

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
ANNE FRENCH ROOM
19th February 2019
1030 hours

PRESENT:

Mr J Dent, Chairman
 Mr D Earl
 Mr S Roberts
 Mr G McKinley
 Mr M Dean
 Mr A Snowdon
 Mr L Jean
 Mr C Harris
 Mr K Gentle
 Ms A Burgess

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr A Muter, Chief Executive (CE)
 Mrs E Maurice, Acting Head of Finance
 (TREASURY)
 Mrs S Pengilley-Price, Executive Officer
 to the Chief Executive (EO);
 Mr C Brock, Director of Business
 Development
 Mr S Taylor, Strategic Financial Adviser
 (SFA)

FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS:

Mr J Starck, AGCC for item 12/2019
 Mr P Veron, Strategic Adviser for item
 10.2

Apologies: None received

ACTION**09/2019****Matters Arising**

Mr McKinley was appointed as representative to the Marine Management Forum.

It was noted that an appointment would need to be made to the Board of AEL.

9.1 Committee feedback from Chairmen (BDCC, GSC, Finance & Tourism) & Guernsey Representatives

BDCC – An Open Planning Meeting took place on 17 Jan. A Court hearing on a rejected application is scheduled. A new mandate for the Committee has been agreed. Mr Gentle was appointed as Deputy Chairman. Consultation on new Building Regulations fees commenced. Alderney is shortlisted for an RTP1 award - ceremony is 24 April.

GSC – ABO and AWT issue – GSC is waiting for the two parties to bring forward a possible solution. Fort Clonque – Mr Dean met with the Landmark Trust to discuss electricity supply and coastal erosion issues. AEL is to sort out a means of being able to isolate the supply and is also looking at a temporary supply. A permanent solution will be to put ducting in the causeway. GSC is looking at its work priorities and at open meetings. Next meeting will be with Committee for E&I regarding the Breakwater and Fort Grosnez.

Finance – Business included approval of coins issues.

Alderney Representatives in the States of Guernsey – Success of the State of Deliberation debate on the runway was noted and all those who helped were thanked. The Alderney Report was well-received with good feedback from many Guernsey Deputies. A discussion re fisheries with Deputy Paint took place – a public statement is to be made. **It was resolved unanimously that a fishing representative should be sent to The Normandy Potting Conference together with an observer (GM) from the States of Alderney.**

Deputy Yerby is intending to submit questions about Alderney to the next States of Deliberation. **Noted.**

Alderney Representatives will be seeking the views of P&F on TRP transfer in the States of Deliberation.

The delay in implementing the Double Taxation Agreement remains an issue for some home owners which will have a knock-on effect on Alderney's economy this year.

It was suggested that a political meeting could take place regularly to deal with matters which would be coming up in the States of Deliberation and to ensure that other matters that need to be shared could be discussed. This would allow P&F to focus on its business decisions.

CFTED – The Committee met and covered a wide range of issues including strategic priorities, Broadband rollout, Harbour plan, Civic Pride & Fort Clonque. They have an enthusiastic and committed team but transport remains the key issue. The Committee will be meeting with the Alderney Society regarding a WW2 Heritage Committee.

9.2 External Relations

Channel Islands APPG – there was a useful discussion with the UK Fisheries Minister. JD also spoke with Jonathan Le Tocq at the dinner about matters relating to Alderney.

The next ALG meeting date has not yet been agreed.

10/2019

Transport

10.1 The Little Ferry Update – Report from Strategic Financial Adviser dated 7th February 2019 tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved (AB abstained) to:

- **Note the positive feedback and outcomes from the 2018 survey with the caveats indicated;**
- **Note the aspiration of the Little Ferry Company to secure a larger vessel and request that they keep the States informed about this potential development;**
- **Agree a maximum level of subsidy of £500 per rotation for twice daily rotations for up to 130 days over the late Spring to early autumn period in 2019; and**
- **Request that further information on forecast costs and passenger numbers for 2019 is provided by the LFC once the issue over the type of vessel has been determined.**

SFA

10.2 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – Air Transport Update and Fort Tourgis – See Confidential Annexure

11/2019

Legislation, Conventions & Policy and Finance

11.1 AHA – Report from Strategic Financial Adviser dated 19th February tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to:

- **Agree to underwrite the loan of £2.9m which the AHA will borrow from the States of Guernsey bond to restructure its debt as previously agreed in July 2018;**
- **Agree that the Acting Head of Finance should write to the States of Guernsey to confirm the decision;**
- **Note the accumulated risk of any further requests for financial guarantees; and**
- **Ensure that any financial decisions in the future are only taken following consideration of the financial analysis and relevant risks to the States.**

SFA/TREASURY

11.2 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – The Arsenal – See Confidential Annexure

11.3 Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Alderney) (Brexit) Regulations, 2019

– Letter from Law Officers dated 8th February 2019, and legislation tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to submit the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Alderney) (Brexit) Regulations, 2019 to the March meeting of the States of Alderney for them not to be annulled. The Proposer will be Mr Dent, seconder Mr Earl.

11.4 Crusher Site Lease – Report from Treasury dated 30th January 2019 tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to:

- **Reject the request from Waterscape Ltd relating to Unit A (1-4) & Unit B**

TREASURY/GSC

11.5 Good Governance Group - Report from Chief Executive dated 7th February 2019 tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved that:

- **The proposition of the Good Governance Group to hold a workshop for all States Members to consider governance options is agreed;**
- **That the mandate of the Good Governance Group is agreed as *“To prepare information and advice on one or more options for governance, drawing particularly on the experience of other small island communities, and to test these out with all States Members to understand whether there is support to move to a new system of governance. In the event that such support can be obtained, to develop proposals for a wide-ranging consultation and engagement process with the community before a proposition is put before the States if Alderney for debate and decision.”***
- **A budget of £5,000 is agreed to cover any constitutional advice required.**

GGG/CE

11.7 Letter of Entrustment – Email from Ministry of Justice dated 11th December 2018 tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note that the States of Alderney could apply for Letters of Entrustment if required.

11.8 1948 Agreement Update – Report from Chief Executive dated 14th February 2019 tabled and noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved unanimously that a half day workshop is held for all States Members to consider the negotiation strategy and desired outcomes from the review process.

12/2019 **AGCC Update – Presentation** – Letter from AGCC dated 29th November 2018 tabled and noted.

Mr Jorn Starck joined the meeting.

Mr Earl declared an interest and left the meeting for this item.

Mr Starck suggested that this was a structural and policy decision – an extremely successful Gambling Control industry has been built. The decision about remuneration needs to be seen in this context. It is critical for the success of the business. The Commissioners are a critical part of the reputation and the way the Commission works – they bring their reputations to the organisation and make some critical decisions. Remaining a first tier regulator is the priority. There has been no change in remuneration since 2004 outside RPI rises. AGCC are at the low end of comparators for commissioner remuneration when compared with similar organisations.

A question was raised about retention of commissioners and whether the rise was important for retention. It is important to show that we are all pulling in the same direction. 10% in income last year and more licensees. More activity in January and February than last year. How hard working are the Commissioners? Very hard working with meetings, and other training, events and conferences. Complex papers to understand. Do they work as a panel or take on individual responsibilities? Legislation provides for a process to involve the Commissioners. Concern in the past about getting Commissioners into Alderney – can meeting here be encouraged? Commission agrees with this – at least one meeting a year and possibly two or three times a year. Logistically it is not always possible.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to agree to seek appropriate benchmarking for circulation and for a decision about the request to be sought by email in the three days thereafter.

13/2019 **Any Other Business**

Matrimonial causes reform subject to email consultation.

Future item – Minimum wage.

Thanks were recorded to RNLI and Harbour staff for their work on the plane search, rescue and recovery.

CfESC are coming to visit in April.

14/2019 **Agenda Resolutions – Confirmation**

The above draft resolutions were confirmed by the Committee Members at the meeting as being a correct record of the decisions arising from the meeting.

15/2019 **For Information & Noting**

The following reports/letters were noted:-

- **Resolutions of Previous Meeting – circulated via email**
- **EDR Summary**

- **Customs Cooperation & Mutual Administrative Assistance (CCMAA) & Mutual Recognition of Authorised Economic Operator Programmes (AEO MRA)**

16/2019 **Items Scheduled for Future Meetings**

Meeting closed: 15.05 pm

Signed: James Dent

Date: 19th February 2019