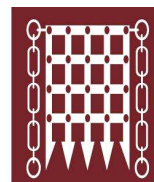


**Westminster Social Policy Forum Keynote Seminar**  
**Next steps for regional development: infrastructure, local devolution deals and the future for combined authorities**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET



**WESTMINSTER  
SOCIAL POLICY  
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Clive Betts MP**
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Assessing the current landscape for regional development**  
**Joanna Killian**, Partner, Head of Local Government, KPMG
- 9.15 - 9.25 **Ensuring value for money in devolution deals**  
**Aileen Murphie**, Director, DCLG & Local Government Value for Money, National Audit Office
- 9.25 - 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 9.55 **Developing the Northern Powerhouse and collaborating across combined authorities**  
**Professor John Shutt**, Professor of Employment and Regional Economic Development, Leeds Beckett University  
**Hailing Yu**, China Business Advisor to the Northern Powerhouse, China-Britain Business Council
- 9.55 - 10.05 **'Perspectives on infrastructure: how can we improve the delivery of infrastructure projects?'**  
**Elizabeth Dunn**, Partner, Burges Salmon
- 10.05 - 10.15 **Case study: regional development in the West of England**  
**Marvin Rees**, Mayor of Bristol
- 10.15 - 10.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Clive Betts MP**
- 10.40 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Diane James MEP**, Member for South East England
- 11.20 - 11.30 **Priorities for attracting investment**  
**Patricia Moore**, UK Managing Director of Infrastructure, Turner & Townsend
- 11.30 - 11.40 **Opportunities for improving international connectivity to support growth**  
**Tony Caccavone**, Expansion Airline Strategy Director, Heathrow Airport
- 11.40 - 11.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 - 12.55 **Driving growth across the country: infrastructure, closing the skills gap and collaboration**  
*To what extent have Growth Deals begun to help spread economic growth across the country, what are the future prospects, and how should additional infrastructure funding - including for improving transport connectivity - outlined in the industrial strategy be deployed to further strengthen local economies? How successful have new approaches to close the skills gap been, what examples of good practice exist already, how can their impact be measured, and what mechanisms might need to be put into place for lessons to be disseminated to benefit other regions? How can closer collaboration between businesses and universities be encouraged and supported to develop research and innovation facilities? What lessons can be learnt from the development of the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine for other areas in the country, and what are the next steps for exploring further deals in cities as outlined in the industrial strategy?*  
**Anoop Maini**, Special Advisor to the Leader on Health & Life Sciences, Birmingham City Council  
**Claire Gibson**, Managing Director, Wave Hub  
**Tim Bowen**, Corporate Development Director, Costain Group  
**Lesley Giles**, Director, Work Foundation  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Diane James MEP**, Member for South East England  
**Sam Dolton**, Senior Producer, Westminster Social Policy Forum