

OPEN AGENDA

Memorandum for Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT

Declaration of Quarantine

Memorandum by Portfolio Director of ENRP

ADVICE SOUGHT

The Economic Development Committee is asked to endorse the request to declare the Quarantine Station at Ruperts to be a Quarantine Area for the period 16th August 2021 to 3 September 2021 inclusive.

BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS

1. On the 16th August 2021 a dog will arrive on the MV Helena from Cape Town, South Africa. The dog will have been flown down to South Africa from the UK having completed our required veterinary biosecurity certification, and transferred by agent to the port to complete their export to St Helena.
2. Dogs that travel from the UK having completed our St Helenian certification are not required under the Animal (Diseases) Ordinance and Regulations to comply with quarantine. However, in cooperation with the Health Directorate a request is being made to quarantine the dog for up to 14 days as a precaution against the passive transmission of the Covid-19 (SARS-Cov-2) on its coat. This may or may not include the period of the sea voyage, as permitted under the latest version of the Public Health Ordinance, Public Health (Prevention of Formidable Diseases) Regulations 2020, and that will be a decision made by the Senior Medical Officer.
3. Dogs are not active transmitters of the virus, but may transmit it passively. It is felt that this is also important from the point of view of public perception. The dog has been swabbed for Covid-19 in the UK, and will again be swabbed at the end of its quarantine period.
4. As per Regulation 13 (1) of the Animal (Diseases) Regulations, Animal (Diseases) Ordinance, the EDC is being asked to declare the SHG Ruperts Quarantine station a Quarantine Area for the period 16th August 2021 to the 1 September 2021, so that it can be gazetted. Information for the Gazette Notice is attached at Annex A.
5. A request such as the above was made by the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning (ENRP) Directorate on 27 January 2021 and endorsed by EDC at their 28 January 2021 meeting, in order to quarantine two dogs which arrived from the UK.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Normal quarantine costs will apply to ENRP to manage the quarantine requirement and costs would be recovered from the animal owner as per the SHG quarantine fees and charges.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

7. NA.

CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

8. This Paper requests a decision to be made to declare the Ruperts Quarantine Station to be a 'Quarantine Area' as per the provisions of the Animals (Diseases) Regulations and therefore supports the principle:

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‘Promote fair, consistent and transparent decision making’.

**PUBLIC / SOCIAL
IMPACT**

9. The undergoing of quarantine for the dog will support SHG’s measures to prevent Covid-19 reaching St Helena.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT**

10. NA.

**PREVIOUS
CONSULTATION /
COMMITTEE INPUT**

11. None thus far, apart from discussion with the Senior Medical Officer who has helped to inform the request to quarantine the dog.

PUBLIC REACTION

12. Would expect a positive reaction in respect of SHG taking precautions to prevent Covid-19 reaching the St Helena Community.

PUBLICITY

13. Publicity will be undertaken through SHG Quarantine Gazette Notice.

**SUPPORT TO
STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES**

14. The paper supports the following National Goal
“Altogether Healthier”.

**LINK TO
SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
GOALS**

15. NA.

DD

**OPEN /CLOSED
AGENDA ITEM**

Recommended for the Open Agenda.

DATE OF MEMO

15 /7/2021

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