

EXCO TOP LINES – WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER 2021

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

- **Council advised that full Development Permission should be granted, with conditions, for the proposed development of a Satellite Earth Station at Horse Point, as recommended by the Land Development Control Authority.**

At the Meeting

- This paper was presented by the Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Planning, the Hon Christine Scipio, with the Acting Chief Planning Officer and the Chief Environmental Officer also present
- An addendum report had been circulated which addressed the various concerns that the Governor-in-Council had raised when the development application was tabled on 9 December 2021
- The addendum report confirmed that:
 - Connect Saint Helena would be able to provide power requirement for the development;
 - due to the distance between the proposed site and the quarries, the developer had advised it was unlikely that any blasting activities would have a negative impact on the development;
 - an image of the proposed chain link fencing was included in the report;
 - no information had been able to be found to ascertain whether radio wave frequencies would have any impact on wildlife (that had not been identified as a risk in the Environmental Impact Assessment; and finally,
 - with regard to other sites considered for the development, Horse Point was the preferred site based on technical, social and environmental criteria
- Members had undertaken their own research regarding any potential impact on wildlife by radio wave frequencies but could not find any data about this. They were therefore content to accept that this was not a risk but would address any currently unforeseen impacts that might arise in the future
- Revised conditions for approval of the application were explained by the Acting Chief Planning Officer and some further amendments were agreed in order to strengthen the protection of the environment
- A condition of approval relating to a 'walk over' of the development site by the developer with a specialist nature conservation professional to assess the ecological conditions, was strengthened to ensure that in the event of any new species being found which might be affected by the development no work would be permitted on the development site without the prior approval of the Chief Planning Officer and Chief Environmental Officer
- Members unanimously agreed that full development permission, with the revised conditions, should be granted, noting the benefits that the development would bring to the Island

Documentation for this application is available online here:

<https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/legislative-council/executive-council/>