



HOUSE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

29 June 2016

Present:

L. Campbell-Savours
B. D'Souza (Chairman)
L. Hope of Craighead
L. Hunt of Kings Heath
L. Laming
B. Manzoor
B. Stowell of Beeston
L. Wakeham
L. Wallace of Tankerness

B. Cohen of Pimlico

together with the Clerk of the Parliaments.

The Finance Director and the Director of Public Information were in attendance.

Apologies: L. Cope of Berkeley, B. McDonagh, L. Stirrup

1. MINUTES OF THE 6TH MEETING OF THE 2015-16 SESSION AND MATTERS ARISING

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

2. IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEADER'S GROUP ON GOVERNANCE

The Leader introduced the paper.

The Committee considered whether the Senior Deputy Speaker or chairs of the Services Committee would answer oral questions in the Chamber. The Leader clarified that responding to written questions and questions for short debate would be delegated to the appropriate chair, but she expected that only the Senior Deputy Speaker would respond to oral questions from the Despatch Box.

The Committee discussed remuneration for the chair of the Services Committee. Lord Campbell-Savours suggested that the post was effectively full-time and so it should be remunerated. Other members noted that chairs of Select Committees were not remunerated; chairing the Services Committee was thought to be an equivalent role. Primary legislation would be required if the post were to be remunerated. The Committee agreed the post should not be remunerated.



The following further points were made in discussion:

- The relationship between the Finance and Service Committees and the House Committee would be clarified by agreement at the first Commission meeting on what matters would be delegated.
- The importance of the Lord Speaker, Senior Deputy Speaker and the chairs of the Finance and Services Committees working together constructively was noted.
- The need for flexibility in applying the new arrangements at first was discussed. The Committee agreed that a review of the arrangements would be required in due course, in particular the role of the Chairman of the European Union Committee.

The Committee **endorsed** the new framework for domestic committees to be implemented through a series of motions to be agreed by the House.

3. MEMBERS' FINANCE SCHEME

The Committee considered the paper by the Finance Director and:

- Agreed to dispense with the requirement for prior approval for travel in relation to the Armed Forces and Police Service and the Industry and Parliament Trust schemes.
- Agreed that members should identify a spouse or civil partner in relation to travel claims.
- Approved a message for circulation through the usual channels on members making themselves easily identifiable in the Chamber.
- Agreed to add travel expenses for spouse, civil partner, child travel and additional expenses in respect of disability, travel expenses for the Lords outreach programme and travel as a representative of the House to the House's publication scheme, with due safeguards for personal data.

The Leader gave an oral update on the Usual Channels review of the Members' Finance Scheme. Some members, particularly those who lived outside London, encountered some difficulties under the scheme as hotel and accommodation costs in London had risen significantly since the daily allowance had been set at £300.

4. ARCHIVES ACCOMMODATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments introduced the paper

The Committee **agreed** that ownership and cost of any future Archives building should be shared 60:40 between the House of Lords and House of Commons.

5. DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2016/17

The Reading Clerk introduced the draft Business Plan.

The Committee **agreed** the draft Business Plan 2016/17 with amendments.

6. CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS' BRIEFING



The Committee **took note** of the briefing.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the security of Members following recent events. Members noted the importance of raising any concerns they had regarding their personal security with officials so they could be dealt with swiftly and measures taken as required. Members who had concerns were invited to contact the Director of Security for Parliament. The Consultative Panel on Parliamentary Security was considering measures required to keep Parliamentarians safe when off the Estate as well as on it.

Rob Whiteway
Clerk of the House Committee
June 2016