

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Decisions from the meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 12.30pm via Microsoft Teams

Members present:
Lilian Greenwood (Chair)

Harriett Baldwin	Dame Eleanor Laing
Mr Clive Betts	David Simmonds
Felicity Buchan	Mark Tami
Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	Dame Rosie Winterton

Apologies: Gareth Davies, Tommy Sheppard.

1) Informal notes and matters arising

The Committee took note of the Informal Notes from the 6 October meeting.

2) Update on Commons Estate refurbishment and closure of Northern Estate Programme

The Committee:

- Noted the proposal to close the Northern Estate Programme, and the new approach of a more agile portfolio of projects, comprising initially of 1 Derby Gate, Richmond House and Norman Shaw North;
- Noted that it would be asked to endorse the cost and plans in more detail in February 2021;
- Noted that further projects within the agile portfolio would be brought to the Committee as the portfolio moved forward; and
- Agreed its advice to the Commission.

3) Financial Impact of Covid-19 on In-House Services and Estates Projects

The Committee noted the commercial approach being taken in respect of the impact of covid-19 on all construction projects.

4) Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021 to 2025

The Committee:

- Noted that, excluding the Northern Estate Programme, the House Service is likely to be reducing its capital funding requirement compared to 2020–21 (subject to further Joint Investment Board consideration);
- Noted that revised proposals are being developed for the Northern Estate Programme following the Commission's decision relating to Richmond House;

- Agreed to make the case for adjusting the baseline to reflect the likely ongoing impact of Covid-19 on income for 2021–22; and
- Agreed to recommend a 2% increase in the resource budget for 2021–22.

5) Grants to interparliamentary groups etc

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission that:

- the grants to the Interparliamentary Groups for 2021–22 are set, subject to reserves being monitored in line with the remit as follows:
 - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK and the British Group of the IPU are increased by a maximum of 2%;
 - British Irish Parliamentary Assembly funding is maintained without an increase; and
 - British American Parliamentary Group core funding is increased by a maximum of 1.5%, after adjustment for the exceptional funding received for this financial year.
- the grant to History of Parliament Trust remains flat for the second year of the three-year agreement.
- 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.

6) 64 Victoria Street

The Committee took note of the paper.

7) Papers to note

The Committee took note of the following papers:

- Introduction to the Action Plan for Category A Capital Projects
- Note from the R&R Sponsor Body on the Strategic Review

8) Draft forward programme

The Committee noted its forward programme.

9) Any other business

There was no other business.

10) Date and time of next meeting

The Committee agreed its next meeting would take place on Tuesday 17 November at 12.30pm.