

# FALKLAND ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD



## FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Held at 14:00 on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018  
in the Chamber of Commerce, Stanley

Present	Mr H Wylie	(HW)	Chair
	Mr S Dent	(SD)	Vice Chair
	Mr R Lee	(RW)	Appointed Member
	Dr A Clausen	(AC)	Co-opted Member
	Mr E Hurley	(AP)	Co-opted Member
	Mr B Rowland	(BR)	FIG Chief Executive
	Hon M Pollard	(MP)	Portfolio Holder
In attendance	Mr M Slater	(MS)	Managing Director
	Mrs J Muncaster	(JM)	Acting Financial Controller
	Mr J Wilson	(JW)	FIG Financial Secretary
	Miss K Stevens	(KS)	Administrative Officer
Secretary	Mrs S Faria		
Public & Press: None			

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## Item

## PART 1

### 1.0 Welcome and apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Pollard and Mr A Newman.

### 2.0 Declarations of interest

2.1 SD declared an interest in agenda item 5, relating to discussions about Nurseries.

2.2 Declarations of interest were noted from HW, RL, MS & MP regarding FIMCo.

### **3.0 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2018 (open)**

3.1 Mr R Lee was added to the list of attendees.

3.2 With no further amendments, the minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **4.0 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2018**

4.1 MS confirmed, all matters arising from the minutes were covered under the relevant agenda items.

### **5.0 MD Activity and Information Report – 148/17**

#### **5.1 Human Resources**

MS advised it has been a busy couple of months, recruiting for a Strategic Projects Manager, Business Development Officer and Administrative Assistant.

5.1.1 MS also noted Anne Wagner-Gras, FIDC's Development Manager, had recently tendered her resignation and wished to record his thanks for the significant contribution she has made since joining the Corporation in January 2015.

5.1.2 MS explained he was keen not to lose capacity and confident FIDC would fill the vacancies within the next 3-4 months, highlighting interviews for the Administrative Assistant had just been completed and interviews for the Strategic Projects Manager role are scheduled for next week.

5.1.3 MS highlighted the Director of Wool Innovation; Mr Edward Dugan has now arrived and met with the Wool Innovation Group members at a meeting held on the 14th March. Mr Dugan will be attending the Ram Sale on the 23rd March and is keen to engage with wool industry stakeholders.

#### **5.2 Rural Development Strategy (RDS)**

Members noted over 50 camp residents and business owners had attended the various consultation meetings held over the past few months, and made very constructive suggestions on the priorities for the future economic development in Camp for the next 3 years.

5.2.1 A draft RDS, covering the period 2018 to 2021, will be presented to the RDS Steering Group, at a meeting scheduled for the 30th of April 2018. MS explained the new RDS would need to be approved by the FIDC Board and would then be presented to Executive Council.

### 5.3 Enterprise Essentials

MS provided an update on the third “Profit from Great Customer Care” workshop.

5.3.1 MS advised the workshop has been oversubscribed for the third time - highlighting, there is a real interest in improving services by businesses and a demand for this type of training.

5.3.2 The Board noted it was not core business for FIDC to be providing training, and whilst the workshops provide a good way to engage with businesses, the Corporation’s development team would be keen to talk to anyone interested in providing this service.

### 5.4 Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES)

MS thanked FIDC’s new Business Development Officer, Louise Ellis, for her enthusiasm in taking this project forward. Considerable progress has been made and the scheme is being re launched, starting with the Careers Fair opening with the “Tenner Challenge”, which is hoped will inspire new entrepreneurs.

### 5.5 PR update

MS also thanked Louise Ellis for her efforts on making a real media presence especially on Facebook, providing clear detail of what FIDC is doing with businesses and helping them grow.

5.5.1 The Board discussed some of the negative comments on Facebook.

5.5.2 MS noted that despite tangible development work across the Islands (as seen in FIDC’s Annual Reports, across the media, and other places), there are a few still promoting a view the Corporation is bureaucratic or hard to engage with.

5.5.3 MS highlighted the development team’s concern people may be deterred from seeking help and advice from FIDC, based on what may be an outdated view of the Corporation.

5.5.4 Whilst accepting it is impossible to please all, and there are inevitably legitimate criticisms raised from time to time, which the team addresses, it is a concern if credence be given to negative voices when a situation is demonstrably different from that aired in public.

### 5.6 Nurseries

MS noted for some time, the Corporation has been concerned over the long-term future of childcare businesses and then the sector, and has huge concerns over the negative impact on social and economic development here should this fail.

5.6.1 The Corporation recently discussed these concerns with policy makers and leaders in regards to the Economic Development Strategy’s ambitions, and specifically on the matter of alternatives to the capital grant and the viability of the providers.

5.6.2 At the request of FIDC, the Corporation also met with Chamber of Commerce Board on the 14th of March to discuss the sustainability of the childcare sector.

5.6.3 AC confirmed the Chamber of Commerce Board were producing a letter to MLA's to state that this situation is now approaching crisis point, and highlighting the need for urgent action.

## **6.0 Finance Update and Management Accounts – 147/17**

6.1 KMS advised the Board, the paper was self-explanatory.

6.2 JM summarised the accounts noting project expenditure is expected to increase with the Director of Wool Innovation in post and a new Business Development Officer providing the capacity needed to take projects forwards.

6.3 MS added there are likely to be a number of loan applications to be considered in the coming months.

6.4 MP questioned why the staff training budget was significantly underspent. MS explained FIDC are using the budget to support both personal and professional development, but the level of spend reflects the number of vacant posts FIDC currently has.

KMS left the meeting at 14:25

## **7.0 Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Chair to move as follows:

"I move that the press and public be now excluded on the grounds that the next items to be considered are exempt within the terms of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012"

## **PART II**

## **8.0 Declarations of interest in items**

8.1 Declarations of interest were noted from HW, MP, MS & RL regarding FIMCo.

8.2 SD & EH declared an interest in items discussed under agenda item 10 MD Activity & Information report.

**9.0 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2018 (closed)**

9.1 Mr R Lee was added to the list of attendees.

9.2 With no further amendments, the minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**10.0 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2018**

10.1 Matters arising from the minutes were discussed and covered under the relevant agenda items.

**11.0 MD Activity & Information Report – 729/18**

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 7 of part 2 of schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to *“Information about individuals”*.

11.1 The Board discussed activities of the Corporation. A full record of these discussions is contained in the exempt section of the minutes.

**12.0 FIDC Remuneration & Reward Policy review – 730/18**

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 7 of part 2 of schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to *“Information about individuals”*.

12.1 The Board noted and agreed the approach outlined in the paper to implement the new Reward and Remuneration Policy as detailed in the paper. Members also agreed the proposed timeline outlined in the paper and were happy with the draft staff presentation. A full record of these discussions is contained in the exempt section of the minutes.

**13.0 FIMCo Review and next steps - 731/18**

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 9 of part 2 of schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to *“information about others’ financial and business affairs”*.

13.1 Board Members noted the content of the report and look forward to receiving a copy of the action plan, which will flow from the Business Improvement Manager’s assessment of the meat processing operation. A full record of these discussions is contained in the exempt section of the minutes.

**14.0 Camp Loan, Application review - 732/18**

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 9 of part 2 of schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to *"Information about others' financial and business affairs"*.

- 14.1 During discussion of the paper it was highlighted there is no formal process in place for the Corporation to receive and process complaints. It was agreed to produce a formal complaints procedure to include an appeal process leading up to the Board. A full record of these discussions is contained in the exempt section of the minutes.

With no further matters the meeting concluded 16:20

Minutes confirmed this.....day of .....20.....

Chair.....Secretary.....