



Finance Committee

Minutes

Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 4.15pm on Microsoft Teams

Present:

Lord Colgrain
Lord Collins of Highbury
Earl of Courtown
Lord Cromwell
Lord Cunningham of Felling
Baroness Doocey (Chair)
Baroness Goudie
Lord Kerslake
Baroness Noakes
Lord Stoneham of Droxford

together with the Clerk of the Parliaments.

Fehintola Akinlose (Finance and Procurement Director) and Carl Woodall (Director of Facilities) were in attendance. Fay Tennet (Deputy Director (Operations), Parliamentary Security Department) attended for the item on the Metropolitan Police contract; Bev Weston (Director of Capital Investments, Strategic Estates and In House Services) attended for the item on the impact of COVID-19; and Matthew Hamlyn (Senior Responsible Owner, Elizabeth Tower Refurbishment Project) attended for the item on the Elizabeth Tower Refurbishment Project.

Agreeing the minutes of the last meeting, and matters arising

The minutes of the Committee's September meeting were agreed.

The Committee was informed that Bill Yardley had been appointed to conduct the Westminster Hall Independent Review.

Oral update from Parliamentary Security Department on the Zero-Based Review of Met Policing

The Committee was updated on the progress of the Zero-Based Review of Met Policing. Parliament had a Special Services Agreement with the Met Police which was the subject of the review, such agreements were used by all Police Forces to recover costs of operations specific to organisations.

[INFORMATION REDACTED]

It was expected that the Zero-Based Review would come to the committee by the end of the year.

Financial impact of COVID-19 on In-House Services and Estates Projects(F/19-21/35) [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

The paper set out In-House Services and Strategic Estates'(IHSE) approach to minimising the commercial impact of COVID-19.

[INFORMATION REDACTED]

Approaches had been made to benchmark the impact of COVID-19 with other organisations, particularly in the Higher Education sector. Any suggestions from the Committee on benchmarking with other sectors and organisations to contact were welcomed.

The Committee took note of the paper and requested a further update on the deep dives once underway.

Update on Elizabeth Tower Refurbishment Project(F/19-21/36) [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

The project was working closely with IHSE to implement the processes outlined in the previous paper and welcomed the commercial approach and additional support being procured.

The Project's external Board Member had also provided advice and support. All COVID-19 related costs were being coded as such to allow easy tracking. The project continued to challenge all costs that came in from contractors as it had done throughout the project.

The difference in the projected cost impact of COVID-19 between the two papers the Committee had considered was as a result of the change in forecasting assumptions from the expectation that COVID-19 restrictions would be in place until the end of December 2020 to June 2021. [INFORMATION REDACTED]

Any other business

A note from the Chair on the Catering and Retail Services (CRS) payments during lockdown was circulated with the meeting papers for the Committee's information. The Committee discussed the contents of the note. [INFORMATION REDACTED]

The Committee would next meet on Wednesday 18 November at 4.15pm.

Sections of these minutes have been redacted, usually for reasons such as commercial confidentiality and sensitive management information.

Gabrielle Longdin
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