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Dear Dr Rössler,

State of Conservation of the World Heritage Property "Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom) (C426bis)"

I am writing to report on the actions taken by the UK State Party in response to World Heritage Committee decision 41 COM 7B.55. The report is structured in line with the template provided at Annex 13 of the *Operational Guidelines.* The relevant sections of the Committee decision are printed in *italics* for ease of reference.

The UK State Party is content for this report to be posted on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre website. If you require further information or clarification do please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,



Enid Williams
World Heritage Policy Advisor

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY INCLUDING SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH (UNITED KINGDOM) (C426 bis)

1. Executive summary of the report

In accordance with Decision 41 COM 7B.55, the United Kingdom State Party has produced this State of Conservation Report (SOCR) for Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church World Heritage Site (Westminster World Heritage Site)

This SOCR updates the Committee on changes that have been made to planning policies and to the progress of development proposals, which affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, since the last report which was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2017.

Specifically, in response to the Committee's decision and the report of the 2017 ICOMOS/ICCROM advisory mission, this report provides updated information on the conservation of the World Heritage site, policy at local and national levels, the World Heritage site Management plan and responds to the 23 recommendations of the 2017 reactive monitoring mission.

The report is structured according to the format provided by the World Heritage Centre. The clauses of the World Heritage Committee decisions and/or mission recommendations are given in italic and indented. Where possible, responses to mission recommendations are combined with the response to the Committee decision. The response of the State Party is not indented and does not use italics.

2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's Decision, 41 COM 7B.55

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.36** and **39 COM 7B.87**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*
3. *Takes note of the State Party's efforts to strengthen the policy and planning framework through guidance documents, but notes nevertheless that there is still an inadequate urban planning framework to manage development in the setting of the property, with the result that developments, which have been approved contrary to the advice of English Heritage, are causing cumulative negative impact on the OUV of the property;*

The previous State of Conservation report, submitted in January 2017, set out details of the existing UK planning policy framework at national, regional and local levels and how this was developing, in so far as it affects the protection of the Westminster World Heritage Site. The National Planning Policy Framework (England) was revised in 2018. The previous (2012) version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognised that World Heritage Sites are heritage assets of the highest significance and that the sites and their settings should be conserved accordingly. The NPPF also states that local planning authorities should take into account the desirability of enhancing sites and their setting. This is reinforced in supporting planning guidance which makes clear that the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site forms an important part of its significance.

Guidance notes that the relevant local planning authorities, including those that have World Heritage Sites in their area or are within the setting of a World Heritage Site, should have policies protecting Sites in their Local Plans. The weight given to such policies will vary depending on their degree of consistency with the NPPF (the closer the policies in the Local Plan to the policies in the NPPF, the greater the weight that may be given to those Local Plan policies).

As part of a recent, wider review of the NPPF, the State Party reviewed the policy on World Heritage Sites in response to this point and the related mission recommendation. It concluded that there was scope to clarify the existing policy at a national level and has therefore amended the NPPF to include explicit reference to importance of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage Sites and to make clear this classification forms part of their significance and should be taken into account in all relevant decision-making. The revised NPPF containing these amendments was published on 24 July 2018. Further detail is available in the response to the mission recommendations.

Further to this, the Greater London Authority is currently undertaking a review of the London Plan. The revised plan sets out a range of overarching policies for London. A draft of the updated plan is now available. The draft contains a comprehensive policy on world heritage sites which provides a more robust approach to protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of London's four World Heritage Sites (WHS). Additionally, the updated plan includes further guidance on the effective management of WHS and their settings. This policy has been presented to the Westminster World Heritage Steering Group who expressed their support for changes made.

Policy HC2 of the London Plan places greater weight on the importance of WHS management plans, particularly to inform plan making and planning decisions. In the supporting text to the policy the Mayor commits to supporting the WHS steering group in managing the WHS and implementing the management plans. This text also clarifies which stakeholders should be part of the WHS steering group.

In addition to this, individual boroughs are undertaking reviews of their local plans, which will include further detailed guidance on WHS where relevant.

In order to assess the impact of the cumulative impact of proposals, the Greater London Authority and boroughs are also utilizing 3D modelling. These models, particularly 3D virtual reality and other interactive digital models, should, where possible, be used to inform plan-making and decision-taking, and to engage Londoners in the planning process.

Further detail is available in the response to the mission recommendations in Annex A.

4. *Strongly regrets that the State Party did not comply with the requests made in Decision **38 COM 7B.36** to ensure that the proposal of the Nine Elms Regeneration Development Market Towers, Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site project be revised and reconsidered, following concerns raised by English Heritage (now Historic England), and notes with concern that these projects have been built, and therefore, requests that the advice of Historic England, be given a stronger weight in determining when to call in an application for development within the property or within its setting.*

All cases (applications and appeals) where Historic England has significant concerns about the impact on a World Heritage Site are already considered for call-in, or "recovery" in the case of appeals. A recovered case is one where the decision on the appeal is made directly by the Secretary of State, rather than a planning inspector, on his behalf.

Under The Town and Country Planning (Consultation)(England) Direction 2009 local planning authorities are required to refer to the Secretary of State any application they are minded to approve, where Historic England has objected on the grounds that a proposed development could have an adverse impact on the outstanding universal value, integrity, authenticity or significance of a World Heritage Site or its setting, and has not withdrawn that objection. Once an application has been referred to the Secretary of State, he will consider whether to call in the application having regard to the policy on call in. The State Party and Historic England are now working more closely with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to ensure that decisions on whether or not to call in applications for determination by the Secretary of State are fully informed by an understanding of the requirements of the World Heritage Convention to protect OUV.

The Vauxhall Island/Vauxhall Cross site project referred to in the committee decision has not been built, and a revised application is currently under consideration by Lambeth Council. The proposal has been developed in collaboration with Transport for London to align with the aspiration to return the Vauxhall one-way gyratory traffic system to a desired two-way system and to accommodate a new Vauxhall bus station. The proposal by Zaha Hadid Architects is for a two tower scheme. While it would reach higher than the earlier approval its more slender form and massing could be seen as reducing the potential harm to OUV as well as achieving better integration with the emerging Vauxhall tall building cluster. The application is being considered by Lambeth Council and is due for determination in late 2018.

4. Also notes with concern that once a local planning authority has made a planning decision, it is not possible to challenge it, unless the Secretary of State calls it in, and also notes that the State Party considers the World Heritage Committee's timeline to be incompatible with applicable statutory planning timeframes and requirements

The UK planning system is based on statute supported by national regulation and guidance, such as the NPPF and associated guidance. At the local level the planning system uses local spatial plans to guide local authorities and, where appropriate, national government in taking decisions on development proposals. This is a rigorous system which includes opportunities for pre-application discussions with relevant stakeholders to be undertaken, especially where development proposals have cross boundary implications. In London, the Mayor also has the ability to take decisions for certain categories of development. Therefore, while it is not possible to reverse a planning decision to approve development once it has been taken by the Local Planning Authority, there is a full range of measures available, to influence the development proposals before a decision is taken and where necessary for the scheme to be refused permission if it has an unacceptable impact on OUV.

The UK State Party aims to advise the Centre at as early a stage as possible in the planning process, including at pre application stage, in order that the views of the Advisory Bodies and, where appropriate, the Committee can have the greatest impact on shaping proposals. This has occurred in several instances since the previous SOCR was submitted, including the proposed Parliamentary Streetscape project, and the Holocaust Memorial. There is potential to further improve the process and the State Party is exploring creative means to incorporate the advice of the Committee and advisory bodies into planning decisions with the World Heritage centre.

5. Further notes that the lack of an urban planning framework creates a need to assess individual projects and requests the State Party to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, any large-scale projects which may be proposed in the future in the immediate and wider setting of the property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is taken or approval is issued;

As set out in previous SOC Reports and detailed in this document, there exists an urban planning framework s to assess local and citywide developments for impact on World Heritage sites in London. The London Plan provides the planning framework across greater London, including opportunity areas and other major infrastructure projects which have an impact on more than one borough.

The State Party continues to notify all developments within the immediate and wider setting with the potential to impact on the OUV of a World Heritage site to the World Heritage centre at as early a stage as possible, as per the guidelines set out in Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage convention. As set out in previous SOC reports, we recognise that notifying early in the process can help ensure that recommendations from the Committee and Advisory Bodies can be fully considered when planning decisions are taken.

6. Recommends therefore, that planning policies be reconsidered to ensure that balancing between protection of OUV and the other benefits of development projects is more strongly weighted towards the requirement to protect OUV, in accordance with the obligations of the State Party under

the World Heritage Convention, and underlines the need to link the strategic city development vision with heritage-led regulatory planning documents in order to provide clear legal guidelines to manage all World Heritage properties in London in a consistent manner.

As set out above, the NPPF and London Plan have been reviewed with the aim of ensuring Outstanding Universal Value is given appropriate consideration in decision making and local policy.

7. Also takes notes that major conservation works are planned as part of a Restoration and Renewal project for the Palace of Westminster and also requests the State Party to submit details, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as these are available and before any decision is taken or approval is issued;

The Restoration and Renewal project has established a Sponsor Board and Delivery Authority which will implement the project, and a draft Bill to establish the statutory bodies responsible for the restoration and renewal of the Palace was published on 18 October. Heritage Impact Assessments will be prepared in conformity with ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs in order to inform the Restoration and Renewal project. An updated conservation management plan has also been prepared for the Palace of Westminster.

8. Further requests the State Party to finalize the review of the Management Plan for the property as soon as possible and to submit an electronic and three printed copies to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

The Management Plan is currently being reviewed and updated and significant progress has been made in drafting. Consultation has been ongoing with stakeholders and it is anticipated that the formal public consultation will occur during spring 2019 before publication of a final draft. The State Party will invite comments on the updated management plan from the Centre during the consultation period. As set out above, a detailed conservation plan is also being prepared for the Palace of Westminster providing more detailed and specific advice on the Palace itself and consultants have also been commissioned to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for Westminster Abbey. Once complete, it is intended that these individual conservation plans providing advice on the individual buildings will be linked to the overarching World Heritage Site Management Plan.

9. Taking note of the 23 recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission, to identify potential courses of action to address ways of strengthening protection, including planning frameworks and management structures and limit the impacts development projects and other current planning applications on the OUV of the property, and requests furthermore the State Party to expedite their implementation;

The steering group has been working together to address the mission recommendations and A full response to the recommendations is submitted as an annex to this report (Annex A).

*10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

This report is submitted in response to the Committee's request.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party.

Additionally information in response to the mission recommendations is available in Annex A of this report.

4. In conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, please describe any major restorations, alterations and/or new constructions(s) envisages within the protected area and its buffer zone and/or corridors

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

The State Party is content for the full report to be uploaded to the World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System.

6. Signature of the Authority



Enid Williams
World Heritage Policy Adviser

Annex A
Recommendation 1:
Awareness materials should be developed to provide all stakeholders in the process with more information about the World Heritage Convention, and in particular, the concept of Outstanding Universal Value. These materials should be widely distributed, and an emphasis should be given to the management and protection aspects of OUV.

The Mission had shown there are varying degrees of understanding of the concept of OUV as it relates to World Heritage sites. Historic England (HE), along with local and national government have undertaken several initiatives to raising awareness and understanding of OUV in response.

Historic England, in partnership with the UK National Commission for UNESCO and the State Party, have carried out five Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) courses on Managing World Heritage sites over the past year. These free, day long courses are well attended by site managers and local authority members, and outline the World Heritage Convention and its implementation in the UK. There has been positive feedback showing that participants' understanding of World Heritage has been enhanced.

Additionally, local and national planning policies have been updated or are in the progress of being updated to include further clarity on World Heritage sites, including defining OUV and attributes. The draft management plan includes an updated section on attributes and outstanding universal value which is currently in discussion with the Steering Group and should assist with greater understanding.

Recommendation 2:

Policy and guidance materials should be written in as concrete a manner as possible to reduce the possibility for interpretation in a way that is not consistent with the protection of OUV. Steps have been taken in recent years to do so, but the disconnect between the words within the polices and the results on the ground still remains large enough for concern.

Policy and guidance materials at local and national levels have been reviewed and updated in order to clarify key concepts such as OUV and setting. This includes the London Plan, which is currently available online in draft form. The revised London Plan includes updated policy Policy HC2 on World Heritage Sites. The new policy and supporting text is clearer than the previous policy and provides a more robust approach to protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of London's four World Heritage Sites (WHS), and the effective management of WHS and their settings. In addition, draft Policy D8 - Tall buildings - gives very strong protection to the OUV of WHS, and states that building in the setting of a WHS must preserve the OUV and the ability to appreciate it.

Policy HC2 also provides further clarity and places greater weight on the importance of WHS management plans, particularly to inform plan making and planning decisions. In the supporting text to the policy the Mayor commits to supporting the WHS steering group in managing the WHS and

implementing the management plans. It is anticipated that following an examination of the plan by the Secretary of State the Mayor will publish the final version of the new London Plan in late 2019.

In addition to these strengthened policies the members of the Westminster WHS Steering Group have contributed to this State of Conservation Report and as a result all members, including senior representatives of local planning authorities have gained an enhanced understanding of OUV and what is needed to protect it. This is helping to strengthen the links between policy and practice.
At a local level individual boroughs are in the process of updating their local plans. The City of Westminster, in which the site is located, published an informal draft of its revised Local Plan on 12 November 2018 for public consultation. This includes a specific policy which seeks to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. The London Borough of Lambeth, which is immediately adjacent to the site and includes much of its setting, is also currently consulting on revisions to its local plan, including a strengthened policy on World Heritage.

Recommendation 3:
The State Party should consider revising its planning and policy documents to ensure that the protection of OUV is given the maximum weight possible when balancing the harm to the heritage vs. the potential benefit. These policies should continue to emphasise sustainable development approaches to development at World Heritage properties and their settings. But, as a first principle, these developments should have as a centrepiece, a requirement for protection of OUV.

Following the committee decision and mission recommendations, The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been updated to include further clarity on OUV. The updated version includes explicit reference to importance of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage Sites and to make clear this classification forms part of their significance and should be taken into account in all relevant decision-making. The updated NPPF also continues to recognised World Heritage Sites as heritage assets of the highest significance and that sites and their settings should be conserved accordingly. This is also reinforced in the supporting planning guidance which makes clear that the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site forms an important part of its significance.

Relevant local planning authorities, such as those that have World Heritage Sites in their area, should have policies protecting Sites in their Local Plans. The weight given to such policies will vary depending on their degree of consistency with the NPPF (the closer the policies in the Local Plan to the policies in the NPPF, the greater the weight that may be given to those Local Plan policies).

Recommendation 4:
Properties recognized as World Heritage (whose preservation and safeguarding is subject of an international treaty signed at State Party level) should enjoy a special status in regard to decision-making at all levels. There is a need for a widening cooperation in the decision-making process, using synergetic capacities among the boroughs, supported by coordination at the level of the Greater London Authority. It should play a much larger role in determining consent when there is a potential for negative impact on the OUV of a property in accordance with the London plan and other policy and guidance documents at the city level.

The draft London Plan places strong emphasis on use of 3d Modelling and boroughs are working together to develop and understand 3D modelling and its uses which may aid coordination of decision making and assessment across organisations. Lambeth has undertaken work on modelling views and tall buildings to understand the impact on views within the borough as part of the evidence base for their local plan. Consultants have been commissioned to extend this work to include other key world heritage site views and this is to be included within the management plan. In addition, all the boroughs within the vicinity of the site are now using a 3D model into which key schemes can be inserted and work is ongoing to consider how this tool can be used to understand impacts of development within the setting of the World Heritage Site.

Recommendation 5, 6 and 15:
Recommendation 5: The national government should consider calling in every planning application that has a potential to impact negatively on the OUV of a World Heritage property. In this regard, the advice of Historic England should be given a strong weight in determining when to call in an application. In this way, the obligations of the United Kingdom under the World Heritage Convention can be met more effectively than is currently the case

Recommendation 6: Historic England should be given a stronger role at all levels to give advice on development projects. The organization already does play a significant role, but its advice is sometimes not given the necessary weight when difficult development decisions are taken.

Recommendation 15: The advice of the national heritage advisor, Historic England, should be given a much greater weight by all of the boroughs and other levels of decision-making when evaluating projects and their potential impact on OUV. An objection by Historic England should already be a warning sign to the whole chain of decision-making that there will likely be issues at the World Heritage level.

All cases (applications and appeals) where Historic England has significant concerns about the impact on a World Heritage Site are already considered for call-in, or "recovery" in the case of appeals as set out below. A recovered case is one where the decision on the appeal is made directly by the Secretary of State, rather than a planning inspector, on his behalf.

Under The Town and Country Planning (Consultation)(England) Direction 2009 local planning authorities are required to refer to the Secretary of State any application they are minded to approve, where Historic England has objected on the grounds that a proposed development could have an adverse impact on the outstanding universal value, integrity, authenticity and significance of a World Heritage Site or its setting, and has not withdrawn that objection. Once an application has been referred to the Secretary of State, he will consider whether to call in the application for his own determination.

In the case of applications which are refused planning permission by the local planning authority, or where the local planning authority has failed to determine applications within the relevant statutory time period, the applicant has in most cases six months in which to lodge an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspectorate assesses each case in relation to the criteria set out in the Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) made on 30 June 2008 to determine whether the appeal should be recovered for determination by the Secretary of State. The WMS criteria for potential recovery by the Secretary of State include 'any proposal which would have an adverse impact on the outstanding universal value, integrity, authenticity and significance of a World Heritage Site'. When these criteria appear to apply to a planning appeal, the views of Historic England on the issue will be canvassed and taken into account by the Secretary of State when deciding whether to recover the appeal. If the appeal is then recovered, the Secretary of State will continue to take account of the views of Historic England as a material factor in his decision- making.

Recommendation 7:
Creative means should be explored with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to minimise the impact of non-complimentary timeframes for commenting on and consenting to development proposals.

Due to resource pressures and the timings of the committee cycle, it is not possible for the World Heritage Committee to comment on every application submitted to it by the State Party. Therefore, a wider range of consultation options with the World Heritage Centre are being utilised to ensure that the views of the committee, centre and advisory bodies are considered when decisions are taken. These include the submission of ICOMOS technical reports, the direct involvement of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in discussions with local authorities and notifying proposals to the Centre at an early stage when amendments to the proposals can more easily be made.

The State Party works closely with the World Heritage Centre to ensure that the Centre, Committee and Advisory Bodies have the opportunity to offer advice on planning applications early in their development, when there is the possibility to shape proposals before they are formally submitted for planning consent.

Recommendation 8:
The new management plan for the World Heritage property, which is in preparation, should be finalised as soon as possible by the Westminster City Council, in cooperation with the other members of the Steering Group.

The World Heritage Site Management plan is currently being revised and a drafted will be available early next year. Informal consultation on each section of the plan is ongoing through drafting and the full draft plan will be submitted for public consultation in Spring, 2019. The plan has been streamlined with focus on key sections including review and articulation of attributes, clearer information on management responsibilities and a shorter more focused action plan. A workshop held to revisit Vision and Objectives where more substantial review and rewriting will be required. In response to this a series of shorter objectives are being pre

Recommendation 9:
Steering Group should be revitalized, with regular meetings and a more action oriented perspective in regard to overseeing the implementation of the Management Plan. The Greater London Authority should also take a more active role in the Steering Group (perhaps becoming a co-chair) to bridge differences amongst the boroughs.

In response to this recommendation, the GLA deputy Mayor is now co-chair of the Steering Group, giving the GLA a more direct role in management of the World Heritage site. The Group also includes representatives from each relevant Borough, Historic England, ICOMOS UK, DCMS, as well as those involved in the direct management of the site.

The group identifies schemes and policy documents with the potential to impact the World Heritage site. It invites presentations on relevant schemes to the steering group. Additionally, improvements to the steering group were discussed at the management plan workshop held earlier this year. The terms of reference for the group will also be reviewed as part of management plan objectives and actions.

Recommendation 10:
An inventory should be created of already issued building permission for tall buildings with indication of the level of their realization (not yet started, started, under construction, almost finished). At least in the context of the World Heritage property it would also be advisable to create a tool for possible amendment during realization (e.g. building stop at lowest level, having less floors as planned etc.).

This Database has been prepared and is periodically updated by the relevant boroughs. In advance of future Steering Group meetings database of schemes can be circulated and updated this will help identify schemes which could be presented to the group.

Recommendation 12:
The State Party needs to use a more robust method of carrying out Heritage Impact Assessments on any developments, which may have an impact on the OUV of the property. These HIA need to have the strong input and advice of Historic England and should become the basis for any decision-making for approval of development projects.

The State Party and Historic England have been working to raise awareness of the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIA. A summary note for applicants for planning permission about HIA has been

prepared by Westminster Council for consideration by the Steering Group and will be referenced in the management plan. This supports the advice in the National Planning Practice Guidance which specifically refers to the ICOMOS HIA guidance.

Recommendations 13, 14 and 18:
Recommendation 13: The 3D modelling system, that is currently in development, should continue to be refined and developed in a way that allows developers, planners, and decision makers to have a more dynamic system of view protections for the World Heritage property. In regard to views, the system of important views should be reviewed to take into account the possibilities of views at different levels and in "non-traditional" places.

Recommendation 14: The planning process should be revised to take into account the impact, not only of single development proposals, but also the cumulative effects of a number of projects either approved or in the planning stage. Tools such as 3D modelling should be used to more easily see these potential cumulative effects.

Recommendation 18: Views and 3D modelling can help with giving sense of what is wider setting/ immediate setting and using protected silhouettes may help to increase understanding/ effectively create a buffer zone.

The use of 3D modelling as a tool to allow developers, planners, and decision makers to have a more dynamic system of view protections for the World Heritage property is under consideration by the GLA and all relevant boroughs.

The GLA is currently exploring options for developing and using digital data more effectively in the planning process and obtaining and using 3D data from applicants is part of this process. An internal steering group has been set up to progress this work and it is anticipated that an agreed route for development of a 3D model will be arrived at by early 2019. The digital mapping of the height constraints of views that complete a 360-degree setting of the WHS combined with the use of 3D modelling provide an effective tool for managing development in the immediate and wider setting of the WHS. The large area that can be assessed using these tools suggest that they would be a more effective tool for informing future development and design of any new elements in the vicinity of the World Heritage property than the drawing of a buffer zone around the WHS.
Other.

The London Borough of Lambeth initiated a project to digitally map the height constraints of the existing London View Management Framework protected silhouettes and local views of the Palace of Westminster and how these impact on Lambeth. This work involves assessing the likely outcome of Qualitative Visual Assessment process on specific views that complete the 360-degree setting of the WHS. Once completed this work can provide a tool for understanding the building heights of new development in the immediate and wider setting of the WHS. The completion of this work is supported by the GLA and consultants have been asked to consider extending this work to include further views identified as part of the management plan review.

Additionally, the policies in new London Plan highlight the need to consider the cumulative impacts of development, particularly in regard to tall buildings.

Recommendation 16:
The phased approach to the closure of Abingdon Street, the demolition of the temporary education centre, and the development of an updated visitor management and interpretation strategy is welcomed. In conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party should inform the World Heritage Centre as proposals are developed for any changes to the spaces adjacent to the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey, Saint Margaret's Church, and Parliament Square that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property.

Proposals are now being developed for streetscape works in Parliament Square but these are still at an early stage. These will be presented to the Steering Group and submitted to the World Heritage centre as a paragraph 172 at an appropriate stage.

Recommendation 17:
The Holocaust Foundation may wish to consider setting up a mechanism whereby the Jury of the design competition for the memorial is able to get advice from the World Heritage Centre and/or Advisory Bodies before a final decision is taken. In any event, the selected design and related developments should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Previous Minute Competition jury had met and announcement is due to be made public shortly. The foundation has already had input from multiple stakeholders including significant involvement from HE. Although no direct link with World Heritage Centre, through involvement of HE should meet requirements to notify UNESCO. Holocaust Memorial Foundation will provide a statement updating on this for the March meeting.

In conformity with (para 172) of the Operational Guidelines, DCMS wrote to the World Heritage Centre in January 2018 to provide an update on the winning competition design and the process and programme to be followed through to the grant of planning permission. This letter invited comments on the winning design and offered to present the developing scheme to the WH Centre. The consequent Technical Review undertaken by ICOMOS was passed on to the design team for the project and the advice of ICOMOS is being taken into account in the detailed development of the project

Pre-application discussions have commenced with the City Council's planning, design and highway officers while the technical aspects of the scheme are developed and assessed. A Heritage Impact Assessment to ICOMOS guidelines is being undertaken, and the State Party will provide further updates to the WH Centre as they become available.

Recommendation 19 & 20:
As more detailed plans are developed for the Restoration and Renewal project for Westminster Palace, the State Party should keep the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies informed as soon as possible, particularly in regard to demolitions or new constructions, but also to any other significant works that may impact on the OUV of the property. This early notice will avoid any misunderstandings as the work progresses.
The Restoration and Renewal project offers the Westminster team an opportunity to reconsider the temporary structures for entertaining along the riverside façade of the palace. Any eventual hospitality structures on that important view should take into account the visual impacts from the Lambeth side of the river and should in no way have a negative impact on OUV.

Debates on the Restoration and Renewal programme were held in early 2018. It was agreed at this time that the restoration and renewal of the Palace would be completed in one single phase involving the temporary relocation of Parliament. A draft Bill to establish the statutory bodies responsible for the restoration and renewal of the Palace was published on 18 October. A shadow Delivery Authority and Sponsor Board was established during the summer to manage this work.

The UK State Party will provide more details on this project as they emerge.

Recommendation 21:
The mission team regrets that the work on the Triforium project was carried out without an HIA and without informing the World Heritage Centre prior to commencement of the project. While it does not appear that this addition will have a negative impact on the OUV of the property, it is recommended that any future work be subject to HIA and information being provided. In the meantime, the mission recommends that full information on the existing project be sent to the World Heritage Centre, as well as a final report of the works once they have been completed to ensure that there has been no negative impact on the OUV.

The World Heritage Centre was formally notified of the scheme after the mission, following a reference to it in the 2016 Statement of Conservation Report The Triforium Galleries project is now complete and not only is it sympathetic to the OUV of the property but it also allows for a greater understanding of the heritage significance of the Abbey. It has been very well received and has been put forward for numerous architectural and conservation awards. Details of the completed scheme are publicly available here: https://www.westminster-abbey.org/visit-us/plan-your-visit/the-queens-diamond-jubilee-galleries/

Recommendation 22:
The Greater London Authority should consider the creation of a "joint committee" or other coordinating structure, which would allow the four World Heritage properties in London to establish mechanisms for networking and cooperation in management and conservation. This process should be open to all boroughs who are involved in the management and conservation of these properties.

The GLA is exploring options to help coordinate London's WHS, and also considering a Londonwide Heritage Strategy, of which this could form a part.

Recommendation 23:
In a similar fashion, the national government should consider setting up a "joint committee" of all World Heritage properties in the United Kingdom to allow for a better understanding of common problems and a means of developing innovative solutions

The independent charity, World Heritage, UK was set up in 2015 to undertake networking, advocacy and promotion for the UK's 31 World Heritage Sites, and for Tentative List sites progressing towards World Heritage inscription. This is a site led independent organisation, which encourages membership from all World Heritage sites in the UK and is working to identify solutions to common problems among UK World Heritage sites. https://worldheritageuk.org/