



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

DECISIONS

Wednesday 13 September 2017

ATTENDANCE

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Baroness Doocey
- Mathew Duncan (external member)
- Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
- Liz Hewitt (external member)
- Lord Hope of Craighead
- Lord Laming
- Lord McFall of Alcluith
- Lord Newby
- Baroness Smith of Basildon
- Lord Wakeham

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance. Apologies were received from Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall.

1. MINUTES OF MEETING ON 12 JULY

The Commission **agreed** the record of discussions from the meeting of 12 July.

2. ELIZABETH TOWER REFURBISHMENT

Paper from the Director General of the House of Commons
C/17-19/07 RESERVED

Ian Ailles, the Director General of the House of Commons, presented his paper on the refurbishment of the Elizabeth Tower (C/17-19/07 RESERVED).

The Commission **agreed** that the Finance Committee, the Services Committee and the Audit Committee should consider the matter, the latter possibly in conjunction with their Commons counterpart, and that the Commission should reconvene at a point after the Conference Recess to examine the matter once again.

The Commission **agreed** to endorse the planned works surrounding the chimes, quarter bells and clock faces. This included the decision to cease Big Ben's chimes sounding during the essential works except for national events such as Remembrance Sunday and New Year's Eve.

The Commission **noted** that the pre-tender estimate of £29.3m has risen on a like-for-like basis to £45.2m, following detailed specification for all packages of work.

The Commission **noted** that the cost of the programme is now estimated to be £56.6m.

The Commission **agreed** that the Clerk of the Parliaments as Corporate Officer should award the future works contract to the value of £27.2m subject to an assurance being secured that the contractor will answer questions and supply information to the Commission on request for the duration of the project.

3. FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Paper from Carl Woodall, Chairman of the Parliamentary Fire Safety Committee and Director of Facilities, House of Lords; Carlos Bamford, the Managing Director of In-House Services, House of Commons; and John Bradbury, the Competent Person for Fire Safety

C/17-19/08 RESERVED

Carl Woodall, Chairman of the Parliamentary Fire Safety Committee and Director of Facilities, House of Lords, presented the paper (C/17-19/08 RESERVED). He was joined by John Bradbury, the Competent Person for Fire Safety.

The Commission **agreed** that the matter of fire drills should be re-presented to the Commission at the November meeting with firm options which include timings, the length of drills and options for days of the week.

4. RESTORATION & RENEWAL UPDATE

The Lord Speaker

The Commission **took note** of the discussion.

5. PERIMETER SECURITY REVIEW

Paper from Eric Hepburn, Director of Security for Parliament, and The Rt Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP, Chair of the Consultative Panel of Parliamentary Security (CPPS)

C/17-19/09 RESERVED

Eric Hepburn, the Director of Security for Parliament, presented the paper (C/17-19/09 RESERVED) and was joined by The Rt Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP, Chair of the Consultative Panel of Parliamentary Security (CPPS).

The Commission **noted** the receipt of the report and extent of the 84 recommendations.

The Commission **agreed** to endorse continuing to fund costs for 2017-18 for those recommendations which had already been implemented, and to fund them for future years subject to the financial planning process and a review of total security-related costs.

The Commission **agreed** to further planning and analysis of five specific recommendations.

The Commission discussed and **agreed** various House of Lords specific recommendations.

The Commission **noted** four significant recommendations which related to the House of Commons.

The Commission **noted** that the implementation of the remaining recommendations was in progress and that this would be taken forward by the Parliamentary Security Department, with the support of Strategic Estates, In-House Services, the Metropolitan Police Service, and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure.

6. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK REVIEW

Oral update from the Clerk of the Parliaments

The Commission **took note** of the oral update.

7. JOINT WORKING PROGRAMME

Oral update from the Clerk of the Parliaments

The Commission **took note** of the oral update.

8. COMMISSION FORWARD PLAN

The Commission **took note** of the forward plan.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The Lord Speaker informed the Commission that the date of the extra meeting to discuss the Elizabeth Tower project **had yet to be decided** and would be confirmed via email by the Secretary to the Commission. He added that the meeting planned for **Wednesday 15 November at 10.30 am in Committee Room G** would still take place as planned.

13 September 2017

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