**EXCO meeting of 2 October 2012**

Today we assembled to consider one information paper and three papers seeking a decision.  The information paper was simply an update on the progress of the report to Legislative Council by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of its formal session held on 13 January 2012.  The PAC report had listed four recommendations relating to the Performance Indicators used by SHG to measure the performance of government activities linked to the strategic policy framework. SHG had responded to the PAC’s findings and the PAC had now commented on SHG’s response.  The full report can be seen on the SHG website.

Councillor Derek Thomas presented the next paper which sought EXCO’s approval of the Media Standards Ordinance (Commencement) Order 2012 which would bring in to force the Media Standards Ordinance 2011. The paper also sought approval for the Media Standards Commission Regulations 2012 to be brought into force at the same time.  The Media Standards Ordinance will regulate media services through the establishment of the St Helena Media Commission. The Commission, Chaired by the Chief Magistrate, will have powers to monitor and enforce media standards. Councillors readily approved the requests and warmly welcomed the introduction of the Media Commission which will come into effect within the next few days.  The complaint forms will be made available at the Customer Services Centre, at the Public Library and on the SHG website. A press release will issue shortly to raise awareness of the Media Commission.

Councillor Thomas also presented our next paper which sought a significant increase in fees for the registration of trademarks and patents to bring them more in line with the fees levied elsewhere.  Owners of trademarks and patents in the UK are entitled to have them registered and therefore protected in St Helena.  Raising the fees will increase revenue to government while having no negative impact on residents of St Helena.  Councillors approved the increase in fees; full details will be provided in a press release shortly.

Our final paper today was presented by the Acting Chief Secretary.  In early December the Foreign Office will host, in London, the first meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC), which replaces the annual Overseas Territories Consultative Council. All Overseas Territories are invited to send a representative to the JMC and therefore EXCO was asked to nominate one Elected Member of EXCO to represent St Helena.  Councillor Thomas was selected and I undertook to submit his name to the Foreign Office.

Under ‘Any Other Business’ I mentioned a request received from Mr. Adam Wolfe, Director of the St Helena National Trust (SHNT), for Mr Colin Moore  and Mr. Earl Henry to be appointed as the government representatives to the SHNT Council.  Councillors supported the appointments which would be made under section 12 of the SHNT Ordinance 2001.

I reminded Councillors of the arrival on 4 October of Martin Longden, Deputy Director of Overseas Territories Department in the Foreign Office. We will also welcome back our Chief Secretary, Owen O’Sullivan and his family.  And also arriving on Thursday will be Mr Nigel Kirby from DfID and Mr Jimmy Johnston, Director of Basil Read.

And with that we concluded our meeting today just a little before 11 o’clock.

Thank you as always for listening and a very good afternoon to you all.

**Mark Capes**

**Governor**

**2 October 2012**