

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Anne French Room

24th April 2023

0900 hours

PRESENT:

Mr N Vooght, Chairman
Mr I Carter
Mr A Snowdon
Mrs L Maurice
Mr B Woodhead
Mr B Kelly
Mr S Roberts
Mr W Abel

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs E Maurice, Temporary Chief Executive (TCE)(from 0956)
Mrs L Baines, Committee Secretary (left for item 7 only)
Mrs S Pengilley-Price, Head of Govt Support (HoGS)
Mr Stephen Taylor, Strategic Financial Advisor (SFA) (via Teams)
Mrs E O'Toole, Acting Head of Finance (AHoF)
Mr J Laband, Project Support Officer (PSO)

Apologies: Mr K Gentle

Declarations of Interest
Confidentiality Reminder

AGENDA ITEM

ACTION

01/04/2023

Minutes and Matters Arising

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

MoneyVal – still awaiting report.

Bailiwick Council attendees – issue still to be raised with the President.

2.2.5 SoA Management Accounts Summary – the Chairman clarified that all department budget holders should be working on this now regarding the request for a 5% and 10% savings exercise.

It was reiterated that the Emergency Services and Primary Care are the major areas that have caused the deficit. **Noted.**

5.1.1 Introducing a Commissioner for Standards in Alderney – Mr Kelly requested for 'in Guernsey' to be added where long-term staff sickness was referred. **Noted.**

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

Ambulance – it was noted that the contract is to be signed on Wednesday.

Mandates – to be submitted to the SoA as 1 item rather than piecemeal. **Noted.**

Biodiversity Strategy – being discussed at the next GSC meeting.

Ambulance Costs Recovery – it was clarified that the delay is due to the budgeting process.

02/04/2023

Administrative Matters

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

Bailiwick Council – Nothing to report.

ALG – Nothing to report.

MoJ – Nothing to report.

Normandie – Nothing to report.

2.2 Finance (Grants & Subsidies)

2.2.1 States of Alderney 2022 Accounts – Report from Acting Head of Finance dated 17th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The States of Alderney Accounts for 2022 have been audited by Grant Thornton. A clean, unmodified audit opinion will be entered on the accounts which were presented to the Finance Committee at their meeting on the 18th April 2023. The auditor's Letter of Management Representation is also provided for signature by the Chairman following the meeting.

The basis for the accounts is set out in the Government of Alderney Law, 2004 and does not meet the more rigorous requirements of recognised accounting standards. This is noted in the auditor's report. However, the format again includes enhanced disclosures with the notes to the accounts providing more clarity on the detailed entries in the accounts.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to:-

- a) **Approve the States of Alderney Accounts 2022 subject to further review by the Chairman and Acting Head of Finance,**
- b) **Approve the Letter of Representation, subject to typo amendment,**
- c) **Note the Audit Findings Report, and**
- d) **Agree to submit the States of Alderney Accounts 2022 for inclusion on the Billet for approval by the States no later than its June meeting.**

AHoF

2.2.2 States of Alderney Water Board Financial Statements – Report from Acting Head of Finance dated 12th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The Water Board Financial Statements for 2022 have been audited by Grant Thornton. A clean, unmodified opinion will be entered on the accounts which were presented to the General Services Committee (GSC) at their meeting on the 14th April 2023 and noted by the Finance Committee at their meeting on the 18th April 2023. The auditor's letter of management representation has now been provided for signature by the Chairman of GSC.

In all areas within the control of the States of Alderney, during 2022 budget holders were asked to focus on need and affordability as part of good financial management practice. The headlines arising from the accounts are noted within the report including references to previous year figures or the revised budget (RB).

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to:-

- a) **Approve the States of Alderney Water Board Financial Statements 2022, and**
- b) **Agree to submit the Water Board Financial Statement 2022 for inclusion on the Billet for approval by the States no later than its June meeting.**

AHoF

The Acting Head of Finance thanked Mr Vooght and Mr Carter for their assistance with the accounts and auditing process.

The Committee thanked the Acting Head of Finance and Treasury team for their work on the accounts. Noted.

Post meeting minute:

An email was circulated by the Acting Head of Finance were the proposer and seconder were agreed for this Billet item:

Proposer: Mr N Vooght

Seconder: Mr I Carter

2.2.3 Audit Findings Report – Audit Findings Report for the States of Alderney and States of Alderney Water Board for the year ended 31st December 2022 tabled and noted.

2.2.4 Coins Contract Update

The Chairman advised that he has been in discussions with the Lieutenant Governor’s Office regarding the process for coin approval. It was noted that our procedure should echo the States of Guernsey process. Conversations are ongoing. **Noted.**

2.2.5 SoA Management Accounts Summary – March 2023 – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING

Income Streams from Alderney Care – The SFA advised that a forecast outturn has been requested from Will Pierce, and a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday this week. The forecast will be tabled to P&F for information in due course.

It was requested that a quarterly review of the accounts is completed, reporting back to P&F accordingly.

SFA

Temporary Chief Executive joined meeting 0956

03/04/2023 Island Plan

3.1 Confirmation of Proposed Lead Committee responsible for each project – Agenda item tabled and considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to agree the proposed lead Committee’s as set out in the below table:

	Sector	WorkPlan	Lead	Proposed Lead Committee
1	Transport	Runway	Runway Group	P&F
2	Transport	Braye Opportunity Area	Lin	GSC/(EDC Post Development)
3	Education / Economy	Sports Centre	Bill	P&F
4	Education / Economy	Swimming Pool	Bill	P&F

5	Education / Economy	Family Centre	Ian	P&F
6	Housing	Whitegates	Lin	GSC
7	Housing	Connaught (Old)	Bruce	GSC
8	Housing	Social Housing	Kevin	P&F
9	Energy / Economy	Energy Turbines, Solar Panels, Tidal	Bill	P&F

3.2 Champions Sector Feedback – Verbal Update

3.2.1 Environment

Nothing to report.

3.2.2 Economy

Mr Snowdon updated members on the Economic Development Committee’s current workstreams including presentations received from external bodies. Further information on the workstreams can be found in the EDC minutes as circulated to members last week.

3.2.3 Energy

Nothing to report.

3.2.4 Housing

Nothing to report. The Housing Group are progressing various areas. Noted.

3.2.5 Care

It was advised that there has been no meeting of the Alderney Care Board to date. It was noted that areas of policy are needing review. It was observed that to be able to give an overview of Care that access to the range of current issues and provision made by the Connaught needs to be accessed as this is a key area of care provision.

3.2.6 Education

It was advised that there is a movement of parents taking children out of St Anne’s School and sending them to Guernsey for education.

It was noted that the school dynamic is not as happy as it could be. Noted.

3.2.7 Transport

Airport – Update under 4.5 noted.

Braye Opportunity Area – next step is scoping work. Updates will be reported back to P&F in due course. Concerns were raised regarding the difference in the tender process

to that which was used for the Ferry Service. The Strategic Financial Adviser clarified that there are routine tenders for construction which are carried out by the civil service.

It was noted that these agenda items are to be standard items on the agenda going forwards.

04/04/2023 **P&F Working Groups - Updates**

4.1. Finance Committee

The following items were discussed at the last FC meeting:

- Review of the SoA Accounts and Audit Report
- 3 grants were considered
- Coins issues discussed
- Stamp collection for the Coronation – to be given to every school pupil in September
- Mandate – being finalised.

4.2. Good Governance Group

A meeting is to be arranged once Mr Gentle and the Temporary Chief Executive are back from leave. Noted.

The Committee wished Mr Gentle a speedy recovery. Noted.

4.3 Energy Group – AEL Draft letter for approval – AEL draft letter tabled and considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve the draft letter to AEL.

CE OFFICE

It was noted that there had been a meeting with AEL to discuss the way forward regarding tariffs and concessions.

Mr Abel requested P&F approval to contact the Law Officers to discuss the Alderney Electricity Concessions Law.

For clarity, the Committee requested for the HoGS to circulate the recommendation via email to members for approval.

HoGS

Post meeting minute:

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to authorise an approach to the Law Officers of St James Chambers to review, update or repeal and replace the Alderney Electricity Concession Law 1953; and to extend or replace Alderney Electricity's concession, which is due to expire as of May 2024.

4.4 Housing Group

It was noted that the new mandate is currently being finalised with a view to it coming to P&F for approval in May.

The group are progressing the proposals of Whitegates and the Old Connaught, which are being discussed in detail. Noted.

4.5 Alderney Airport Runway Group – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

05/04/2023 Legislation, Conventions & Policy

5.1 International Agreement – Extension of the International Coffee Agreement, 2022 – FOR RATIFICATION – Report from Project Support Officer dated 14th April 2023 tabled and considered.

On 30th March 2023 Policy and Finance Committee Members were asked to confirm whether their jurisdiction (Alderney) wishes to be included within the extension of the 2022 ICA to Guernsey.

Members provided unanimous approval before close of business on 3rd April for the Extension of the International Coffee Agreement to Alderney.

It was also noted that the item would require ratification at the April Policy and Finance Committee meeting.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to ratify its confirmation for Alderney to be included within the extension of the 2022 International Coffee Agreement to Guernsey.

PSO

5.2 Mouriaux to Platte Saline Sewer Phase 2 – FOR RATIFICATION – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 13th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to ratify the approved reduced figure of £207k for Mouriaux to Platte Saline Sewer Phase 2.

5.3 The Nunnery Flat 2 – Open Studio Events Request – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 12th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee have been requested, as Landlords of the Nunnery site, to consider granting permission to the Tenant of Nunnery Flat 2 to hold Open Studio events 2 or 3 days per month during the tourist season to enable visitors to view the Tenants artwork.

The Tenant is also asking for approval for a poster to be placed on the gate of Flat 2 at the time of the event however, no posters will be displayed at any other time or anywhere else on the site.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve the request for the Tenant of The Nunnery Flat 2 to hold Open Studio Events for 2-3 days a month during the tourist season, and for a temporary poster to be placed on the gate of Flat 2 at the time of the event.

CE OFFICE

5.4 Royal Assent Policy Letter for approval – Report from Project Support Officer dated 24th April 2023 tabled and considered.

At its March 2023 meeting, the Policy & Finance Committee resolved for the Royal Assent 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.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve the Royal Assent Policy Letter and submit it to the May Billet for formal approval by the States of Alderney.

Proposer: Mr N Vooght

Secunder: Mr S Roberts

HoGS/BILLET ITEM

5.5 The Lending, Credit and Finance (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2022 Consultation

5.5.1 Gower Financial Services Limited - Report from Chief Executive Office dated 17th April 2023 tabled and considered.

Pursuant to Section 12(10) of the LCF Law, the Commission must consult with the Policy and Finance Committee of the States of Alderney if an applicant proposes to carry on regulated activity in or from within Alderney.

Gower Financial Services Limited, an entity which is currently licenced by the Commission under The Insurance Managers and Insurance Intermediaries (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2002 as amended and The Protection of Investors (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 is in the process of applying for a licence under the LCF Law. It has been indicated in the application that regulated activity will be carried out in or from within Alderney, it is not intended that a physical presence office will be located in Alderney.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to relay any comments regarding the licensing of Gower Financial Services Limited to the Civil Service so that these can be relayed to the Guernsey Financial Services Commission as soon as practicable.

PSO

5.5.2 Cherry Godfrey Finance Limited – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 17th April 2023 tabled and considered.

Pursuant to Section 12(10) of the LCF Law, the Commission must consult with the Policy and Finance Committee of the States of Alderney if an applicant proposes to carry on regulated activity in or from within Alderney.

Cherry Godfrey Finance Limited, an entity which is currently registered by the Commission as a Non-Regulated Financial Services Business is in the process of applying for a licence under the LCF Law. It has been indicated in the application that regulated activity will be carried out in or from within Alderney.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to relay any comments regarding the licensing of Cherry Godfrey Finance Limited to the Civil Service so that these can be relayed to the Guernsey Financial Services Commission as soon as practicable.

PSO

5.5.3 Cherry Godfrey Consumer Funding 11 Limited; III Limited and V Limited (together with 'CGCF entities') - Report from Chief Executive Office dated 17th April 2023 tabled and considered.

Pursuant to section 22(10) of the LCF Law, the Commission must consult with the Policy and Finance Committee of the States of Alderney if an applicant proposes to carry on regulated activity in or from within Alderney.

The CGCF entities are each currently in the process of applying for a licence under the LCF Law and have informed us that they will be carrying on this regulated activity not only from Guernsey but Alderney as well.

The LCF Law was brought in at the beginning of this year and will replace The Registration of Non-Regulated Financial Services Businesses (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law,

2008 under which the CGCF entities are currently registered. This will take effect on 1 July 2023 so any firms wishing to commence, or to continue, activities covered by the LCF Law will need to have obtained a licence by that date.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to relay any comments regarding the licensing of Cherry Godfrey Consumer Funding entities to the Civil Service so that these can be relayed to the Guernsey Financial Services Commission as soon as practicable.

PSO

5.6 Amendment to the Immigration (BoG) Rules: recognition of time spent & French Identity Card Pilot Scheme – Report from Project Support Officer dated 14th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The Committee *for* Home Affairs (“the Committee”) recently approved in principle two amendments to the Immigration (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Rules, 2008 (“the Rules”):

- To formally recognise time spent in specified types of employment in other jurisdictions of the Common Travel Area (“the CTA”) for the purpose of calculating the qualifying period for indefinite leave to remain in the Bailiwick of Guernsey (“settlement”).
- To amend the Rules which will enable the introduction of a pilot scheme, for a limited period only, which will allow French nationals to utilise their national identity cards on a direct ferry sailing for ‘day trips’.

The scheme will run for a limited period only; from 26th April ’23 until 30th September ’23 which will be reflected in the Rule’s temporary amendment.

Mr Abel queried why there are two matters for consideration where one is in perpetuity (time spent) and one is for a trial (ID Pilot Scheme).

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to provide comments on the proposed amendments to the Civil Service and thereon to the Committee for Home Affairs.

PSO

5.7 Amendments Relating to Jurisdictional Counter Measures and Sanctions – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 17th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The Policy Letter proposes amendments to the Bailiwick’s legal framework for anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism (“AML/CFT”) and the implementation of international sanctions measures. The amendments concern the Terrorism and Crime (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2002 (the “Terrorism Law”), the Sanctions (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2018 (“the Sanctions Law”) and the Terrorist Asset Freezing (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2011 (“the Terrorist Asset Freezing Law”).

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to confirm the support of the proposals as set out in the policy letter.

PSO

5.8 Minimum Standards for Lawyers – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 17th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The policy letter proposes the introduction of legislation imposing additional requirements on law firms and lawyers operating by way of business in the Bailiwick of Guernsey (including those which are owner managed and operated, i.e. which might be described as sole practitioners) so as to address a regulatory gap which currently exists

in preventing criminals from controlling such firms. This gap has arisen as the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF") has revised the standards it requires jurisdictions to apply in relation to these businesses. The international expectation is that a comprehensive approach is taken to preventing control and management of law firms by criminal elements, which means that sufficient legal provisions need to be in place so as to permit this. Law firms, for the purposes of this policy letter, means both firms of Advocates and English solicitors (and other non-locally qualified lawyers) operating in the Bailiwick.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to confirm the support of the proposed legislation as set out in the policy letter.

PSO

5.9 Amendments Relating to Transparency and Beneficial Ownership of Legal Arrangements – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 17th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The Policy Letter proposes some amendments to the Bailiwick's legal framework for anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism ("AML/CFT"). The amendments concern the Criminal Justice (Proceeds of Crime) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1999 ("the Proceeds of Crime Law").

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to confirm its support of the proposals as set out in the policy letter.

PSO

5.10 Legislation on International Cooperation – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 17th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The purpose of the Policy Letter is to recommend an amendment to the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2001 ('the International Co-operation Law').

This proposal follows recent discussions with the Law Officers, which have led the Committee *for* Home Affairs ('the Committee') to become aware of the need for an amendment in respect of the provision of documentary evidence. This amendment is proposed to the States of Guernsey in this Policy Letter following the formal advice and recommendation of His Majesty's Comptroller.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to confirm its support of the proposed legislation as set out in the policy letter.

PSO

5.11 The Import (Control) (Alderney) (Amendment) (No.2) Order, 2023 – Amendment for Dangerous Knives – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 13th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The Guernsey Border Agency ("the GBA") has identified the need to make some amendments to the list of offensive weapons within Schedule 5 to The Import (Control) (Alderney) Order, 2010 ("the Principal Order").

The Import (Control) (Alderney) (Amendment No. 2) Order, 2023 ("Amendment Order") proposes to amend Schedule 5 to the Principal Order to align the definition of "flick knife" or "flick gun" with the definition given in the UK's Offensive Weapons Act 2019.

The Amendment Order further inserts two additional dangerous knives, which are sometimes known as a "zombie knife" and a "cyclone knife", respectively.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve the enclosed Amendment Order and for the Chair to sign the enclosed Import (Control) (Alderney) (Amendment No.2) Order, 2023, which will then come into force on 3rd May 2023.

HoGS

1043 Break

1052 Meeting reconvened

06/04/2023 Items for Development/Discussion

6.1. Seat Belts & Crash Helmets – For Discussion – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

6.2 Reserve Fund Accounting – For Discussion

The Chairman advised that this item is for further discussion going forwards. **Noted.**

07/04/2023 Items for Future Billet Submission

- **Update on Implementation of Developing Alderney Care – Transfer of Functions**
- **ACRE Commissioner Chairmanship – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE**

08/04/2023 For Information & Noting

8.1 Price Paid Data – Quarter 1 2023 – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING

8.2 New Consul General for Morocco – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING

An email was received on Tuesday 4th April from External Relations, confirming that the Policy & Resources Committee have accepted the appointment of Mr Abdessamad Tajerramt as the new Consul General for Morocco in London, with responsibility for the consular district including Guernsey.

The Policy & Finance Committee noted the appointment of Mr Abdessamad Tajerramt as the new Consul General for Morocco in London, with the responsibility for the consular district including Guernsey.

09/04/2023 Exception Reporting from States Committees

9.1 General Services Committee

Whitegates - It was noted that a proposal for Whitegates has been discussed, and will now be refined by the Housing Group before coming to P&F for consideration.

St Anne's Church - The Church remedial works, as raised in a Chief Pleas letter, are in progress and a plan for these remedial works is being finalised by the EEIM.

Kiln Farm - Mr Roberts advised that the owner has re advertised the farm tenancy. It was noted that the Dairy Farm Management Contract has now been signed.

9.2 BDCC

The next Open Planning meeting scheduled for 18th May is still going ahead as planned. A highly qualified Agency Planning Officer has been identified, and interviews for the Planning Office Assistant role are scheduled for tomorrow (Tuesday 25th April). **Noted.**

9.3 Economic Development Committee

Nothing further to report.

10/04/2023 Reporting by Representatives

10.1 Alderney Representatives for States of Guernsey – Update

It was noted that Contribution of Benefits Rates are being discussed this week.

10.2 AeGL Update

Nothing to report. Board meeting held last week. Accounts to be tabled to P&F in due course.

10.3 AEL Update

The Board meeting was originally planned for Tuesday 25th April but due to members unavailability this has now been rescheduled for the w/c 22nd May. It was also a desire to have a better understanding of where AEL are with the Energy Working Group and what they should be reporting to P&F going forwards. Noted.

10.4 AHA Update – Confidential letter from AHA tabled and **noted**.

The last P&F resolution asked for a presentation from AHA, with particular regard to the relationship between RPIX and the rental increase, and the prioritisation of allocation process. Currently the Framework Agreement in place allocates time in July for a formal presentation to P&F where these points will be covered. However, if P&F wish for this presentation to be brought forward, then it is noted that the AHA will look to accommodate it. Noted.

10.5 Connaught Liaison Update

The Connaught Extension is still currently on schedule for completion at end of Q2. A full inspection was carried out by an Inspector of Residential and Nursing Homes in December, and the report has been received with actions completed on 13th April 2023. A Food Hygiene Inspection on 10th March saw the Connaught issued with only 1 star rating. An update was received on 19th April advising that a further inspection had been completed and the Connaught have now been issued with 4 stars. Noted.

A meeting has been rescheduled for May to discuss the accounts with the Connaught Board. It was noted that Will Pierce is involved, and that a response to the queries raised have been received, with a fuller response to be tabled at the scheduled meeting. Members advised that there has still been no response to the letter sent from GSC to the Connaught. Noted.

10.6 Alderney Care Board

Nothing to report. No meeting held.

11/04/2023 Any Other Business

11.1 Partnerships with Brittany and Ille et Vilaine – Report from Project Support Officer dated 20th April 2023 tabled and considered.

The States of Guernsey and Government of Jersey have a cooperation agreement with the region of Normandy and departmental council of La Manche. The States of Alderney and Chief Pleas of Sark are associate members to that agreement and are invited to attend the annual political summits (next one taking place in Guernsey on 22 September – exact itinerary tbc but based on ferries from Normandy it should just be a day trip with no evening events planned) and participate in joint/bilateral projects if there are any particular areas of interest under the cooperation agreement. That agreement was renewed in 2022 for a further 3 years.

The States of Guernsey has had a similar agreement with the Government of Jersey and the department of Ille et Vilaine (in Brittany) since 2017, which the States of Alderney and Chief Pleas of Sark are currently not associate members of. The agreement with Ille et Vilaine is due to be renewed in June.

The States of Guernsey is currently also in discussions with the Region of Brittany to establish a new bilateral cooperation agreement with them, having not previously had a formal relationship with the region. This new agreement is due to be signed in June as well along with the renewal of the agreement with Ille et Vilaine.

The Policy and Finance Committee have been asked to consider whether it is content for Alderney to maintain its current position of not being associate members of the agreement with Ille et Vilaine, and if this will also apply to the agreement with Brittany; or whether the Committee wishes to progress a relationship with Ille et Vilaine and Brittany and as such become part of the agreement.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to agree to progress a relationship with Ille et Vilaine and Brittany and as such become part of the agreement.

PSO

11.2 CE Recruitment

Mr Kelly raised concerns regarding the pressure that the civil service is currently under.

It was noted that it is now four months since the departure of the previous Chief Executive, and nothing has been formalised. The Committee were advised that work is ongoing, in liaison with States of Guernsey colleagues.

Chairman to come back to Committee with a plan of action. Noted.

CHAIR

Meeting closed: 11.28am

Meeting reconvened at 1pm

11.3 Review of Children Law & Outcomes – Karen Brady, Children’s Convenor in attendance

Karen Brady, Children’s Convenor, was in attendance following the review of the Children Law undertaken by the States of Guernsey.

It was highlighted that there are positive outcomes following the review of the Children Law and that these included the opportunity to raise, and then solve, referrals earlier that was previously possible. The process of referrals was also explained along with what parties are involved, those being the Convenor, the Community Tribunal and the Board (made up of lay people).

Members queried why there were such low numbers of referrals from Alderney. It was advised that the majority of referrals occur from those in care or from those who commit offences. However, it may be that the services available to children on Alderney are not widely known, although regular liaison takes place with several on island bodies including the police and the school. This may be expanded on a wider basis to the Island Medical Centre.

It was noted that it may be beneficial for a drop in to take place on the matter with the Tribunal President, which could lead to an on-island recruitment drive to the board as it would be looking to recruit members on Alderney as there is currently no Alderney representation on the Alderney Board.

Ms Brady advised that she would provide feedback following the conclusion of their meetings with the other on island bodies and this would be shared with Members.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved for a press release to be circulated to inform the general public of the referral service that is available to children.

PSO

Meeting closed: 1.45pm

Signed: Nigel Vooght

Date: April 2023