**Context**

Satellites and space-based services are vital to modern life. They enable a diverse range of civilian activities, from agriculture to banking to transportation, and provide communications, imagery, precision targeting and friendly force tracking for the armed forces. As their importance continues to grow, there would be severe consequences from any disruption, whether by natural or man-made hazards, or intentional threats from hostile states.

The 2018 National Security Capability Review concluded that we are in a period of increased complexity and risk. The challenges identified in the 2015 National Security Strategy have grown faster than anticipated, which is why the Defence Secretary initiated the Modernising Defence Programme (MDP) to strengthen our world-leading Armed Forces while putting Defence on a stable and affordable footing.

We have seen growing investment by other states in capabilities that threaten the use of space by the UK and its allies. The forthcoming Defence Space Strategy will set out in detail how we are responding; this leaflet provides a high-level summary of its main themes.

**Governance**

Air Command has assumed responsibility for the Command and Control of UK military space operations, leading the development of a cadre of qualified and experienced Space personnel, and engaging internationally in support of these responsibilities.

Leads for the management of space-enabled capabilities remain unchanged, although an important part of our future approach will be to enhance the overall coherence and co-ordination of activity across the Defence space enterprise. Joint Forces Command will continue to be responsible for Satellite Communications and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capabilities, and Air Command for Space Situational Awareness and Space Control capabilities.
Vision
To secure freedom of action in space, fully exploiting its military and civil potential.

Mission
To ensure that Defence has the capabilities, skills and operational plans to protect and defend its space assets and interests in an increasingly contested environment, working closely alongside the rest of Government, international partners and the private sector.

Strategic Objectives

Enhance space resilience and operational effectiveness. We need to be able to protect and defend our space interests, and we will develop the plans, capabilities, skills and relationships needed to do so. The nature of the threats, and the space domain itself, means that international co-operation will be central, and we should aim to maximise the benefits of any space activities we conduct to our allies and partners.

Optimise space support to the front line. We need to ensure that the armed forces can take full advantage of the opportunities offered by space-based technology. This means integrating space issues into a much wider range of activity than before, including operational planning, doctrine, capability development and training. We need to get our focus and balance of investment in space capabilities right, taking into account both increased threats and new opportunities.

Support wider Government activities. The UK Space agency is pursuing ambitious plans for small satellite launch and industrial growth, and leads the UK’s international collaboration on civil space programmes. Defence will actively support this work by providing capabilities, infrastructure and personnel, and will derive benefit from these activities for us and our partners. We will strengthen our partnerships across Government and support international initiatives to promote the responsible use of space. We will identify opportunities to support growth of the UK space sector and expansion of UK space exports. And we will work with the owners and operators of our space Critical National Infrastructure to enhance their resilience, including by developing co-ordinated plans to respond to threats and hazards.