

**Memorandum for Education and Employment Committee**

**SUBJECT**

**St. Helena Charitable Scholarship Trust**

Memorandum by Mrs Wendy Benjamin - Director

**ADVICE SOUGHT**

1. Initial steps were taken some years back to establish a Scholarship Trust for the purpose of supporting opportunities for the people of St. Helena to access scholarships. Given that some time has passed since then and circumstances on St. Helena have changes members of the Education and Employment Committee are asked to review the proposed documentation in relation to the establishment of the Trust and give guidance on the following:
  - 1a) Should the Trust still remain open to all St. Helenians?
  - 1b) Should the Trust remain open to all St. Helenians with the condition that PAS students be given priority?
  - 1c) Should the Trust be solely for PAS students and be called the PAS Scholarship Trust.
  - 2) The number of members of the Trust and also the make up of the Trust members. Are all in agreement with the current make up or should any member be changed or deleted.
  - 3) Should the Trust still report to the Education and Employment Committee so that the Committee has oversight of administering the trust?
  - 4) What will happen to the funds of the Trust in the event of a dissolution.
  - 5) Should the Trust be a charity or can it be an ordinary organisation.
  - 6) The decision to bring all of the business of the Trust under one body rather than having two different bodies to manage the business of scholarships

**BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS**

2. The Education and Employment Directorate has been responsible for the promotion and management of the Scholarship Awards Scheme for a number of years. During this time funding has been allocated within the directorate's recurrent budget from St. Helena Government for this specific purpose under a specified Cost Centre.

In recent years there has been an increase in the numbers of students who are eligible and interested in gaining a scholarship. However, in recent years there have also been competing budget priorities and as a result there has been a reduction in the funding that is able to be allocated to scholarships due to competing directorate priorities. Reduced funding limits the number of scholarships that can be

offered.

The Education and Employment Directorate propose to introduce a Scholarship Trust with the intention of seeking funding streams outside of St. Helena Government to increase the scholarship budget and in turn the number of places available for students aspiring to higher education.

The proposed Constitution of the St. Helena Scholarship Trust is the first step in establishing this organisation.

**FINANCIAL  
IMPLICATIONS**

3. It is anticipated that St. Helena Government will still allocated a sum of money on an annual basis from the recurrent budget to the Trust. However, if outside funding can also be secured this will alleviate pressures on the directorate's budget and provide for more scholarship placements.

**ECONOMIC  
IMPLICATIONS**

4. The directorate sees the importance of higher education to the sustainable economic development of the island and would see the establishment of the Trust as supporting this.

**CONSISTENCY  
WITH  
INVESTMENT  
POLICY  
PRINCIPLES**

5. n/a

**PUBLIC / SOCIAL  
IMPACT**

6. It is anticipated that this will have a positive impact as the community of St. Helena will have evidence of education supporting the aspirations of our people.

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT**

7. n/a

**PREVIOUS  
CONSULTATION /  
COMMITTEE  
INPUT**

8. This constitution will replace the current Scholarship Awards Policy.

**PUBLIC  
REACTION**

9. It is anticipated that there will be positive reaction to this constitution.

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**PUBLICITY**

10. This document will involve and be shared with key stakeholders as and when required. Updates will be made public via reports to Education and Employment Committee.

**SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

11. This paper supports the National Goal 2. ALTOGETHER BETTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE and ALTOGETHER WEALTHIER

**LINK TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS**

Goal 8 – Develop, maintain and attract a skilled workforce.

**OPEN /CLOSED AGENDA ITEM**

OPEN

***DATE OF MEMO***

12 January 2021

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