

## **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TOP LINES – TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2022**

### **Land Planning and Development Control Applications for Referral to Governor in Council**

- **Executive Council advised that the directions issued by Governor in Council in April 2014 in accordance with Section 23(1) of the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance, 2013 regarding the categories of Development Applications that must be referred to the Governor in Council (GiC), should be updated and re-issued under Section 23(1) of the abovementioned Ordinance.**

### **At the meeting**

- The paper was presented by the Minister for Environment, Natural Resources & Planning, Christine Scipio
- The current Directions to the Chief Planning Officer regarding Development Control Applications for referral to Governor in Council had not been reviewed since 2014 and are not realistic to development today
- The intention of the updated Directions Letter is to streamline Development Applications coming to Executive Council so that Ministers are not dealing with non-strategic matters
- Certain Development Applications would still continue to come to Executive Council such as those relating to heritage conservation areas of more than one acre or proposed changes to listed buildings but other applications such as signage should be dealt with by the Land Development Control Authority
- The new Directions to the Chief Planning Officer states that 'In accordance with section 23(1) of the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance, 2013, the Governor in Council DIRECTS the Chief Planning Officer to refer to the Governor in Council all applications for development permission (excluding such development, whether requiring prior approval or not,) that is described in the Land Planning General Development Order 2013 (section 16(2)) which propose:-
  1. The development of land of five acres or more in area;
  2. The development of land covered by water;
  3. The development of land (excluding street furniture installations and signage) within fifty metres of the sea;
  4. The development of land of one acre or more which includes a listed building or is within a Heritage Conservation Area;
  5. Mining or other development involving the mining or other exploitation of minerals;
  6. The development of facilities for the disposal of waste materials;
  7. Development of land for:
    - (a) New metalled roads for public adoption; or

(b) Utilities infrastructure for public supply, and whether in public or private ownership (including potable water, sewerage, electricity generation, electricity distribution and telecommunications); or  
(c) Public, private or commercial satellite ground stations and astronomical observation facilities.

8. The development of land which are (or are proposed to be) used for –  
(a) The provision of health care institutions, whether in public or private ownership, to provide health services; and  
(b) The custody of persons sentenced or ordered by a court to be imprisoned or otherwise detained, whether for a fixed period or indefinitely or otherwise for purposes connected with the administration of justice or emergency services.

- Reference to Capital Programme Projects which no longer exist were removed
- Ministers discussed the proposed revised Directions Letter and requested that the reference relating to *The development of land (excluding street furniture installations and signage) within fifty metres of the sea* be amended to also include safety/life-saving equipment if not already included in the General Development Order. The Attorney General agreed to check the Order and also suggest an appropriate form of wording
- There was discussion around whether applications relating to proposed development around major hazardous areas should also come to ExCo. Ministers did not feel that ExCo was the right forum to provide this advice. Minister Scipio agreed to ensure that the internal processes are robust when consulting with key stakeholders
- It was noted that as the Island develops these Directions can change
- The Acting Governor accepted Ministers' recommendation to approve the Directions which goes some way in making the Island more investor friendly in terms of development.

### **Application to Conduct Scientific Research on St Helena**

- **Executive Council approved the Application to conduct Scientific Research on St Helena from Andreanna Cunningham, doctoral student at the University of Florida titled “Biocultural intersections of Trans-Atlantic and Indian Ocean Slave Trade Migration Routes”, as recommended by the St Helena Research Council**
- **Executive Council confirmed the Conditions attached to the application as outlined by the St Helena Research Council**

- The paper was presented by the Chief Minister and Minister for Education, Skills & Employment Julie Thomas supported by Dr Rebecca Cairnswicks from the St Helena Research Council
- Ministers recognised that the proposed research topic is a highly emotive subject on St Helena
- Ministers were advised that the Research Council had approached the Liberated African Advisory Committee and the Museum of St Helena regarding the application, both of who recognised the value of this research and the benefits and opportunities for gain for St Helena
- Ministers made clear that the research should not delay the internment of the liberated Africans in any way and wanted to be sure that the human remains were not caused any further disturbance
- It was recognised that the researcher would therefore have a very short time frame in which to work in and would only be able to access what is available at the time they are on-Island
- It was noted that this proposed research was different to previous research carried out and would look at facial reconstruction comparing what people looked like then to what people looked like now. This would be a more valuable piece of research for the Island in terms of our identity
- Ministers requested that the raw data be made available to St Helena Government
- The Acting Governor accepted Ministers' recommendation to the St Helena Research Council that the Application to be approved.

**ExCo**  
**8 February 2022**