



Cabinet Office



Cabinet Office
Strategic Asset Management Plan
2017/18
Executive Summary

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The Cabinet Office is at the centre of government. Its Purpose is:

to maintain the integrity of the Union, co-ordinate the security of the realm and sustain a flourishing democracy;

to support the design and implementation of HM Government's policies and the Prime Minister's priorities; and

to ensure the delivery of the finest public services by attracting and developing the best public servants and improving the efficiency of government.

Over the past decade the machinery of Government has been in a period of significant change. The drive for increased efficiency and value for money has led to a step change in the way that assets are viewed and utilised. Cabinet Office has been taking the lead, putting the tools in place to enable change - such as the new Government Property Agency (GPA).

In early 2017 the Cabinet Office (CO) transferred the management of its property function to the Shadow GPA¹ who are now taking responsibility for all aspects of asset management, FM service provision, project management, space utilisation and rationalisation. We are one of the first departments, along with BEIS and shortly Defra, to work with the GPA in this way. We are keen to learn the lessons enabling other departments to follow on, transferring their assets and people to allow the GPA to expand its sphere of influence and quickly mature into the Governments co-ordinated professional Property Agency.

We are excited to be working in this new manner and already things are starting to change. Opportunities to move Cabinet Office units together are being investigated. Work is commencing on finding a solution for our 36 Whitehall property, and possibly to use this as flexible space to meet increasing demand in Whitehall. The Cabinet Office Estates staff have moved to the GPA and we are developing a new Intelligent Client Function to develop our strategic plans and operational requirements and build the communication and reporting lines with the GPA team to enable us to monitor performance from a customer perspective.

¹ The GPA will be in shadow until it goes live (expected April 2018). For ease of reference it will be referred to as the 'GPA' throughout this document.

The CO estate is modest in comparison with some other Government departments. Members of CO staff are located across the UK in a dozen different towns and cities but with the majority based in Westminster and located in historic buildings in Whitehall. Despite these limitations, the GPA are assessing opportunities to extract best value from our estate and understand how it can best work alongside other government department's assets, whilst retaining the high level of flexibility necessary to meet changing demands from the centre. We are committed to providing an office environment that embraces TW3 smart working guidelines for modern workplaces and our IT services are, where possible, fully aligned to support this whenever office moves are necessary.

The priorities for the estate are to remain flexible to change and to accommodate the rapidly evolving needs of government. This will be especially important in London, and we need to engage with the Hubs and One Whitehall programmes to gain this flexibility through collaboration. The GPA are leading for us with space and move management challenges so that we are increasingly efficient in what we occupy, releasing space where possible. In our wider role as the corporate centre of Government we are engaged in the Whitehall Property Strategy, and challenging our own teams on their on-going need to be centrally located. We are developing a consistent approach to decision making in order to ensure demands on space are being prioritised, and diverse stakeholders' needs managed well.

Business Continuity also remains a priority. Maintaining our strong operational resilience to external 'incidents' that may occur in the vicinity of our buildings and people is vital. Our physical property and safety procedures form part of this resilience and the GPA can assist us with these measures. In addition we need to consider all our options for alternative space and potential prioritisation into hub locations in the event that Whitehall is unavailable for a period of time, perhaps agreeing a temporary displacement chain with other less critical departments and functions.

ESTATE PRIORITIES

Flexibility in response to political and structural changes

Safe and resilient working environment

Cross-departmental opportunities

Designed for **delivery** as well as policy

Best use of assets