

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Anne French Room
29th October 2020
0915 hours

PRESENT:

Mr J Dent, Chairman
Mr S Roberts
Mr G McKinley
Mr A Snowdon
Mr K Gentle
Mr C Harris
Mr L Jean
Ms A Burgess
Mr W Abel

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr A R Lewis, Temporary Chief Executive (CE)
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 (vis Teams);

Apologies: Mr M Dean;

In Attendance: Mr P Veron, Strategic Adviser; Malcolm Matthews (STAG member), Nigel Lawrence (STAG member) for item 61/2020; Mr J Taylor, Harbour Master for item 61.2.

ACTION

59/2020 Matters Arising

59.1 Any relevant comments from Chairmen (re BDCC, GSC, CfTED & Finance), & Guernsey Representatives

BDCC: The Deputy Chairman updated on the forthcoming planning meeting later that day.

GSC: The Chairman GSC updated on the most significant issues of recent days being the failure of the crane, the nunnery application and the wildlife law.

CfTED: The Chairman of CTED advised that he was seeking to hold a further meeting next week, last meeting having focussed on cannabis export and he would also be recommending a visit to Guernsey to discuss Revive and Thrive.

The Committee agreed to appoint WA and AS to CTED and accepted the resignation of KG
EO

Finance: See Confidential Annexure - The Chairman Finance Committee updated on current issues including the budget and various grant applications.

Alderney Reps: Update from Alderney Reps on recent elections and committee formations in Guernsey.

59.2 External Relations including update on Fisheries 'Permissive Extent Clause'

Chairman provided update on latest negotiations between the EU and UK in respect of goods and fisheries.

The Chairman advised that Jo Reeve, Director of International Relations & Constitutional Affairs would be available for a Teams call on Friday 30th at 0900 to update members on the latest matters in the negotiations for which an invitation would be sent.

EO

The Chairman also advised there would be a Teams meeting of the CI All Party Parliamentary Group.

60/2020 Legislation, Conventions, Policy & Finance

60.1 The Antarctic Act – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 19th October 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to support the extension of the Antarctic Act 1994 (Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) Regulations 2020 to the Bailiwick.

60.2 Brexit and Biometric Data: Extending relevant provisions of the Immigration Acts - Report from Chief Executive Office dated 9th October 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to support the proposals for changes to the immigration control measures post-Brexit as set out by the Committee for Home Affairs.

EO

60.2 b Impact on Alderney Employment Permits System – Report tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to agree that the employment permit legislation be modified to ensure it was compatible with the Island's international obligations from 2021, and to request the Law Officers, working in conjunction with officers of the States of Alderney, to arrange an urgent review of the Permit legislation.

EO

60.3 Extension of the Nice Agreement – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 10th October 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to raise no objections to the extension of the Nice Agreement (1957) concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the purposes of Registration of Marks to the Bailiwick and in respect of intellectual property.

EO

60.4 Hemp Export – See Confidential Annexure

60.5 Royal Sanction – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 30th September 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to confirm its support for the Lieutenant Governor having delegated authority from the Sovereign to give Royal Sanction to Laws created by the States of Alderney, States of Guernsey and the Chief Pleas of Sark in those cases where the UK Ministry of Justice did not consider the matter needed to go to the Privy Council.

EO

60.6 Lieutenant Governor – Income Tax – See Confidential Annexure

60.7 Committee for Tourism & Economic Development – Membership – Report from James Dent, P&F Chairman, dated 19th October 2020 tabled and noted.

See 59.1.

60.8 Good Governance – Report from Good Governance Group dated 19th October 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to instruct the Good Governance Group to carry out the necessary work before bringing back any findings and suggestions for discussion.

KAHG

60.9 Code of Conduct for States Members – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 10th October 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to agree to lay before the States further amendments to the Code of Conduct to reflect the change from qualified to absolute privilege of Members in respect of words spoken or written in the States, in a Committee meeting or at a people's meeting.

EO

60.10 AEL Share Transfer Request – CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – See Confidential Annexure

60.11 Alderney Sports Foundation – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 8th October 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to endorse the Action Plan contained in "Giving Alderney a Sporting Chance" and seeks to explore how the remit of the Guernsey Sports Commission could be expanded to include Alderney

EO

60.12 Economic Development Fund – verbal report noted.

The Policy & Finance Committee noted the schedule of the Economic Development Fund and that proposals would be presented at the next meeting to bring the funds back into balance.

TREASURY

60.13 Alderney Ambulance Service – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 29th October 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved:

- 1. To note the results of the recent survey;**
- 2. To note the progress being made with regard to the transfer of the assets to the SoA; and**
- 3. To agree by a majority with Mr Jean dissenting that the future costs of the integrated Ambulance and Fire service form part of the States budget 2021 as opposed to it being part funded by subscriptions.**

TREASURY/EO

60.14 AeGL and AGCC Review - CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – See Confidential Annexure

60.15 Election Procedures Ordinance and Minor Amendments – Report tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve the submission of a draft The States of Alderney Election Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 for consideration by the States at its next meeting.

EO

60.16 Website – Update from CE Office dated 19th October 2020 tabled and considered. The Policy & Finance Committee noted that the new website was in its final stages and a link would be shared with Members to create the opportunity to provide feedback.

EO

60.17 Partnership Law – Note from Chris Brock dated 21st October 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee agreed by a majority with Mr Jean dissenting and Mr Snowden abstaining

- to reaffirm its previous decision that the current two pieces of draft legislation previously reviewed be finalised by the Law Officers without further amendment and presented to the States for approval at the earliest convenient States Meeting; and
- to be open to comments from the community in the period leading up to the debate.

EO

Employment law and Minimum wage

The Policy & Finance Committee noted that the proposed legislation would be an item for discussion at the next meeting when Crown Advocate McLellan would be in attendance via Teams.

EO

60.18 Probate

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved that prior to expressing support for the legislation it would wish to be satisfied the planned MoU provided for Alderney to receive fair recovery from Probate assets which had previously belonged to Alderney based residents or legal entities.

EO

60.19 ACRE Review – See Confidential Annexure

61/2020 Transport, Economy & Renewable Energy

61.1 Integrated Transport Strategy – Report dated 20th October 2020 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee endorsed the draft of the Integrated Transport Strategy as a “Consultation Green Paper”, seeking views and comments from interested parties including the original group of consultees, along with a wider public consultation including via the website.

SA

61.2 Surface Transport Action Group (STAG)

The Committee agreed for Mr Abel to become a Member of STAG and agreed in principle to work towards a joint body of an integrated transport group.

Harbour Master

61.3 Tidal Energy – Confidential Item – See Confidential Annexure

61.4 Energy Policy Group

The Policy & Finance Committee accepted Mr Snowdon's resignation from the Energy Policy Group and agreed to appoint Mr Abel as a Member.

62/2020 Any Other Business

Ms Burgess updated that the AHA had applied a rent freeze in light of current circumstances and that it was also agreed that Mr Gentle and Ms Burgess and potentially Mr Abel are to meet with AHA to discuss emergency accommodation.

Agreed to send letters of thanks to the organisers of Stars in their Eyes and for Claire Thorpe, AWT

EO

63/2020 Agenda Resolutions – Confirmation

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

64/2020 For Information & Noting

The following reports/letters were noted:-

- Resolutions of Previous Meeting – circulated via email
- Committee meeting dates 2021

Meeting closed: 1.30pm

Signed: James Dent

Date: 30th October 2020