

HOUSE COMMITTEE**MINUTES****15 July 2014**

Present:

L. Campbell-Savours
L. Cope of Berkeley
B. D'Souza (Chairman)
L. Laming
B. Royall of Blaisdon
B. McDonagh
L. Sewel
L. Stirrup
L. True
L. Wallace of Tankerness

B. Stowell of Beeston
L. Turnbull (Chairman of the Audit Committee)

together with the Clerk of the Parliaments.

Also present: Andrew Makower (Finance Director) and Paul Martin (Parliamentary Security Director).

Apologies had been received from Lord Hill of Oareford and Baroness Walmsley.

The Lord Speaker invited Baroness Stowell of Beeston to participate in the meeting and congratulated her on her appointment as Leader of the House.

1. MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE 2014-15 SESSION

The Committee *agreed* the minutes of the last meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 1st meeting

3. STRATEGIC SECURITY PLAN

The Parliamentary Security Director presented his memorandum (H/14-15/5) RESERVED. He explained that security measures needed to be in tune with the risks facing Parliament. The strategic security plan set out how these risks would be addressed over the next five years, including some new work and the continuation of some work already in hand. There was no single security budget to fund this work; instead some spend sat in departmental budgets (e.g. in PICT and PED) and the Parliamentary Security Director directed these departments to spend on items that were considered to be a priority. The Director agreed to report to the Committee on the implementation of the plan in due course.

The Committee *agreed* that some changes to the culture and the behaviour of passholders would be needed in both Houses and that they would support the Director in efforts to achieve this. The Committee *agreed* that the prevention of disruption to operations should be added to the guiding principles, and otherwise *endorsed* the strategic aim and guiding principles set out in the Plan.

4. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS RENEWAL PROGRAMME: UPDATE

The Parliamentary Security Director presented his memorandum (H/14-15/6) RESERVED and briefed the Committee on the progress of the programme since the Committee last discussed the matter in February.

The Director assured the committee that he would never recommend or support any proposal which diminished the provision of security, and said that he would return to the Committee with a further update in October. The Committee *took note*.

5. TOWARDS THE FINANCIAL PLAN

IMPLICATIONS OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE HOUSE: DATA

The Finance Director presented his memorandum (H/14-15/7) RESERVED and explained it was one of a sequence of papers to gather the Committee's views before the draft financial plan was presented to the Committee in December.

The Committee *agreed* that if departments put forward proposals for additional funding for changing circumstances including increased membership and attendance, which the Committee considered to be suitable and which could not be met from existing resources, then the budget should increase in 2015/16. One member set out areas where they would expect to see proposals for additional funding, and other Committee members were invited to put their suggestions to the Finance Director for dissemination to departments.

The Committee discussed how to treat the money saved beyond the requirements of the savings target in the strategic plan. The Committee *agreed* that, although this target should continue to be kept in mind, the language of target and headroom was unhelpful.

The Committee *agreed* the sharing ratios set out in the paper, and *agreed* to fund the House's share of the resource costs of the Education Centre.

The Committee *agreed* that the planning assumption of no September sitting in 2015 should not be relied upon. The Committee *agreed* that an increase in the membership of the House after a dissolution honours list should be a planning assumption.

6. USE OF THE ROYAL GALLERY

The Chairman of Committees presented his memorandum (H/14-15/9) RESERVED.

The Committee sought assurance that events in the Royal Gallery would not impinge on the business of the House. One member was unable to support the proposals as, even with the mitigation measures, he was not confident the fabric of the Palace could be protected. The Committee *agreed* to the proposal on an experimental basis for two years to commence from when a satisfactory business case (i.e. each event to generate a net benefit to the Administration as stated in the memorandum after all costs had been quantified and taken into account) was prepared, subject to the Administration retaining the right to veto

proposed clients. The Committee *agreed* to advise officials to be cautious, prepared to turn away custom, and aware of the reputation risk.

7. REVISED BANQUETING RULES & REPORT

The Committee agreed the implementation timetable for the revised banqueting rules set out in the memorandum (H/14-15/10) RESERVED.

8. INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE ACCOMMODATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments presented his memorandum (H/14-15/11) RESERVED and informed the Committee that the House of Commons Commission had agreed to the proposal. The Committee expressed regret that there was no suitable accommodation on the Parliamentary Estate and *agreed* that the Clerk of the Parliaments should discuss the issue of accommodating the ISC on the Government Estate with the Cabinet Office.

9. CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS' BRIEFING

The Committee took note of the Clerk of the Parliaments memorandum (H/14-15/12) RESERVED. The Committee *agreed* to consider the Annual Report of the administration by correspondence.

July 2014
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