

Skills Assessment Council

Meeting on 2 November 2020

Present:	Andrew Gaule David Jeffrey Carol Hever Marie Horton Jenny Smith Jim Horton Lewis Clifton Phyl Rendell Marvin Clarke Sian Davies	Director of Policy & Economic Development Senior Policy Advisor Director of Human Resources Director of Education Immigration Officer Customs & Immigration Programme Director Chamber of Commerce RBA Representative Community Representative FIDC
Apologies:	Clare Pilkington	Command Secretary
Minutes:	Sally Heathman	Communications Officer

Immigration update

Jim Horton updated the Council on developments in immigration policy, including:

- progress with a revised Immigration Ordinance and regulations, which it was hoped to have in place by April 2021
- proposals to be considered by ExCo on development of the PRP point system.

Marie Horton added that the Education Department was reviewing the English Language test for PRP, and ExCo would also make decisions on the level of the test. In response to suggestions from Council members, the Immigration Dept offered to check what sort of English Language tests were in use by other British Overseas Territories.

Update on CDS

David Jeffrey and Marie Horton updated the Council on developments on the way the Community Development Scheme (CDS) operates, based on proposals that had been agreed by ExCo in September (and set out in ExCo 110/20). Council members asked a number of questions of clarification, and broadly welcomed the changes

Workforce Shortage List

The Council considered a proposed workforce shortage list for 2021 based very closely on the list approved by ExCo in November 2019 (and set out in ExCo 173/19), with a small

number of additions that had been proposed by Council members at an earlier stage and/or were based on data showing significant numbers of work permit applications for those occupations.

The Council proposed a small number of changes to be made to that list, and agreed that the resulting revised list should be put forward to ExCo for approval.

Labour Force Development

Andrew Gaule provided a verbal update on the work that Balissa Greene had undertaken and Council members expressed a keen interest in reviewing the work undertaken to date, and requested sight of the report prepared by Balissa. Andrew explained that a briefing would be provided for MLAs very shortly, after which a plan for further policy development and wider community consultation would be put together. The Skills Assessment Council will be asked to advise on that work.

Publication of information on the Skills Assessment Council

It was agreed that, in the interest of transparency, information about the Council should in future be available to the public on the FIG Policy Unit web pages, and should include:

- the Council's terms of reference
- the Council's membership
- a summary note of each Council meeting (of which this note is the first)

Any Other Business

Marie Horton updated the Council on the Education Department's intention to produce a Falkland Islands Directory of Training Opportunities, which would include information on all the sources of funding for training, whether from FIG, charitable sources or otherwise. Council members made a number of suggestions for funding sources that could be included.

Future meetings

The Council meets twice a year, and a programme of date for future meetings will be established, to take place in March and September