

BOARD OF THE SHADOW SPONSOR BODY

Minutes

Meeting of 1st July 2019

Present:

Elizabeth Peace (Chair)
Lord Carter of Coles
Neil Gray MP
Brigid Janssen
Sir Patrick McLoughlin MP
Marta Phillips
Baroness Scott of Needham Market
Mark Tami MP
Simon Thurley
Simon Wright

In attendance:

Ed Ollard (Clerk of the Parliaments)
Matthew Hamlyn (Chamber Business Team Strategic Director, House of Commons)
Kate Emms (Interim Director, shadow Sponsor Body)
Susannah Street (Board Secretary)
Matthew White (Programme Delivery Director, R&R)
Darrell Carey (Head of Communications, shadow Sponsor Body)
Anish Kaul (Team Administrator, shadow Sponsor Body)
Michael Torrance (Head of Secretariat, shadow Sponsor Body)
Richard Caseby (Director of External Relations, shadow Sponsor Body)
Richard Ware (Interim Client and Engagement Lead, shadow Sponsor Body)
Andy Piper (Design Director, R&R Programme)
Ainsley Moore (PwC Business Case Lead) joined for items 1 and 2
Julian Flannery (Architecture Lead, R&R Programme), Colin Shepherd-Evans (Construction Manager, R&R Programme), Michelle McDowell (Contract Lead, BDP), Graham McClements (Design Lead, BDP), Andrew Swain-Smith (Building Services Lead, BDP) and Ruth Atkinson (Design Team Lead, BDP) joined for items 1 and 2

Apologies: Lord Deighton and Lord Geidt sent their apologies.

The Chair welcomed Matthew White as the new Programme Delivery Director and Richard Caseby as the new Director of External Relations for the shadow Sponsor Body. The Chair also welcomed Matthew Hamlyn, Chamber Business Team Strategic Director, who was standing in for Dr John Bengier at the meeting.

I. EMERGING BUSINESS CASE STRATEGY (SSB/19/046)

Ainsley Moore explained the work that was being undertaken on the emerging business case strategy, which would be brought to the Board in the autumn, and how it related to work on the Initial Project Brief. The Board discussed HM Treasury's business case structure.

2. PALACE OF WESTMINSTER: DEVELOPMENT OF INITIAL PROJECT BRIEF (SSB/19/047)

SUMMARY OF WORK COMMISSIONED FROM BDP (SSB/19/048)

PRESENTATION: BDP

Andy Piper introduced Julian Flannery and the BDP team. The paper and presentation provided an overview of the key design activities that had been undertaken as part of RIBA stage 1 between December 2018 and May 2019 and emerging findings. They also presented the emerging questions that needed to be answered to define the requirements for the Palace Initial Project Brief at the end of RIBA stage 1, and the next steps proposed to answer those questions. An accompanying paper set out the work that had been commissioned from BDP since July 2017, for the Board's information.

The presentation covered the pressure that would be put on space in the Palace from providing more suitable accommodation for plant, among other factors. The Board discussed issues around ventilation and climate control, access and circulation options, the possible segregation of vehicles and pedestrians, visitor facilities, the removal of 'accretions' to the Palace, work to look at re-providing lost space, work on the heritage collections, and fire protection. There was broad support for the principle that the Programme should ensure that a renovation programme on this scale should not be required again, and that improving public access and improving disability access were key strategic aims of the programme and should be prioritised; and enthusiasm for exploring options for segregating pedestrians from vehicles and logistics operations. A pragmatic approach to 'accretions' was proposed, which would involve assessing whether they were worth keeping or worth removing. There would be trade-offs, for example between fire compartmentation, heritage concerns, and accessibility.

The Board endorsed the key questions on these topics that would be taken to the Commons Executive Board and Lords Management Board for further discussion, as described in the paper. The Board requested that the questions be rephrased to bring out the range of possibilities that the Boards were being asked to consider, such as discussing the hierarchy of need for the types of space for which ventilation and temperature control should be improved (which would drive the plant space requirement). The revised questions would be approved by correspondence.

The Board considered and endorsed the next steps set out in the paper. It was agreed that technical consultation with subject matter experts in the House Administrations should resume.

The Board noted the overview of the work commissioned from BDP to date.

3. R&R BILL UPDATE, FOLLOWING THE BILL'S INTRODUCTION IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS (SSB/19/049)

The Board noted the amendments made to the Bill in the Commons and considered its preferred approach to the handling of amendments during the Bill's consideration in the Lords.

AOB

There was no other business.

The Board would next meet on 15th July 2019.