

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Anne French Room
17th December 2020
0915 hours

PRESENT:

Mr J Dent, Chairman
 Mr K Gentle, Deputy Chairman
 Mr G McKinley
 Mr A Snowdon
 Ms A Burgess
 Mr C Harris
 Mr L Jean
 Mr M Dean

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr A R Lewis, Temporary Chief Executive (CE)
 Mrs E Maurice, Acting Head of Finance (TREASURY)
 Mr S Taylor, Strategic Financial Advisor (via Teams);
 Mr P Veron, Strategic Advisor (for Item 73.1)

Apologies: Mrs S Pengilly-Price, Executive Officer to the Chief Executive (EO), Mr S Roberts, Mr W Abel

In Attendance: Mr R Nash, Mr B Kelly and Mr I Carter

ACTION**71/2020 Matters Arising****71.1 Any relevant comments from Chairmen (re BDCC, GSC, CfTED & Finance), & Guernsey Representatives**

BDCC: The Chairman, BDCC reported on recent meeting and a policy meeting planned for the following day.

GSC: The Chairman, GSC reported on recent productive discussions held in relation to the new crane.

CfTED: The Chairman of CTED reported on a useful meeting with officers from Guernsey in relation to opportunities for investment to ensure the Bailiwick can Revive and Thrive. Updates were also given on tourism visitor sites, the challenges facing cannabis growers, the digital economy and other opportunities.

It was agreed to invite the Guernsey officers to brief the full committee in the New Year

EO

Finance: The Chairman, Finance Committee advised that there had been no Finance Committee meeting in the past month.

Alderney Reps: Mr Snowdon updated on the recent debate in the States of Guernsey and the approval of the budget. The good news included the £2m provision for the Aurigny Alderney routes and the allocation of £300k for 2021.

71.2 External Relations Update

The Chairman provided an update on the UK and EU negotiations explaining that they remained inconclusive but that urgent committee meetings might be required in the coming days.

The Committee acknowledged the need for potential meetings at short notice in respect of the end of the Transition Period.

72/2020 Legislation, Conventions, Policy & Finance

72.1 COVID Vaccine – Report from Chief Executive dated 3rd December 2020 tabled and considered.
The Policy & Finance Committee resolved:

- To ratify its decision made by email to express support for the introduction of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine subject to the Medicines Committee being satisfied of its safety and efficacy, and
- To advise HSC that its view in relation to all other COVID-19 vaccines that may be under consideration will be the same in that it will be supportive subject to the Medicines Committee being satisfied of the safety and efficacy of each product.

CE

71.1b Covid19 Vaccine Immunity Ordinance

The Policy & Finance Committee agreed to submit to the States the European Communities (Coronavirus Vaccine) (Immunity from Civil Liability) (Alderney) Ordinance 2021 to provide immunity in relation to those involved in the supply and distribution of the vaccine.

CE

72.2 Representation on CCA - Report from Chief Executive dated 3rd December 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved by a majority with Messrs Snowdon, Dean and Ms Burgess dissenting, to authorise Mr Dent to continue to serve on the CCA up to the point in January when the newly constituted Committee appoints at its first meeting a new representative and that person takes the CCA oath.

CE

72.3 Voting Age to 16 – Report from Chief Executive dated 11th December 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to take the concept of reducing the age at which someone can join the electoral register to 16 years and for this to be implemented at the earliest opportunity. It was further resolved to request the Chief Executive's office develop a promotional plan to encourage people to join the register and to carry out a cleansing exercise on the register.

BILLET ITEM

72.4 Temporary Deputy Chief Executive – Report from Chief Executive dated 11th December 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to:

- Appoint Richard Nash as Deputy Chief Executive; and
- Agree that the appointment of Adrian Lewis as temporary Chief Executive be revoked upon the commencement of the new CE or at the January P&F meeting, whichever is the earlier.
- It also recorded thanks to Mr Lewis for stepping into the role.

CE

72.5 Extra P&F, States Meetings & Suspension of Rules – Report from Chief Executive dated 11th December 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to confirm its willingness to hold meetings at short notice to deal with significant issues arising from the end of the Brexit Transition period and furthermore to advise the President of the potential for an emergency States Meeting where it will not be practical to achieve the normal lead-in times.

EO

72.6 AEL Share Transfers – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

72.7 Mental Health Provision Strategy – Report from Head of Finance dated 11th December 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to consider the need for a wider mental health strategy for Alderney in liaison with the States of Guernsey Health & Social Services Department, and to agree that it should form part of the overall review of the Alderney Primary Healthcare Provision as previously agreed by the Committee. It was also agreed that an approach be made with HSC with regard to the project and its funding.

SFA

72.8 EDR Fund – Additional Expenditure Request – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 4th December 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve for an extra allocation to the Economic and Development Fund (Administration and Consultancy) of £30k for 2020 and provisionally an additional £130k for 2021 to include unforeseen 2020 and predicted 2021 secondment costs and marina related technical advice. It was also agreed that CTED be tasked to maintain a watching brief on the EDF.

EO/TREASURY

72.9 The Employment Permits (Brexit) (Alderney) Legislation – Report from Chief Executive dated 11th December 2020 and legislation tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve the Employment Permits (Brexit) (Alderney) Regulations 2020 to be made as a consequence of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU.

EO

72.10 The Acquisition of Immovable Property By Aliens (Brexit) (Repeal) (Alderney) Regulations 2020 – Report from Chief Executive dated 11th December 2020 and legislation tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved by a majority with Messrs Snowdon, Harris, Jean and Dean dissenting on the basis that the approval should be subject to a States debate, and with the Chairman using his casting vote, to approve the Acquisition of Immovable Property by Aliens (Brexit)(Repeal)(Alderney) Regulations 2020 to be made as a consequence of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU.

EO

72.11 NED Remuneration – Letter from AEL Director dated 8th December 2020 tabled and considered.

This paper was withdrawn.

72.12 WW2 Issues – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 11th December 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note the report and the verbal update.

CE

72.13 Closer Working with Guernsey – Report from Chief Executive dated 11th December 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved:

- **To build on the current healthy relationship with Guernsey; and**
- **To seek with senior Guernsey politicians and officers a mechanism for Guernsey, with its size, scale and resources, to support the management of those activities which although important are not central to Alderney's way and quality of life; and**
- **To emphasise Alderney's continuing need for political independence**

CE OFFICE

72.14 Alderney E-Gaming Limited Update – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

73/2020 Transport, Economy & Renewable Energy

73.1 Aviation/Airport

The Policy and Finance Committee requested the Strategic Advisor to finalise the Integrated Transport Strategy in light of the recent discussions with Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) and to issue the draft to stakeholders at a time complementary with any final decisions and announcements made by P&R in relation to the PSO.

It was also agreed to extend a warm welcome to the new Managing Director of Aurigny extending an invitation for him to visit the Island.

PKV

74/2020 Any Other Business

Data Protection amendments – The Committee resolved to respond to the consultation and to advise that it had no comments to offer.

CE

Alderney Import Control Order – The Committee resolved to approve the Import Control Order and noted that a further amendment order would be circulated by email for approval dealing with agri-foods and livestock

CE OFFICE

Publication of agenda and minutes – It was noted that in recent weeks there had been delays in the agenda and resolutions being posted on the website and agreed this needed to be addressed.

CE OFFICE

Opening Hours of General Office - In response to a question the Treasurer advised that the opening hours had been reduced to be in alignment with many States of Guernsey counter facilities and would be kept under review.

Code of Conduct - In response to a question the temporary CE advised that he would be reporting on the Code of Conduct review adding that the Strategic Financial Adviser had collated the range of views, but an additional proposal to simplify and streamline the process would be to exploring direct alignment and potentially integration with the States of Guernsey's Code of Conduct processes and procedures. Members were supportive of exploring this option

CE

Vote of thanks – Thanks were recorded to Mr Jean, Mr Dent and Mr Dean for their years of service to the Committee and the States.

AEL – Oil Top ups –minimum delivery - In response to a question it was agreed that KG would write on behalf of P&F to AEL to share the view that there might be some members of the community on lower incomes who would benefit from AEL reviewing afresh its minimum delivery policy.

CE

Marina – The Chairman of GSC reported that a further discussion was taking place in relation to the Marina project the following day and it was agreed that Mr Gentle would also be invited to attend.

CE Recruitment – It was noted that CE recruitment panel would be meeting on 18 Dec to discuss and plan for the interviews in January.

CE

Projet de Loi – Damages (Assumed Rate of Return) – It was noted that a draft Projet de Loi had been received from the Bailiff on this matter and would be laid before the States at the January meeting.

Convention – Violence and Harassment – It was noted that the Committee for Employment and Social Security (ESS) was considering the merits or otherwise of extending the above convention to Guernsey. The Temp CE advised that he had informed ESS that it would be challenging for the convention to be extended to Alderney in the foreseeable future as it would require the introduction of a raft of local legislation covering matters such as employment protection and anti-discrimination.

75/2020 Agenda Resolutions – Confirmation

The above draft resolutions were confirmed by members at the meeting.

76/2020 For Information & Noting

The following reports/letters were noted:-

- Resolutions of Previous Meeting – circulated via email
- EDR Summary as at 30th November 2020
- Management Accounts as at 30th November 2020
- Committee Meeting Dates – 2021
- AHA Q3 2020 Report – circulated via email
- Letter from Deputy Helyar
- Improved Tax Relief for Second Home

Meeting closed: 12:52pm

Signed: James Dent

Date: 18th December 2020