



PRESS RELEASE

Report on Executive Council 17th and 24th March 2026

A meeting of Executive Council was held on 17th March 2026. MLAs Clifton, Spink and Ford were in attendance. Executive Council considered the following papers:

Stanley Airport – Facilitating Helicopter Operations

This paper sought approval for various items required to facilitate helicopter operations at Stanley Airport.

Executive Council approved the overarching project, including the following items:

- Procurement of necessary fire appliances and snow/ice clearance equipment;
- Establishment of a fire training facility; and
- Referred the funding request to Standing Finance and Budget Select Committee.

Further papers will be presented to Executive Council with additional information on this project, outstanding items, and future phases.

Stanley Port Operations

The new port project is now underway. With certainty over the physical structure of the new facility and timetables for its implementation, there is a requirement to review of the current operational parameters, legislation and regulation, and to begin developing proposals for operations of the new facility.

This paper sought approval for the initiation of a policy and legislation project to develop updated operational parameters for the new port development. The project will provide recommendations on new port operations by:

- Carrying out a desk-based assessment of comparable port operations elsewhere.
- Convening specific stakeholder events to establish the minimal functional requirements of the new port, as well as to generate ideas about optimising operations.
- Modelling different commercial and cost-recovery proposals for revenue generating elements of the new port, for future ExCo decision.

Executive Council approved the recommendations.

National Sports Facility Costs to Completion

Executive Council has agreed a funding mechanism whereby the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) will allocate an additional request from the National Sports Council (NSC) of £250,000 toward the completed construction costs, while the NSC will raise £50,000 in private sector contributions. The NSC has committed to covering any further overspend beyond these confirmed costs, providing certainty that the facility can now be completed.

Subject to the annual budgetary process, Members are minded to consider approval of £185,000 in the 2026/27 Capital Budget to complete FIG-led external works, including road surfacing and spoil removal.

The original budget for the NSC-led delivery of the all-weather pitch and multi-use sports hall was £3 million, and the estimated cost for the FIG-led enabling works was £1 million.

Over the life of this project there have been multiple additional funding requests from the NSC and for the FIG-led works. The additional requests, including those approved by Executive Council on 17th March 2026, bring the total budget for the NSC-led works to £4.76 million, and the FIG-led works to £1.92 million. The total cost to FIG of this project will be £6.68 million.

The NSC have also raised significant funds from the private sector.

Given significant public and private funding has already been committed to this project, Executive Council decided to support this additional request to complete this important community facility.

Construction will continue without pause, avoiding remobilisation costs and reducing the risk of further delay to the project. FIG will work with the NSC to ensure the facility opens to the community as soon as possible.

A meeting of Executive Council was held on 24th March 2026. MLAs Clifton, Bragger and Ford were in attendance. ExCo considered the following papers:

Commercial development and use proposals on Stanley Common

Applications were received in 2024 and 2025 from two separate parties requesting approval for the commercial use and/or development of Stanley Common land. However, under existing legislation and policy, there is no legal basis or mechanism under which either of the applications may be granted.

Stanley Common is dedicated by law as an open space to which the public has access in perpetuity. Stanley Common and the Cape Pembroke Peninsula is also designated as a wild animal and bird sanctuary and is protected under existing legislation as a nature reserve.

This paper presented the results of a public consultation on the private café development on Stanley Common. The results of the public consultation indicated a positive sentiment towards a café on Stanley Common, but they also highlighted concerns about setting a precedent and the long-term protection of the Common.

After careful consideration, and noting the significant amount of work carried out by the applicants, Executive Council refused all current applications for commercial development on Stanley Common and paused acceptance of future applications.

Executive Council noted that Members are generally supportive of the proposals, and are supportive of addressing the ordinance so that development applications can be properly considered under a clear legal framework, as well as addressing wider management concerns in relation to Stanley Common. However, Executive Council also noted the importance of ensure there is a clear legal framework in place before any applications can be processed. The future of this work will be subject to the development of the new Islands Plan and the priorities of this Assembly.

High-Cost Medication Policy matter

Executive Council considered a report on a matter involving high-cost medication. This was a closed paper.

New Moody Brook Cemetery – Approval for Phase 1 and 2

This paper sought authority to release approved funding and proceed with Phase 1 of the New Moody Brook Cemetery. Phase 1 will provide 238 burial plots and 64 cremation plots, securing burial capacity for an estimated 15 years. It will also deliver enabling works, access, buildings, drainage, and landscaping.

Executive Council approved the recommendations.

Future of Telecommunications

This was a closed paper on the future provision of telecommunications in the Falkland Islands. More information will be made available in due course.

Planning application Ref: No 01.26.P - Exploration drilling of 27 holes at different locations on farmland

On 4th March 2026 the Planning and Building Committee considered this application and recommended it to Executive Council for approval with conditions, in accordance with the Planning Ordinance 1991.

The application is for the exploratory drilling of 27 boreholes at two locations on Goose Green Farm has been submitted by Warrah Resources Limited.

Executive Council granted planning permission, subject to conditions.

Saladero and the National Stud Flock Management Review

Saladero is the Department of Agriculture's (DoA) principal operational base for genetic improvement, on-farm research and industry demonstration, and houses the National Stud Flock.

In 2022/23 the DoA switched to an outsourced manager model for Saladero with the expectation of finding efficiency savings and improved management outcomes. However, actual outcomes have been a reduction in active management and maintenance of the farm due to the part-time model and lack of permanent presence on site, and an increase in costs.

This paper sought approval for giving operational freedom to the DoA to use either a directly employed manager to be recruited to an established position with the Department, or the award of a service contract as needs, personnel availability and fiscal resources allow.

Executive Council approved the recommendations.

Salmon Farming Consultation

This paper sought approval to hold a public consultation on whether, and if so how, a large-scale salmon farming industry should be developed in the Falkland Islands.

Following the consultation, the responses will be analysed and a report brought to Executive Council to fully consider the responses from the consultation exercise.

Executive Council approved holding a public consultation.

Department of Mineral Resources Professional Services Framework Execution

In January 2026 Executive Council authorised the initiation and development of the proposed professional services framework to support the regulatory function of the emerging offshore petroleum industry.

A full detailed programme has been developed within the Department of Mineral Resources that has mapped the anticipated workload following the announcement of the final investment decision to 'first oil'.

The framework will provide the technical capacity required by the Department.

Executive Council approve the commencement of a procurement exercise to establish the Professional Services Framework.

Department of Mineral Resources staffing

This paper sought approval for the creation of and recruitment to four new posts in the Department of Mineral Resources to ensure it has the capacity and expertise to properly regulate and manage the hydrocarbons industry. It also requested that Executive Council note that there are likely to be further requests for additional posts to be created in the Department in the short-to-medium term as the requirement for capacity and expertise grows.

Executive Council approved the creation of the posts.

Offshore Petroleum Licences

This was a closed paper dealing with various offshore petroleum licence matters.

Sovereign Wealth Fund - Establishment Of

In light of hydrocarbons industry development, this paper sought approval to begin work to establish a Sovereign Wealth Fund using the principles outlined by the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds as the basis for such a fund.

The legal structure, governance, investment decisions, use of monies within the Sovereign Wealth Fund and required legislation will be subject to further Executive Council approvals as part of the overall policy work to establish the fund.

Executive Council approved the recommendations.

Prioritising actions from the Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Strategy

Executive Council approved the Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Strategy in August 2025; however, it did not prioritise the various actions that were listed in the strategy. It was intended that a prioritisation exercise would take place with the new Assembly.

FIG completed an internal prioritisation exercise to identify which actions should be initiated first. Actions were prioritised higher if there was an essential need for them to happen soon. For example, if they will help to deliver major capital projects, help set the foundations for future work, or support other plans and strategies. Actions also needed to be feasible, practicable, and cost effective.

Executive Council approved the priority actions as follows:

1. Stanley Waste Management Policy
2. Emission standards and monitoring
3. Guidelines for managing offshore waste from vessels
4. Designation of a competent authority
5. Developing pollution prevention and waste management legislation
6. Develop contingency plans for terrestrial oil spills

Immigration Review matters

Executive Council considered three reports on Immigration review cases. These were all closed papers.

Annual Report of the Communications Regulator 2025

This report sets out the activities of the Communications Regulator undertaken in 2025. The actions undertaken are set out in the report under the regulatory objectives of Governance, Supervision of National Assets, Regulation and Compliance, and Consumer Safeguards.

Executive Council noted the report and referred it to the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Financial Statements

In accordance with statutory requirements, Executive Council noted the financial statements and annual reports of the Media Trust, the Falklands Landholdings Corporation, and the Falkland Islands Tourist Board.

The reports will be presented to the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

MLA Jack Ford