

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**  
**27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020**  
**11:00**

**Present:**

**Mr D Earl, Chairman**

**Mr J Dent**

**Ms A Burgess**

**Mr M Dean**

**Mr A Muter, Chief Executive (CE)**

**Mrs E A Maurice, Acting Head of Finance (AHoF)**

**Mrs E O'Toole, Treasury Assistant/Minutes (Treasury)**

**In attendance: Mr A Snowdon; President W Tate**

**Apologies: Mr C Harris; Mr S Taylor, Strategic Financial Advisor (SFA)**

**22/2020**

**Revenue & Capital Account**

**22.1 Budget Implications - COVID-19** papers as circulated with Policy & Finance Committee agenda 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020, were tabled and discussed. The Chairman advised that this was introduced in detail at the P&F meeting by the AHoF and welcomed any comment.

Mr Dean queried the revised budget shortfall as he considered it to not be realistic and stated that the worst case scenario should be taken into consideration. He added that should it be agreed for TRP and Rents to be waived or deferred, we must ensure that tenants who gets passed those charges by landlords, get the benefit and landlords do not end up in a better financial position as a result. The AHoF advised that within the Financial Measures to support the Guernsey economy introduced by the States of Guernsey, it states that TRP/rent deferrals for which deferrals are provided would need to be accompanied by reassurances that any temporary benefit is passed on to tenants.

**Noted**

The Chairman advised he received comment from Mr Harris by email, who advised that he would not like to see the Economic Development Fund completely depleted and suggested it is considered which Capital projects could be delayed in order save vital funding which may be needed.

Mr Dent stated that he understand that the Revised Budget put before the Committee may vary considerably as time goes on and therefore suggested that it is left with the AHoF to revise as and when depending on how the circumstances continue to change.

The Chairman and members thanked the AHoF and her team for the work done to provide the Revised Budget based on the potential implications.

**The Committee agreed to recommend that the Policy & Finance Committee:-**

- a) Note the draft revised budget for 2020 (as at April 2020) and the contents of the report from the Acting Head of Finance and note that further budget revisions will be brought to the Finance Committee and Policy & Finance Committee as the situation develops;**
- b) Agree to provide a concession to Mooring Fees for 2020 for commercial fisherman;**
- c) Agree to a deferral of commercial rent to qualifying businesses for 2 quarters in 2020, subject to the same conditions as required by the States of Guernsey;**

- d) Agree to TRP recovery deferral to qualifying businesses, subject to the same conditions as required by the States of Guernsey;
- e) Note the potential resources which could be used to fund recovery plans and request that further reports on these options be brought to the Finance Committee for decision when appropriate;
- f) Agree that the Acting Head of Finance should provide further reports as necessary on the budget position to reflect any changes in the current situation;
- g) Note that work is being carried out on a recovery plan and will be brought to a future meeting of the Finance Committee.

AHoF/P&F

It was agreed that due to the urgency of the matters recommended, Mr Dent as chairman of Policy and Finance Committee should convene a special meeting of his committee as soon as possible in order to obtain approval of the aforementioned recommendations by the Finance Committee in relation to budget implications.

JD/P&F

**22.2 Funding of Financial Response to Covid-19** – see Confidential Annexure.

The Committee, by a majority (Mr Dent against) did not agree to the suggested Amendment to the Proposition in the Policy Letter 2020/91 to be considered by the States of Deliberations.

**22.3 External Audit Contract** – see Confidential Annexure.

**23/2020**

**AOB**

**23.1 Grants & Subsidies** The Chairman discussed the current situation with regards to grants and whether some already approved and paid were still appropriate given the current circumstances. The AHoF advised that the majority of grants that may be affected by the lock-down and potential long term restrictions, are events grants which fall under the Committee for Tourism & Economic Development. It was noted that the Director of Tourism, Helene Turner, have been in contact with all the applicants to discuss their grants and some organisers have already refunded grants received to due cancellation of their events. **Noted**

It was agreed for all grants issued thus far this year to be discussed at the next meeting with a view to decide the States ongoing policy for the months ahead.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**23.2 Alderney Ambulance update** Mr Dent queried if there was an update on the situation; the CE advised that works are still ongoing on a preferred model and detailed business case as resolved by P&F at its meeting in February however it should be noted that those involved have naturally been busy dealing with issues surrounding the current Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chairman requested, if possible, an update be brought to the next meeting.

**CE/AGENDA ITEM**

**23.3 Coin Contract update** – see Confidential Annexure.

**24/2020**

**Date of next meeting** 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Meeting closed: 12:25pm**

**Signed: Mr D Earl, Chairman**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020**