



## HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION AWAYDAY WITH SENIOR MANAGEMENT

### MINUTES

**Friday 3 July 2026 9:00am–1.30pm**  
*in the River Room*

#### **Attendance**

- Lord Speaker (Chair)
- Andy Helliwell, Chief Operating Officer
- Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Deputy Chair)
- Earl of Kinnoull
- Alix Langley, HR Director
- Paul Martin, Interim Director of Parliamentary Security
- Chloe Mawson, Clerk of the Parliaments
- Lord McLoughlin
- Alice Maynard (external member of the Commission)
- Charlotte Moar (external member of the Commission)
- Lord Morse
- Jessie Peramal, Interim Finance Director
- Baroness Pitkeathley
- Duncan Sagar, Clerk Assistant
- Baroness Scott of Needham Market
- Baroness Smith of Basildon
- Andy Smith, Managing Director, Digital Services

#### **1. Bicameral Governance**

The Commission discussed approaches to issues surrounding bicameral governance.

#### **2. The Commission, Services Committee, and Finance Committee**

The Commission discussed the relationship between itself and the Services and Finance Committees.

#### **3. Corporate Priorities: 2027/28**

In discussion, the following points were noted:

- The election of a new Lord Speaker and appointment of a new Clerk of the Parliaments presented an opportunity to take a more ambitious approach to corporate priorities.

- It was important that the Lords had decision making powers when changes proposed to shared services hosted in the Commons could impact Lords services.
- Services that were used regularly should be provided 'in house' rather than through contractors, when possible, subject to discussion with the Commons.
- It was important that opportunities for the use digital technologies including artificial intelligence were maximised, and where appropriate highlighted in the corporate business plan. A paper on use of AI in digital services would be brought to the Commission in the Autumn.
- The purpose of the business plan was to highlight areas that were of the greatest importance to the Administration, rather than to act as a comprehensive list of everything that the Administration would like to achieve.
- A full draft business plan would be brought to the Commission in December, which would set out how the Administration's priorities translated into specific measurable and reportable objectives.

The Commission agreed, following feedback, to the approach to the 2027/2028 Corporate Business Plan priorities and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026.

#### **4. Conclusions**

The Commission endorsed:

- the principles for a new approach to the governance of security in Parliament; and
- the extension of this approach to other bicameral departments.

#### **Any Other Business**

The Commission requested that a paper on the terms of the backbench members of the Commission be produced.

**Alasdair Love**  
Secretary to the Commission

**Raquel Fernández Vidal**  
Executive Officer to the Commission