

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Anne French Room
30th July 2020
1030 hours

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs E Maurice, Acting Head of Finance
 (TREASURY)
 Mrs S Pengilly-Price, Executive Officer
 to the Chief Executive (EO);
 Mr S Taylor, Strategic Financial Advisor;
 Mr A R Lewis, Senior Civil Servant

Apologies: Mr A Muter, Chief Executive (CE);

In Attendance: Mr James Lancaster, AEL Manager for item 48.2. Ms Catherine Veron for item 47.4 and Mr Paul Veron for item 48.1.

ACTION**46/2020 Matters Arising****46.1 Any relevant comments from Chairmen (re BDCC, GSC, CfTED & Finance), & Guernsey Representatives**

BDCC: Outcome of the open planning meeting 16.07.2020 and now needed replacement planning office resources **Noted**.

GSC: A presentation on a proposal for the Glacis area; Marina Tender process; Commercial Quay access; and AFC club extension. The use of the Old Royal Connaught building would be an item for the next GSC agenda **Noted**.

CfTED: Meeting on 21/07/2020: Replacement resources for the former Director of Business Development; Staycation success and positive feedback from hospitality sector; the need for Welcome Packs and a Welcome Team to support new business ventures; the Guernsey/Bailiwick Hospitality Sector Recovery Team - the extension of an invitation for two Alderney representatives (one officer and one States Member) to participate **noted**.

Finance: The Alderney Ambulance grant; charges for harbour activities (and a request to GSC to re-impose, now, some of the charges temporarily reduced post Covid); the Capital Programme prioritisation; and progress on coin and stamp approvals. **Noted**

Alderney Reps: Items discussed included the Discrimination (Birth Registration) Ordinance and amendment (put forward by Alex Snowdon and Deputy Merrett) and the Justice Review Sursis. **Noted**.

The Chairman was requested to provide a vote of thanks from the States Members to all involved in the refurbishment of the Nunnery - a project very well done.

46.2 External Relations Update –

- **APPCIG** - How the island had managed during lockdown and responses to Covid-19
- **FPDG** - Fisheries and trade negotiations in relation to Brexit talks – see Confidential Annexure
- **Bailiwick Council** – see Confidential Annexure.

47/2020 Legislation, Conventions, Policy & Finance

47.1 The Government of Alderney (Amendment) Law, 2020 – The Government of Alderney (Amendment) Law 2020 tabled and considered. Chairman gave a brief background of the

amendments as proposed. Noted that a draft had already been forwarded by the Law Officers to the MoJ – this being an item of urgent business.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve the Government of Alderney (Amendment) Law 2020, and for this item to be placed before the next meeting of the full States of Alderney for approval. [Proposer: James Dent - Seconder: Kevin Gentle.]

BILLET ITEM

47.2 The Alderney Property Tax Ordinance 2020 – Report from Strategic Financial Adviser dated 30th July 2020 and copy of the Alderney Property Tax Ordinance, 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved by a majority (Mr Jean against) to:

- 1. Identify any queries or issues of clarification for further discussion and resolution and send to SFA/AHoF (cc all C'ttee members) by the 20th August 2020; and**
- 2. That “The Alderney Property Tax Ordinance 2020” be placed before the States for approval at the next opportunity (September). [Proposer: James Dent - Seconder: David Earl.]**

BILLET ITEM

47.3 Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations, 2020 – A copy of the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations tabled and considered. It was noted that these regulations were made by the Guernsey Policy and Resources Committee have effect in Alderney, and impose asset freezes to deter those who are, or have been, involved in human rights' violations

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to offer no comment and to note the “Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations, 2020”.

47.4 Alderney Wildlife Legislation – Report from the Strategic Adviser dated 21st July 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to:

- 1. Note the progress being made with Wildlife Legislation, including that the next steps will include engagement with St James Chambers; the General Services Committee and key stakeholders;**
- 2. Request that a public consultation process is undertaken; and**
- 3. Request draft legislation to be prepared and that a copy is placed together with the results of the consultation before the Policy and Finance Committee for further consideration.**

SA

47.5 Homecoming Public Holiday Ordinance – Report from P&F Chairman dated 20th July 2020 tabled and considered tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved the following should be debated in the full States:

- 1 to abolish the Monday holiday if it occurs on a weekend, and confine celebrations and remembrance to the 15th December irrespective of the day of the week this falls on; and if this fails;**
- 2 to confine celebrations to the 15th December irrespective of the day of the week this falls, but continue with the preceding Monday holiday, when the 15th December falls on a Saturday or Sunday (in this case the Monday will remain a holiday but will not be a day of celebration or remembrance); and if this fails;**
- 3 to celebrate and remember always and only on the Monday preceding 15th December; and if this fails**
- 4 to celebrate and remember always and only on the Monday following 15th December; and if this fails**
- 5 to continue as current practice.**

[Proposer: James Dent - Seconder Annie Burgess.]

BILLET ITEM

47.6 Budget Update – Implications relating to COVID 19 – Report from Acting Head of Finance dated 22nd July 2020 tabled and considered. Noted that the Chairman of Finance requested that in future the General Services Committee adhere to its resolutions.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to:

1. Note the updated revised revenue position as at the end of June 2020;
2. Note that the Finance Committee has written to the General Services Committee to require the reinstatement of the Visitor Mooring Fee Charge, the Water Taxi Service Charge and the boat lift charge wef 1st August 2020** due to the projected harbour deficit for 2020; ** The Policy & Finance Committee voted by a majority (For: Mr McKinley; Ms Burgess; Mr Harris; Mr Gentle and Mr Dent. Against: Mr Dean; Mr Earl and Mr Jean. Abstained: Mr Roberts and Mr Snowdon) to change the date from 1st August to the 10th August for the Mooring Fee charges.
3. Agree an initial allocation of EDR funds up to an amount of £15k to provide COVID commercial support specifically for States tenants;
4. Agree that the Acting Head of Finance prepare criteria to evaluate applications for rent deferral on a case by case basis; and
5. Agree to extend the TRP recovery deferral to qualifying businesses until 30th June 2021, subject to the same conditions as required by the States of Guernsey.

TREASURY

47.7 Budget Strategy – Report from Acting Head of Finance dated 22nd July 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to:

1. Agree the budget principles namely:
 - Budget to include a reserve of 3% for future contingencies;
 - Property rate tariffs to be modelled to be consistent with increases proposed by the States of Guernsey (for 2021 only);
 - Any revenue–expenditure growth to be matched by savings or new revenue;
 - Increase fuel duty rates if an increase is agreed in Guernsey but freeze otherwise; and
 - Freeze current rates of document duty for 2021.
2. Ask the Acting Head of Finance to liaise with States of Guernsey Policy and Resources to agree parameters for any grant support in 2021; and
3. Ask the Acting Head of Finance to liaise with the States of Guernsey Policy and Resources with a view to extending Alderney’s use of AGCC receipts to 2021.

TREASURY

47.8 Excise Duty on Motor Fuel and Document Duty – Letter from Policy & Resources dated 15th July 2020 tabled and noted. Matter to be considered by States of Deliberation in August and next available States meeting.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note the content of the letter from Deputy St Pier with regards excise duty on Motor Fuel and Document Duty.

47.9 Emergency Services Funding – Report from Chief Executive dated 30th July 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to:

- Agree in principle to include the costs of the integrated Ambulance and Fire Service in the States budget - to be funded by Property Tax as soon as possible (For: Ms Burgess; Mr Earl; Mr Harris; Mr Gentle; Mr Dean, Mr McKinley and Mr Dent. Against: Mr Roberts; Mr Jean and Mr Snowdon);
- ask Chief Executive’s office to develop proposals to engage with the community to test opinions on options (Approved unanimously); and

- **ask Chief Executive's office to investigate any options in regard to charges for visitors (Approved unanimously).**

47.10 Consultation – Police Force Law – For Ratification – Letter from Chief Officer of Police dated 25th June 2020 regarding an amendment to the Police Force (Guernsey) Law, 1986 to enable warranted officers from other jurisdictions, authorised by the Bailiff, to carry out law enforcement duties within the Bailiwick tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to ratify the approval of the proposed amendment to “The Police Force (Guernsey) Law, 1986”.

47.11 Alderney Electricity Limited Remuneration Request – Letter from AEL dated 26th June 2020 tabled and considered. Mr Gentle abstained from this item.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to defer this item until further details requested by the Committee have been received from the AEL Board.

CE OFFICE

47.12 Code of Conduct Panel – Report from President William Tate dated 24th July 2020 tabled and considered.

Policy and Finance Committee resolved to advise the President that the Committee would support a recommendation to the States of the appointments of Mr Roy Burke and Ms Barbara Benfield as additional permanent Members of the Code of Conduct Panel, subject to confirmation that this increase in panel membership can be accommodated within the existing rules.

BILLET ITEM

The Committee further agreed to direct officers to prepare a paper for consideration by the Committee and the President on the options for reviewing the effectiveness of current Code of Conduct process.

48/2020 Transport, Economy & Renewable Energy

48.1 Integrated Transport Strategy – Report from Strategic Adviser dated 15th July 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to:

- **Agree the steps outlined in the bullet points in the report entitled “The Development of an Integrated Transport Policy (ITS) for Alderney” that were recommended at a recent ATAG meeting (discussed also at a stakeholder meeting);**
- **Direct officers to continue in their efforts to engage the key personnel in Guernsey to commence discussions on the development of the Short and Mid-term aspects of the ITS as soon as possible, and to keep the Committee informed of progress;**
- **Direct both ATAG and STAG to continue to develop their work on the Short Term plans so that both can be brought to P&F to develop and agree the Integrated Strategy and Priorities in due course;**
- **To continue to work with representatives of the Community (which may need to be widened and /or varied to include other relevant sectors) to develop an ITS initially for the consideration of P&F, before being debated by the States of Alderney;**
- **To write to the Guernsey P&R Committee to clarify the current PSO situation and to ask for clarity of their view with regards the Harrison electric aviation proposal; and**
- **To organise an initial joint meeting of STAG and ATAG - to be held within the next two weeks.**

48.2 AEL Future Projects update James Lancaster joined the meeting by MS Teams and gave an update on current projects status and discussions.
The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note the update.

49/2020 Any Other Business

- **Marina Development Proposal** Letter tabled by Mr McKinley dated 30th July 2020 and noted. **Committee to await proposal from BHD plus Law Officers and SFA comments on suggested letter, prior to any action.**
- **Employment Permit query** – Noted.
- **AHA query** re press release of 21st February raised. **Noted: Chief Executives Office to deal.**

50/2020 AGCC Annual Report – Presentation

51.1 The Alderney eGambling (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 – Ordinance tabled and queries raised at the June meeting were addressed.
Policy and Finance Committee approved for this item to be put before the September meeting of the Full States for approval.

[James Dent to propose and Annie Burgess to second].

Noted that if there is an issue with Mr Dent proposing this item then Mr Dean will propose this item in his stead.

51/2020 Agenda Resolutions – Confirmation

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

52/2020 For Information & Noting

The following reports/letters were noted:-

- **Resolutions of Previous Meeting** – circulated via email
- **States of Alderney Management Accounts**
- **EDR Summary**
- **AHA Financial Statements 2019 & Going Concern Assessment**

Meeting closed: 17.25pm

Signed: James Dent

Date: 31st July 2020