

## Westminster Social Policy Forum Keynote Seminar: The future for the Midlands Engine

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Venue: Birmingham Conference and Events Centre, Hill Street, Birmingham B5 4EW



WESTMINSTER  
SOCIAL POLICY  
FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lilian Greenwood MP**, Member of Parliament for Nottingham South and Chair, House of Commons Transport Select Committee
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Priorities for devolution in the West Midlands**  
**Councillor Roger Lawrence**, Leader, City of Wolverhampton Council
- 9.15 - 9.25 **Key issues for the East Midlands - challenges for a polycentric region**  
**Helen Donnellan**, Inward Investment Director, Leicester City Council
- 9.25 - 9.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.40 - 10.30 **Next steps for driving regional growth and implementing the Industrial and Midlands Engine strategies**  
*Following publication of the Midlands Engine Strategy, which builds on proposals made in the Industrial Strategy, what should be the immediate and longer-term steps for local authorities, LEPs, businesses and universities in working collaboratively to grow the Midland's economy? With concerns raised by local businesses over a skills gap and the need for a better educated workforce, what more needs to be done to attract graduates and increase the take up of apprenticeships, and to what extent will the introduction of the Midlands Skills Challenge address these concerns? What is the potential for the Midlands Engine Investment Fund in helping businesses to innovate, and in light of Brexit what further finance options exist going forward for supporting small and medium enterprises? How can the government and local stakeholders make best use of the Government's Art Collection, and what are the next steps for attracting more tourists to the Midlands to support growth?*  
**Charles Johnson-Ferguson**, Partner, Infrastructure Finance, PwC  
**Christopher Greenough**, Commercial Director, Salop Design & Engineering  
**Professor Anne Green**, Professor of Regional Economic Development, City-REDI, University of Birmingham  
**Dr Ellen McAdam**, Director, Birmingham Museums Trust  
**Professor Paul Forrest**, Director, West Midlands Economic Forum  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Lilian Greenwood MP**, Member of Parliament for Nottingham South and Chair, House of Commons Transport Select Committee
- 10.35 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Professor Anne Green**, Professor of Regional Economic Development, City-REDI, University of Birmingham
- 11.10 - 11.40 **Creating the conditions for the Midlands Engine to succeed**  
*Next steps for meeting the demand for housing*  
**Louise Brooke-Smith**, Partner, Arcadis  
*Transport as an enabler of growth and maximising opportunities of HS2*  
**Maria Machancoses**, Programme Director, Midlands Connect  
*Priorities for digital infrastructure*  
**Ian Binks**, Regional Partnership Director, West Midlands, BT Group
- 11.40 - 12.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Financing the Midlands Engine: attracting investment, supporting manufacturing and the impact of Brexit**  
**Patrick Magee**, Chief Commercial Officer, British Business Bank  
**Mark Goldby**, Chair, Nottinghamshire Manufacturing Network  
**Simon Hall**, Director, Exports and Investment, Midlands Engine, Department for International Trade  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Patrick Magee**, Chief Commercial Officer, British Business Bank  
**Sam Dolton**, Senior Producer, Westminster Social Policy Forum

Seminar supported by PwC

