



## HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

### Minutes

Monday 18 December 2017

#### ATTENDANCE

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Baroness Doocey
- Mathew Duncan (external member)
- Lord Hope of Craighead
- Lord Laming
- Lord McFall of Alcluith
- Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall
- Lord Newby
- Baroness Smith of Basildon
- Lord Wakeham

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance. Apologies were received from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park and Liz Hewitt (external member). The Earl of Courtown attended in the place of Baroness Evans of Bowes Park.

#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Lord Speaker welcomed the members of the Commission to the seventh meeting of this Parliament. He thanked Lord McFall of Alcluith for chairing the previous meeting in his absence.

#### 2. MINUTES OF MEETING ON 6 DECEMBER AND MATTERS ARISING

The Commission **agreed** the record of discussions from the meeting of Wednesday 6 December.

The Clerk of the Parliaments updated the Commission on the Sports and Social Bar. He explained that the internal investigation was ongoing and that the bar would remain closed pending its completion.

#### 3. FORECAST OUTTURN AND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Papers from Jonathan Smith, Head of Finance, Co-presented by Mostaque Ahmed, Director of Finance

C/17-19/19 RESERVED Forecast Outturn and Supplementary Estimate

C/17-19/20 RESERVED Medium Term Financial Plan

Jonathan Smith presented the paper and explained some of the headline trends including increased costs relating to security and reduced costs relating to the ongoing delay to

the Restoration and Renewal Programme and lower levels of members' daily allowance claims because of the 2017 General Election. A general discussion followed about the scheme governing financial support for members and the need for a re-examination of the details.

Members asked a number of detailed questions relating to public sector accounting processes, including expenditure authorisation procedures, the limitations of annualised settlements and the challenge of estimating expenditure relating to members' allowances. Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall requested an explanatory seminar for Commission members to be held at some point in the future.

Mathew Duncan suggested that, in the light of increased capital expenditure, a more detailed breakdown in this area would help. He also suggested a system of colour coding for resource and capital expenditure for clarity.

The Commission **noted** the forecast outturn for 2017-18 and **approved** the Supplementary Estimate as recommended by the Finance Committee as follows:

- Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit – reduce by £5.3m
- Resource Annually Managed Expenditure – reduce by £10.0m
- Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit – reduce by £3.8m
- Net cash requirement – reduce by £3.9m

On the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), the Commission:

- **noted** the further work to provide financial and delivery assurance for the two 'streetscape' projects that have been approved in principle by the Commission and the Finance Committee;
- **agreed** the recommendation of the Finance Committee to review the financial remit in time for the next financial planning round; and
- **approved** the MTFP for 2018-19 to 2020-21 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

#### **4. UPDATE ON THE HOUSE OF LORDS ADMINISTRATION**

Oral Update from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments  
C/17-19/21 RESERVED

The Clerk of the Parliaments updated the Commission about the Relocation Contingencies Programme exercise and Hereditary Peers' by-elections.

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

#### **5. COMMISSION FORWARD PLAN**

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

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A question was asked about the prolonged delay to the Restoration and Renewal debate. The Earl of Courtown said that the date would be announced soon. The Clerk of the Parliaments said that he would circulate security advice relating to the various options of the Restoration and Renewal Programme in time for the next meeting.

The Lord Speaker reminded the Commission about the forthcoming debate on the report of the Lord Speaker's Committee on the size of the House. A number of members said that they hoped a Harassment Working Group Statement would not be repeated in the House on the same day as the debate.

The Lord Speaker, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Lord Laming who had announced the date of his resignation as Chair of the Services Committee. The Lord Speaker thanked him for his significant service to the House in that and previous capacities.

The Lord Speaker informed the Commission that the next meeting would take place on **Monday 22 January 2018 at 4.30 pm in the Lord Speaker's Office.**

18 December 2017

**Patrick Milner**  
Secretary to the Commission