

**MINUTES OF THE (Q1) QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MEETING OF THE  
CHIEF OFFICER GROUP, HELD ON TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 9.00 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 D Ronan, Deputy Chief Executive, Department of Economic Development  
Mr R Lole, Chief Executive, Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture  
Dr M Couch Chief Executive, Department of Health and Social Care  
Mr M Kelly, Chief Executive, Department of Home Affairs  
Mr J Robinson, Director of Highway Services, Department of Infrastructure  
Mrs S Lowe, Interim Chief Financial Officer, Treasury  
Mr J Callister, Executive Director, Office of Human Resources, CO  
Mr C Hawker, Acting Executive Director, Policy and Strategy, CO  
Mr A Ramsey, Communications Executive, CO  
Ms J D Hetherington, Executive Assistant to the Chief Secretary, CO

**Apologies:** Mr C Corlett, Chief Executive, Department of Economic Development  
Mr N Black, Chief Executive, Department of Infrastructure  
Mrs A Martin, Chief Operating Officer, Attorney General's Chambers  
Ms C Hunter, Head of Corporate Communications, CO

**069/15 REVISED MINUTES OF THE COG MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2015**

Having been previously circulated, revised minutes of the Chief Officer Group meeting held on 14 July 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chief Secretary.

**070/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 14 JULY 2015**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of 14 July 2015.

**071/15 MINUTES OF THE COG MEETING HELD ON 11 AUGUST 2015**

Having been previously circulated, minutes of the Chief Officer Group meeting held on 11 August 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chief Secretary.

**072/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 11 AUGUST 2015**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of 11 August 2015.

**073/15 ECONOMIC UPDATE – QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE ECONOMY TO COUNCIL**

The Acting Executive Director of Policy and Strategy provided an update on the Quarterly Report on the Economy ("the Quarterly Report") for the period 1 April – 30 June 2015.

The Group noted that growth in the global economy was at its lowest level since the financial crash. It was also noted that the FTSE was down around 8% since April 2015, and had hit a seven year low in August 2015. The Group further noted that in the UK, gains in employment had come to an end, with two months of rising unemployment, and growing business caution reflecting uncertainty over global exchange rates.

The Group noted that the Island's unemployment levels had fallen further and faster than expected, to a figure just below 800. It was also noted that employment numbers had also grown by a little over 300, but that this was in keeping with normal seasonal patterns.

The Group noted the provisional estimates of National Income for 2013-14 which showed that personal incomes had risen in real terms for the first time in four years. The Group also noted additional economic data for a range of sectors including manufacturing; financial services; e-business; shipping; aircraft registry; construction; energy; the visitor economy; film and creative industries; agriculture; fisheries and retailing.

The Group had a detailed discussion in regard to the Consumer Price Index and the Retail Price Index, including the calculation and application of these indices in economic terms.

The Group then considered the overall benefit of the quarterly report and its benefit to Government and the Island. During discussion, the Group welcomed the recent incorporation of graphs and diagrams into the document, which helped to illustrate trends and figures more clearly. The Group also discussed the importance of benchmarking against other jurisdictions. It was noted that the Quarterly Reports had not contained such comparative statistics to date, and it was agreed that further progress was required on benchmarking to add further value to future reports.

**Action: Acting Executive Director of Policy and Strategy**

#### **074/15 DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS**

The Group considered and discussed the Departmental Performance Reports submitted by each of the following Government Departments:

- Economic Development;
- Education and Children;
- Environment, Food and Agriculture;
- Health and Social Care;
- Home Affairs;
- Infrastructure; and
- Treasury

Each performance report included details of the level of savings expected within the respective Department; the level of savings achieved; financial pressures; challenges; risks and Departmental issues.

#### **075/15 ACTION PLANS**

##### **a) Vision 2020**

The Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of Economic Development ("DED") provided an update on the Vision 2020 action plan, which included details of the projects being undertaken to support and enhance economic growth. The Group noted that 70 actions were being progressed as part of Vision 2020, and that Departmental co-operation across Government was very good.

**Mr Dan Davies, Director of Change and Reform was in attendance for the following item.**

##### **b) Building a Sustainable Future**

The Director of Change and Reform updated the Group on the actions associated with Government's "Building a Sustainable Future" objectives, and thanked Chief Officers for their valued input to date.

The Group noted that the Director of Change and Reform was working alongside the Interim Chief Financial Officer and the Financial Controller to undertake meetings with the Council of Ministers' Sub-Committees and progress Council's agreed fiscal strategy commitments.

**Mr Davies left the meeting.**

#### **076/15 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

The Interim Chief Financial Officer briefed the Group on key aspects of the Treasury's Management Accounts. The Group noted a summary of the general revenue account, with projections for the year end (2015/16). Income figures, revenue expenditure and consolidated Government accounts were also noted.

#### **077/15 INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND STANDARDS**

The Chief Secretary gave a brief overview of the international frameworks and standards as they apply to the Isle of Man. The Group noted the wide variety of both current and emerging issues and their implications for the Cabinet Office, Government and the Island.

#### **078/15 OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES QUARTERLY REPORT (Q1) 2015/16**

The Executive Director, Office of Human Resources ("OHR") presented the OHR Quarterly Report for the period ending 30 June 2015.

The Group noted the statistics at the end of the first quarter which included the:

- Number of posts across the Isle of Man Public Service;
- Number of full time equivalent people in post;
- Recruitment and leavers' activity;
- Management of sickness absence;
- Corporate and Civil Service absence.

The Group noted that there were a number of outstanding issues with the processes for collecting OHR management information, which had the potential to impact upon data integrity. Following discussion, the Group noted that work was underway to resolve these issues in order to ensure the robustness of reported statistics.

#### **079/15 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – AGENDA FOR CHANGE**

The Group reviewed the Agenda for Change Performance Report for the quarterly period ending 30 June 2015. It was noted that of the 74 objectives, 32 had been completed. During discussion, it was acknowledged that during the next quarter (Q2 ending 30 September 2015) the Group would be reporting on new key performance indicators.

#### **080/15 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME**

The Group reviewed the updated Legislative Programme for the quarterly period ending 30 June 2015. The Group noted that the Council of Ministers had agreed that Government Bills should be classified into three categories, as follows:

- Approved priority Bills;
- Remaining priority Bills to be brought forward if drafting slots become available;
- Other Bills

**081/15 GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

The Group noted the content of two reports submitted by the Director of Government Technology Services ("GTS") which provided details of the savings made by GTS and an update on the progress made within the Digital Strategy.

**082/15 TYNWALD POLICY DECISIONS REPORT**

The Group noted the content of the Tynwald Policy Decisions Report ("TPDR") for submission to the Council of Ministers. During discussion, the Group considered the value of continuing to produce TPDRs in future and agreed that a recommendation should be made to Council that no further reports be produced.

**083/15 VALUATION AND ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Group noted the content of the Valuation and Asset Management Report submitted by the Head of Valuation and Asset Management, Treasury.

**084/15 CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS GRID**

The Communications Executive briefed the Group on the content of the Corporate Communications news grid for September 2015.

**085/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Children's Champion**

The Group noted that Terms of Reference for the political role of Children's Champion were being drafted by the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children's Board.

The meeting ended at 3.45pm.

W. Alow

Chief Secretary

22/9/15

Date