

Migration Policy Development Board Meeting 1 - 07/03/19

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Attendees:

Assistant Chief Minister Christopher Taylor (Chair) (CT)  
Minister for Social Security Judy Martin (JM)  
Senator Sarah Ferguson (SF)  
Sue Duhamel – Policy Director (SD)  
Neil Stocks – Policy Principal, Immigration & Migration Policy (NS)

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1. Apologies

Apologies from Minister for the Environment John Young (JY)

2. Introductions

Introductions made.

3. Decide on Independent Members & Board Members

Discussion on having a good spread of experience and knowledge. Discussion about various sectors of the economy and how the Board might best represent their interests.

Board noted that it did not have a budget to appoint external advisors but considered whether off island experts might need to be invited to advise the Board, and if so this could be done by video-conferencing.

Board agreed that an independent minute taker should be secured in order that the Executive Support Officers were free to advise the Board appropriately and without distraction.

Agreement that a set Board that had the option to invite representatives from various sectors to update and make representations to the Board would be appropriate.

Agreement that one further back bencher who was on the Scrutiny Panel, but not the Corporate Services Panel, should be invited to join the Board.

Agreement that a representative from the Institute of Directors and Jersey Chamber of Commerce should be invited to join the Board.

Agreement that Michael Oliver – who has previously been Economic Advisor to Corporate Services - should be invited to join the Board.

Agreement that a Board consisting of CT, JM, SF, JY, one more backbencher, IoD, Chamber of Commerce & Michael Oliver giving a Board of 8, would be desirable.

Agreement that invites should go out as soon as possible in order for new Board members to be able to join the Board at its next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

#### 4. Discuss terms of reference

Terms of Reference discussed, noting that they had been formally approved by the Chief Minister.

It was noted that a requirement of the Terms of Reference was to review the previous Migration Policy to see if its recommendations were still relevant, and whether any of the evidence, figures or reports gathered for that policy were still valid and usable for this PDB.

The Board discussed current migration controls such as housing permission categories, business licensing and immigration permissions, and noted that any migration controls needed to be compatible with the UK's immigration system to prevent issues with the current Common Travel Area agreements, and that consideration needed to be given as to whether realignment of access to pensions, social security and health benefits was required.

It was noted that reviewing the benefits and housing system was a very large piece of work, and would need sufficient time to consider properly.

Discussed likelihood that specific categories such as students and seasonal agricultural and hospitality workers would need to be considered.

#### 5. Timescales

Agreement that the PDB would publish a report with recommendations by Easter 2020 at the latest.

#### 6. Consultation

A discussion of the various ways to carry out consultation took place. Agreement that the PDB should prepare a draft of suggested recommendations which would then go out to consultation. In the interim various trade bodies and industries and other stakeholders would be approached to discuss issues with the Board and give insight and thoughts to guide proposals.

The importance that the work of the Migration PDB was integrated with the Island Plan, which is undergoing review, was agreed.

#### 7. Structure of future meetings

Agreement that meetings would be fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon that did not coincide with the week of a States sitting.

Minutes to be taken and minutes and presentations will be published on the Government of Jersey website.

Agreement that a number of short presentations to the Board, from the relevant Government of Jersey departments, on the current migration and immigration controls in place, and on the major factors which will need to be taken into consideration for a migration policy would be beneficial.

8. AOB - Nothing discussed.