

**POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
ANNE FRENCH ROOM
11 December 2019
15.30 hours**

PRESENT:

Mr J Dent, Chairman
Mr C Harris
Mr G McKinley
Mr M Dean
Mr K Gentle
Mr D Earl
Ms A Burgess

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr A Muter, Chief Executive (CE)
Mrs S Pengilley-Price, Executive Officer
to the Chief Executive (EO);

Apologies: Mr S Roberts, Mr L Jean

ACTION**Emergency Meeting****85/2019****The Alderney Ambulance Service**

The Chairman opened the meeting, informing members that it was being convened under the provisions in in the Rules of procedure for an emergency meeting and was to deal with a single agenda item, the Alderney Ambulance Service.

The meeting received copies of the Richard Webber Independent Review Report of the Alderney Ambulance Service. This had been commissioned by the Alderney Ambulance Service Board with funding from the States of Alderney.

It was noted that the States is not a party to the dispute between the Board and crew.

It was noted the Alderney Ambulance Service Board had met earlier in the day and had passed the following resolution which they had now submitted to the States. *"The Board of the Alderney Ambulance Service Ltd recognises the serious risks to patient safety highlighted in the recent service review and considers that the current model of ambulance service provision cannot be relied upon to serve the Island safely and effectively. The removal of the Chief Ambulance Officer was a necessary and direct response to this situation. The subsequent action of the crew to withdraw their support for the service has placed Alderney in a critical position. We have therefore decided that the Alderney Ambulance Service Ltd can no longer commit to the provision of an Ambulance Service of the appropriate safe and sustainable standards and have written to the States of Alderney to inform them. We have also informed them that we will make available the equipment, resources and records of the Alderney Ambulance Service to the States of Alderney to enable a transition to a new Ambulance Service."*

The Committee discussed the need to ensure a continuing service and recognised the support now being provided by the Guernsey St John's Ambulance Service. They were informed that an arrangement was being discussed to ensure there is a service in place for the next six weeks, or so, and that this will give space to be able to consider an appropriate model of ambulance service provision for the longer term. This could include seeking volunteer staff on the island. Advice will be provided by appropriate experts for the Policy & Finance Committee to consider.

It was agreed that **the focus of the States should be on ensuring public safety**. It is not appropriate to step in to the dispute between the Alderney Ambulance Service and its staff.

It was noted that the commitment of the Alderney Ambulance Service to make 'equipment and resources' available would enable the States to make a commitment to the public in regard to honouring the subscriptions already paid for the service in 2020.

It was agreed that the Independent Review Report should be published so that the public were aware of the issues. A Statement for release to the public setting out the States' position was also considered and it was agreed that it should be released simultaneously with the Review Report. It was agreed that the President should read out the Statement at the beginning of the States Meeting that evening. It was suggested and agreed that a short statement should be made to the broadcast media by the Chief Executive.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved:

- i) the States should, from the perspective of public safety, ensure that there are short and longer term arrangements in place for an ambulance service**
- ii) the statement is agreed and should be released with the Richard Webber Review Report**
- iii) the Richard Webber Review Report should be the subject of further consideration at the next Policy & Finance Committee Meeting.**

Meeting closed: 16.10 hours

Signed: James Dent

Date: 11 December 2019