



Quarterly Report: Restoration and Renewal of the Houses of Parliament

January–March 2024

Welcome

I am pleased to present the latest quarterly report for the Restoration and Renewal Programme, covering the period from January to March 2024.

During this period, the Programme achieved the significant milestone of publishing the strategic case following the endorsement of the R&R Client Board in February. The Client Board has agreed that further work will be carried out on plans to ensure that the Palace of Westminster remains the home of both Houses of Parliament for future generations.

The strategic case, which is available on the Client Board's website¹, outlines the plans for further work on three options: a full decant option, a continued presence option, and an enhanced maintenance and improvement option. Detailed work on each of these options, and the costs, risks and benefits associated with them, is planned to be presented to both Houses next year to support a decision by Members on the preferred way forward.

Members of both Houses and the wider parliamentary community have been invited to share their views on the strategic case with the R&R Programme, via engagement stands across the estate which were held in late March, allowing us to continue to capture Member views as the further work on the three options develops.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks and best wishes to Dr Patsy Richards, Managing Director of the R&R Client Team, who has announced that she will retire in July. Patsy's expertise and extensive experience of Parliament and major programmes has greatly contributed to the successes achieved with the Programme over the last year. David Goldstone, Chief Executive Officer of the Delivery Authority, has also announced he will step down later this year. I would like to place on record my thanks to both Patsy and David for all their hard work. I look forward to working with the new Managing Director of the Client Team and Chief Executive of the Delivery Authority once each has been appointed later this year.

Welcome from Nigel Evans MP
Chair of the R&R Programme Board

¹ Restoration and Renewal Client Board:
[Strategic Case](#)

Foreword

Following the progress made on Restoration and Renewal in 2023, we are pleased 2024 has started with the significant step of the R&R Client Board approving the strategic case. The report sets out proposals for three options for R&R which will be taken forward for further work and will inform decisions by both Houses on a preferred way forward in 2025.

In March, the Client Team ran a series of engagement activities across the estate. This included offering and delivering briefings to party groups in both Houses and running in-person stands in Portcullis House and the Royal Gallery, where members and staff of both Houses shared their views and asked questions about the strategic case. Further engagement activities are planned, and in particular R&R tours will continue to be offered throughout the coming months.

On-site surveys will also continue to inform the development of R&R plans. During the recent recesses, R&R teams carried out further building investigations that included flying drones over Cloister Court to gather information about the roof areas, surveys to understand ground conditions underneath the Palace, and surveys to record the condition of various heritage items across the Palace.

Finally, we would also like to record our thanks and best wishes to Dr Patsy Richards, Managing Director of the Client Team and David Goldstone, Chief Executive Officer of the Delivery Authority who have both announced they will be leaving the programme. Patsy announced her intention to retire this summer after 30 years working for the House of Commons and Scottish Parliament in a number of senior director roles, including leading the R&R Programme for the last two years. Recruitment for Patsy's role is now underway, and DA Chair Mike Brown is leading the DA Board to consider next steps for appointing a successor for David.

Foreword by

Clerk of the House and
Clerk of the Parliaments



Nigel Evans MP
Chair of the R&R Programme Board



Tom Goldsmith
Clerk of the House of Commons



Simon Burton
Clerk of the Parliaments

Further information:

R&R Client Board

[Agendas](#)

[Minutes](#)

R&R Programme Board

[Agendas](#)

[Minutes](#)

R&R Hub

R&R Programme Board Membership

- **Rt Hon Nigel Evans MP** (Chair)
- **Lord Vaux of Harrowden** (from February 2024) (Deputy Chair)
- **Lord Morse** (up to January 2024) (Deputy Chair)
- **Wera Hobhouse MP**
- **Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP**
- **Leader of the House of Commons**
- **Lucy Powell MP**
- **Shadow Leader of the House of Commons**
- **Lord Collins of Highbury**
- **Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury**
- **Tom Goldsmith**
- **Clerk of the House of Commons**
- **Simon Burton**
- **Clerk of the Parliaments**
- **Dr Michèle Dix** (External member)
- **Paul Duffree** (External member)
- **Steve Hails** (External member)
- **Sir Jonathan Stephens** (External member)
- **Sir Geoffery Clifton Brown MP** (up to January 2024)
(Delegate of the Leader of the House of Commons)
- **Sir Edward Leigh MP** (Delegate of the Leader of the House of Commons)
- **Mark Tami MP** (Delegate of the Shadow Leader of the House of Commons)

The following officials are also routinely in attendance at the Programme Board meetings:

- **Dr Patsy Richards** (Interim Managing Director, R&R Client Team)
- **David Goldstone** (Chief Executive Officer, Delivery Authority)
- **Chris Elliott** (Managing Director, Strategic Estates)

Summary of ongoing works on the estate and maintenance works

Parliament's in-house teams continue their work to support the continued business of Parliament through the delivery of dozens of major projects. These projects will repair and maintain buildings on the estate to address known critical risks associated with mechanical and electrical systems, public health and safety, building fabric and fire safety in advance of the R&R Programme. All in-house projects continue to be subject to an "R&R test" to determine which works are critical, for safety, security, or operational reasons, and need to be delivered before R&R or would achieve better value-for-money by waiting to be delivered as part of the R&R works. The R&R test is conducted in partnership with the R&R Delivery Authority and focuses on ensuring ongoing value-for-money and avoiding nugatory spend.

HERITAGE COLLECTIONS

The Heritage Collections Team have recently completed conservation and reglazing of the third in a series of six wall paintings in East Corridor. Work on Henry Albert Payne's 'Plucking the Red and White Roses in the Old Temple Gardens' (1910) has involved removal of mould, surface cleaning of the painting, consolidation of fragile and flaking paint, and structural repairs. Analysis of pigments and binding media has given new insight into the methods and materials used to create the painting. New glazing has been installed, protecting the artwork and vastly improving the presentation as it resists reflection.

Conservation work in the 1960's had attempted to disguise damage by painting over some of the original artwork. Thanks to improved modern conservation techniques, the team have been able to remove the water-based over-painting and repair this older damage. In so doing, they have revealed several beautiful details of the original that had been covered up, including a little bee, lichen growing on the stone wall, and a falling rose petal.



© Houses of Parliament Restoration & Renewal

NORMAN SHAW NORTH

Strategic Estates are now over a year into the refurbishment of Norman Shaw North. Works to refurbish the members' offices building have been progressing well, from excavating the basement areas, refurbishing internal areas, repairing the external façades, and commencing the repairs to the roof that will allow the new roof slates to be installed. From the Summer Recess, the project will begin external infrastructure works to connect Norman Shaw North to parliamentary estate services, for example, connections that will provide resilience to high voltage power and telephone lines. Over three days in January 2024 the project team opened the site and welcomed almost 600 people from the wider parliamentary estate community to an interactive exhibition held in a series of rooms in Norman Shaw North, that were awaiting refurbishment. The building refurbishment is due to be completed in late 2026.



R&R Phase 1 Milestones

The key milestones for the Programme over the next 12-18 months are set out below:

R&R Surveys	<i>STATUS</i> ONGOING	Continue to plan and undertake intrusive and non-intrusive investigatory survey work on or around the Parliamentary Estate to better understand the Palace and inform future works.
Early and enabling works design	<i>STATUS</i> ONGOING June 2024	Developing initial plans and designs for early R&R works, and studies for enabling works integrated with ongoing works on the estate to inform the design and Programme Business Case.
Strategic Case endorsed by Client Board	<i>STATUS</i> COMPLETE February 2024 (Changed from October 2023)	The strategic case sets out the way forward for R&R. Milestone had been delayed by a request to revise the report with more information on temporary accommodation and the enhanced maintenance improvement option.
Strategic Case presented to the Houses	<i>STATUS</i> COMPLETE March 2024 (Changed from December 2023)	The Client Board have published the strategic case. Engagement with Members and others will continue throughout 2024.
2024/25 Delivery Authority Budget Approved	<i>STATUS</i> ONGOING March 2024	Agreement to the future Delivery Authority budget based on the next steps put to both Houses. The 2024/25 budget was endorsed by the House Commissions in March 2024 and will be considered by the Parliamentary Works Estimate Committee in May 2024.
Develop House of Commons and House of Lords Decant Plans	<i>STATUS</i> ONGOING TBC 2024	Develop plans and confirm preferred locations for the decant of both Houses if needed.
R&R Options Palace Design	<i>STATUS</i> ONGOING November 2024	Work by the Delivery Authority and in-House teams to further develop the Palace designs and proposals for R&R options.
Invitation to tender for Delivery Authority strategic partners	<i>STATUS</i> NOT STARTED January 2025	The Delivery Authority is planning to re-tender for the strategic partners that will deliver the works in Phase 2 of R&R.
Costed proposals presented to the Houses	<i>STATUS</i> NOT STARTED 2025 (pre-summer recess)	Proposals will be put to both Houses to agree the R&R option to take forward into Phase 2 (delivery). The proposals will include costs, timescales, deliverability, temporary accommodation proposals, and risk for all three options.

Milestone progress: Surveys work

As stated in the foreword the primary focus of the Programme in this quarter has been supporting the approval and publication of the strategic case. This has included work with Parliament's in-house teams to develop the enhanced maintenance and improvement option which will be developed alongside the other two options to be presented as part of the costed proposals in 2025.

The proposed budget by the Delivery Authority's ensures there is a clear plan for development of the detail needed to understand the options that will form part of the costed proposals in 2025.



©Houses of Parliament Restoration & Renewal

The survey site works undertaken in Q4 have looked at the locations of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, as well as void spaces, in the Palace of Westminster. Surveys were carried out in more than 40 void spaces during January and February. A survey to inform how best to make areas of the Palace airtight during the works started, with tests in over 20 spaces. These surveys will continue in the Easter recess. The drone photography survey also continued, with a number of previously inaccessible spaces scanned, including courtyards.

Future surveys are being planned, including tests on the river terraces, inside lift shafts, in the underground car park and of the sewer ejectors under the Palace. These will start on site during upcoming recesses in 2024. Trial holes were hand-dug in Black Rod's Garden to prepare for a borehole survey carried out in the Easter recess.

Engagement and Communications

The publication of the strategic case is a significant milestone for the Programme, giving clear direction on the further work necessary to develop costed proposals which are expected in 2025.

A range of communication and engagement activities with parliamentary audiences took place in March to support the publication of the strategic case. This included directly emailing all Members of both Houses, including offering a private briefing on the strategic case; articles on Parlinet aimed at Members and parliamentary staff; sharing information with journalists; presentations offered to party groups in both Houses (with four party groups taking up the offer); and conversations held with 90 Members and 70 parliamentary passholders at engagement stands set up in locations across the estate. The Programme has offered to provide briefing presentations on the strategic case between March and May to all parliamentary teams in both Houses.

In addition to engaging on the publication of the strategic case, the Programme has continued to run R&R Palace tours for Members and in January engaged 19 Peers as part of the annual House of Lords Open Day.

The Programme has offered to provide briefing presentations on the strategic case between March and May to all parliamentary teams in both Houses.

Finance

The Delivery Authority Q4 outturn of £23.7m was underspent against the budget of £24.7m by £1m. There were savings in Programme Management and Corporate areas following an organisation review of resourcing to align with the emerging programme schedule and Delivery Authority priorities and central adjustments following the decision not to pay performance awards in FY23/24. There were also underspends within Surveys from a combination of savings on contract costs, descoping/deferral of some activity following a prioritisation exercise and slippage due to access constraints and delays in consenting and procurement. These have been offset by a net overspend in other Project areas, primarily Palace Design Options due to increased scope related to RIBA 2 design work. The Delivery Authority full year outturn of £75.3m was underspent against the budget of £80.5m by £5.2m. Please note, the budget figure is reflective of the submission of a Supplementary Estimate which saw the release of £5.1m of funding against the original Budget.

Q4 Outturn vs Budget

Key:

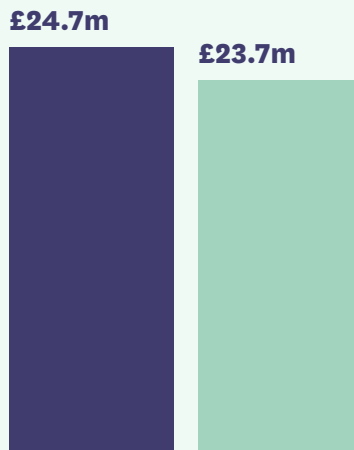
Q4 Budget (£)

Q4 Outturn (£)

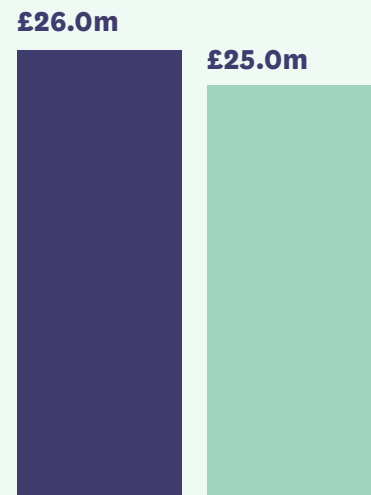
	Q4 Budget (£m)	Q4 Outturn (£m)
R&R Client Team	1.3	1.3
R&R Delivery Authority	24.7	23.7
R&R Programme Total	26	25



R&R Client Team



R&R Delivery Authority



R&R Programme Total

Final Year Outturn vs Budget

Key:

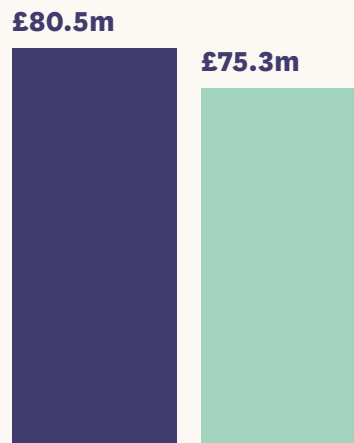
Budget (£)

Final Year Outturn (£)

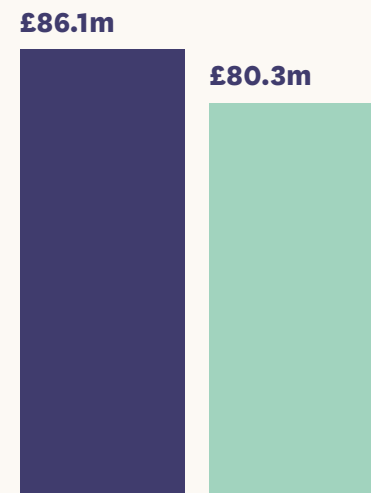
	Budget (£m)	Final Year Outturn (£m)
R&R Client Team	5	5.6
R&R Delivery Authority	80.5	75.3
R&R Programme Total	80.1	80.3



R&R Client Team



R&R Delivery Authority



R&R Programme Total

Please note: These numbers are provisional and have not been audited.



restorationandrenewal.uk

parliament.uk
