

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Anne French Room
26th September 2023
0900 hours

PRESENT:

Mr N Vooght, Chairman
Mrs L Maurice
Mr B Woodhead
Mr B Kelly
Mr K Gentle
Mr I Carter

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)
Mr J Laband, Policy Support Officer (PSO)

Apologies: Mr S Roberts; Mr A Snowdon; Mr D Smithurst; Mr W Abel; Mrs E O'Toole, Acting Head of Finance (AHoF)

Attendees:

Declarations of Interest: Mr Carter declared that a close family member lives in an AHA property.
Confidentiality Reminder

AGENDA ITEM

ACTION

01/09/2023

Minutes

1.1 Minutes from previous meeting for approval – 17th July 2023 & Special meeting 19th July & 1st August 2023 – tabled and approved.

Sark Conference – agenda to be circulated to members once received. Noted.

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

02/09/2023

External Relations/Budget & Finance

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

Bailiwick Council – The Committee noted the following issues were raised and discussed at the Bailiwick Council:

- Guernsey Government Work Plan and Investment Plan.
- Bailiwick Commission Update – meeting being arranged for next month.
- Bailiwick Protocol & Public Services – ongoing discussions.
- Changes to Processes of Royal Assent – have been delayed.

ALG – Next meeting 5th October. **Noted.**

MoJ – Visit from Mike Freer end of October. Noted.

Normandie – Mr Gentle attended Normandy Summit on 22nd September. Noted.

Brittany & Ille et Villaine Agreements – Meeting with Patrice to be arranged shortly. Noted.

2.2 Finance (including Grants & Subsidies)

2.2.1 AHA Quarterly Report – Report from Strategic Financial Adviser dated 19th September 2023 tabled and considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to:

- a) Note the key issues in the report;
- b) Agree to consider allocation of £590,000 capital funding as part of the capital programme for 2024 with spend being subject to a full business case and approval by both States, and
- c) Identify any issues for follow up with the AHA at the next quarterly meeting with States representatives.

SFA

03/09/2023

Legislation, Conventions & Policy

3.1 Transfrontier Shipment of Waste – Consultation - SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

3.2 AGCC Re-appointment of Chairman & Commissioner – Letter from AGCC Executive Director dated 21st August 2023 tabled and considered.

Under Section 1(1) of the Gambling (Alderney) Law 1999, the Policy and Finance Committee of the States of Alderney has the power to appoint the Chairman and members of the Alderney Gambling Control Commission ('the Commission') for a period of up to five years (Schedule 1(2) of the said Law).

Lord Faulkner was appointed as a Chairman of the Commission and Christopher Moger, KC as Commissioner on the 28th January 2014. Those appointments were for a period of five years and extended by the Policy and Finance Committee in October 2018 for a further period of five years. Both terms expire on the 28th January 2024.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved unanimously to approve the re-appointment of Lord Faulkner as Chairman and Christopher Moger, KC as Commissioner for a further term of 5 years commencing on 28th January 2024 and ceasing on the 28th January 2029.

PSEO

3.3 National Counter Measures, Sanctions, Preventative Measures – FOR RATIFICATION – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 23rd August 2023 tabled and considered.

The email and policy letter were circulated to members for an email decision due to the feedback being required by 16th August.

All members were in support for the proposals as set out in the policy letter.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved unanimously to ratify the support for the proposals as set out in the policy letter.

3.4 Secondary Pensions (Alderney) (Commencement) Regulations – The Secondary Pensions (Alderney) (Commencement) Regulations, 2023 tabled and considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved unanimously to approve the Secondary Pensions (Alderney) (Commencement) Regulations, 2023.

HoGS

3.5 Secondary Pensions (Alderney & Guernsey) Regulations – FOR NOTING – The Secondary Pensions (Alderney & Guernsey) Regulations, 2023 were tabled and noted. **The Policy and Finance Committee resolved unanimously to note the Secondary Pensions (Alderney & Guernsey) Regulations, 2023.**

3.6 DRAFT Letter to Presidents of Transferred Services – Draft letter tabled and considered.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved unanimously to approve the draft letter to be sent to the Presidents of Transferred Services.

PSEO

3.7 Legislation to Support the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) – Consultation – Letter from Deputy Prow, President for Committee for Home Affairs dated 8th September 2023 tabled and considered.

The Committee for Home Affairs ('the Committee') has agreed to present proposals to the States of Guernsey to introduce new primary legislation to establish a process for the collection, storage and destruction of evidence collected as part of forensic medical examinations (FMEs) being delivered as part of a SARC.

If agreed by the States of Guernsey (at its meeting on 18th October), it is intended that the proposals become Bailiwick wide. This will help ensure that victims of rape and sexual assault have the same access to justice and support across all of the islands of the Bailiwick.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to provide any feedback to the civil service so that this can be relayed to Committee for Home Affairs at the earliest opportunity. No comments were received at the meeting.

PSO

3.8 MoneyVal Legislation

Members were advised that a Special P&F meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 18th October to consider the MoneyVal legislation. **Noted.**

3.9 Committee Rules of Procedure – Publication of Draft Minutes – Report from Chief Executive Office dated 14th September 2023 tabled and considered.

Rule 10b and Rule 11 of the Committee Rules of Procedure states:

10. (b) *After circulation to Members of the Committee, any amendments required to the minutes shall be notified to the Secretary of the Committee within 3 business days beginning on the date of circulation, and reported to the Chairman who shall decide whether or not to accept the amendment. The draft minutes shall be published within a period of 11 business days, beginning on the date of the meeting to which they relate, except those parts contained in confidential annexures. Minutes should only be set out in confidential annexures under this rule and rule 11 where they accord with the criteria set out in the Protocol for Confidentiality and Access to Information which have been determined by the Policy and Finance Committee.*

11. *Minutes shall be formally approved by the Committee at its next full meeting, and following that approval shall be circulated to all Members of the States and the President.*

Concerns have been raised as to whether this should be the procedure and indeed whether the draft minutes should be published at all.

Members discussed whether they felt that an amendment to the Committee Rules of Procedure is necessary or to continue with the current process.

It was noted that any changes made to the Committee Rules of Procedure will require States approval.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to amend the Committee Rules of Procedure as necessary to remove the requirement for publication of draft minutes for all Committees, and for minutes to be approved via email, and then ratified at the next meeting.

PSEO/PSO

3.10 Minimum Wage Update – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

0935 Mr Snowdon joined meeting

3.11 IHRA Report – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

3.12 WWII Heritage Signs – Report from Tourism/Visit Alderney dated 26th September 2023 tabled and considered.

Following on from the permitted sign at Lager Sylt to help with Visitor understanding of WWII Alderney, Visit Alderney has identified other areas which link into the VA occupation trail where it would be appropriate to have information signs.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve:

- **A States of Alderney heritage branded information board and QR code (Option 3) that links to VisitAlderney.com Occupation Trail at five WWII sites around the island, subject to GSC and BDCC approval (Mr Kelly and Mr Woodhead abstained);**
- **For the text on all information boards to be written by Colin Partridge, and reviewed by Sally Sealey; and**
- **For costs to be determined so that a refund can be requested from IHRA.**

TOURISM

1012 Mr Snowdon left meeting

1012 Will Pierce, Head of Alderney Care joined meeting

04/09/2023 Items for Development/Discussion - CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

4.1 Primary Care Update – Report from Strategic Financial Adviser dated 18th September 2023 tabled and considered.

The report provided headlines for the Committee in respect of the Primary Care service which is now supported with funding from the States. The data included the financial position as well as some clinical headlines for the Committee. The latter detail was for information only as the Committee does not have a clinical governance role. The Head of Alderney Care presented the detail and took questions from members.

It was noted that a report will be provided to the Committee each month.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to:

- a) **note the issues arising from the report;**
- b) **elevate the Alderney Care Board to a higher level with an Executive Director and Board to enable the Strategies to be implemented; and**
- c) **a letter to be composed to the Connaught Care Board regarding Will Pierce becoming a Board Member.**

TCE

1048 Will Pierce, Head of Alderney Care left meeting

05/09/2023 **For Information & Noting**

5.1 Letter from Deputy Peter Roffey re Access to Work Scheme – FOR INFORMATION & NOTING – Tabled and noted.

06/09/2023 **Island Plan**

6.1 Sector Feedback – Verbal Update

Going forwards the Chairman has requested for written reports to be submitted for each heading, where an update is required.

6.1.1 Care

Nothing further to report.

6.1.2 Education

Members were advised that OFSTED were inspecting St Anne's School this week. A report has been submitted to ALG (for their meeting on 5th October) regarding the lack of SoA stakeholder involvement in Education on the island. Noted.

6.1.3 Transport

See item 7.5.

6.1.4 Housing

It was noted that progress is being made regarding the Old Connaught, with a proposal being submitted for consideration at the next GSC meeting.

Whitegates – progressing slowly.

Mortgages for Leaseholds – proposal to come to P&F for consideration regarding potential legislation. Noted.

6.1.5 Energy

- **Energy Turbines, Solar Panels & Tidal**
- **Energy Group – CONFIDENTIAL**

6.1.6 Economy

Nothing further to report.

6.1.7 Environment

It was noted that the review of the Biodiversity Strategy is progressing.

6.2 Work Plan Updates

6.2.1 Sports Centre/Swimming Pool

Concerns have been raised regarding the deterioration of materials in the current swimming pool facility. It was noted that the prelims are to cover a consultant to review all areas – sports centre, swimming pool and family centre.

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 6.1.5 – Nothing further to report.

07/09/2023

P&F Working Groups - Updates

7.1. Finance Group

Budget on the Billet for October States meeting – there were no amendments from the FG to P&F for the Budget meeting.

Coin Contract – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

7.2. Good Governance Group

Nothing further to report. Meeting to be organised.

KG

7.3 Energy Group

See 6.1.5 – Nothing further to report.

7.4 Housing Group

It was noted that Mr Woodhead is liaising with other Committees and Head of Alderney Care regarding housing issues/projects.

7.5 Alderney Airport Runway Group – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

6.5 ACRE Update – SEE CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE

08/09/2023

Matters other States Committees would like P&F to know

8.1 General Services Committee

It was noted that the proposed increase in parking fines has been placed on the Billet for the October States meeting. The next GSC meeting is 29th September.
Biodiversity Strategy review – it was noted that Mr Carter had submitted his review to Mr Roberts, Mr Smithurst and the Temporary Chief Executive for comment, and he is awaiting feedback.

8.2 BDCC

It was noted that a Policy meeting is being organised once Law Officers advice has been received in relation to rescinding the decision regarding Heritage Buildings.

8.3 Economic Development Committee

Nothing further to report.

09/09/2023

Reporting by Representatives

9.1 Alderney Representatives for States of Guernsey – Update

Nothing further to report as no Members present.

9.2 AeGL Update

It was noted that 12 licence applications have been submitted so far this year – positive situations.

9.3 AEL Update

The following updates were noted:

- The Board ratified an uplift in States appointed NED from the present yearly £100 to £7500 in line with other AEL NED's.
- Station final commission date – November 2023
- Work continuing with renewable projects. Solar – potential site identified; wind – live data now feeding into evidence base.
- Discussion taken place with STSB about current Guernsey Shareholding.

9.4 Connaught Liaison Update

It was noted that the internal doors and floors are being fitted. Currently all on budget. Confirmation of completion date to be circulated to members once received.

KG

9.5 Alderney Care Board

Nothing further to report. The proposal to elevate the board as a formal legal structure is on the agenda for 5th October ALG and ACB meetings. Noted.

10/09/2023

Any Other Business

Drop-In vs Open Forum – Report to be tabled for consideration at the next P&F meeting. Noted.

Chief Pleas – Compliments have been received regarding the latest Chief Pleas. Mr Vooght to send official letter in response to the Chief Pleas.

NV/PSEO

Chief Executive Interviews – 2 candidates are being interviewed on the 27th September. Following this an Employment Board meeting will need to be scheduled. PSEO to organise and confirm date with members.

PSEO

Credit Rating – It was queried if the States of Alderney could utilise the Electoral Roll for credit rating, identical to Guernsey. Mr Vooght to raise with Head of Public Services.

NV

Letter re Vandalism – Temporary Chief Executive to circulate to members for information.

TCE

Second Home APT – Report to be tabled for consideration at the next P&F meeting. Noted.

Meeting closed: 11.41am

Signed: Nigel Vooght

Date: September 2023