

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ANNE FRENCH ROOM
26th NOVEMBER 2013**

0915 hours

Mr F Simonet, Chairman
Mr P Arditti
Mr R Berry
Mr M Birmingham
Mr N Harvey
Mr L Jean
Mr R McDowall
Mr C Rowley
Mr S Roberts
Mr I Tugby

Mr R Burke, Chief Executive
Mrs K A Hatcher-Gaudion, Treasurer
Mrs S Pengilley-Price, EA to the Chief Executive
Mrs E O'Toole, Minute Secretary

ACTION

- 105/2013** **Minutes of the previous meeting** of the 29th October 2013 tabled and **approved** subject to the following items being moved from the confidential annexure:-
 - Item 99.1.4 Alderney Electricity Review; and
 - Item 103/2013 Confidential Item – Restructuring States Works Department and Introduction of Revised Working Hours

Notes from the Finance Committee meeting of the 17th October 2013, circulated by email, and **noted**.

Notes from the Business Development, Tourism and Marketing Committee meeting of the 11th November 2013, circulated by email, and **noted**.

106/2013**Matters Arising****106.1 Matters arising from the minutes**

106.1.1 New Connaught Care Home The Chief Executive advised the first draft of the Business Plan has been produced as well as objectives set, SWOT analysis carried out and marketing, action and financial plans drafted. **Noted**

The Committee noted that the RCCH Board will hold an AGM in March 2014 however may consider calling an EGM before then to agree on the memorandum and articles of association and the Law Officers are in the process of determining whether the Connaught can qualify as a charitable organisation. **Noted**

The Finance Committee was requested to debate the issue relating to a reduction in rental from the Connaught and bring a recommendation to the next meeting of the Committee.

FC**106.1.2 Alderney Electricity Review** – See Confidential Annexure.

The Committee noted that recommendations made by the departing Chairman, Mr Richards, for capital investment into the electricity grid/infrastructure would require consideration by this Committee at some stage in the future. **Noted**

The Committee discussed the potential of the proposed bio-digester and how that would impact the role of AEL from generator to distributor. The Chief Executive stated that IPA could be requested to take into consideration the potential of the bio-digester when carrying out the technical audit of AEL. **Noted**

The Chief Executive and Mr McDowall were requested to circulate the terms of reference for the review by IPA to Members for comment.

106.1.3 Taxation Policies Item to form part of discussions under item 107.4

106.1.4 Airport Dues and Charges Letter from Mr Harvey, drafted on behalf of the Committee in response to the consultation on proposed increase in the airport dues and charges, tabled and it was agreed for the letter to be sent to Guernsey Public Services Department.

NH

106.1.5 Transportation – CAA report on Alderney Airport The Committee noted that a copy of the report has still not been received as requested from the Public Services Department in Guernsey. **Noted**

106.2 Committee feedback from Chairmen (BDCC and ESC)

BDCC – Mr Birmingham, Chairman, advised that the next meeting of the Committee will be on the 3rd December. It was noted that ARUP put out a Call for Evidence in relation to the Planning Review and are on island at the moment for various meetings. **Noted**

ESC – Mr Jean, Chairman, briefly raised the matter concerning the application in the recent Gazette regarding caravans at the campsite to be discussed at the next meeting of BDCC. The planning application had been submitted on behalf of the Estates and Services Committee however Mr Jean advised that his Committee did not believe this was a matter for them to consider and the matter was referred to BDCC without a resolution from ESC. **Noted**

106.3 Employment Permit Report – November to date tabled and **noted**.

106.4 Feedback from Guernsey Representatives Mr Arditti and Mr Jean briefly reported on matters debated at the recent meetings of the States of Deliberations, and the following was noted:-

- The States of Guernsey gave their overwhelming support for a private group wishing to set up a Channel Island University.
- The proposal for changes to the Rates of Contributions and Benefits by the Social Security Department was not approved.
- The proposal from the Education Department for the closure of two schools in Guernsey was approved by the majority of members.
- The Scrutiny Committee will launch an enquiry into the Air Links.

107/2013

Budgetary/Finance Committee Matters

107.1 Management Accounts – October tabled and it was noted that the accounts are showing a deficit in light of the bid to the Strategic Development Fund not being approved, which was subject to further discussion with T&R. **Noted**

The Treasurer advised that should the funding be charged to capital, as requested, a resolution is required from the Committee. **Noted**
Chief Executive and Treasurer to deal.

CE/TREASURER

107.2 Revenue Account Deficit tabled and noted. The Treasurer advised that an additional £6K had been received relating to container storage charges.. **Noted**

107.3 Aged Debtors Report – Confidential Item See Confidential Annexure.

107.4 General Sales Tax Draft letter for discussion from Mr McDowall to the Treasury and Resources Department tabled and the Committee agreed for the letter to be sent to Deputy Gavin St Pier, Minister of Treasury and Resources Department.

RM

107.5 States Works Restructure Paper from Chief Executive's Office dated 20th November 2013 tabled and considered.

Mr Berry, Mr Birmingham and Mr Tugby declared an interest.

Members discussed the terms of the scheme, the effectiveness for undertaking the process and how the States Works will progress with manager appointments to replace those who may be successful with their application for VES.

**RESOLVED by majority (Mr Arditti, Mr Birmingham and Mr Tugby abstained) to support and approve the terms of the Voluntary Early Severance Scheme and to approve capital expenditure of up to £600K subject to approval by the full States. Item to be placed on the December Billet.
Chief Executive to deal.**

CE/BILLET ITEM

107.6 External Companies Fees 2014 Paper from Treasury dated 24th October 2014 tabled and considered.

**RESOLVED unanimously to agree to approve an RPIX increase of 2% (rounded), in respect of the application to register and decrease the annual fees. The Company search, photocopying and expedited search by scanned document charges to remain as previous charges.
Treasury to deal.**

TREASURY

108/2013

Business Development, Tourism & Marketing Matters

108.1 Alderney Enterprise Group update Mr Harvey, Chairman of the Business Development, Tourism and Marketing Committee, reported on the following matters which were noted:-

- Business Development – The Business and Living campaign is progressing well with number of enquiries already received.
- Transportation – Meetings will be held in Jersey with French Ferry Operators to coordinate sailings with events taking place on island. Aurigny carried out a trial with Dornier aircrafts with a view of it being the replacement for the Trislander in the future.

Aviation report – It was noted that the Alderney Liaison Group agreed in principle for the report to be carried out at a cost of £20K. It is expected that Guernsey will contribute 50%, although this has yet to be confirmed. Mr Harvey stated that the report will be carried out by Mr Tim Coombs, whom the Committee met with earlier in the year, who is an expert in this field and will provide recommendations on aircraft types, frequency and fares to address Alderney's air transport needs in the coming years.

RESOLVED by a majority (Mr Arditti and Mr Jean against due to no firm agreement by the States of Guernsey to contribute to the report) approved £10K from Unforeseen Expenditure in 2013 with a further £10K from 2014, should no contribution be forthcoming from Guernsey, in order to allow the report to progress.

BDTM/NH

108.2 Young Entrepreneur Scheme Paper from Mr Harvey dated 7th November 2013 tabled and considered. A budget of £10K for the scheme was being requested, following consideration by the BDTM Committee however Mr Harvey proposed to seek £5K through sponsorship.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve to support the scheme and agree £5K from the 2014 Marketing budget.

NH/BDTM

108.3 Tourism and Economic Development Budgets 2014 Paper from Mr Harvey dated 14th November 2013 tabled and discussed.

The Committee noted and agreed the allocation of the previously approved Marketing & Tourism budget in respect of tourism and economic development activities being carried out by Be A Tiger over the next 6 to 12 month.

CE/TREASURY

108.4 Marina Draft Heads of Terms for the Development of Alderney Marina from Braye Harbour Developments Limited tabled and discussed. The Committee was disappointed with the Heads of Terms received and it was noted that the Law Officers Chambers are in the process of drafting appropriate documentation.
Noted

Alderney Development Ltd – Renewed proposal dated November 2013 tabled and discussed. Alderney Development Ltd (ADL) is seeking support from the States for the construction of a marina facility near Maggie's Bay.

Mr Arditti and Mr Jean stated that the Committee cannot consider any other marina proposals as Braye Harbour Developments have preferred bidder status and until such time as Heads of Terms have been received.

RESOLVED unanimously to support the proposal from Alderney Developments Ltd (ADL), with Heads of Terms to be agreed however not to be signed prior to Heads of Terms received from Braye Harbour Developments Ltd.

Chief Executive to deal.

CE

108.5 Visitors Information Centre Mr Harvey reported that the BDTM Committee is investigating ways of improvement the Visitors Information Centre. Options will be considered at BDTM level and will be referred to the Committee should there be any financial consideration. **Noted**

108.6 Energy Plan and Bio-digester Paper from the Chief Executive dated 20th November 2013 tabled and considered. The Committee considered a proposal, which had come about as a result of the Alderney Enterprise Group's work on energy, for the installation of 2 anaerobic digesters and a gasification plant for Alderney.

The first stage of the programme is to investigate on-island organic and inorganic waste streams, undertake a feasibility study to harness the waste and recycle that waste in to renewable energy stock with an overall vision to make Alderney 100% sustainable island in five years.

RESOLVED by a majority (Mr Arditti against) to approve the proposal from NGB to undertake a feasibility study into Alderney's waste streams at a cost of £30K, to be charged as a preliminary cost from one of the existing sewerage project budgets (to be determined). Chief Executive and Treasurer to deal.

CE/TREASURER

108.7 Transport Statistics – October 2013 tabled and **noted**.

109/2013

Legislation and Conventions

109.1 Legislation Select Committee It was noted that the following item, which may be of interest to Alderney, will appear on the Billet of the January meeting of the States of Deliberation:-

- The Income Tax (Guernsey) (Approval of Agreements with Bermuda, Gibraltar, Hungary, Slovakia, Swaziland and Switzerland) Ordinance, 2014.

Chief Executive's office to deal.

CE OFFICE

109.2 Adoption of Royal Charter on Freedom of the Press tabled and **noted**.

109.3 Implementation Ordinances for Nutrition and Health Claims and Food Supplements draft ordinances tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve the following ordinances:

- **The European Communities (Implementation of Council Regulation on Nutrition and Health Claims) (Alderney) Ordinance, 2014; and**
- **The European Communities (Implementation of Food Supplements Directive) (Alderney) Ordinance, 2014**

Chief Executive's Office to deal.

CE OFFICE

109.4 Domestic Violence Legislation Letter from the Greffier dated 14th November 2013 tabled and **noted**.

The Committee raised no objection to amending The Separation, Maintenance and Affiliation (Alderney) Law, 1964 to include provision for Domestic Violence Injunctions and the ability to attach a power of arrest.

Chief Executive's Office to deal.

CE OFFICE

109.5 Import (Control)(Alderney)(Amendment No.2) Order, 2013 tabled and it was noted that this Order is to renew the ash dieback import control order.

**RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Import (Control) (Alderney) (Amendment No.2) Order, 2013.
Chief Executive's office to deal.**

CE OFFICE

109.6 Helsinki Declaration tabled and the Committee had no further comment on the adoption of the Helsinki Declaration.

Chief Executive's office to deal.

CE OFFICE

110/2013 States Strategic Plan 2014 Paper from the Chief Executive dated 20th November 2013 tabled and considered.

**RESOLVED unanimously to approve the first draft of a Strategic Plan for Alderney. Plan to be published at the annual meeting in January.
Chief Executive's Office to deal.**

CE OFFICE/JAN BILLET ITEM

111/2013 Service Delivery Plan 2014 Paper from the Chief Executive dated 20th November 2013 tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Service Delivery Plan 2014 for Alderney's Public Services. Chief Executive's Office to deal.

CE OFFICE/JAN BILLET ITEM

112/2013 Any Other Business

112.1 AEL Share Transfer request The Committee considered a request for transfer of share received from a minority shareholder of AEL.

Unanimously approved. Chief Executive's Office to deal.

CE OFFICE

112.2 Ormer House Closure The Committee noted the unfortunate closure of Ormer House Private School.

/eot

Meeting closed: 13:10pm

Signed: F Simonet

Date: 17th December 2013