

STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2015 in the Liberation Room, Secretariat at 3pm.

These minutes are draft minutes until confirmed by resolution at the next meeting of the Committee

Present: The Honourable R Edwards, MLA, Chairman
The Honourable J Cheek MLA
The Honourable I Hansen MLA
The Honourable M Poole MLA
The Honourable P Rendell MBE, MLA
The Honourable G Short MLA
The Honourable M Summers, OBE, MLA

In Attendance: The Honourable Chief Executive, Keith Padgett
The Honourable Financial Secretary, Nicola Granger
The Head of Finance, Lydia Morrison

Clerk: Margaret Butler, Personal Assistant

Public & Press: None

1 Apologies for Absence

The Honourable Dr. B Elsby MLA

2 Declarations of interest

The Honourable J Cheek declared an interest in agenda Item 14 as a Falkland Islands Government representative for Stanley Services Ltd.

3 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2015

It was noted that the Honourable R Edwards, under apologies of absence, was stated incorrectly as having been the “Chairman” at this meeting and it was agreed for this to be changed.

The minutes were then confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2015.

There was one matter arising.

4.1 Item 7 – The Development of Older Vulnerable People’s Services in the Falkland Islands -

The Honourable Financial Secretary (FS) advised the Committee that the quantity of available housing had been discussed recently at CMT

It was noted that confirmation of available accommodation was still waited from Human Resources (HR) and the Director of Public Works (DPW). It was anticipated a response to this would be available at the next meeting of SFC on the 13th January 2016.

**HR/
DPW**

5 Virement Report No 4 of 2015-16

Virement No 95 – 0646 SAERI (SG SCIENCE DEMAND PROJECT).
1429 Specialists/Consultancy Services - £11,000.

The Honourable FS advised the Committee that this is a project funded by South Georgia and this was a movement of funds between two of South Georgia’s codes.

The Committee was happy with this response with no further comments/questions asked.

6 Financial Outturn 2014-15

**Paper
53/15**

The HoF presented the information only report to the Committee providing an overview of details of last years (2014/15) audited financial performance.

The Committee noted that in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan the outturn is “favourable” and not “adverse”.

The Honourable P Rendell, MBE drew attention to Page 4 – Top Ten Revenue Streams asking if the personal tax referred to is received from “local employees” only or if this also included “oil workers” and if figures are available for this.

The Honourable FS responded advising this may relate to support services for the oil industry.

FS

The Honourable FS confirmed audited accounts are ready to be signed off and will be laid on the table at the January Assembly.

7 Annual Governance Statement 2014-15

**Paper
54/15**

The HoF presented this report confirming there are no significant issues raised by external bodies such as the PAC and auditors and that data on meeting attendance is collated during the year.

The Honourable FS clarified that on Page 9 of the report the graph in relation to CMT performance should read 2014/15 with blue “performing well” and green performing “very well”.

The Honourable FS advised she had led a special half day CMT in relation to revising terms of reference and setting objectives which would be implemented for the next year.

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) - Item 3.2.1 (Page 6).

The Committee briefly discussed letters received from the PAC and the Honourable FS raised concerns over the level of detail being included in letters containing exempt Internal Audit information released in the public domain.

PAC

Issues outlined in Annual Governance Statement (AGS) – Item 6.5 (Page 2).

The Honourable M Summers, OBE, MLA queried whether the statement that 100% of services now have business plans is accurate. The Honourable FS responded to this advising business plans are held by the Policy Unit but believed the comment referred to those that had responded to the survey.

HoP

The Honourable Chief Executive (CE) requested the Policy Unit is asked to confirm this and for a response to be provided to the Committee in January.

Gifts and Hospitality – Item 6.5 (Page 16).

The Committee discussed this noting that the sum of £25 in the Management Code should be raised with the sum of £50-£60 discussed and agreed.

DHR

The Honourable FS advised Departments deal with this item separately. In relation to hospitality it was noted that people are obliged to attend these functions and that hospitality is treated differently to gifts with all recorded in the corporate diary.

8 To determine which items from the Executive Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2015 can be considered in public and resolve these items.

There were two matters with financial implications referred from Executive Council.

8.1 Agenda Item 6 – Telecoms Licence – ExCo paper 223/15

The Committee discussed and agreed Executive Council's recommendations to approve additional operating budget funding to undertake external drafting of telecoms licence and Ordinance.

A full record of this discussion is contained in the Exempt Minutes.

8.2 Agenda Item 9 – Nursery and Childminding Provision in the Falklands – ExCo Paper 226/15.

The Committee discussed and agreed Executive Council's recommendations to approve additional operating funding of £10,000 in 2015/16 and £15,000 in 2016/17 for consultancy on nursery and childminding.

9 Date of Next meeting: 13th January 2016.

10 Exclusion of Press and Public.

The Chairman to move as follows:

I move that the press and public be now excluded on the ground that the next

items of business to be considered are likely to disclose exempt information under Paragraph 10 and 17 relating to information about relevant contracts and negotiations and budgetary information of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012.

11 Confirmation of the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2015.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 10 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to information about relevant contracts and negotiations.

The Exempt Minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

12 Matters arising from the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2015.

There were no matters arising.

13 Exempt matters with Financial implications referred from the Executive Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2015.

There was one Exempt matter with financial implications.

13.1 Agenda Item 6 - Telecoms Licence – 223/15.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 10 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to information about relevant contracts and negotiations. This request relates to consultancy only.

The Committee discussed and agreed Executive Council's recommendations to approve additional funding in the operating budget to undertake external drafting of telecoms licence and Ordinance.

14 Stanley Services Limited – Management Board Investment Decisions.

Paper
52/15

NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 9 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to information about others' financial and business affairs.

The Committee considered the Honourable Chief Executive's (CE) report informing Members of investment decisions take by the Board of Stanley Services Limited (SSL) at its last meeting.

A full record of this item is contained in the exempt section of the minutes.

Minutes confirmed this 13th day of January 2016.

Chairman
The Treasury,
Stanley.

Clerk