



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 24 June 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 Head of Sustainable Development, Mr Damian Burns Senior Economist, Mrs Amanda Curry Brown
	Secretary	Miss Anita Legg
In Attendance:		FCDO Development Attaché, Governor's Office, Mr Daniel Rodgett
Apologies:	Members:	Director of ENRP Portfolio, Mr Darren Duncan Chief Economist, Mrs Nicole Shamier

OPEN SESSION

57.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting. One member of the public was present. Apologies were received from the Director of ENRP Portfolio who was attending another meeting and the Chief Economist who was on overseas leave.

57.2 Declaration of Personal Interest

Cllr Beard declared his interest with regards to procuring goods. No other personal interests were declared.

57.3 Update on Sugar Tax Impacts – Senior Economist

The Health Promotion Lead had given a presentation in September 2020 at the Kingshurst Community Center on some analysis and as a result of members asking for more detailed information, the Senior Economist presented information on the impacts of changes to the sugar tax since 2017/18.

Members were appreciative of the data presented but would have liked for it to be trailed further back in years. It was noted however this would require Customs to extract files from the Asycuda system for review and it was unknown how long this would take. Another area where assistance was

needed to draw data from Asycuda, related to concerns in the community over the £1 tax increase in fruit juices, as the analysis presented did not include fruit juices, nor a comparison with imports of fresh fruit.

In terms of health impacts, EDC were advised that data needs to be collected over a longer period, as sugar beverages was just one factor contributing to diabetes etc. Members felt it would also be interesting to see a wider health change study, following trends over 10 years and factoring in other aspects such as exercise. However EDC noted discussions were ongoing with the Dentist as this would show some quicker impacts. The Senior Economist was requested to look at behavioural changes, since the sugar tax was introduced and also following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members noticed that bottled water had now increased significantly in price but acknowledged there was no control over prices, as reduction in taxes does not always filter through to the shops. Increased freight rates would also have some impact. In a related issue EDC noted that water imports, in terms of recycling plastic bottles, has negative impacts and is unsustainable, this would need a change in policy going forward.

The Chairman thanked the Senior Economist and noted it was unlikely any further work would be completed in this term of Council. The Senior Economist would continue to work with the Health Promotion Lead to address specific questions identified as a priority by the new Council.

Action: Senior Economist

57.4 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 27 May 2021

The minutes of the open meeting held on 27th May 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

57.5 Matters Arising

57.5.1 Amendment to Agricultural Water Subsidy Policy – Director, ENRP Portfolio

The Director had reported this would be implemented with subsidy claims arriving at ENRP for payment, for the first quarter of 2021.

57.5.2 Import of Fresh Fruit

Discussion with the Airport on more regular imports of fresh fruit, in relation to Airlink flights, would be arranged in due course. More clarity was needed and the Secretary would liaise with the Chief Economist and the Head of Civil Aviation.

Action: Secretary

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

There was no further update on this matter however EDC noted the press release that had been issued on the Avian Influenza outbreak in South Africa.

57.5.4 Port Regulations

Action: Deputy Financial Secretary – Ongoing

57.5.5 Draft Policy for Communications Networks and Services

Action: Chairman/ Chief Economist – Ongoing

57.5.6 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: 26-07-21.....

