

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
ANNE FRENCH ROOM
31st January 2017
0930 hours

PRESENT:

Mr J Dent, Chairman
 Mrs N Paris
 Mr G McKinley
 Mr M Birmingham
 Mr L Jean
 Mr I Tugby
 Mr A Barnes
 Mr M Dean
 Mr A Snowden

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr W V Brownlees, Chief Executive (CE)
 Mrs S Pengilley-Price, EO to the Chief Executive (SP)
 Mr P Veron, Economic Development Officer (PV)
 Mrs K A Hatcher-Gaudion, Treasurer (KG)
 Mr J Young, Planning Officer
 Mr A Bray, Technical Services Officer

Apologies: Mrs L Baines, Minute Secretary (LB), Mr S Roberts

In Attendance: Mr J Massam, PWC, for agenda item 04/2017 only.

ACTION

01/2017 **New Air Routes for Alderney** – Report from Malcolm Matthews, Air Transport Adviser and Economic Development Officer dated 25th January 2017 tabled and noted. Mrs Paris registered an interest in this matter.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved by a majority (Mrs Paris abstained) to:-

1. Agree in principle that the Wessex Aviation proposal be confirmed as the favoured bidder for the proposed new air routes;
2. Agree in principle for an approved sum to be used in 2017 from the Economic Development Fund to incentivise the new routes as set out in the above paper; and
3. Direct the Chief Executive to progress all necessary work to enable final proposals for the new air routes, including budget costs, to be submitted to Policy & Finance Committee for consideration at the earliest opportunity.

CE/PV

02/2017 **Air Transport Licensing (Exemption of Air Taxi Services) (Alderney) Regulations, 2017** – Report from Economic Development Officer dated 25th January 2017 tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved unanimously to:

- a. approve the “Air Transport Licensing (Exemption of Air Taxi Services) (Alderney) Regulations, 2017” with immediate effect, and for these to be put before a meeting of the full States of Alderney as soon as possible; and
- b. to place an amended air transport policy statement before the next meeting of the States for approval.

CE/Billet Item

03/2017 **Community Skills Register** – Paper tabled and noted.
 Resolved unanimously to revive the Community Skills Register and advertise widely on island via the radio and the press, so that a register of skills and skills may be accessed by States Officers. Mr Dean and Mr Snowden to lead on this issue.

MD/AS

04/2017 **ACRE/ARE/FABLink**

4.1 FABLink Fact Sheet – Report from Chief Executive dated 31st January 2017 tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee agreed by a majority (Mr Jean and Mr Tugby against) to:-

- 1) Note the findings contained within the ‘fact sheet’;
- 2) Instruct the Chief Executive to retain PwC to assist in any further discussions and/or negotiations in respect of both the FABLink project and the separate licensing and commercial arrangements with ARE. Such assistance to be limited to legal and technical issues, leaving planning related matters to the States planning consultants (ARUP);
- 3) To approve an initial budget (to include the costs to date for the preparation of the fact sheet).

CE

4.2 ACRE & ARE – Report from Chief Executive dated 17th January 2017 tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved unanimously:-

1. That the Chief Executive is authorised to conclude the final text of the restructured documents with the Law Officers and to sign and properly execute the agreements with ARE on behalf of the States;
2. That further proposals are brought back to the Committee in respect of an appointment to the statutory ACRE role; and
3. That options are brought back for extending the Commissioner role to encompass oversight of other matters including proposals for any amending legislation required.

CE

4.3 ARE – Payment of Block Fees – Report from Chief Executive dated 17th January 2017 tabled and noted. The Policy & Finance Committee considered in detail the issues relating to the existing commercial agreement between ACRE and ARE, including the performance of ARE under the terms of that agreement.

The Committee resolved by a majority (Mr Birmingham abstained; Mr Tugby against) to:

- a. investigate more fully the finance aspects of the commercial agreement and loan arrangement between ACRE and ARE with a view to maximising Alderney’s return; and
- b. in the meantime to instruct ACRE to enforce fully the terms of those agreements and arrangements and take all necessary action to protect the position of the States of Alderney. Given that ARE is now in default of certain obligations the Committee reserved its rights to renegotiate the commercial agreements with ARE and also with FABLink. To this end the Committee has invited the Chief Executive of Open-Hydro France to come and speak to the people of Alderney. The Committee noted that the Chief Executive of Open-Hydro wished that Alderney must obtain a profitable agreement.

It was noted that it is the intention of the Policy and Finance Committee, in due course, to make public any revisions/amendments to these commercial agreements.

CE

4.4 Planning Matters – Advice on changes to legislation and the process to be followed tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee agreed that the BDCC planning process should follow the LUP process, which has already been put in motion, with P&F continuing to act consistently with the Law Officers and ARUP advice, in support of BDCC decisions.

05/2017 Agenda Resolutions – Confirmation

06/2017 Any Other Business

6.1 Health Review Report – Noted.

Resolved for the Chairman to request the President to call an extra meeting of the full States of Alderney to fully debate this matter, prior to the scheduled meeting in March.

JD

Meeting closed: 15.20pm

Signed: James Dent

Date: 1st February 2017.