

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Anne French Room

27th June 2022 - 09.00 hours

OPEN Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

**Mr I Carter, Chairman
Mr W Abel
Mr G McKinley
Mr K Gentle
Mr B Kelly
Ms A Burgess
Mr A Snowdon
Mr C Harris**

IN ATTENDANCE:

**Ms K Jones, Chief Executive (CE)
Ms A Bird, Personal Assistant to the CE (PA)
Mrs E Maurice, Head of Finance (HoF)
Mrs S Pengilly-Price, Head of Govt Support (HoGS)
Mr S Taylor, Strategic Financial Adviser (SFA) (Via Teams)
Mr J Laband, Project Support Officer (PSO-JL) (Via Teams)**

Apologies: Mr S Roberts

Declarations of Interest: Nil

AGENDA ITEM

ACTION

Additional Item

- **Election of Deputy Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee**
Ms Burgess proposed Mr Harris and Mr Abel seconded Mr Harris.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved for Mr Harris to be elected as the Deputy Chair of Policy and Finance Committee.

- **Election of The States of Alderney's representative for the Civil Contingencies Authority**

Mr Abel proposed Mr Carter for the role of representative for the Civil Contingencies Authority (CCA), this was seconded by Mr Mckinley.

Mr Kelly noted that he did not oppose the proposal but suggested that the job description of the Chair of General Services Committee should be amended as there is a conflict between the roles of the representative of the CCA and the Chair of GSC in relation to duties carried out in a civil emergency.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved for Mr Carter to be the States of Alderney's representative to the CCA.

A01/06/2022 Minutes and Matters Arising

A1.1 Minutes from the meeting held 23rd May 2022 – Tabled and Approved.

Mr Kelly queried whether there was an update in relation to item 2.2.3 of those minutes which referred to the use of bank staff in secretarial capacities.

Mr Snowdon queried the use of a traffic light system in relation to resolutions made by the Committee, the system would allow Members to be informed as to the progress of pieces of work. It was advised that the prioritisation workshop would look at all current work streams and that a traffic light system could be implemented for committee minutes.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to implement a traffic light system for the next P&F Meeting minutes.

PSO-JL

A1.2 Matters Arising

A1.2.1 Island Plan – Report from the Chief Executive – Tabled and Noted.

The Chief Executive provided an overview of what the Island Plan workshop in July would consist of. Members would be asked in advance of the meeting to consider each important piece of work in the short, medium, and long term in line with items on agendas and what Members included in their manifestos. Once priorities are decided at the workshop, the Chief Executive would discuss those priorities with the Civil Service (CS) Senior Management team as to how to progress those items. This would also be the opportunity for the Civil Service to work out the financial and resource implications.

Mr Kelly requested that an organogram be produced outlining the current structure of the CS – to be actioned by the Chief Executive.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved;

- **To note the contents of the report and contribute, as requested in that report, to identify the priorities to delivering the Island Plan at the workshop on 21st July 2022; and**
- **for an organogram of the current CS organisation to be supplied on the July P&F meeting.**

CE

A02/06/2022 Administrative Matters

A2.1 External Relations Update (Bailiwick Council/ALG/MOJ/Normandie).

A2.1.1 Bailiwick Council Update – Report from Mr Carter – Tabled and Noted

Mr Carter spoke to his report outlining the number of areas discussed at the Bailiwick Council Meeting on 6th June including the Ukraine Visa Scheme, Russian Sanctions, The

Reciprocal Health Arrangement, Fisheries, Passports and Customs, Ownership of the Seabed and Visas for Hospitality sector workers.

Mr Gentle raised that Local fisherman can't land boats into Diellette. This is in part due to ongoing disagreements between Cherbourg and Diellette harbour authorities which will not allow Diellette to be an open port.

N/A

A2.1.2 Remembrance Day Duties - Report from The Project Support Officer – For Ratification – Tabled and Approved

Mr Carter provided an overview of the item which required ratification following a decision taken via email on 7th March highlighting that Sark should represent the Bailiwick at the Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph in London 2022, Alderney would then represent the Bailiwick for the 2023 service.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to ratify the decision for Sark to represent the Bailiwick of Guernsey on Remembrance Day 2022, at the Cenotaph, London.

CE

A2.2 Finance (Grants and Subsidies)

A2.2.1 Economic Development Reserve Fund – Report from the Head of Finance – Tabled and Considered.

The Head of Finance provided an overview outlining the headings that had been changed within the fund after the review meeting requested by P&F. The Head of Finance listed each heading and what changes had been made to each of the funding areas and any related changes to budget allocations. Mr Snowdon queried whether following increased AGCC gambling profits, whether there a proportionate increase for the fund could be implemented. It was advised that this would be considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee Resolved to;

- (i) Agree the changes and additional allocations to the tabled Economic Development Fund as per Appendix A (item A2.1.2) and**
- (ii) Through the imminent budgeting process consider increasing the Economic Development fund in the future.**

HoF

A2.2.2 Economic Development Reserve Fund – Spreadsheet – Tabled and Noted.

HoF

A2.2.3 Social Aid Support – Report from Mr Carter – Tabled and Considered

At its May meeting, the Policy and Finance Committee resolved for a number of actions to take place in response to the current cost of living crisis. It was proposed that Age Concern could be the coordinating hub for the initiative which would provide a trusted confidential pathway for aid to get to all members of the community. The Head of Finance investigated what effect the offering of any support would have on those members of the public who already receive benefits, it was advised that a voucher system for food, provisions and fuel would not affect benefits, however providing rebates for rent, would.

It was raised that the initial funding should be more than £15,000 and that it would be preferred not to see States Members involved and only having a Civil Servant as the contact point as opposed to a third party.

There was further comment on that it was felt that Age Concern should not be the coordinating hub as this may deter younger members of population from approaching them for support. It was proposed that the resolution tabled should be amended to read; The Policy and Finance the committee resolved to note the report outlining the approach to giving appropriate aid to those in need through a range of agencies. As opposed to using solely Age Concern

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to;

- **note the report outlining the approach to giving appropriate aid to those in need through a range of agencies; and**
- **to assign £15,000 from Social and Welfare and or contingency budgets to facilitate this initiative.**

A04/06/2022 Legislation, Conventions & Policy and Finance

A4.1. Beneficial Ownership and Companies (Amendment) (Alderney) Law, 2022 – Commencement Ordinance – Tabled and Approved.

The Head of Government provided an overview of the item highlighting that there had been notification that Privy Council had approved the Law.

Following the States of Alderneys decision on 16th March 2022 to approve the Projet de Loi entitled the Beneficial Ownership and Companies (Amendment) (Alderney) Law, 2022 The Policy and Finance Committee resolved, to approve the submission of the Commencement Ordinance to the July 2022 States Meeting.

Billet Item

Proposer: Mr Carter

Seconder: Mr Harris

A4.2. Work Permit Exemptions for Carers – Report from HoGS – tabled and Considered.

The Head of Government Support advised that a definition for the term Carer had been obtained from Health and Social Care in Guernsey. There was also the inclusion of other exemptions in the

proposed Employment Permits (Exemptions) (Alderney) (Amendment) Ordinance 2022, namely pharmacists and for individuals that undertake specialist works in relation to critical infrastructure.

Mr Snowden queried whether any checks would take place for those not requiring a work permit. It was advised that only those workers who are exempt who have come through a professional agency would be allowed an exemption from the Chief Executive to work on Island.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve “The Employment Permits (Exemptions) (Alderney) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022” and for this item to be placed on the Billet for full States approval at its July meeting.

Billet Item

Proposer: Mr Carter

Seconder: Mr Gentle

A05/06/2022 Items for Development/Discussion

A5.1 Abortion Law – Report from Mr Carter – Tabled and Discussed

The Abortion Law (Alderney) Law 2022 – Draft for the Policy and Finance Committee was received by the Chief Executive Office. It was advised that the primary legislation for Alderney creates a specific offence for someone (other than an appropriate person) who procures or attempts to procure an abortion – it would also allow the Medical Specialist Group to travel to Alderney if required to provide abortion care on Alderney.

The Committee was asked to consider and discuss the following;

- whether it wishes to receive further information from Health and Social Care outlining the rationale for the Abortion (Alderney) Law 2022, as proposed; and
- whether it wishes to consult the community prior to the Alderney law being proposed to be submitted to any Billet.

To expedite matters Members highlighted that it may not be appropriate to conduct further consultation on the matter and that the People’s Meeting would serve as appropriate consultation should the item go to the Billet.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved;

- **to not receive further information from Health and Social Care outlining the rationale for the Abortion (Alderney) Law 2022; and**
- **to not consult with the community other than at the Peoples Meeting prior to the Abortion (Alderney) Law 2022 being submitted to any Billet.**
- **To place the item on the Billet as soon as is practical.**

A06/06/2022 Proposed Items for Future Billet Submission

- Reciprocal Health Arrangement
- The Lending, Credit and Finance (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2022
- Beneficial Ownership and Companies (Amendment) (Alderney) Law, 2022
- Commencement Ordinance
- Mouriaux to Platte Saline Sewer project/Sewerage Law ☐ Repealing

- The Employment Permits (Exemptions)(Alderney)(Amendment) Ordinance, 2022
- The Dangerous Weapons (Alderney) Ordinance, 1965 Amendment

A07/06/2022 Any Other Business – For Information & Noting

A7.1 Mandates

Mr Gentle queried the status of the States Committee Draft Mandates. It was advised that the Law Officers of the Crown are being engaged with on two outstanding issues on the draft Policy and Finance Committee Mandate and an Issue surrounding repetition on the draft Building Development Control Committee Mandate. The work would be continuing in the week commencing 27/6/22 in anticipation of the final drafts being submitted to the July Policy and Finance meeting.

PSO-JL

A7.2 Nuclear Waste

Mr Snowdon raised the planned 65% increase in nuclear waste storage capacity at La Hague in France over the next ten years, it was planned that the site would be decommissioned but the capacity of that site is now set to increase. It was requested that in terms of External relations, could a briefing on the matter be arranged with the Director of International Relations & Constitutional Affairs (SOG) and/ or the Director of Public Health (SOG) to offer reassurance that discussions with France are being undertaken.

CE

A7.3 Visit of Her Majesty's Procurer and Her Majesty's Comptroller.

The Chief Executive advised that there is due to be a visit at the end of July of Her Majesty's Procurer and Her Majesty's Comptroller from the Law Offices of the Crown. Members were given the opportunity to provide questions on particular legislation and processes that are undertaken. It was requested if these questions could be submitted to the Committee Secretary in Advance of the visit.

CE

A08/06/2022 Exception Reporting & Questions by Members

A8.1. General Services Committee (GSC)

Mr Kelly advised that a press release in relation to Avian-Flu had been circulated and a further release was due on the same matter and includes advice on what to do for those individuals that keep flocks of birds.

A8.2. Building Development Control Committee (BDCC)

Mr Gentle advised that an Ordinance was put to the States allowing the Land Use Plan Review date to be moved if required.

A8.3. Finance Committee (FC)

No Report.

A8.4. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

No Report.

A8.5. Good Governance Group (GGG)

Mr Gentle advised that public consultation on the Good Governance Group proposal has not yet commenced as there is an issue with the formatting on the consultation document. The consultation will last 28 days and will be available online, as paper and via mail. The item is proposed to be submitted to the September Billet.

A8.6. Energy Group

8.6.1 ORE Catapult Development Services Reports – Verbal Update from Mr Abel – Tabled and Considered.

Mr Abel informed the Committee that the company is content for the reports to be put onto the States Website. Permission is required from the Policy and Finance Committee to Action.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to publicise, on the States of Alderney Government website, the ORE Catapult Development Services Reports.

CE

A8.7 Island Plan Group

No Report.

A8.8 Housing Task Group

Ms Burgess advised that a meeting was due to take place during the week commencing 27/6/22.

A09/06/2022 Reporting by Representatives

A9.1 Alderney Representatives for States of Guernsey – Update

A report will be considered by the States of Deliberation relating to the relaxation of the legislation in regard to the individual, personal use of Cannabis.

A9.2 AeGL Update

No Report.

A9.3 AEL Update

Mr Gentle advised that there is a Board Meeting on 12th July and the AGM on 13th July.

Mr Snowdown queried whether the substation at Sharpe's Farm was still in budget as it seems to be a fairly substantial structure. Mr Gentle advised that the Committee would be provided with a response with an update as soon as possible.

A9.4 AHA Update

No Report

A10/06/2022 Resolutions Made

As stated within the minutes above.

Open Meeting closed: 10:45

Signed: Ian Carter

Date: June 2022

