

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
ANNE FRENCH ROOM
16th DECEMBER 2014
0915 hours

Mr F Simonet, Chairman
 Mr R Berry
 Mr N Harvey
 Mr L Jean
 Mr R McDowall
 Mrs N Paris
 Mr C Rowley
 Mr I Tugby

Mr W V Brownlees, Chief Executive
 Mrs K A Hatcher-Gaudion, Treasurer
 Mrs S Pengilly-Price, EA to the Chief Executive
 Miss Laura Gaudion, Minute Secretary

Apologies: Mr S Roberts; Mr M Birmingham

In attendance: AGCC – Mr Andre Wilsenach, Executive Director; Mrs Nicky Burland, Deputy Director Corporate Services; Mr George Sauvage, Special Advisor

ACTION

97/2014 **AGCC Presentation on Fees Review and 2015 Budget** – See Confidential Annexure.
RESOLVED unanimously to support the proposals regarding amendments to fee structure, subject to further approvals and legal advice/drafting. Expected to be placed before the States of Alderney at the March States Meeting.

CE/BILLET ITEM

10:45 AGCC left the meeting

98/2014 **Minutes of the previous meeting** of 25th November 2014 tabled and **approved**.
Notes from the Finance Committee meeting – No meeting held this month.
Notes from the Business Development, Tourism & Marketing Committee meeting – circulated by email. **Noted**

99/2014 **Matters Arising**
99.1 Matters arising from the minutes
99.1.1 Lager Sylt Chief Executive gave a verbal update.
It was noted that Mr Weigold had invited members on site at Lager Sylt to discuss proposals. Chief Executive's Office to co-ordinate.

CE

99.2 Committee feedback from Chairmen (B&DCC and GSC) and Guernsey Representatives and Alderney Liaison Group
BDCC – noted steady progress being made on Arup Report

GSC – nothing to report.

Guernsey Reps – Noted that the amendment to the Guernsey Billet re bringing forward a Business Case for improvements to the short runway (03/21) had been approved unanimously. The Business Case will be developed by PSD in co-operation with the States of Alderney. P & F agreed this should be taken forward by the Chief Executive and Neil Harvey.'

Alderney Liaison Group – The Economic Development section of the Guernsey Billet recommendations was discussed. Early action will be necessary to have the interim Action Plan ready by March. This should include the PwC Project, Service Level Agreement with Aurigny, Visa Investment Scheme, and targeted tax breaks e.g. artists, etc.

It was agreed that initial drafting should be undertaken by Messrs Harvey and McDowall, and the Chief Executive, reporting back to P & F with a draft in due course. '

It was noted that Alderney Liaison Group members had recently attended a presentation in Guernsey from the Home Department and the Education Department regarding their service provision.

Home Department – It was reported that although not possible to accurately calculate the costs incurred for support provided to Alderney, where calculable the costs for this year are noted as being £537,290.

Considerations for the future would be the greater use of technology, such as secure video conferencing; greater use of volunteers (i.e. Specials); and the continued need to ensure appropriate policing within a small community and consideration of saving efficiencies through collaborative working (staff, equipment and facilities).

Education Department – It was reported that the capacity of the school was currently 135; costs were quoted as £1.2 million for St Anne's school with a further £1.2 million relating to Higher Education costs. Of this other amount (1.2 million), higher education grants comprised of 880k of that figure.

It was noted that there were qualitative issues that had been highlighted with the school that required further discussion.

States of Alderney to respond in detail in Q1 2015 on financial matters and if and how the services may be delivered on a more cost effective and efficient basis; some of these issues being subject to wider local consultation. **Noted**

Noted that a report from Health & Social Services is awaited (possibly end of Q1 2015) as well as details of more minor transferred services.

99.3 Employment Permit Report – December (to date) tabled and noted.

100/2014

Budgetary and Financial Matters

100.1 Management Accounts – November 2014 as circulated by email. The Treasurer reported that as year-end approaches budget holders had been requested to identify and report any significant variances, none received to date. Additional income on revenue account relating to philatelic profits (£11,600) and Lottery Forfeited prizes fund (£2-£3K) **Noted**.

Economic Development Reserve – due to late approval of the reserve it was anticipated that an underspend would be shown for 2014, however any surplus funds will be carried over into 2015. **Noted**.

Capital Account – At present showing £1 million underspend on revised budget figure, due to project slippage. **Noted**

Water Board – Revenue and Capital income & expenditure. **Noted**

100.2 Aged Debtors Report – Confidential Item Report dated 8th December 2014 tabled and noted.

100.3 School Bus Letter from Head Teacher from St Anne's School dated 8th December 2014 tabled and noted. The Treasurer advised that provided the cost remained at £12 per day the additional subsidy would amount to £348.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve the subsidy of £348 for the extra bus run for the period January to February half-term 2014.

TREASURY

100.4 Purchase of Freehold – Property at Le Banquage – Confidential Item Report from Treasury dated 11th December 2014, following an enquiry from Bell & Co, tabled and noted.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve the sale of the freehold property at Le Banquage, in principle, subject to valuation, offer available for a fixed period up until June 2015.

TREASURY

- 101/2014** **Business Development, Tourism & Marketing Matters**
- 101.1 Quality in Tourism – Grading of Tourist Accommodation** Report from BDTM Committee dated 1st December 2014 tabled and **noted**.
It was noted that from the consultation held in October, approximately 40% of those who attended were in favour, with 30% neutral, 30% against the proposal. Main concerns were the extra costs to businesses to reach the new standards of grading. It was also noted that the QIT costs for 30 self-catering properties would be about £3000, not £1000 as stated in the report.
RESOLVED by a majority (Mr Jean and Mr Simonet against) to employ Quality in Tourism (QIT) to undertake inspections of hotels, Guest Houses and Self-catering accommodation on behalf of the States of Alderney for a period of one year only, as a prerequisite of issuance of Accommodation Permits. Standard charges for current accommodation permits to apply, and no other charges to be levied on accommodation providers. At the request by owners, accommodation inspected will not be graded.
Norma Paris to provide detailed costings before contract entered into.
- 101.2 Ferry Proposal** – See Confidential Annexure
Report from Chief Executive Office dated 10th December 2014 tabled and **noted**.
RESOLVED unanimously, that the Committee considered that the proposal was not a viable option as there was total reliance on public money. A risk that could fall back on tax payers of Alderney. To refer again to the States of Guernsey, due to the previous lack of response.
- 102/2014** **Legislation, Conventions and Policy**
- 102.1 Legislation Select Committee Items** circulated by email. **Noted**
- 102.2 Amendments & Additions to the Immigration (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Rules, 2008**
Report from Immigration and Nationality Division dated 4th December 2014 tabled and **noted**.
The Committee resolved that there were no comments to make on the proposed changes.
- 103/2014** **ACRE – Confidential Item** Report from ACRE dated 27th November tabled and **noted**.
RESOLVED unanimously the renewal of a 2 year contract for Dr John Victor Sharp as Commissioner of ACRE.
- 104/2014** **Any Other Business**
- 104.1 Rabies order (GSC item)** Report from Chief Executive Office dated 9th December 2014 tabled and noted.
RESOLVED unanimously to approve The Rabies (Alderney) Order, 2014. The Chairman signed the Order on behalf of the Committee.
- 105/2014** **Press Releases**
- School Bus
- 106/2014** **For Information**
- GDP Alderney
 - Revision of the Primary Care Medical Manpower Cap
 - Revision of Financial Services Legislation
 - Year-end Accounts 2014 – Timetable
 - Items that received Royal Sanction

Meeting closed: 12.55pm

Signed: Mr R N Harvey, Chairman

Date: 27th January 2015