

Sustainability Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Sustainability is a primary consideration on the Restoration and Renewal Programme (R&R) across all stages of the programme lifecycle, so that environment, social, culture and economic benefits are delivered.

Principles

Key principles around climate change, carbon, biodiversity, circular economy, skills and apprenticeships and social value, have been developed to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), which will enable the delivery of the following:

- Ensure that we create social value and spread the benefits across the whole of the UK.
- Create a lasting legacy for future generations through the development of skills and creation of jobs across the UK as well as creating a safe and more accessible working environment within the Palace of Westminster.
- Sustain cultural significance of the site and broaden the UK knowledge base of renewing historic buildings.
- Act on climate change and improve the resilience of the Palace of Westminster (PoW) to climate change.



Figure 1. The most relevant UNSDGs which the Programme can contribute meaningfully to are shown above.

We will implement measures that support the UK’s transition to net zero carbon by 2050; improve climate change resilience of the building; deliver a net gain in biodiversity and a design that meets the sustainable building standards set out in BREEAM and WELL.

We will work collaboratively with our supply chain to promote innovation and deliver social, cultural heritage, economic and environmental benefits. Performance will be regularly monitored, reviewed, measured and reported to support continuous improvement.

This policy will comply with the legal requirements that relate to the Programme as a minimum and will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains effective and will be communicated and made available to interested parties and the supply chain. Furthermore, the R&R Programme will seek certification to Environmental Management ISO14001 which includes a commitment to enhancing environmental performance and pollution prevention.



Climate Change

Improvements in climate resilience will be realised by:

- Embedding climate change risk management and governance in our processes aligned with Climate-Related Financial Disclosures reporting framework
- Including climate change adaptation and resilience in design
- Engaging with relevant stakeholders to improve understanding of climate change adaptation opportunities within the heritage sector

Carbon

Achieving net zero carbon will be realised by:

- Embedding whole life carbon into our processes to ensure that carbon reduction underpins our project decision making
- Having minimised our carbon emissions, we will adopt industry good practice to manage our residual emissions
- Actively supporting the decarbonisation of the construction, conservation and heritage activities on the programme

Biodiversity

Biodiversity net gain will be realised by:

- Integrating greening considerations into the design and planning process
- Safeguarding our sensitive ecosystems and protected species e.g. Schedule 1 listed peregrine falcons
- Championing the Programme’s biodiversity ambition through leadership, engagement and knowledge sharing

Circular Economy

Circular Economy will be realised by:

- Adopting the principles of circular design
- Minimise waste and maximising resource efficiency
- Engaging with key stakeholders and the supply chain
- Collaborating with industry to create jobs, skills, training and innovation opportunities to support the circular economy
- Adapting traditional procurement processes to promote circular principles

Skills and Apprenticeships

Skills, employment and education will be realised by:

- Creating inclusive employment opportunities and offer decent work and fair pay across the UK for those working on R&R
- Tackling skill gaps linked to the delivery of R&R by working in partnerships to support the delivery of high-quality skills programmes
- Creating career opportunities by linking apprenticeships, work experience and placement opportunities to those who are participating in our school engagement and employability programmes

Social Value

Social Value benefits will be realised by:

- Developing and inspiring skills in traditional and mainstream construction
- Implementing sustainable procurement, creating opportunities across the UK
- Supporting UK’s net zero ambitions, improving climate resilience of the PoW
- Conserving the cultural and heritage value of the PoW
- Embedding sustainability and social value requirements within our tendering process and contracts

Matt White
Programme Director
Deliver Authority
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