



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 26 July 2021

Venue: Council Chamber

Time: 09.30 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 Chief Economist, Mrs Nicole Shamier
	Secretary	Miss Anita Legg
In Attendance:		FCDO Development Attaché, Governor's Office, Mr Daniel Rodgett Agricultural Development Officer, Miss Andrea Timm (Item 59.4) Head of Visitor Information Service, Mr Matthew Joshua – (Item 59.3) Marketing Manager, Miss Emma Weaver (Item 59.3)

OPEN SESSION

59.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and announced this was the last EDC meeting of this Council. No members of the public were present.

59.2 Declaration of Personal Interest

Cllr Scipio declared her interest in regards to her father being a registered part time farmer. No other personal interests were declared.

59.3 Introduction to Head of Visitor Information Service and Marketing Manager – Head of Sustainable Development

The Head of Sustainable Development introduced the new Head of Visitor Information Service, Matthew Joshua and Marketing Manager, Emma Weaver, who provided an update on current activities and what was intended to take place within the next 9-12 months.

The approach from the Head of Visitor Information Service was in 3 main strands i.e. the Diaspora, Armchair Tourism Campaign and keeping the Tour Operators up to date. EDC appreciated the difficult task ahead in terms of the pandemic.

In response to concerns, Mr Joshua advised, the Tourist office had been open for the past 6 weeks and information packs were also being left at the Yacht Club. With regards to any elements that had been moved across from ESH, EDC noted that historical tour operators were being targeted in order to keep them engaged. The website was also being updated for tourists to be better directed to St Helena. Members expressed concern in relation to Covid-19 however noted that the island was preparing for the occasion when tourists do arrive, whilst still ensuring the timing is right.

The Marketing Manager updated on marketing activities, which included the completion of a digital marketing plan. EDC was advised that no requests had been received from digital nomads as yet and consideration would still be given to making St Helena part of a dual destination, through Johannesburg and Capetown.

The Chairman thanked officers and wished them well; they then left the meeting.

59.4 Declaration of Quarantine, Memo No 7/2021 – Portfolio Director, ENRP

EDC were asked to endorse the request to declare the Quarantine Station at Ruperts, as a Quarantine Area for the period 16th August 2021 to 3 September 2021 inclusive. The Director stated this was similar to a previous request, to quarantine a dog arriving from the UK via the MV Helena on the 16th August 2021. The dog had met its basic paperwork requirements but the quarantine was in relation to passive transmission of Covid-19, as a precautionary measure requested by the Health Directorate.

It was queried why the previous concerns to IEG had not been considered i.e. whether animals should be allowed into the island during the pandemic and Members reiterated they were not happy to continue approving quarantine requests. The Director was therefore tasked to write to the Health Directorate for further information before a decision could be taken. The Director should also ask for Health to consult with IEG to ascertain whether it continues to be safe to bring animals to the island and for a proper protocol to be drawn up going forward. The Chairman also agreed to write to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee.

EDC agreed to give approval via email, once more information had been received.

Action: Chairman/Portfolio Director, ENRP

59.5 Fishing Licences Policy Amendment – Portfolio Director, ENRP

The Director presented a paper to EDC to agree the wording for two amendments, to be made to the 2020 Fishing Licencing Policy. As a result of endorsement of the new Fisheries Bill by EDC and Executive Council, amendment was required to the Policy to include the prohibition of transshipment of fish catch at sea in St Helena waters, as per the ICCAT recommendation of June 2017.

The next amendment was in regards to the inclusion of a research fishing licence that could be issued for research, scientific or educational purposes for those fish species that are not listed as

protected species in Schedule 2 to the Environmental Protection Ordinance 2016. A grey area was highlighted under the High Seas Ordinance.

Subject to a change of wording under transshipment, EDC endorsed both amendments, to form part of the policy.

Action: Portfolio Director, ENRP

59.6 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 24 June 2021

The minutes of the open meeting held on 24th June 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

59.7 Matters Arising

59.7.1 Update on Sugar Tax Impacts

Action: Chief/Senior Economist – Ongoing

59.7.2 Import of Fresh Fruit

The Chief Economist would take this forward internally with the Head of Civil Aviation.

59.7.3 Port Regulations

Action: Financial Secretary – Ongoing

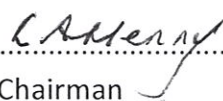
59.7.4 Draft Policy for Communications Networks and Services

Action: Chairman/ Chief Economist – Ongoing

59.7.5 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: 02-08-21

