

## 4. A Vision for the World Heritage Site

### 4.1.1 Introduction

4.1.1.1 The future management of the WHS should not simply be guided by the pressures and threats. A vision needs to be set, which establishes the aspirations for how the site should be, addressing not only how the values will be safeguarded but also enhanced and experienced. In due course the success of this Management Plan, the policies and projects, can be assessed against the extent to which the vision below has been realised.

4.1.1.2 The World Heritage Site of Westminster Palace and Westminster Abbey, including St Margaret's Church, is of outstanding architectural, symbolic and historic significance. The site is the seat and focus of national sovereignty. Although they have evolved over up to a thousand years, many of the magnificent churches and halls, and the modest rooms and offices, continue in the use for which they were originally built. They embody the close connection between Church and State, which characterised the political development of the British Isles. The site is the heart of the capital of the United Kingdom and lies within a modern busy World City. Yet there are places of tranquillity and contemplation, as well as for political debate and lobbying. It is a national focus for worship, ceremony and democracy, as well as reflecting our relationship with the rest of the world.

*The vision for the future of the Westminster World Heritage Site is for it to be:*

- A living, sustainable place, where the outstanding universal values and architectural, symbolic, historic and other significances are safeguarded
- Set within a public realm that is attractive and sensitive to the universal values and significances of the site
- A place where people can come to work, learn, worship and visit with comfort, safety and enjoyment
- A place where people of all nationalities and abilities can be inspired by its unique character and beauty, and its rich living history.

