

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHIEF OFFICER GROUP,  
HELD ON TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2014 AT 10.00 AM  
IN THE KING ORRY ROOM, CABINET OFFICE, GOVERNMENT OFFICE**

**Present:** Mr W Greenhow, Chief Secretary, Cabinet Office  
Prof R Barr, Chief Executive, Department of Education and Children  
Mr C Corlett, Chief Executive, Department of Economic Development  
Mr R Lole, Chief Executive, Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture  
Mr M Charters, Chief Executive, Department of Health and Social Care  
Mr M Kelly, Chief Executive, Department of Home Affairs  
Mr D Davies, Director of Change and Reform, CO  
Mrs A Martin, Chief Operating Officer, Attorney General's Chambers  
Ms J Kaye, Director of Human Resources Management, OHR  
Ms C Hunter, Head of Communications, CO  
Ms J D Hetherington, Executive Assistant to the Chief Secretary, CO

**Apologies:** Mr N Black, Chief Executive, Department of Infrastructure  
Mr J Callister, Executive Director, Office of Human Resources, CO

**110/14 AGENDA FOR CHANGE MID-TERM REPORT**

The Chief Officer Group ("the Group") received a presentation from the Director of Change and Reform in regard to an updated draft of the Council of Ministers' mid-term report on the Agenda for Change, entitled "*Securing a Sustainable Future for our Island*".

During discussion, the Group provided further feedback on the report. The Group also noted that the report would be finalised, and subject to Council's agreement it would be laid before the November 2014 sitting of Tynwald.

**111/14 ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS ACT 2000 – ENABLING THE GOVERNMENT DIGITAL AGENDA**

*COG Paper 013/14*

The Chief Executive, Department of Economic Development presented a paper to the Group which proposed that the present temporary exemption that applies to the IoM Government and other public bodies in relation to the Electronic Transactions Act 2000 should not be renewed when it expires in April 2015. The Group noted that the paper set out the potential impact of such a decision and the opportunities it would create in accelerating the Departmental adoption of electronic communications in line with the original intent of the legislation.

The Group noted that this would be seen as a key enabler in moving towards the Island's Vision 2020 activities for a transformed Public Service which would be focussed primarily on customer needs and the Government's broader Digital Agenda.

Following detailed discussion, the Group agreed the recommendations as set out in the paper.

**112/14 PROPOSAL TO OFFER VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY TO CIVIL SERVICE SEO GRADES AND EQUIVALENT ACROSS IOM GOVERNMENT**

*COG Paper 017/14*

The Director of Human Resources Management, OHR provided a briefing on a paper which invited the Group to consider a proposal to offer voluntary redundancy to all civil servants at Senior Executive Officer ("SEO") grade or equivalent.

During discussion, the Group acknowledged that as an organisation, the IoM Government must retain the necessary skills to maintain appropriate standards of service provision, whilst ensuring that as an employer, responsible employment practices are adhered to.

However, the Group expressed concern that a "blanket approach" voluntary redundancy scheme for SEOs would not be appropriate, as it would not allow enough Departmental flexibility to take local decisions. In conclusion, the Group agreed that it would not support the recommendations contained within the paper. It was also agreed that the Chief Secretary would meet with the Executive Director of the Office of Human Resources in due course for further discussion.

**113/14 TRAINING "AWAY-DAY" FOR DEPARTMENTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

Following discussion, it was agreed that a training "Away-Day" for Departmental Chief Officers would be arranged in due course.

**114/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) DoI asset maintenance**

Following discussion, the Group agreed to submit details of Departmental asset maintenance issues which may occur if the Department of Infrastructure is required to reduce its level of maintenance provision, in order to meet savings targets.

**b) Social Policy and Children's Committee**

The Group noted that the next steps for the Council of Ministers' Sub-Committee for Social Policy and Children would be considered at a meeting between the Minister for Policy and Reform, the Director of Finance and Performance (Cabinet Office) and Chief Officers of the Departments of Education and Children; Health and Social Policy and Home Affairs.

**c) Director appointments**

The Group noted that the Department of Economic Development had appointed a new Director of Civil Aviation from 1 October 2014. It was also noted that a new Director of Visitor Economy and Tourism had been appointed.

  
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Chief Secretary  
9/12/14  
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Date