure the relevant Regulations were both agreed and progressed to Executive Council. The HP&SML talked Committee through composition of the drafting instructions presented. She undertook to prepare a proposal for fixed penalty fines for presentation at the next PHC meeting. This work would be done in liaison with the CI. On the subject of Student ID cards, the CI agreed these could be generated by the Police Directorate. On behalf of Committee, all were thanked for their attendance. Both the SEHO and CI left the meeting at 11:35hrs.

Action: HP&SML/CI

34.08 Health Promotion Update

Duty on Imports

The HP&SML talked Committee through content of the PHC Discussion Paper (Duty on Fruit Juices) that had been submitted at the last PHC meeting. Much discussion followed. Committee agreed there was an evident need for the public to be educated on the sugar content of various products, moving forward. It was agreed a meeting with merchants would also be advantageous, as would a radio interview on sugar tax and the reasons for this. The HP&SML undertook to facilitate these avenues of communication.

Action: HP&SML

The HP&SML gave an overview of the tax-related work being undertaken in liaison with the Economic Development Committee (EDC) and HM Customs, which she explained, would aid formulation of a comprehensive paper for presentation to Committee in due course. This document would aim to evoke tax-related change in an informed manner. Committee supported this work. The HP&SML was thereafter thanked for her attendance and left the meeting at 12:00hrs.

34.09 Drivers Licence for Over 70's

The SMO was welcomed to the meeting. Cllr Yon gave an overview of the reasons for the agenda item and commented on the Review of Driving Guidelines that had been undertaken by Dr Kevin O'Brien (GP) in September 2016, for submission to the Highway Authority. He informed Committee that a review of the Road Traffic Regulations and relevant forms had now become necessary and in light of this, the Highway Authority had asked whether the Health Directorate could assist in streamlining forms pertaining to the Application for Drivers Licences. The SMO undertook to arrange this with a view to providing feedback and revised forms at the PHC meeting to be held in October 2020. She supported the proposal for the current 1 Year licence approval being extended. Following much discussion, the SMO was thanked for her attendance. She left the meeting 12:10hrs.

Action: SMO

34.10 Chairman's Update

The Chairman advised that there was nothing of significance to report. He commented, however, on the need for papers for Committee meetings to be both prepared and circulated as soon as possible.

34.11 Director's Update

Upcoming Table-Top Exercise

The DoH informed Committee of the table-top exercise that had been scheduled for Thursday, 6 August 2020. He advised that the responsibility for Bronze 5 (Self Isolation Community Care) had been reassigned to Victoria Kellett; having been undertaken by the HP&SML (Kate Heneghan), since her arrival on St Helena in February 2020. It was acknowledged that whilst there was yet much to be done in finalising various strategies etc, the exercise would be advantageous in highlighting gaps and any additional documentation necessary.

34.12 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no business for discussion under this classification.

There being no further business for discussion, the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the 'open' session of the meeting at 12:35hrs.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

16 Sept 2020