MINUTES OF LG MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 AUGUST 2017, 09:30AM, Q1.03

Present:
- Paul Grice (Chair)
- Ken Hughes
- Judith Morrison
- Tracey White
- Colin Chisholm
- Derek Croll
- Alan Balharrie
- Callum Thomson
- David McGill
- Susan Duffy
- Michelle Hegarty

In attendance:
- Judith Proudfoot
- Joanne McNaughton
- Huw Williams (Secretary)

Item 1: Minutes of LG Meeting: 19 June 2017

1. The minutes were agreed, subject to clarification in item 11 – safeguarding policy, that made it clear that arrangements were already in place for interacting with children and young people.

Item 2: Matters Arising

2. None.

Item 3: Period 3: Finance report (LG Paper 57)

3. LG noted the Period 3 finance report. A paper was scheduled to be presented to the SRB in October with more details about pipeline projects which would address the current project underspend.

Item 4: Update on Constitutional Issues

4. Ken Hughes informed LG that an exercise had been undertaken to link all the recommendations from the Presiding Officer’s Reform Commission to the various parliamentary bodies. The outcome of the exercise would be circulated to LG. It was important that a lead official was allocated to each recommendation, and it was likely that these named members of staff would form a co-ordinating group.

   Action: Ken Hughes

5. It was also recognised that it was essential to co-ordinate the work around the recommendations to enable engagement of the strategic view at political level. This process would also assist where a recommendation crossed more than one parliamentary body.

6. Some of the recommendations were more directions of travel and it was therefore understood that this work could give rise to other issues which could also be taken forward and it was important therefore to be
as flexible in approach as possible. At the same time it was important not to dilute what were central recommendations.

7. LG was advised that the Presiding Officer had established an Advisory Group with nominations from all political parties. The Group included Jackson Carlaw, Kenneth Gibson, Alison Johnstone, Johann Lamont and Liam McArthur. This Group would look at all the recommendations and liaise with each of the parliamentary bodies.

8. In terms of budgeting, offices should identify any implementation costs separately from their office costs. It was recognised that some of the implementation work will involve project costs for IT and possibly other solutions that will require close collaboration. While a number of other projects were on-going it was accepted that this project would take priority over some things. With the exception of those that have an explicitly longer timescale as recognised in the report, the aim was to implement all recommendations within the next 2 years.

9. LG would receive regular reports about progress on the implementation of the recommendations.

Item 5: SPCB Planning Session

10. LG noted that as a precursor to future budget considerations the SPCB would be invited to engage in a discussion at its planning session on 29 August about the major constitutional issues for the Parliament. This would include an update on Brexit and the recommendations from the Presiding Officer’s Reform Commission.

11. The discussion would also look at the nature of the Parliament in respect of the way it might work in future, in particular, digitally. It would also be a chance to discuss with the SPCB how they saw things in 5 or even 10 years in the future.

12. It was agreed that discussion papers covering these issues would be prepared for the planning session.

Action: ACEs

Item 6: AOB

13. Colin Chisholm advised LG that a note would be circulated about holiday pay and overtime. This was to update LG about a recent decision taken by an Employment Tribunal about these matters.

Leadership Group Secretariat

August 2017