House of Commons

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Note of Discussion for the meeting held on 5 July 2021 at 4.30pm

[*Virtual meeting held on Microsoft Teams*]

Members present:

Sir Charles Walker (in the Chair)

Michael Fabricant
Marion Fellows
Colleen Fletcher
Sir Greg Knight
Mrs Pauline Latham
Mrs Maria Miller
Giles Watling

1. POST Board nomination

The Committee **agreed** to nominate Mrs Maria Miller to sit on the on the Board of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST).

2. Informal Note

This Committee **agreed** the amended informal note of its meeting on 28 June 2021.

3. Central Lobby broadcasting point proposal

Alasdair Rendall, Head of Media Relations, Commons Governance Office, briefed the Committee.

Mr Rendall sought the Committee's approval on whether further detailed planning should be undertaken to establish a Parliament-owned and run broadcast plug-in point in Central Lobby. The new point would provide additional flexibility, given the increasing demand on the three existing points owned by the domestic broadcasters, and would be operated according to the existing filming rules.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** that further detailed planning should be undertaken to establish a Parliament-owned and run broadcast plug-in point in Central Lobby but stressed the importance of the Finance Committee being engaged before a final decision was taken.

4. Smoking and vaping areas on the Estate

Andy Martin, Head of Access and Services, briefed the Committee.

Mr Martin sought the views of the Committee on the existing smoking policy and whether there should be a more direct management of smoking and vaping areas on the Estate following recent informal enquiries about the smoking area between Portcullis House and Norman Shaw South.

The Chair said that the current arrangements reflected that smoking and vaping were legal practices and the Estate felt it was better to provide facilities within its precincts than to have people smoking and vaping outside the secure perimeter. Therefore, any wider change to policy was a matter for the House.

Decision

The Committee **endorse**d the existing arrangements for those smoking and vaping on the Estate.

5. Parliamentary Estate Masterplan (update)

Bev Weston, Director of Capital Investment, In-House Services and Estates, briefed the Committee.

Ms Weston reported that an extensive consultation exercise had been undertaken with key stakeholders in both Houses. The Masterplan would be used for all Parliamentary Estate projects and programmes, against which they would be scored and value for money assessed. The Masterplan contained various options for the future vision of the Estate, though Ms Weston emphasised that these were possibilities and not final decisions.

A Member asked whether the 'Nolan Principles' had informed the development of the Masterplan. Ms Weston said that supporting the business of Parliament was central to the Masterplan and all the options within it were formulated on that basis. As the Masterplan was modular, there was potential to develop another strand that focused on Parliament's strategic vision and how it operated with the 'Nolan Principles' in mind.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.

6. Electric vehicle charging points

Isabel Coman, Managing Director, In-House Services and Estates, and Tim Killip, Director of Parliamentary Maintenance, briefed the Committee.

Mr Killip informed the Committee that work would begin that week to install four electric vehicle charging points in Speaker's Court to coincide with essential maintenance work there.

Ms Coman added that users would be charged for the use of the points using a swipe card. The Chair asked how much it would cost to fully charge vehicles. Mr Killip said that he would come back to the Chair on that point.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.

The Committee will next meet on 12 July 2021 at 4.30pm