

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Note of Discussion for the meeting held on 28 June 2021 at 4.30pm

[Virtual meeting held on Microsoft Teams]

Members present:

Sir Charles Walker (in the Chair)

Michael Fabricant
Colleen Fletcher
Mrs Pauline Latham

Mrs Maria Miller
Jessica Morden

Apologies: Marion Fellows and Sir Greg Knight

1. Informal Note

This Committee **agreed** the informal note of its meeting on 21 June 2021.

2. Restoration and Renewal (R&R) Design Assumptions

Lucy Owen, Chief of Staff, Sponsor Body, Clementine Brown, Head of Parliamentary Engagement, Sponsor Body, and John Thursfield, Engagement Strategy Manager, Sponsor Body, briefed the Committee.

Ms Owen provided a high-level overview of the design assumptions that would help guide the Programme's design team when developing options for the restoration of the Palace.

The Chair and several Members welcomed the paper.

A Member asked how flexible the designs and use of space could be given that the Palace was a historic building and a royal palace. Ms Owen said that a significant amount of work was being carried out focusing on the heritage characteristics of the Palace. The discovery and removal of asbestos found during the works presented an opportunity to remove walls and to create more flexible spaces within the building. The Member asked if modern partitions and extensions added to the building would be removed or enhanced so that they blended better with the historic elements of the Palace. Ms Owen said that both options would be considered.

A Member asked what processes would be gone through where changes were considered to ceremonial functions of the House, given that they formed a key part of the history and culture of Parliament. Additionally, the design assumptions seemed to be at an extremely high level and open to interpretation. At what stage would the design process focus on the details. Ms Owen said that the R&R team referred decisions that would impact ceremonial functions to the Royal Household and would never suggest any changes to procedures. It was possible, however, that there would be changes to access, such as on the use of entrances, though the team would work closely with officials such as Black Rod and the Royal Household to work through the implications. She added that more detailed proposals would be developed at the next stage of the design process.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the Restoration and Renewal design assumptions.

3. Restoration and Renewal (R&R) Space Utilisation Survey

Lucy Owen, Chief of Staff, Sponsor Body, Clementine Brown, Head of Parliamentary Engagement, Sponsor Body, and John Gullick, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Consents, Delivery Authority, briefed the Committee.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** not to endorse the proposal to undertake a space utilisation survey of 230 key spaces across the Palace or to the other contingent proposals set out in the paper.

4. Any other business

Industry and Parliament Trust Annual Cycle Challenge

The Committee **noted** a request approved by the Chair for the Industry and Parliament Trust to host its annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Cycle Challenge in the Atrium of Portcullis House on 3 November.

GB News

The Committee **noted** that GB News would be added to the range of channels available through the Annunciator service that week.

The Committee will next meet on 5 July 2021 at 4.30pm