



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 27 May 2021

Venue: Council Chamber

Time: 09.00 am

Present: **Chairman** Hon Lawson Henry
 Members: Hon Gavin Ellick
 Hon Clint Beard
 Hon Cyril Leo
 Hon Miss Christine Scipio
 Director of ENRP Portfolio, Mr Darren Duncan
 Head of Sustainable Development, Mr Damian Burns

Secretary Miss Anita Legg

In Attendance: Senior Veterinary Officer, Mr Joe Hollins (Item 55.3)
 Agricultural Development Officer, Miss Andrea Timm (Item 55.3)

Apologies: Members: Chief Economist, Mrs Nicole Shamier

OPEN SESSION

55.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting. No members of the public were present. Apologies were received from the Chief Economist who was on overseas annual leave.

55.2 Declaration of Personal Interest

Cllr Scipio declared her interest in regards to her father being a registered part time farmer and Cllr Beard declared his interest with regards to procuring goods.

55.3 Amendment to Agricultural Water Subsidy Policy, ENRP Memo 5/2021 – Director, ENRP Portfolio

The Portfolio Director introduced the memo advising that the Policy had been updated bringing the subsidy in line with the equivalent increases by Connect SH Ltd.

Members noted the increased cost fell within the £5,000 allocation from the Agricultural Support budget, although it was acknowledged this could increase if there was a dry season. No work had been undertaken to understand the drop in claims from farmers but could be due to the claims procedure which some farmer's felt was tedious, or the large amount of rain that had fallen this

year. The annual cap on the amount of subsidy a producer receives was determined on the overall budget.

In response to a specific question, officers advised they had not received any complaints from tenants in the Ropery Field area.

EDC supported and endorsed the proposed changes to the Agricultural Water Subsidy Policy.

Action: Portfolio Director, ENRP

55.4 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 22 April 2021

The minutes of the open meeting held on 22nd April 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

55.5 Matters Arising

55.5.1 Introduction to New Investment Coordinator

CLlr Leo passed his thanks to the Investment Coordinator, through the Head of Sustainable Development, in regards to an Investor.

55.5.2 Sugar Tax Review

It was noted the Senior Economist had completed some initial analysis addressing members concerns raised around the sugar tax. However members still needed to understand all of the elements, including the costs around these commodities and how it transfers into the price to the consumer therefore it was agreed to hold a wider discussion on this matter in due course, in closed session.

Action: Senior Economist

Discussion with the Airport Accountable Manager to discuss more regular imports of fresh fruit, in relation to Airlink flights, would be arranged in due course, also in closed session.

Action: Secretary

55.5.3 Options for the Re-supply of Chicks for Egg Production

The Agricultural Development Officer provided an update, advising that local production of eggs was still quite low therefore merchants have realised they need to import eggs in the interim. Day old chicks was considered the most economic scheme however the Senior Veterinary Officer made EDC aware that it is generally understood it was the pandemic that caused the hiatus in the supply of chicks.

In terms of incubating eggs en-route on the MV Helena, it was noted there were practical issues and the charge would be huge therefore the best system is incubation on island causing a steady trickle into the market. Informal discussions had taken place with producers on a way forward but only one producer had shown interest in incubating and only on a small scale.

55.5.4 Port Regulations

Action: Deputy Financial Secretary – Ongoing

55.5.5 Draft Policy for Communications Networks and Services

Action: Chairman/ Chief Economist – Ongoing

55.5.6 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:
Chairman

Date: 24-06-2021

