



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 4 November 2021 at 09.00, Q1.03 (hybrid)**

### **Present:**

- Alison Johnstone MSP (Chair)
- Claire Baker MSP
- Jackson Carlaw MSP
- Maggie Chapman MSP
- Christine Grahame MSP

### **In attendance:**

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Becky Thomson
- David Hershaw
- Lorna Foreman
- Aneela McKenna
- Susan Duffy
- Sally Coyne
- Huw Williams
- Mark Brough
- Eric MacLeod
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

### **Previous minutes**

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2021.

### **Matters arising**

2. The SPCB had dealt with the following items by correspondence since the previous meeting:
  - Noted an update on the IT procurement supply chain
  - Noted updates on SPS staff pay award
  - Agreed a temporary relaxation of the Expenses Scheme overnight expenses limits for Edinburgh accommodation during COP26.

## **Security – SPCB (2021) Paper 63**

3. The SPCB had an initial discussion around the current areas of support available to MSPs and their staff in respect of personal security while undertaking their parliamentary roles. Members of the Corporate Body provided feedback from discussions held within their Groups, recognising the need to move quickly and proactively on this matter. Officials were asked to work up further detailed proposals based on the issues raised and bring back to the SPCB for further discussion.

## **Members' Room services – SPCB (2021) Paper 64**

4. The SPCB welcomed proposed improvements to the Members' Restaurant service, aimed at making it a more attractive, accessible and flexible option for building users, and agreed to it re-opening towards the end of November. Further options were being looked at to enable members of the public to also use the service and these would be brought back to the SPCB for discussion and agreement.

## **Positive About Mental Health Policy – SPCB (2021) Paper 65**

5. This paper invited the SPCB to agree a new Positive About Mental Health Policy for MSPs and their staff; the Policy having also been approved for parliamentary staff. The SPCB discussed implementation of the Policy and how MSPs would be supported, including training in wider aspects such as conflict resolution and stress indicator recognition and management. The SPCB was also keen for there to be a focus on wellbeing generally, not just specifically mental health.
6. The SPCB approved the Policy.

## **Public Engagement Strategy – SPCB (2021) Paper 66**

7. The refreshed strategy built on the work already done in the previous parliamentary session to increase diversity in engagement and was aligned with the main Strategic Plan. It aimed to:
  - increase the reach of the Parliament's engagement and the diversity of those engaging with it;
  - improve the knowledge and confidence of people to engage with the Parliament and with the democratic process; and
  - improve the Parliament's reputation as a relevant and trusted institution.
8. The SPCB discussed a number of options for engaging individuals as well as representative groups and organisations, citing the citizens' assembly as a good model.
9. The SPCB agreed the Public Engagement Strategy.

## **AOB**

10. SPCB members highlighted some issues raised with them by colleagues and officials agreed to look into them and report back.

## **Date of next meeting**

11. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 18 November 2021.

**SPCB secretariat**  
November 2021