

COST EFFECTIVE FACILITIES – CHANGES TO EVENING RESTAURANT AND BAR SERVICE

Executive Summary

1. At your previous meeting of 30 May views were sought on the future use of the Members' Restaurant and Bar area. The SPCB was advised that the current cost of the evening service in the Members' Restaurant and Bar is £50k per annum and, of 16,000 potential covers, only 1,236 were fulfilled over 2011/12 (7.7% capacity). The principal problem was therefore one of a lack of demand in the evening.
2. The SPCB agreed that the current cost of the evening service in the Members' Restaurant and Bar could not be sustained. Officials were instructed to look at a more cost effective option, as part of an overall strategy to eliminate over time any subsidy required for the restaurant and bar in the evening. The SPCB also agreed to take forward informal consultation with fellow MSPs and other building users on this issue.

Option

3. Having looked at potential venues across the parliamentary campus there is only one suitable location that could meet the needs required. This is the current office space situated on the ground floor of Queensberry House, adjacent to the Garden Lobby.
4. This space is currently occupied by the Allowances Team, but is not a space that is ideal for use as an office. There is limited borrowed daylight from the Garden Lobby for staff, who tend to be permanently located at their desk space during working hours. Better accommodation is required for this team regardless of the proposed new facility and a suitable location was already under consideration as part of plans for a wider review of accommodation use within the Parliament. This space would however work for the type of relocated lounge service envisaged.
5. The area would be suitable to provide:
 - an appropriate lower scale/cost food and drink service in the evening;
 - an improved sized seating area;
 - better access; and
 - in addition, as it can be difficult for Members to find seats at particularly busy times in the Garden Lobby, the proposed area could help to address this issue by increasing the supply of coffee lounge seating during the day.

Resource Implications

6. We estimate that the total cost to the SPCB for the refurbishment would be £75k. In addition, Sodexo, our catering provider would directly invest £50k into the project.

7. With the use of the current Restaurant and Bar as a dedicated events space - which could see a doubling in the number of event spaces suitable for hosting events of 100 plus guests – significant new income could be generated. We estimate that this, combined with providing a more cost effective evening service, would make it possible to provide payback on the SPCB's investment within 2 years. Beyond that payback period, the new facility could be an important element of an overall catering service which operates without subsidy in line with the Corporate Body's stated ambition.
8. It is also envisaged that the current Bar staff would relocate to the new lounge facility and that the tariff within the facility would reflect market prices, as with those of the current Bar and Aspetto Coffee Bar.

Governance issues

9. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and there are no anticipated governance issues.

Publication Scheme

10. This Paper will be published in line with the SPCB's publication policy.

Next Steps

11. If the SPCB is in agreement, officials will develop the project and consult individual SPCB members as appropriate on aspects of specific designs for the area and operational plans for the service.

Decisions

12. The SPCB is asked to consider this Paper and agree:
 - Closure of the existing evening service in the Members' Restaurant and Bar.
 - To proceed with the re-located space suggested, on the ground floor of Queensberry House, adjacent to the Garden Lobby.
 - To maintain the existing lunchtime service in the Members' Restaurant area.
 - To keep a limited evening service in the Members' Restaurant on 2 evenings (suggested for one Tuesday and one Wednesday) per month.
 - To better promote the future services to Members and building users.

FEEVS GROUP

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