



## Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

**Date:** 22 April 2021

**Venue:** Council Chamber

**Time:** 09.00 am

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	Hon Lawson Henry
	<b>Members:</b>	Hon Gavin Ellick Hon Clint Beard Hon Cyril Leo Hon Miss Christine Scipio Chief Economist, Mrs Nicole Shamier
	<b>Secretary</b>	Miss Anita Legg
<b>In Attendance:</b>		Senior Economist, Mrs Amanda Curry Brown Investment Coordinator, Miss Melissa Fowler (Item 53.3)
<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>Members:</b>	Director of ENRP Portfolio, Mr Darren Duncan

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **53.1      Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting. No members of the public were present. Apologies were received from the Director of ENRP Portfolio.

#### **53.2      Declaration of Personal Interest**

No personal interests were declared.

#### **53.3      Introduction to New Investment Coordinator, Miss Melissa Fowler – Chief Economist**

The Chief Economist introduced the new Investment Coordinator as the first new person to start in the Sustainable Development team under the new portfolio. The Investment Coordinator gave an overview of her duties, which included: making sure the process for the fish processing plant runs smoothly, reevaluating SHG's strategic assets in the Investor Prospectus and helping people to achieve investor status. On behalf of EDC, the Chairman welcomed Melissa and wished her well.

Members noted there were different types of challenges in gaining investor status on island, such as gaining access to land, insufficient legal support and in relation to overseas investors, simply getting through the process therefore the troubleshooting role of the Investment Coordinator should prove very helpful. Local investors mainly require assistance with business cases and support is given in areas, such as tax issues rather than actual writing of plans however members felt the way these

plans are handled need to be reviewed. The CE explained that costs depends on how detailed a plan might be.

In terms of land issues the digital registry needs to come online, plus the Haul Road has also opened up huge potential space, whilst keeping in mind SHG's particular needs. The CE advised an update was awaited from AWSML on whether they could carry passengers to the island however the alternative for investors was the flight route.

The CE then presented an organogram and explained the different members of the team. The Visitor Information Service was not yet fully operational thus one of the issues involved how to get information to yachts in the interim therefore members suggested a notice should be placed on the Wharf Notice Board or through the Harbour Master. Solomon & Company, as a registered DMC had already placed a notice on the Canister door advertising their services and information was also in the Post Office.

**Action: Chief Economist**

The Chairman thanked the Chief Economist for keeping the committee updated.

#### **53.4      Labour Market Strategy 2020 Year End Progress Report – Senior Economist**

The Senior Economist provided an update on the Labour Market Strategy, indicating that a number of programmatic targets were accomplished during the first year of the strategy's implementation. The strategy often does not stand alone but is completed as part of other SHG activities. Recruitment for the Career Access St Helena (CASH) manager would be completed soon and Members felt the right accommodation was important. Members also noted the importance of communicating with the public when CASH is launched and available to provide services.

EDC expressed disappointment with the TC ring-fenced budget allocation in terms of localisation thus it was agreed this should be raised in the Finance Committee.

**Action: Hon Clint Beard**

A member queried, in relation to CASH, whether progress had been made on the 3-day work scheme however this discussion would need to be referred to the Head of Human Resources.

**Action: Senior Economist**

#### **Post Meeting Note:**

The Head of Human Resources advised she was unaware that additional funding has been found for this scheme or that members were waiting for HR to progress for implementation. No one had been in contact with HR to ask for the scheme to be run again.

The next progress report covering accomplishments for the first half of 2021 would be completed later this year however this matter now falls under the Education & Employment Committee thus would be reviewed by that committee.

The Chairman thanked the Senior Economist for this important piece of work.

#### **53.5      Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 25 February 2021**

The minutes of the open meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **53.6 Matters Arising**

### **53.6.1 Investment Policy and Investment Strategy Update**

It was confirmed the Investment Strategy and Investment Policy had been presented to Executive Council and endorsed. A press release had also been issued.

### **53.6.2 Declaration of Quarantine**

The Director of ENRPD updated EDC that although the Senior Medical Officer had requested the Senior Veterinary Officer to quarantine the dogs on an occasion recently, to check whether there was a need to continue this practice, the SMO had not recommended for a protocol to be established for this practice, as a necessary Covid-19 requirement going forward.

### **53.6.3 Economic Development Committee Self-Assessment Checklist**

It was confirmed, the suggested amendments to the Council Committee (Rules of Procedure) Order, had been taken forward by the Deputy Chief Secretary.

### **53.6.4 Sugar Tax Review**

The Senior Economist advised work on this issue had started and would be brought back to EDC in due course. Members felt there was a need to ensure the health benefits but also that prices should not be abused.

**Action: Senior Economist**

The Secretary was still to invite the Airport Accountable Manager to the next meeting to discuss the imports of fruit.

**Action: Secretary**

### **53.6.5 Options for the Re-supply of Chicks for Egg Production**

The Director of ENRPD reported that although it is possible to import fertilised eggs from the UK (albeit at a higher cost per production of pullet, when compared to day-old chicks) to produce parent stock, from which pullets can be produced, this will take a year before eggs can be produced for sale. An associated issue is that there is no interest from Roddy's Chicken Farm for commercial incubation of eggs for pullet production.

**Action: Director of ENRPD**

### **53.6.6 Port Regulations**

**Action: Deputy Financial Secretary – Ongoing**



**53.6.7 Draft Policy for Communications Networks and Services**

**Action: Chairman/ Chief Economist – Ongoing**

**53.6.8 Company Registry Policy**

**Action: Chairman/ Chief Economist – Ongoing**

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

Minutes Approved: L. A. Henry

Chairman

Date: 27-05-21