

# HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION / MEC

Monday 14 December 2020 at 10.00 am  
Meeting in the Speaker's Office  
and via Microsoft Teams

Present:

The Speaker, in the Chair

Jacob Rees-Mogg

Valerie Vaz

Sir Charles Walker

Dame Rosie Winterton

Pete Wishart

Dr John Benger (Clerk of the House)

Ian Ailles (Director General)

Jane McCall (External member)

Dr Rima Makarem (External member)

## DECISIONS

### COMMISSION/MEC

#### 1. ESTIMATES AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

##### **A: Administration Estimate 2021–22 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2021–2025**

The Commission:

- **Agreed the 2021–22 Estimate (excluding the Commons Estate Portfolio element) as follows:**
  - **A capital budget of £138.3m.**
  - **A cash resource budget of £287.3m.**
  - **A non-cash resource budget of £77.2m.**
- **Noted that options for the pay remit for 2021-22 will be provided in the New Year.**
- **Noted that the budget for the Commons Estate Portfolio is to be agreed separately in February 2021, as previously agreed with the Commission.**
- **Noted that the Medium Term Financial Plan for the subsequent three years (2022–23 to 2024–25) is indicative and will be reviewed in future planning rounds.**

##### **B: Grants**

The Commission agreed:

- **Grants to the Interparliamentary Groups for 2021–22, subject to reserves being monitored in line with the remit:**

- CPA UK and BGIPU are increased by a maximum of 2%;
- BIPA funding is maintained without an increase;
- BAPG core funding is increased by a maximum of 1.5%, after adjustment for the exceptional funding received for this financial year;
- The grant to the History of Parliament Trust remains flat for the second year of the three-year agreement; and
- The grants to the Association of Former Members, British Youth Council and Working for an MP are increased by a maximum of 2% for 2021/22 in line with the remit.

### **C: Fees and Charges**

The Commission agreed the schedule of fees and charges for 2021–22, including that the increase in catering prices should be deferred until at least October 2021, subject to a wider review of the catering service.

### **D: HoC Administration Estimate – Supplementary Estimate 2020–21**

The Commission agreed the Administration Supplementary Estimate for 2020–21 as follows:

- A reduction in the net cash requirement by £110m (primarily driven by surrendering the budget for the purchase of a parliamentary building); and
- An increase in the non-cash resource by £83m as a prudent measure relating to estates accounting adjustments, primarily relating to Richmond House.

### **E: Members Estimate – Supplementary Estimate 2020–21 and Main Estimate 2021–22**

The Members Estimate Committee agreed:

- A Supplementary Estimate of £95k for 2020–21 to ensure there is enough budgetary cover for possible final adjustments to the Exchequer contribution to the Members’ pensions fund; and
- The Main Estimate for 2021–22 as £17,195k (same as for 2020–21 following the Supplementary Estimate).

## **COMMISSION**

### **2. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE RESTORATION AND RENEWAL PROGRAMME: OUTCOME AND NEXT STEPS**

#### **The Commission:**

- (1) Considered the draft report of the strategic review and provided steers on the main recommendations;**
- (2) Noted the proposed approach to the finalisation and publication of the strategic review's report in the new year, followed by wider Member engagement; and**
- (3) Noted the assumptions regarding the consideration of the revised Phase 1 Expenditure Limit and Estimate for 2021–22.**

**The Commission agreed to request that, as part of its preparation for the outline business case, the Sponsor Body should carry out further work to fully understand the costs, time and other implications of carrying out the necessary works whilst a presence was maintained in the Palace.**

### **3. RECRUITMENT OF A FURTHER LAY MEMBER FOR THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS**

**The Commission agreed to conduct a new recruitment process to appoint a Lay Member to the Committee on Standards.**

### **4. GOVERNANCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**The Commission agreed the principles set out in the paper, and specifically:**

- To be more involved in the setting of the direction and strategy of the House Service and of the consequential holding to account for the strategic outcomes;**
- To set a clear agenda that helps drive a coordinated approach to activities, management and change across the organisation; and**
- A strategic focus on outcomes and outputs rather than tactically on inputs; and**
- That performance information provided to the Commission should be received no later than 45 days after the reporting date.**

**The Commission agreed:**

- To review its own performance annually and meet with the Commons Executive Board annually; and**
- A further improvement in papers presented to the Commission to ensure they align with the strategy and corporate plan.**

5. REPORTS AND UPDATES

- (A) COVID-19 UPDATE
- (B) TUS AND MEMBERS' STAFF UPDATE
- (C) WRITTEN UPDATES FROM THE DOMESTIC COMMITTEES
- (D) HOUSE SERVICE UPDATE

**The Commission took note of the verbal and written updates.**

**COMMISSION/MEC**

6. PAPERS TO NOTE

**The Commission took note of the following papers:**

- **Draft Forward Programme**
- **Deliberations from Monday 9 November**

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**There was no other business.**

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**The next meeting of the Commission/MEC will take place on Monday 11 January 2021 at 10.00 am in the Speaker's Study and via Microsoft Teams.**