

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Anne French Room

27th March 2023

0900 hours

PRESENT:

Mr N Vooght, Chairman
Mr I Carter
Mr K Gentle
Mr W Abel
Mr A Snowdon
Mr S Roberts
Mrs L Maurice
Mr B Woodhead
Mr B Kelly
Mr D Smithurst - Guest

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs E Maurice, Temporary Chief Executive (TCE)
Mrs E O'Toole, Acting Head of Finance (AHoF)
Mrs S Pengilley-Price, Head of Govt Support (HoGS)
Mr J Laband, Project Support Officer (PSO)
Ms H Walton, Head of Data Analysis – SOG (HoDA) (Via Teams for Item 2.1 Only)
Ms C Stott, External Relations Officer – SOG (ERO) (Via Teams for Item 5.2 Only)

Apologies:

- Mrs L Baines, Committee Secretary
- Mr Stephen Taylor, Strategic Financial Advisor (SFA)

Declarations of Interest:

- Mr Vooght and Mr Snowdon in relation to Item 6.5.

Confidentiality Reminder

AGENDA ITEM

ACTION

01/03/2023

Minutes and Matters Arising

1.1 Minutes from previous meeting for approval – 27th February 2023 – tabled and approved.

1.2 Policy and Finance Decision Progress Log – February 2023 Meeting – tabled and noted.

- The Import (Control) (Alderney) (Amendment) Order, 2023 - Bees - The Head of Government Support noted that item 5.7 was now complete.
- It was noted that following the request at the February P&F meeting the Children's Tribunal Convenor would be in attendance at either the April P&F or at a Special P&F during April 2023.
- It was noted there was no further update on the Dairy Farm Management Contract.
- It was noted that in relation to the Asset Management Register that it was a large piece of work which would require finance and extra resource in order to complete – it was suggested that the work could be completed by 2027 given the extent of States of Alderney assets. It was noted that GSC would be receiving a report at a point in the future which would then go onwards to the Policy and Finance Committee for budgetary request, if required

02/03/2023 **Administrative Matters**

2.1 External Relations Update (Bailiwick Council/ALG/MOJ/Normandie)

Bailiwick Council –

The Chairman noted there was a meeting on March 13th where it was queried why a single meeting could be held to encompass the different forums. It was also highlighted that there will be a further update on MoneyVal and information will be provided in the next agenda as it was declared that Alderney wished to be integrated into discussion and made fully aware on the subject matter.

There was discussion around global 15% corporate tax with potential benefits for Guernsey being assessed. Although, there is a view that this could potentially be negative to the Bailiwick Tax pot and not positive.

It was raised that Alderney would be considered to a greater extent in relation to future Trade Agreements given the allowance created within the Pacific Trade Agreement.

Members queried why the President is included in Bailiwick Council meetings as this had been previously queried by the Committee – The Chairman advised that he would raise the matter with the President.

ALG – See Confidential Annexure

MoJ –

No Report

Normandie –

No Report

Helen Walton Joined the meeting at 09:17

2.1.1 New Alderney GVA and GDP Figures for Economy – Report from the Head of Head of Data Analysis dated 19th March 2023 – Tabled and Considered.

It was noted that this piece of work has been ongoing since 2015 and following the sanctioning of legislation in 2020 now provides an internationally comparable representation of the Island's economic outputs. The required methodological changes had the additional benefit of enabling the calculation of GDP specifically for Alderney. It was highlighted that the figures within the document had been adjusted (netted off) to take into consideration the period of business support provided during the covid pandemic.

It was queried when the Alderney Annual GVA and GDP Bulletin 2019-2021 would be released – it was advised that this would be as soon as possible following the Committee agreement. It was proposed that a press release be shared with the data.

The Policy and Finance resolved to note the Alderney Annual GVA and GDP Bulletin 2019-2021 and request its immediate publication subject to a Press Release being drafted and approved.

HW

Helen Walton left the meeting at 09:30

2.2 Finance (Grants & Subsidies)

2.2.1 Appointment of Investment Advisers – Report from the Strategic Financial Adviser dated 12th December 2022 – Tabled and Considered.

The Chair advised that further to the Committee's resolution in December to appoint Investment Advisers and Managers, himself and the SFA met with the Adviser to discuss the agreement in the current financial context. The Adviser agreed that if the States require flexibility in the funds held for capital project purposes whilst Island Plan priorities are determined, then the favourable deposit rates on offer at the moment are

quite persuasive. The Adviser accepted that investing the fund ourselves directly with the bank would be understandable and did not feel that they could make a good market return but only by adopting a longer-term strategy and a risk appetite that would not be appropriate for the States at the present time.

On the basis of the discussion, the Adviser has agreed that they will cancel the service agreement with the States at no cost.

It was noted that the funds held are currently earning a yield of 3.9% on 35-day notice money and this can be put on deposit for 12 months at 4.8%.

It was queried whether there was protection over the proposed investment scheme, and it was advised that it would be as it was with the bank, but this would only cover up to a certain amount.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to:

- a) **Agree that the resolutions from 12 December 2022 be replaced by an alternative investment strategy based on cash deposits,**
- b) **Note that the Services Agreement with the Advisers had been cancelled, and**
- c) **Request the Treasury to identify an appropriate sum from existing cash balances to transfer to a 12-month deposit account.**

TREASURY

2.2.2 Future Status of Finance Committee – Report from Chair of Policy & Finance Committee dated 22nd March 2023 – Tabled and Considered.

It was proposed that the Committee should agree to the appointment of a single States Member that would have the political responsibility for Finance and who would act as the political liaison with Treasury, Budget holders and Auditors.

There was concern that this would be too much responsibility for one Member and there would a high level of scrutiny relating to the appointment.

It was suggested that there are smaller discreet pieces of work that take place as part of Finance Committee which is not worth Committee time, and the majority of the work should be part of the Policy and Finance Committee mandate and for discussions at its meetings.

It was proposed that there should be a review of the Mandate at the next Finance Committee meeting, where there could also be a view to decrease the membership to only 3 Members. Members were receptive to this proposal, and it was felt that the review could streamline processes and minimise costs.

Following this proposal, the original recommendations were not considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved for the Finance Committee;

1. **to review its existing mandate and membership of the Committee at its next meeting; and**
2. **to make a recommendation to the Policy and Finance Committee following its discussion on the future of it.**

TCE/AHoF/FINANCE CMTE

2.2.3 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – Report from Mr Carter dated 13th March - Tabled and Considered.

A funding request was submitted to the Committee regarding attendance of three delegates for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association 52nd British Islands and Mediterranean Region Conference taking place in London. It was noted that budgetary

provision was made in the 2023 budget for CPA attendance following a review of costs in 2022.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved (Mr Carter and Mrs Maurice Abstained) to approve the funding of £1,740 for travel and associated costs of the delegates to attend the 52nd British Islands and Mediterranean Region Conference taking place in London.

IC/CEO

2.2.4 Commemorative Coin Contract 2023 to 2028 – Update – See Confidential Annexure

Mr Vooght Left the Meeting at 09:55

Mr Abel assumed the Chair until 10.54

2.2.5 SoA Management Accounts Summary – February 2023 Tabled and Noted.

The AHoF advised that the deficit on the Management Accounts is as expected at this time of year, given the budgeted deficit, and the larger income streams do not yet feature due to different billing periods.

It was queried whether an exercise could be undertaken, similar to that done by the States of Guernsey to simulate 5% and 10% savings across the different departments in the organisation and the effects this would have. It was advised that a report could be compiled after the Budget Holder meetings recommence in April.

Noted that it has been raised with budget holders that the clear direction of the States this year is collectively taking up all opportunities for efficiency savings in every area of activity which does not simply relate to cutting costs, but very much an emphasis on carrying out tasks as efficiently as possible and making the very best use of States time and money.

The Policy and Finance Committee indicated its support for an exercise to be carried out to provide simulations for 5% and 10% savings within department budgets and the effects of this on service delivery. A report to be brought back to the Committee in May.

AHoF/BUDGET HOLDERS

2.2.6 EDR Fund Summary – February 2023 Tabled and Noted.

It was noted that a significant underspend has been carried forward due to the early cessation of the 2022 ferry service. It was queried whether some elements of primary care could be included in the EDRF given the underspend. It was advised that only new initiatives relating to Primary Healthcare could be funded from the EDRF as it is not designed for revenue and ongoing expenditure.

03/03/2023 **3.1 Island Plan Champions Feedback** - Tabled and Discussed.

It was noted that this item had been brought forward in the agenda as there is now specific focus on the Island Plan by Committees.

3.1.1 – Finance Committee

Mr Carter highlighted that there had been no meeting.

3.1.2 – Good Governance Group

Nothing to report

3.1.3 – Energy Group – See Confidential Annexure

3.1.4 – Housing Group

Mr Woodhead noted that the Housing Group had met to discuss its Mandate and there is a view to having another meeting to discuss it further. The Mandate would be tabled at the next P&F Meeting.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to receive the updated Housing Group mandate at its next meeting.

HTG

3.2 Capital Projects Status – March 2023 – Report for Information and Noting

Mr Snowdon queried whether anything within the budget was looking to exceed its allowance. It was advised that nothing looked to be significantly over budget. It was noted that the £8k expenditure on Airport Runway Land Acquisition was for the evaluation of the land and not the acquisition of a piece of land.

3.3 Social Housing – Report from Mr Gentle dated 19th March 2023 - for Information and Noting.

Mr Gentle highlighted that the report was for noting.

It was advised that the report was an outcome of the Island Plan meeting as there was a request from the Chairman for individual Member to conduct pieces of work.

It was noted that the report would be submitted to the Housing Task Group for consideration.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to note the report.

Mr Vooght re-joined the meeting at 10:54

Break 11:00 – 11:10

04/03/2023 **External Transport, Economy and Renewable Energy**

4.1. CONFIDENTIAL - ACRE Update – See Confidential Annexure.

4.2. AEL Weather Stations Request – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 15th March 2023 - Tabled and Considered.

It was noted in the request that AEL wished to gather meteorological data for research purposes as part of a feasibility study for renewable electricity generation on the island. The weather stations would be located at Fort Albert and Fort Grosnez. The application would also need to be submitted to the Building Development Control Committee, but as Forts are the responsibility of the Policy and Finance committee, it was tabled at this meeting in the first instance.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to agree in principle (Mr Snowdon and Mr Gentle Abstained), landlord’s permission for AEL to place a weather station at Fort Grosnez and Fort Albert, and for the submission of a planning application to BDCC for consideration.

BDCC

05/03/2023 **Legislation, Conventions & Policy**

5.1 Commissioner for Standards – Item Brief dated 24th March 2023 – for Noting.

It was noted that the item brief was tabled for the benefit of Members, so all are aware of the current position of the States of Alderney in relation to this piece of work.

5.1.1 Introducing A Commissioner for Standards in Alderney – Report from the Temporary Chief Executive/ Policy Support Officer (SOG) dated 6th March 2023 – Tabled and Considered.

It was advised that the new role of Commissioner for Standards will be established from Spring 2023, for both the States of Jersey and the States of Guernsey. The Policy and Finance Committee has previously provided in principle support for a common Commissioner for Standards across the Channel Islands. The ability to adopt the same pan-Channel Island Commissioner in Alderney would provide an opportunity for shared learning and processes.

It was queried why there had been such a long delay for this piece of work to come back to P&F it was highlighted that the recruitment of the Commissioner had taken place and through a long-term staff sickness in Guernsey when P&F provided it's support from the pan island initiative the work suffered delay. The work was re commenced a short time ago and therefore the scoping work for Alderney is to be included in the initiative and can begin.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved:

- **To endorse the recommendation for scoping work to be undertaken to establish the current Guernsey and Jersey Commissioner for Standards, in Alderney.**
- **To write to the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee in Guernsey to inform them of the intention to adopt the Commissioner for Standards in Alderney that currently holds the role for Guernsey and Jersey.**

TCE

Cathy Stott Joined the meeting at 11:25

5.2 Royal Assent Draft Policy Letter – Report from External Relations Officer (SoG) / Project Support Officer dated 21st February 2023 - Tabled and Considered.

An overview was provided to the Committee which covered how three separate pieces of work had been combined into a single draft policy letter. This was tabled for any comments from Members with a view to these being relayed back to the External Relations Officer. However, on Friday 24th March it was advised that due to timing urgencies this was not only a consultation, but there was a need for a resolution to be passed in order to proceed and finalise the policy letter. With the Committee's agreement, the final draft would be produced and circulated to the Chair and Deputy of the Policy & Finance Committee for approval. The final policy letter would be submitted to the April P&F and thereon to the States of Alderney for formal approval at its May meeting.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved for the draft policy letter to be finalised by the External Relations Officer and for the final draft to be approved by the Chair and Deputy of the Committee to expedite the process, and for the final version of the policy letter to be tabled at the April meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee.

ERO/PSO

Cathy Stott left the meeting at 11:35

5.3 Minimum Wage Update – See Confidential Annexure

5.4 Alderney & Guernsey Collaborative Working – See Confidential Annexure

5.5 Revised Timetable for CEO Appointment – See Confidential Annexure

5.7 Committee Rules of Procedure – Report from Project Support Officer dated 27th March 2023 - Tabled and Considered.

It was noted that following the minor amendments suggested at the previous meeting, that this consequentially required further amendments to a number of rules and as such, the Rules of Procedure for States Committees was tabled once again with a summary of those amendments highlighted in a covering report.

The Policy & Finance Committee is recommended to approve the draft States of Alderney Rules of Procedure for States Committees as tabled and for these to be submitted to the States of Alderney Billet at the earliest opportunity for formal approval.

Proposer: Mr N Vooght

Secunder: Mr Kelly

HoGS/BILLET ITEM

06/03/2023

Items for Development/Discussion

6.1. Alderney Housing Association – Quarterly Report Summary Q4 2022 – Report from Strategic Financial Adviser dated 27th March 2023 – Tabled and Considered
Members were invited to raise points with the liaison for Alderney Housing Association. It was noted that Harbour House is being lived in currently. And that there is capital provision for the grant request relating to an unspecified development. Clarity around the waiting list and the RPIX increase in rent was requested.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved for Mr Gentle to request Alderney Housing Association to provide a presentation to the Policy and Finance Committee regarding the understanding of the AHA prioritisation list and the budgetary relationship between the rental price increase and the RPIX increase and any other matters as appropriate.

KG

6.2. Alderney Care – See Confidential Annexure

6.3 People’s Meeting Open Forum – See Confidential Annexure

6.4. Publicity – Report from Mr Woodhead dated 19th March 2023 – Tabled and Considered.

Mr Woodhead noted that there is no issue with the States’ current PR strategy. However, it was suggested that there is a lack of outreach, and it doesn’t specifically access a large number of people. Therefore, additional liaison with Alderney Journal should be considered due to the number of its copies that are sold – States of Alderney news could be shared and included within the publication.

It was raised that the method that is used by the States of Jersey could be adopted. This forum, Ask the Ministers, is hosted by 4 Ministers, and they’re asked questions for 90

minutes by an independent interviewer and the session is broadcasted online for public viewing.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved for Mr Woodhead to obtain costings of further public outreach within local publications.

BW

6.5 The Dangerous Weapons Application Process – Report from Temporary Chief Executive dated 23rd March 2023 – Tabled and Considered.

The Temporary Chief Executive noted that a meeting had been held with the States' Armourers regarding the revised application form where it was suggested that wide consultation was not necessary and that the Shooting Club as a whole should not need to be consulted. However, the States should remain receptive to feedback. It was suggested that there should be a short period of consultation, and this was countered by a proposal that the Shooting Club should receive a 7-day early release where it would go to the public thereafter.

The Policy and Finance Committee is requested to:-

- 1. Note the revised application process for Weapons Licence holders,**
- 2. Request Treasury, in conjunction with the Chief Executive's Office and Armourers, to review the fees structure as soon as practicable, and**
- 3. Release the weapons application to the Shooting Club and its members 7 days prior to the proposed public release and for any feedback to be considered.**

07/03/2023 **Items for Future Billet Submission**

- **Committee Rules of Procedure**
- **Mouriaux Platte Saline Sewerage - Phase 2**
- **ACRE Commissioner Appointments**

08/03/2023 **Any Other Business - For Information & Noting**

8.1 Letter from Guernsey's Minister for External Relations to the Minister for International Trade - FOR INFORMATION.

There were no further comments on the letter.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to note Letter from Guernsey's Minister for External Relations to the Minister for International Trade.

8.2 Chief Pleas – St Anne's Church – Letter Response – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING

There were no further comments on the letter.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note Chief Pleas, St Anne's Church Letter Response

8.3 Draft Letter to Deputy Helyar – See Confidential Annexure

8.4 UK-FRANCE MARITIME SECURITY TREATY - MOU – Report from The External Relations Officer SOG dated 23 March 2023 – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING

It was noted that the committee did not need to acknowledge the propositions within the paper, but simply note that the MoU relating to the security treaty would be in force on May 1st 2023.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note the report and the UK-FRANCE MARITIME SECURITY TREATY – MOU.

PSO

8.5 Energy Working Group Meeting Outcomes – Draft Report from The Chair of The Energy Working Group dated 23 March 2023 – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING
Information listed under 3.1.3

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note the Energy Working Group Meeting Outcomes.

A.O.B

Civil Contingencies Authority

It was queried as to whether the position of temporary States of Alderney member on the Civil Contingencies Authority had been appointed. It was advised that Mr Vooght had been appointed and sworn in earlier in the year.

However, as it didn't appear that there was a nomination recorded in the minutes of the January / February 2023 Policy and Finance Meeting, it was requested that Members propose and second Mr Vooght to that position.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved for Mr Vooght to be the States of Alderney representative to the Civil Contingencies Authority.

Proposer: Mr Gentle

Secunder: Mr Kelly

Policy and Finance Committee Meeting Structure

Mr Kelly suggested that in the future, if there was a large number of items on the agenda, that a lunch break be taken. It was further proposed that the break should be at 12:00pm as if it was later than this, there may not be a meaningful amount of business to return to after the lunch break.

09/03/2023

Exception Reporting & Questions by Members

9.1 General Services Committee

Mrs Maurice noted that there is a GSC meeting scheduled for 5th April where the Braye Opportunity Area will be discussed. An update will be provided to Policy and Finance Committee regarding the outcome of that GSC meeting.

Post-Meeting note: This meeting has been rescheduled for after Easter

9.2 Building Development Control Committee

Mr Gentle noted that there is currently no Planning Officer and as such, the next planning meeting may need to be deferred.

9.3 Economic Development Committee

It was queried whether the minutes had been made available on the website yet as there had been comments from members of the public – it was advised that following the finalising of the Data Processing Notice, they now could be uploaded.

Mr Snowdon provided a brief overview of the current workstreams and that the next meeting had been deferred by a week to the 12th April due to Staff availability.

10/03/2023 **Reporting by Representatives**

10.1 Alderney Representatives for States of Guernsey - Update

Nothing to report

10.2 AeGL Update

It was noted that there was due to be a meeting on the 4th April.

Post Meeting Note: – this meeting has been postponed and will now take place on 20th April.

10.3 AEL Update

Mr Gentle advised that the Substation at Sharps farm is nearly complete.

10.4 AHA Update

Nothing to report

10.5 Connaught Liaison Update

Mr Gentle advised that the Extension is running on time and that there is a Project Board meeting taking place soon.

The Connaught Board have met with the LV group. It was noted that no press release had been circulated. It was also noted that the 5-year Business plan and the Memorandum and Articles are being submitted to the States imminently.

10.6 Alderney Care Board

As previously stated in the minutes.

Meeting closed: 14:12

Signed: Nigel Vooght

Date: 28th March 2023