**EXCO meeting of 29 March 2012**

Good afternoon.

We held an extra EXCO this morning mainly to consider a few papers that we needed to deal with before the end of this month. The first paper sought EXCO’S approval of the Sustainable Development Plan (SDP).  The last SDP was written just before the airport pause, when Michael Clancy was Governor.

The SDP is St Helena’s highest level planning document, assembled after much hard work and after some nine months of careful consultation with stakeholders. It sets out the strategic vision for the island over the next ten years, but includes a more detailed plan for the next three years. It is therefore a key document for all those who have an interest in the development of St Helena. I understand that it will shortly be posted on our government website for those who wish to consult it.

Our next paper asked Council to endorse the Sustainable Economic Development Plan (SEDP). The SEDP supports one of the main objectives of the SDP and that is to create a vibrant and strong economy through development of the private sector. Councillors were already familiar with both the SDP and the SEDP and were able to approve them both quite quickly.

We then considered a development application for conversion of the former Audit Office in Castle Gardens to be a media building to house the new community owned radio station due to begin operations in a few months. Plans originally submitted were deemed unsuitable. New plans were presented which Councillors agreed were more in tune with the structure and the surrounding area.  While noting the objections that had been received from various individuals, EXCO took the view that the adjustments to the building would ensure the viability of the structure for many years while fitting well with the Castle Gardens setting.

Our final paper today looked at further revision and refinement of the Memorandum of Agreement signed with SHELCO in 2008 for a tourism development at Broad Bottom. These minor adjustments to ensure compliance with the relevant ordinances were all approved.

Having started at 09.30 we were able to conclude our business shortly after 11 o’clock.

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

**Mark Capes**

**Governor**

**29 March 2012**