



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Minutes

Wednesday 2 May 2018

ATTENDANCE

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Baroness Doocey
- Mathew Duncan (external member)
- Liz Hewitt (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 the Leader of the House, Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, and the Chief Whip, Lord Taylor of Holbeach, attended in her place. Gordon Marsden MP, Chairman of the History of Parliament Trust attended for part of item three (Future Funding of the History of Parliament Trust).

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

After discussion and amendment, the Commission agreed the records of discussion of the previous meeting of the House of Lords Commission on 21 March 2018.

2. RESTORATION AND RENEWAL: PROGRAMME MANDATE

Paper from Ian Ailles, Programme SRO, and Tom Healey, Programme Director
C/17-19/37 RESERVED

Mr Healey said that the whilst the Leaders of both Houses were leading on process to select parliamentarians for the Shadow Sponsor Board, the recruitment process for the external members had begun and the adverts were live. He said he hoped the Shadow Sponsor Body would be appointed by the end of July. When asked about the terms of reference for the Shadow Sponsor Body, he said that these would be outlined in the Sponsor Board/Delivery Authority Bill. He also said that a draft Memorandum of Understanding to clarify the relationship and reporting lines between the Shadow Sponsor Board, the two Commissions and possibly the domestic committees could be presented to both Commissions in July.

Other points covered in the discussion included:

- The importance of the mandate balancing the needs of those who work in the Palace with those who visit;

- The risks of suggesting the potential of retaining a nominal foothold in the Palace during the works such as tours of the Elizabeth Tour following its refurbishment works;
- The possibility of scope creep and the need to be clear about what is not within the scope of the agreed works;
- Requests for the mandate:
 - to reference security considerations more prominently and specifically in paragraph 36;
 - to include digital technology as a separate objective for the programme in annex A; and
 - to reflect the resolutions of both Houses by including a stronger reference to value for money considerations.
- HM Treasury Green Book requirements and best practice when completing an Outline Business Case of this nature;
- The possibility of SMEs being engaged in the supply chain for the Programme; and
- The importance of clear communications objectives and messaging as the work progresses.

The Commission **agreed** to approve the R&R Mandate.

3. FUTURE FUNDING OF THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT TRUST

Paper from Mostaque Ahmed, Director of Finance

C/17-19/38 RESERVED

Paper from Gordon Marsden MP, Chair of the History of Parliament Trust

C/17-19/39 RESERVED

Mostaque Ahmed, Director of Finance, presented his paper and explained the context of the Braddick Review. The Review had been commissioned by the Clerks of both Houses and a paper would be considered at the Commons Finance Committee in the near future. He explained that the House of Lords Management Board had concluded that the work of the Trust did not represent value for money against the strategic priorities of the Administration and that in their opinion the reach of their work was limited.

Gordon Marsden MP, Chair of the History of Parliament Trust joined the meeting and presented his paper. He too spoke about the findings of the Braddick Review and explained that the Trust had accepted the conclusions of the Review and was working to implement the recommendations. He also spoke about the potential consequences of the House of Lords removing or reducing the annual funding given to the Trust. Members asked questions about the potential for external sources of funding, reducing overhead costs, co-operation with academic institutions to avoid duplication of work and the Trust's efforts in the area of digital engagement. Mr Marsden then left the meeting.

After discussion, the Commission **agreed** to revisit the matter at a future meeting and requested a further paper to explore how the House of Lords might work with the House of Commons to assist with the Trust in securing alternative sources of funding and reducing their overheads. The Commission also **agreed** to revisit the Memorandum of Understanding between Parliament and the Trust.

4. UPDATE ON THE HOUSE OF LORDS ADMINISTRATION

Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/17-19/40 RESERVED

The Clerk of the Parliaments updated the Commission on the various streams of work taking place to implement the Working Group on Bullying and Harassment recommendations and the external recruitment process for the R&R Shadow Sponsor Board.

On the first point, Lord Hope of Craighead noted that a key issue was training for members who employ staff, and for those staff. He asked for clarity about the number of members who employed staff on parliamentary work, and the nature of the employment relationships. The Clerk of the Parliaments undertook to ensure the matter was covered in the work programme. This would be important in determining the requirement for members of the House to receive training.

The Commission **took note**.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Lord Speaker informed the Commission that he had received requests for meetings from both Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale and Lord Foulkes of Cumnock to discuss further changes to the allowances scheme in the light of the Commission's first report of the Session 2017-19 *Financial Support for Members of the House of Lords* (HL Paper 113) and the subsequent resolution of the House on Tuesday 27 April.

The Lord Speaker informed the Commission that the next meeting would take place on **Wednesday 6 June 2018 at 10.30 am in the Lord Speaker's Room**.

2 May 2018

Patrick Milner
Secretary to the Commission