

Skills Assessment Council: Summary Note from Meeting on 23 October 2023

Present: Amanda Curry Brown Director of Policy, Economy & Corporate Services
David Jeffrey Senior Public Policy Analyst (Via Teams)
Sarah Stannard Director of Education
Jim Horton Head of Immigration
Marvin Clarke Community Representative
Maggie Battersby Chamber of Commerce Representative
Stacy Bragger FIDC Representative
James Bates FIFCA Representative
Sally Quarton MoD Civilian People Manager
Phyl Rendell RBA Representative

Apologies: Hilary McFarland HR Service Manager
Sian Davies FIDC Representative
Stephen Dougan MoD Command Secretary

Minutes: Chloe Anderson-Wheatley Records Manager & Policy Officer

Workforce Development Strategy

The Workforce Development Strategy has been updated following feedback from the wider consultation to identify a list of prioritised actions. The Strategy and actions have also been discussed with Directorates assigned against proposed actions and MLAs were briefed by the Policy team in October 2023.

The group discussed a few linguistic changes but overall approved the Strategy to be submitted for the ExCo meeting in November 2023, with the intention that a detailed implementation plan will be developed and annual reporting commencing from January 2025.

Future of Skills Assessment Council

The Council agreed that the ToR would be updated to reflect the Council's role to have oversight for the implementation of the Strategy. It was also agreed that the membership of the group would be reviewed and that additional groups may be approached to provide representation on the Council. The revised ToR would be circulated to members, inviting any comments or feedback.

Post-16 Policy – Update from Sarah Stannard, Director of Education

The Director of Education updated the group that the Education Directorate is undertaking a strategic policy review of the various funding mechanisms in place to support post-16 education and learning. This will include policies and practices related to further and higher education and Community Development Scheme (CDS). Recommendations, which might have

legislative implications, may be proposed following this review. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the investment made by the government has the maximum impact for both the Islands economic and social development and for the individual students. The Director of Education anticipated that this review would include a consultation phase, it was suggested that the Council would be a method of gaining feedback on the proposals.

Community Development Scheme (CDS) – Update from Sarah Stannard, Director of Education

The Director of Education talked the group through her report on CDS, which had been circulated in advance to the group. Overall, the report showed that during the 2022/23 financial year 98% of the £240,000 budget had been utilised, with 19 students successfully completing courses, 2 failed, 4 withdrawing from their courses and 5 continuing their studies into the next financial year. There are a wide variety of subjects being studied and despite fewer applications having been received, the CDS panel is content that the promotion of the scheme is effective.

Any Other Business

The Chair, the Director of Policy, Economy & Corporate Services, informed the group that following the FIG restructure, the Records Manager & Policy Officer will be taking on her new appointment as Corporate Records & National Archives Manager and this would be her last meeting facilitating the Council. The group thanked her for her work with them to date.

The Chair added that as part of this restructure and change, the Policy team would review the Council's representation from Human Resources and identify another person to administer the meetings going forward.

Future meetings

The Council will next meet in April 2024.