Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture

Meeting Note

Subject:	MEDICINAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY
Date:	Thursday 23 rd September 2021
Attendees:	Senator Lyndon Farnham, Deputy John Young, Deputy Gregory Guida. Dan Houseago, Group Director Economy;
Apologies:	Deputy Richard Renouf, Health Minister; Senator Ian Gorst; Paul McCabe, Chief Pharmacist.

Background

Meeting called by Senator Farnham to consider political oversight for the emerging medicinal Cannabis industry.

Discussion

The following points were considered:

- COM has approved the framework for developing the sector, which is also part of the existing Rural Economy Strategy.
- Coordination needed at officer and political level to understand relative roles and responsibilities across Ministries and departments, including for resources and prioritisation.
- This will be a trouble-shooting, strategy and policy development oversight group. It will not address
 specific cases or applications.
- and coordinated political oversight will help to provide the conditions for success of the new sector.
- on behalf of the Health Minister, the need for a formal political oversight group, particularly as licensing arrangements are set out in law and involve working closely with the UK. Any changes would involve amending Jersey legislation.
- it was agreed that it would be useful to have an Environment representative (Minister or Assistant Minister) on the group to provide perspective.
- A States Members' briefing is scheduled on 14th October to summarise the current position of the medicinal cannabis industry. Event may take place at a hemp farm with intro from LF followed by a video explaining precisely what the industry involves and how Gov is both supporting/promoting and regulating the industry. Event would end with a Q&A panel session.
- The first draft of the Scrutiny review into the industry was expected this week and likely to span all Ministries involved. A coordinated approach to the response would be required.

Decisions/Actions

- 1. DH to draft terms of reference for the group.
- 2. LF to discuss political oversight group with RR.
- 3. DH to convene a meeting in the next two weeks to discuss the outcomes of the impending Scrutiny report and coordinate a response.