

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Anne French Room

17th July 2023

0900 hours

PRESENT:

Mr N Vooght, Chairman
Mrs L Maurice
Mr B Woodhead
Mr B Kelly (via Teams)
Mr W Abel
Mr K Gentle

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs E Maurice, Temporary Chief Executive (TCE)
Mrs L Baines, Political & Senior Executive Officer
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) (via Teams)

Apologies: Mr I Carter; Mr S Roberts; Mr A Snowdon; Mr J Laband, Policy Support Officer (PSO)

Attendees: President William Tate up to item 2.3 only; AHA representatives – Mark Bristow, Victoria Slade, CEO and Donald Hughes for item 2.4.6 & 2.4.7 only; James Cotter of Equinor Group and Michael Turner Samuel (via Teams) for item 4.4 only.

Declarations of Interest:
Confidentiality Reminder

AGENDA ITEM

ACTION

0900 President joined meeting

01/07/2023

Minutes

1.1 Minutes from previous meeting for approval – 30th June 2023– tabled and approved.

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

Asset Register – it was requested for an idea of scope to be provided to members for the next meeting. It was noted that there has been no update from Treasury yet, and the process is being accelerated. **Noted.**

Minimum Wage – update requested for next meeting. **Noted.**

Alderney-Guernsey Working Together – feedback under item 2.1 – **Noted.**

Update of decision log to be circulated to member before summer recess. Noted.

PSEO

02/07/2023

External Relations/Budget & Finance

2.1 External Relations Update (Bailiwick Council/ALG/Moj/Normandie/Ille et Vilaine & Brittany)

Bailiwick Council – Nothing further to report.

ALG – Letter received from Deputy Helyar re Transferred Services – 1948 Agreement. Letter to be circulated to all members and President for information.

PSEO

MoJ – It was noted that a proposed visit for August is being finalised – no date confirmed currently. **Noted.**

Normandie – Nothing further to report.

Brittany & Ille et Vilaine Agreements – Mr Vooght advised that he is engaging in ongoing discussions with his contact and is due to meet in August. **Noted.**

2.2 Employment Board – Letter of Engagement for approval – Letter of engagement and fee quote tabled and considered.

Members noted an update on the process, where progress is being made.

Members agreed for Temporary Chief Executive to sign the letter of engagement and fee quote and return to Insight Group Limited.

PSEO

2.3 President Update – Verbal

Confidential item- SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

Charities Fayre - The President is organising a Charities Fayre for November to promote voluntary contribution to the vast variety of charities that Alderney has to offer, and to encourage younger volunteers to join organisations. This event is being advertised in September, and radio coverage has already started.

It was noted that the letter to charities regarding promotion of self-funding ties in with this initiative.

Confidential Item – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

0947 President left meeting

2.4 Finance (including Grants & Subsidies)

2.4.1 SoA Management Account Summary – June 2023 – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING

Tabled and **noted.**

It was noted that meetings with budget holders are ongoing.

2.4.2 EDR Fund – June 2023 – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING - Tabled and **noted.**

2.4.3 Pension Trustees Minutes – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING - CONFIDENTIAL – Tabled and **noted.**

2.4.4 Coin Contract Update – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

2.4.5 Sark Inter-Island Environmental Meeting – Funding Request – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 3rd July 2023 tabled and considered.

Members were asked to consider the expenditure for Mr Roberts to attend the Sark Inter-Island Environmental meeting in September.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve the request for Mr Roberts to attend the Sark Inter-Island Environmental meeting in September 2023, and for the previous minutes and agenda from the last meeting to be circulated to members.

1006 AHA Representatives joined meeting

2.4.6 AHA Business Plan – Report from Strategic Financial Adviser dated 30th June 2023 tabled and considered.

As part of the Framework agreement agreed with the AHA in 2011, the AHA is required to submit its annual business plan to the States in draft form by the end of May each year. This is then considered by the Policy and Finance Committee prior to finalising in July each year.

The AHA also submits a range of financial and performance information to the States on a quarterly basis that helps to monitor delivery of the key activities in the Business Plan and performance against the KPIs.

AHA thanked the Committee for the opportunity to meet, and the Committee look forward to a constructive relationship with the Board over the next year. Discussed social housing issues in context of Island Plan and agreed to maintain dialogue. AHA will liaise with P&F regarding future considerations on asset disposals, acquisitions and major renovation opportunities before a decision is made. **Noted.**

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to:

- a) **Approve the 2024 business plan subject to any issue to be fed back to AHA, and;**
- b) **Approve the Development Plan for 2024 and beyond as set out in the attached Business Plan.**

SFA

2.4.7 AHA Accounts 2022 – Report from AHA and annual report and financial statements tabled and **noted.**

1045 AHA Representatives left meeting

03/07/2023 **Legislation, Conventions & Policy**

3.1 Transfrontier Shipment of Waste – Consultation - SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

3.2 Proposed Amendments to the Deposit Compensation (BoG) Ordinance 2008 – Consultation – Item deferred as report not received from States of Guernsey for consideration.

3.3 Draft Projet re Regulation of Notaries – Report from Strategy & Policy Officer, States of Guernsey dated 17th July 2023 tabled and considered.
At the States meeting on 13th July 2022, the States of Deliberation approved propositions lodged by the Policy & Resources Committee of the States of Guernsey, concerning proposed primary legislation to enable the formal, detailed regulation of notaries public in the Bailiwick. As the legislation will be Bailiwick-wide, the Policy & Finance Committee was consulted in the drafting of that policy letter and was supportive of the proposals.

A Projet de Loi has now been drafted to give effect to the States of Deliberation's decision, and the briefing paper details the output of consultation regarding the specific provisions.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to:

- 1. Approve the Projet de Loi for submission to the States of Alderney, subject to there being no substantive amendments proposed following consideration by the Legislative Review Panel or any debate by the States of Deliberation.**
- 2. Direct officers to communicate the Committee's decision to the officers responsible for managing the progress of the Projet.**

Proposer: Nigel Vooght

Seconder: Bruce Woodhouse

HoGS

04/07/2023

Items for Development/Discussion

4.1 Itinerary Discussions – CONFIDENTIAL

See item 2.3.

Contributions from members to be made to the President before July States Meeting. Noted.

4.2 London Visit (Holocaust) – Verbal Update

See item 2.3.

4.3 ACRE Update

Nothing further to report – still awaiting an update from Law Officers. **Noted.**

1050 Break

1103 Meeting reconvened

1103 Equinor Group, James Cotter joined meeting

1115 Michael Turner Samuels joined meeting (via Teams)

4.4 Equinor Group – Presentation – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

1205 James Cotter left meeting

1222 Michael Turner Samuels left meeting

05/07/2023

For Information & Noting

5.1 Letter from Guernsey Chief Minister to Lord Chancellor – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING – Tabled and noted.

5.2 Price Paid Data – Quarter 2 – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING – Tabled and noted.

5.3 New Consul General for Columbia – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING

An email was received from External Relations, confirming that the Policy & Resources Committee have accepted the appointment of Mrs Marisol Rojas-Izquierdo as the Consul General for Columbia with jurisdiction over the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note the appointment of Mrs Marisol Rojas-Izquierdo as the Consul General for Columbia with jurisdiction over the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar.

06/07/2023

Island Plan

6.1 Sector Feedback – Verbal Update

6.1.1 Care

Nothing further to report.

6.1.2 Education

Nothing further to report.

6.1.3 Transport

See item 7.5.

6.1.4 Housing

Nothing further to report.

6.1.6 Economy

Nothing further to report.

6.2 Work Plan Updates

6.2.2 Family/Children’s Facility

Nothing further to report.

6.2.3 Social Housing

Nothing further to report.

6.2.4 Energy Turbines, Solar Panels & Tidal

See 6.1.4 - Nothing further to report.

07/07/2023

P&F Working Groups - Updates

7.1. Finance Group

Meeting being scheduled as per budget timetable. **Noted.**

7.2. Good Governance Group

Nothing further to report.

The Committee noted the update from the previous report that was tabled at the June P&F.

7.3 Energy Group

See 6.1.5 – Nothing further to report.

7.4 Housing Group

Nothing further to report.

08/07/2023

Matters other States Committees would like P&F to know

8.1 General Services Committee

Press release being drafted regarding the bird ringing situation. Chair is in liaison with PR Officer. **Noted.**

8.2 BDCC

Nothing further to report.

8.3 Economic Development Committee

Nothing further to report.

1235 Strategic Adviser and Planning Officer joined meeting

7.5 Alderney Airport Runway Group – Update report on Land Acquisitions – Report from Head of Government Support tabled and noted.

Planning application to be submitted on 14th September 2023.

Strategic Adviser to liaise with Guernsey Ports regarding winter contingency plans.

SA-PV

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve (Mr Gentle abstained) for the land acquisitions to be taken to the full States for approval in September 2023.

Proposer: Nigel Vooght

Secunder: Bill Abel

HoGS/BILLET

The Policy and Finance Committee also resolved (Mr Gentle abstained), as a matter of priority to request BDCC (via letter) to consider requesting the Law Officers to draft the necessary amending Ordinance to the Land Use Plan, to exempt future airport development, so that this matter may be progressed at the September 2023 States Meeting.

PSEO

1327 Strategic Adviser and Planning Officer left meeting

09/07/2023 Reporting by Representatives

9.1 Alderney Representatives for States of Guernsey – Update

9.1.1 Actions arising from email update from A Snowdon – Report from Mr Snowdon dated 7th July 2023 tabled and considered.

An email was circulated from Mr Snowdon to all members, providing an update on States of Guernsey feedback covering various matters.

No action resolved. **Noted.**

9.2 AeGL Update

Nothing further to report.

9.3 AEL Update

The following updates were noted:

- Last fuel boat continues to show prices are decreasing
- Solar feasibility – desktop study has highlighted 13 possible sites, and on the basis of criteria, the South side of Island is looking the most favourable.
- Wind feasibility –looking to favour Fort Albert

- AEL were sent letter to which no reply had been received – have dealt with and letter should be on its way

9.4 Connaught Liaison Update

It was noted that a board meeting was held last week.

9.5 Alderney Care Board

A meeting is being organised for 31st July via teams regarding the Care Strategy. **Noted.**

6.1.5 Energy

- **Energy Turbines, Solar Panels & Tidal**
- **Confidential Report (AEL) – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE**

1357 Mr Gentle left meeting

- **Energy Group** – Energy Group Mandate 2023 tabled and considered.
The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve the Energy Group Mandate for 2023.
- **Meeting with ARE** – Update circulated via email for information. **Noted.**

10/06/2023

Any Other Business

10.1 Future Use of Nunnery – Report from Chief Executive Office and Economic Development Committee dated 14th July 2023 tabled and considered.

Following a viewing of the Nunnery ‘Hostel’ area, Will Pierce and Practice Manager Tracy Jean have advised that they would be interested in renting the property for use within the IMC – this would primarily be for a doctor and her family who will be coming over in the next few months but also for use by other associated practitioners if the property is empty at the time of visit (eg locums or Will himself). From their perspective there is likely to be a cost saving element if not using hotels or alternative rental accommodation. It will also provide stability, particularly challenging during the summer months.

As the EDC had been tasked to look into options with a view to proposals being submitted to Policy & Finance Committee in due course, they had been asked via email, if they would be agreeable to recommending to Policy and Finance Committee, that for the next 12 months, pending further consideration of the future use of the premises, that the currently vacant hostel area of the Nunnery be leased to the IMC for key worker/ IMC employee usage.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve for the vacant Nunnery flat to be leased to the IMC for a 12-month period for key worker accommodation from the 1st August 2023.

10.2 International Agreement – Extension of the World Trade Organisation’s Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies – Report from States of Guernsey Business Executive dated 17th July 2023 tabled and considered.

The UK’s Department for the Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is intending to complete ratification of The World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement

on Fisheries Subsidies (“the agreement”) by the end of October 2023. DEFRA officials have requested that Guernsey confirm a ministerial request for extension by the 18th August 2023.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to:

- **Endorse the proposal that the Policy & Resources Committee approve that a request be made to have the UK’s membership of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies extended to the Bailiwick of Guernsey; and**
- **Note that the briefing paper will be shared with other key stakeholder Committees, Alderney and Sark, as required.**

HoGS

6.1.7 Environment

Following the conference attended by Mr Abel, it was resolved for Mr Abel to circulate an update to members for information. **Noted.**

6.2.1 Sports Centre/Swimming Pool – Report from Mr Abel dated 17th July 2023 tabled and considered.

In January of 2022 a letter of recommendation was presented to the Policy and Finance Committee and sent to the Guernsey Education Committee. The concept was accepted by P&F, but still no reply has been received from the Guernsey Education Committee. The letter recommended that Alderney commission a Project Manager to consider all alternatives for the Alderney Swimming Pool and Sports Facilities, determine the capital and operating costs, and prepare a detailed Economic Investment proposal.

Due to a lack of resources, the approved recommendation has not yet progressed.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve:

- 1) **that proposals be sought from consultants to prepare a high-level option appraisal for a swimming pool and sports facility at a suitable site (scope to be revised),**
- 2) **an indicative budget of up to £50k for the consultancy exercise, and**
- 3) **to determine the legal status of the existing Trust building.**

BA/PM

Meeting closed: 1412

Signed: Nigel Vooght

Date: July 2023