



This representation is submitted on behalf of the Houses of Parliament Restoration and Renewal Programme and the Parliamentary Estate. The submission relates to the Parliamentary Estate buildings, including the Palace of Westminster, and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

### Matter 3 – The Spatial Strategy and Spatial Development Priorities

The Palace of Westminster building is one of the world's most iconic buildings, and the heart of UK democracy as the seat of the Houses of Parliament. The building is in need of major refurbishment, and this will serve as the UK's biggest heritage renovation project. The vision for the Restoration and Renewal Programme is to transform the Houses of Parliament to be fit for the future as the working home for our Parliamentary democracy, welcoming to all and a celebration of our rich heritage.

We fully support the wording in Policy 1A.5 and paragraph 11.1, which recognises the strategic role of Westminster's nationally and internationally important uses, and the buildings that accommodate them. We are pleased that this encompasses and acknowledges the role of the Restoration and Renewal Programme, both in securing the historic legacy of the Houses of Parliament and in strengthening the World Heritage Site's appeal as a visitor destination. We consider that the policy wording proposed provides a sound basis for the Restoration and Renewal Programme, and the necessary 'decant' projects that will facilitate its restoration.

With such a programme only taking place once in a generation, we recognise its exceptional significance to Westminster's built environment, the local and national economy and to the historic environment which includes the internationally recognised Westminster World Heritage Site. As well as refurbishing the building, the programme will deliver many benefits. These include providing opportunities to reveal more about British history by developing a greater understanding of the site's archaeology and its rich heritage collections, and developing a new generation of heritage craft and construction skills.

The Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Act received Royal Assent on 8 October 2019, and makes provision in connection with works for, or in connection with, the restoration of the Palace of Westminster and other works relating to the Parliamentary Estate. Under the provisions of this Act, on 8 April 2020 the Restoration and Renewal Programme Sponsor Board and a separate Delivery Authority were set up as statutory bodies to oversee the programme. This is a major step forward in the delivery of the restoration of the Palace.

The Restoration and Renewal Programme recognises the need to manage the restoration process and its 'decant' projects, and the exceptional public benefits they will deliver, in a way that enables the continuous operation of Parliament and supports the unique cluster of social, democratic and economic activities that take place across the Parliamentary Estate and its vicinity.

We therefore support the wording of the City Plan in recognising the importance of the R&R Programme and its decant projects, which will retain our working Parliament at the heart of Westminster.