

## **Skills Assessment Council: Summary Note from Meeting on 25 February 2021**

<b>Present:</b>	Andrew Gaule	Director of Policy & Economic Development
	David Jeffrey	Senior Policy Advisor
	Charlie Wells	Senior Public Policy Advisor
	Carol Hever	Director of Human Resources
	Jim Horton	Customs & Immigration Programme Director
	Rebecca Evans	Command Secretary
	Lewis Clifton	Chamber of Commerce
	Phyl Rendell	RBA Representative (via Teleconference)
	Marvin Clarke	Community Representative
	Sian Davies	FIDC Representative
<b>Apologies:</b>	James Bates	FIFCA Representative
	Jenny Smith	Immigration Officer
	Marie Horton	Director of Education
<b>Minutes:</b>	Chloe Anderson-Wheatley	Records Manager & Policy Officer
	Shannon Alazia	Management Trainee

### **Report on Labour Force Development in the Falkland Islands**

The content of a report for FIG on Labour Force Development, produced by Balissa Greene, was reviewed by members and various gaps and solutions were identified.

Members discussed a range of issues involved in developing a labour force to meet the economic and social needs of the Falkland Islands, including:

- Amount of churn
- Attraction of people who are a good fit for the Falkland Islands
- Retention of people with the right skills
- Current immigration process
- Barriers, such as housing
- Developing the skills of local people
- Current skills shortage

The following gaps were identified in the report:

- Recognising the value of both a high level of relevant experience and formal or professional qualifications
- Accommodation in Rural Areas - opportunities for housing development in Camp
- Evidence Based Conclusions - more statistical data is needed to inform decisions, and we need to understand what evidence we have from exit surveys about why people chose not to stay

Some potential solutions were discussed including:

- Develop a narrative to attract skilled migrants through an online portal
- Establishment of a diaspora network
- Work underway to improve immigration policy and processes
- Improving the information available on how to secure PRP and FI Status
- Ongoing work on the education and training offer available to local people

Andrew Gaule informed the group that the current report would require fleshing out into a policy report to fully identify and prioritise issues, and put forward recommendations for action. The input from SAC members would feed into the development of that thinking.

### **Skilled Seasonal Workers re House Mortgages**

An issue was raised by Phyl Rendell about the difficulties experienced by seasonal workers in Camp on obtaining mortgages. Members acknowledged that this was primarily due to an SCB issue. However, Andrew Gaule indicated that he would bring it to the attention of the Financial Secretary and noted that this subject could potentially be addressed in the current housing strategy.

### **Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

### **Future meetings**

The Council will next meet in September 2021.