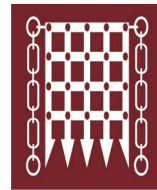


Westminster Social Policy Forum Keynote Seminar: The future for the Midlands Engine

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 12th September 2017

Venue: Central Birmingham



WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM

Draft 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
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Priorities for devolution in the West Midlands**
Senior representative, West Midlands
- 9.15 - 9.25 **Key issues for the East Midlands - challenges for a polycentric region**
Councillor Jon Collins, Leader, Nottingham City Council
- 9.25 - 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.25 **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?
Christopher Greenough, Commercial Director, Salop Design & Engineering
Professor Anne Green, Professor of Regional Economic Development, City-REDI, University of Birmingham
Alison Breadon, Government & Public Sector Leader, PwC
Dr Ellen McAdam, Director, Birmingham Museums Trust
Senior representative, LEP
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lilian Greenwood MP, Member of Parliament for Nottingham South
- 10.30 - 10.55 Coffee
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Burt of Solihull, former Liberal Democrats Lords Spokesperson for Business, Innovation and Skills
- 11.00 - 11.30 **Creating the conditions for the Midlands Engine to succeed**
Next steps for meeting the demand for housing
Sarah Whittington, UK Head of Housing, Arcadis
Transport as an enabler of growth and maximising opportunities of HS2
Laura Shoaf, Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands
Priorities for digital infrastructure
Ian Binks, Regional Partnership Director, West Midlands, BT
- 11.30 - 11.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 - 12.30 **Financing the Midlands Engine: attracting investment, supporting manufacturing and the impact of Brexit**
Patrick Magee, Chief Operating Officer, British Business Bank
Simon Hall, Director, Exports and Investment, Midlands Engine, Department for International Trade
Mark Goldby, Chair, Nottinghamshire Manufacturing Network
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Next steps for the Midlands Engine**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Baroness Burt of Solihull, former Liberal Democrats Lords Spokesperson for Business, Innovation and Skills
Michael Ryan, Deputy Editor, Westminster Social Policy Forum

Seminar supported by PwC