

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION / MEC

**Monday 13 December 2021 at 10.00 am
Meeting in the Speaker's Study**

Present:

The Speaker, in the Chair

Nick Brown

Thangam Debbonaire

Jacob Rees-Mogg

Sir Charles Walker

Pete Wishart (via Teams/dial-in)

Dr John Benger (Clerk of the House)

Marianne Cwynarski (Director General (Operations))

Mr Shrinivas Honap (External member) (via Teams/dial-in)

Louise Wilson (External member)

Apologies:

None

DECISIONS

COMMISSION

1. Reports and updates

- a. TUS and Members' staff representatives update
- b. Covid update
- c. Written updates from the Administration, Finance, and Audit Committees
- d. House Service update

The Commission took note of the updates.

Following the Covid update, the Commission agreed that the situation over the Christmas recess would be monitored and the Commission would meet if needed in the first week of January.

2. Parliament Square Streetscape Project

The Commission agreed in principle, subject to a business case, that the costs for the 'design concept' of the project would be included in the MTFP for 2022/23, and subject to the project providing the further detail requested by the Finance Committee and a breakdown of costs.

COMMISSION/MEC

3. Financial planning for 2022–23

A: Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022–26: Administration Estimate 2022–23 and Members Estimate 2022–23

The Commission asked for further detail to be provided on the 2022–23 Administration Estimate.

The Members Estimate Committee agreed the 2022–23 Members Estimate of £17,915k resource, an increase of 4.2% from 2021–22 (driven by uprating of Short Money by the Consumer Prices Index and actuarial projections for pensions).

B: Fees and Charges, Policy and Schedule 2022–23

The Commission agreed the Fees and Charges schedule for 2022–23, including an increase to the price of paid tours, a 3.4% increase in catering prices, with this increase including the adoption of silver pricing (rounding to nearest 5p). It agreed to cease charging for access to live coverage of Select Committee meetings.

C: Stationery Budget

The Commission agreed an increase to the House of Commons stationery budget for Members from £9,000 per year to £11,000.

D: HoC Administration Estimate – Supplementary Estimate 2021–22

The Commission agreed the Administration Supplementary Estimate for 2021–22 as follows:

- **a reduction in the capital and net cash requirement by £31m, primarily driven by a reduction in IHSE projects of £29m; and**
- **an increase in the non-cash resource of up to £96.1m largely to give cover for a potential onerous lease accounting adjustment and for other accounting adjustments related to the Parliamentary Estate.**

COMMISSION

4. Future Operating Model for Tours of the Palace and Elizabeth Tower

The Commission asked for further information to be provided at the next meeting.

5. Recruitment of Lay Members to the Committee on Standards

The Commission agreed:

- **The use of recruitment specialists for two upcoming roles;**
- **The appointment and make up of a recruitment panel;**
- **The person specification.**

It agreed to delegate authority for approving minor variations of the process to the Speaker.

COMMISSION/MEC

6. Papers to note

The Commission took note of the following papers:

- **Forward Look**
- **Deliberations from the meeting held on 15 November 2021**

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Commission/MEC will take place on Monday 10 January 2021 at 10.00 am in the Speaker's Study.