



MINUTE OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY CORPORATE BODY (SPCB) MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 9.00AM, VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Present: Ken Macintosh MSP (Chair) David Stewart MSP
Jackson Carlaw MSP Sandra White MSP
Liam McArthur MSP Andy Wightman MSP

In attendance: David McGill
Michelle Hegarty
Sara Glass
Lis Craig
Janice Crerar
Alan Balharrie
John Ure
Eric MacLeod
Joanne McNaughton
Huw Williams
Lisa Creamer
Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the previous meeting held on 29 October 2020.

MATTERS ARISING

Issues by correspondence

2. The following items had been dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting:

2.1 SPCB(2020)Paper 60 – the SPCB noted an update on proposals for marking the work and influence of Alasdair Gray both through the Scottish Parliament’s Art Collection and the upcoming Festival of Politics.

2.2 The Quarter 2 Finance and Performance Managements Reports were noted.

STAFF COST PROVISION REVIEW

3. The Presiding Officer provided an update on discussions held with party leaders. A report of the outcomes of the review would be presented to the SPCB for agreement at a future meeting.

COVID-19: update

4. The SPCB noted that officials were in the process of analysing the potential impact for the Parliament following introduction of the Scottish Government's 'tier' system, with particular emphasis on travel to and from Holyrood from different tier levels. This would be discussed further at the next meeting.

BREXIT: update

5. The Chief Executive provided an update on Brexit-related work, highlighting the level of legislation requiring consideration by committees and the work undertaken by the parliamentary services in supporting business both directly, for example clerking and legal advice, and indirectly, for example in looking at the Parliament's goods and services contracts and supply chain.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR 2021-22 AND FUTURE YEARS

6. The SPCB discussed its budget bid for 2021-22 and indicative budget for 2022-23. Discussions also included consideration of officeholders' bids.

7. The SPCB agreed the assumptions and overall approach to formulating the bid which would be brought back to a future meeting for approval.

MEMBERS' CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – SPCB(2020)Paper 61

8. A centrally supported case management system had been made available to MSPs since the start of Session 5 in 2016. This system had been reviewed and alternative systems investigated.

9. The SPCB agreed a new system to be offered as standard from the beginning of the next Session.

EVIDENCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND REFORM (ECCLR) COMMITTEE

10. The SPCB noted that the Chief Executive had been invited to give evidence to the ECCLR Committee on the Parliament's environmental performance and its response to the climate emergency. The session was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 17 November.

11. The SPCB welcomed the scrutiny by the Committee and was keen to develop the relationship going forward.

ELECTION GUIDANCE

12. The SPCB had previously agreed Guidance due to be issued to MSPs and their staff ahead of the 2021 Scottish Parliament Elections. The SPCB discussed the implications for that guidance of changes proposed by the Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill. Officials were now reviewing the Guidance and would bring revised versions to a future meeting for approval.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13. The next meeting of the SPCB was due to take place on Thursday 26 November 2020.

SPCB secretariat

November 2020