



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 8 – Design and Heritage

The Palace of Westminster is one of the most important listed buildings in the country, and sits at the heart of the Westminster World Heritage Site, and in an Archaeological Priority Area. As such, the Restoration and Renewal Programme recognises its responsibility in preserving and enhancing the historic significance of the Palace and the Parliamentary Estate including the Northern Estate, its archaeology, and its world-class setting. This includes conserving and better revealing the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

We support the wording of Policy 40 – Westminster’s Heritage, including its protections for the “skyline, prominence and iconic silhouettes” of the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey, and for the various types of designated assets in its immediate vicinity, including the World Heritage Site.

In particular, we restate our support for paragraph 40.6, and confirm our agreement to the partnership approach proposed by the Council to ensure the potential for the positive contribution of the Restoration and Renewal Programme to the conservation, enhancement and communication of Outstanding Universal Value of the site is realised.

In evidence of this approach a Conservation Framework Group has been set up by the Sponsor Board to secure widespread agreement to a statement of heritage significance appropriate for the Palace project. This involves a wide range of stakeholders including Westminster City Council, Historic England, Strategic Estates and other external advisors.

We support the production of an updated World Heritage Site management plan, and members of Parliament’s In House Services Estates are key stakeholders on this steering group, working with the Council on its production.

We support the policy aspiration for enhancements to the spaces within and immediately adjacent to the site, and for improvements to public realm and approaches to the site, security measures and visitor experience to be encouraged and initiated where possible.

We note the suggestion by Historic England for a new supplementary planning document for the Westminster World Heritage Site. We consider that the respective evolving management plans for the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and the World Heritage Site go some way in providing a policy framework for the area. However, we are also aware that there are a number of proposals for the wider public realm, and should Westminster City Council wish to produce supplementary planning guidance for the area to align the various stakeholder interests, we would be willing to work in partnership with the Council and neighbouring stakeholders to support this as required.