No: 01/2021

GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL MEETING

Open/Closed Session: Open Session

Subject: Development Application for a proposed development of a Satellite Earth Station Facility at Horse Point Plain, Bottom Woods.

Presented by: Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio.

Decision Sought:

Governor in Council is asked to consider and advise whether Full Development Permission should be granted, with Conditions, for the proposed development of a Satellite Earth Station Facility at Horse Point Plain, Bottom Woods as recommended by the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA).

A Report by the Chief Planning Officer is attached – Annex A and A(i).

Reason for Referral:

This Development Application is being referred to Governor in Council in accordance with Section 23(2)(b)(i) of the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance 2013, as the grant of development permission must be considered as a departure from the Land Development Control Plan Coastal Zone and Natural Heritage policies.

The proposed development is within Coastal Zone policy area and is not directly related to tourism activity or can be classified as being essential infrastructure, and the application site is also within a designated National Conservation Area. However, it also needs to be acknowledged that the policies do allow for development in such areas if it can be demonstrated that it provides economic benefits to the Island. Economic benefits will arise from local spend through increased employment activity for the project, during construction and raw materials through local procurement. Post development economic benefits include increased revenue for the St Helena Government through lease of land and licence fees, benefits to internet users, opportunities for further investment on the Island through internet and bandwidth improvement and the upward cycle of economic benefits that can result from improved connectivity.

CLS
Minister, Environmental, Natural Resources & Planning

3 December 2021