House of Commons

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Decisions from the meeting held on Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 3.00 pm

Members present:
Steve Barclay (in the Chair)

Luke Akehurst
Irene Campbell
Nusrat Ghani
Clive Jones
Kate Osborne
Andrew Murrison
Sean Woodcock

Apologies: Matt Bishop, Lillian Jones, James MacCleary.

1. Declaration of Interests

   Luke Akehurst and Kate Osborne confirmed there were no additional interests to declare.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 7 January and matters arising

   The Committee agreed the minutes of 7 January.

   The Committee agreed a letter to the Accounting Officer.

3. Q3 Financial Monitoring Report and Forecasting paper

   The Committee took note of the Financial Management Report for Q3 2024/25 and the work being undertaken to improve forecasting.

   The Committee agreed its future programme should include, subject to emerging issues and capacity:

   a. **Periodic deep dives of the areas of significant expenditure, including Parliamentary Digital Service and Strategic Estates.**
   b. **Areas of overspend in 2024/25 such as Customer Experience & Service Delivery and Parliamentary Maintenance Service Team.**
   c. **Periodic deep dives of corporate enablers, such as People and Capability, Governance, Finance and Commercial.**
   d. **Review of specific programmes such as Norman Shaw North, Victoria Tower and Restoration and Renewal.**

4. House of Commons and Joint Departments Workforce Profile

   The Committee took note of the information and requested a further update from the Commons Executive Board (CEB) that covered:

   - **An outline of pre-covid staffing levels and what getting to these levels again would look like, a like-for-like comparison of continuing**

functions from pre-Covid to now and the new functions that have been added in over that time;
- **What technology or solutions offered the greatest potential to automate processes and which would deliver quick wins in terms of efficiency that could be decided on soon;**
- **Where the gaps in knowledge were in terms of people resource or processes;**
- **The strategy in terms of workforce and technology going forward.**

5. Pay remit for 2025/26

   The Committee recommended the proposed pay remit for 2025/26 to the Commission.

6. Remit of the Committee

   The Committee agreed the remit to propose to the Commission.

7. Take note

   The Committee took note of the following papers:

   - **Q1 Financial Monitoring Report**
   - **Q2 Financial Monitoring Report**

8. Any Other Business

9. Date and time of next meeting

   The Committee agreed that its next meeting would be on Tuesday 4 March at 3.00 pm.