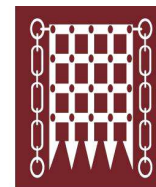


Westminster Social Policy Forum Keynote Seminar: Regional devolution and the Midlands Engine - investment, skills and infrastructure

Timing: Morning, Friday, 16th September 2016

Venue: Macdonald Burlington Hotel, 126 New Street, Birmingham B2 4JQ



**WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Burt of Solihull, Liberal Democrat Lords Principal Spokesperson for Business, Innovation and Skills
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Progress and current trends: assessing value for money in the English devolution deals**
Aileen Murphie, Director, Department for Communities and Local Government and Local Government Value for Money, National Audit Office
- Case studies on regional devolution and economic growth across the country**
- 9.15 - 9.25 **The latest thinking on the Northern Powerhouse**
David Altabev, Senior Programme Manager, Government Innovation, Nesta
- 9.25 - 9.35 **Economic development in the West Midlands**
Sarah Middleton, Chief Executive, Black Country Consortium
- 9.35 - 9.45 **The role of the East Midlands in driving sustainable growth**
Chris Henning, Director of Economic Development, Nottingham City Council
- 9.45 - 10.15 Questions and comments from the floor with **Aileen Murphie**, Director, Department for Communities and Local Government and Local Government Value for Money, National Audit Office
- Priorities for infrastructure - productivity, investment and innovation**
- 10.15 - 10.25 **Grant Peggie**, Director, Venture Capital Solutions, British Business Bank
- 10.25 - 10.35 **Paul Harris**, Director of Economic Development, Rolls-Royce
- 10.35 - 10.45 **Mike Lyons**, Programme Director Construction North, HS2
- 10.45 - 11.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 - 11.40 Coffee
- Skills in the Midlands - attracting business, developing the workforce and retaining talent**
- 11.40 - 11.50 **Dr James Wilkie**, Director, Research and Innovation Services, University of Birmingham
- 11.50 - 12.00 **Chris Hutchinson**, Director, VINCI Energies and Actemium UK
- 12.00 - 12.10 **Faye Pressly**, Associate Director, Mortimer Spinks
- 12.10 - 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Devolution and economic growth - the future for policy and the Midlands Engine**
Tony Bray, Area Director, Business Innovation and Skills West Midlands, Cities and Local Growth Unit
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Baroness Burt of Solihull, Liberal Democrat Lords Principal Spokesperson for Business, Innovation and Skills
Michael Ryan, Deputy Editor, Westminster Social Policy Forum