



## THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

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### PR GBC12/2021

Data: 27/08/21

## Stqarrija maħruġa mill-Kamra tan-Negożju għal Għawdex: Proposti għall-Baġit 2022

Il-Kamra tan-Negożju għal Għawdex qed tressaq il-proposti tagħha għall-baġit 2022. Dawn il-proposti huma mibnija fuq viżjoni għall-żvilupp ekonomiku, sostenibbli u fit-tul f'Għawdex. L-għan prinċipali ta' din il-viżjoni għandha tkun li tgħin biex tiġi ddiversifikata l-ekonomija Għawdxija, mingħajr imma ma tiegaf tagħti każ tal-ħtiġijiet essenzjali marbuta mas-soċjeta u l-ekonomija f'Għawdex. Għal dan il-għan il-Kamra tan-Negożju għal Għawdex qed tressaq numru ta' proposti mibnija fuq analiżi tal-ekonomija Għawdxija u l-ħtiġijiet tagħha u li hi ffukata fuq numru ta' pilastri:

### 1. Niżguraw li l-Iżvilupp f'Għawdex ikun wieħed sostenibbli

- Jiġu kkrejati skemi speċifiċi għal Għawdex li jiffukaw fuq ir-restawr ta' bini antik. L-inċentivi għandhom ikunu marbuta mal-fatt li r-restawr għandu jsir b'tali mod li l-bini jsir iktar effiċjenti fil-użu tal-enerġija, u li jnaqqas l-impatt tal-emissjonijiet tal-karbonju f'dik il-binja partikolari. L-iskemi għandhom jidentifikaw żoni speċifiċi, bħal per eżempju ċ-ċentru tal-belt Victoria, fejn numru ta' bini antik jinstab mhux użat u qiegħed fi stat dilapidat.
- Id-djar li jiġu mixtrija biex jiġu restawrati u mgħixa fihom, u mhux żviluppanti fi blokko ta' appartamenti, għandhom jaqgħu taħt reġim ta' taxxa imnaqqas. Għalkemm dan għandu japplika kemm għal djar ġewwa u barra l-*Urban Conservation Areas* (UCAs) reġim ta' taxxa iktar favorevoli għandu japplika għal djar barra l-*Urban Conservation Areas*. Minħabba l-*policies* preżenti l-impatt, li ġej mill-fatt li d-djar qed jitwaqqgħu biex minflokhom jitilgħu blokko ta' appartamenti, huwa ikbar fiż-żoni tal-iżvilupp barra l-*Urban Conservation Areas*.

### 2. L-Ekonomija l-Ħadra u d-Diġitalizzazzjoni

- Għandu jinbeda l-proċess biex tiġi stabbilita fakulta' speċjalizzata f'Għawdex li tiffoka fuq l-ekonomija l-ħadra u setturi assoċjati.
- Jiġi fformulati pakkett ta' inċentivi, biex jiġu ttestjati f'Għawdex soluzzjonijiet sostenibbli qabel ma dawn jiġu mplimentati fuq livell nazzjonali.
- Tinħareġ espressjoni ta' nteress internazzjonali għal kumpaniji speċjalizzati biex jimmaniġjaw id-*Digital Innovation Hub* fix-Xewkija, bħala nkubatur għal *start-ups* fis-settur diġitali.

Incorporated by Public Deed on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1999

### 3. L-Agricoltura

- Niżguraw iktar punti għal *new water* madwar Għawdex.
- Ninċentivaw il-bini ta' ħitan tas-sejjeħ madwar l-għelieqi f'żoni rurali f'Għawdex.
- Tingħata assistenza finanzjarja lill-bdiewa żagħar biex jiġi nkoraġġiti li jkomplu jaħdmu f'dan is-settur. Dan għandu jinkludi wkoll tip ta' assistenza biex il-bdiewa żagħar jingħataw art agrikola.
- Jingħataw korsijiet ta' nformazzjoni lill-bdiewa rigward liġijiet relatati mas-settur tagħhom, u kif ukoll kif għandhom jikkoltivaw l-għelieqi u l-prodotti tagħhom.

### 4. It-Trasport u l-Konnettività

- Jiżiedu l-inċentivi biex residenti f'Għawdex jaqilbu għall-karozzi elettrici li jinkludu: (a) rifużjonijiet aħjar meta tintara karozza eletrica; u (b) rati aħjar għad-djar Għawdxin meta jiċċarġjaw il-karozzi tagħhom fi djarhom stess.
- Jitnaqqas in-noll tal-vapur għal dawk ir-residenti Maltin li jaqsmu lejn Għawdex permezz ta' karozza eletrica u jkun hemm rati aħjar meta r-residenti Maltin jiċċarġjaw il-vettura tagħhom fuq infrastruttura pubblika f'Għawdex.
- Is-sistema tat-trasport pubbliku f'Għawdex tinqaleb kompletament biex jintużaw vetturi elettrici li jkunu iżgħar imma iktar frekwenti bejn il-lokalitajiet. Karozzi tal-linja ikbar, imma li jkunu xorta elettrici jew *hybrid*, għandhom jintużaw biss għar-rotot prinċipali bħal dik bejn l-Imġarr u l-belt Victoria.
- Jinbeda l-proċess biex tiġi żviluppata *air link* bejn Għawdex u Malta.
- Jitkompla l-proċess ta' implimentazzjoni tal-proġett tal-*permanent link* bejn Għawdex u Malta.

### 5. Infrastruttura

- Jinbeda l-proċess għal parkeġġ sostenibbli taħt l-art u li jinkorpora diversi sulari fil-belt Victoria.
- Jinbeda l-proċess għal sptar ġdid f'Għawdex li jikkumplementa l-investiment magħmul fil-Kampus ta' Għawdex tal-*Queen Mary University of London*.

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**PR GBC12/2021**

**Date:** 27/08/21

## **Press Release issued by the Gozo Business Chamber: The GBC's Budgetary Proposals 2022**

The Gozo Business Chamber is putting forward its proposals for the 2022 budget. These proposals are being formulated based on a long-term sustainable economic vision for Gozo, which primary objective should be that of diversifying the Gozitan economy, taking into consideration however the essential needs of Gozo's society and economy. For this reason the Gozo Business Chamber is putting forward a number of proposals formulated on an analysis of the Gozitan economy and its needs, and which are focused on a number of pillars:

#### **1. Ensuring that Development is Sustainable**

- Creates schemes specific for Gozo targeted towards the renovation of old houses. Incentives should be intrinsically tied to making a building more energy efficient and

lessening its carbon footprint. Specific schemes could identify for example particular areas, such as for example in the city centre of Victoria, where a number of old buildings are currently unused and being left in a dilapidated state.

- Houses which are bought to be renovated and lived in, and not redeveloped into apartment blocks would fall within a reduced property tax regime. Though this should apply both to houses within and outside the urban conservation areas (UCAs), a more favourable tax regime should apply on houses outside UCAs. Due to the present policies, the impact of the replacement of houses with large apartment blocks, is greater in development zones outside the UCAs.

## **2. The Green Economy and Digitalisation**

- Start the process for the establishment of a specialised faculty in Gozo targeting the green economy and other associated sectors
- Formulate a packet of incentives for the deployment of sustainable solutions in Gozo prior to these being deployed on a national level.
- Issue an international call for expression of interest for a specialised company to manage the Digital Innovation Hub as an incubator for start-ups in the digital sector.

## **3. Agriculture**

- Ensure more points for the supply of 'New Water' around Gozo.
- Incentivise the building of traditional 'sejjeñ' walls around fields in Gozo.
- Provide financial assistance to young farmers to encourage them to continue working in this sector. This could include assistance in kind such as the leasing of land to young farmers.
- Provide information courses to farmers on both legal matters, and also on the cultivation of land and produce.

## **4. Transport and Connectivity**

- Increased incentives for Gozitan residents to shift to electric vehicles including: (a) better refunds when they purchase an electric vehicle; and (b) better charging rates on the private charging infrastructure in Gozitan homes.
- Reduced ferry tickets for Maltese residents crossing over to Gozo with electric vehicles, and better rates when they charge their vehicles on Gozo's public charging infrastructure.
- The complete shift of Gozo's public transport system to smaller, and more frequent electric buses. Larger buses, which can also be electric, or hybrid would only be maintained between the main routes such as that between Mġarr and Victoria.
- Initiate the process for the development of an air link between Gozo and Malta.
- Continue with the implementation of the project on the permanent link between Gozo and Malta.

## **5. Infrastructure**

- Initiate the process for a sustainable multistory underground car park in Victoria.
- Start the process for a new hospital for Gozo which should complement the investment made in the Queen Mary University of London Gozo campus.

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