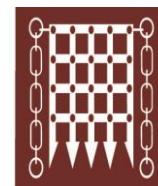


## Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:

### Next steps for devolution in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



WESTMINSTER  
SOCIAL POLICY  
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Joe Robertson MP**
- 9.05 **Proposed measures in the English Devolution White Paper, and looking ahead to the English Devolution Bill**  
**Professor Tony Travers**, Professor in Practice; and Associate Dean, School of Public Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 9.15 **Lessons from implementing the mayoral combined county authority model**  
Senior representative, combined authority
- 9.25 **Key considerations for delivering local government reorganisation**  
**Councillor Tim Oliver**, Leader, Surrey County Council
- 9.35 **Implementing Trailblazer Deals - progress so far and next steps**  
Senior representative, trailblazer combined authority
- 9.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 **Strategies for improving regional growth and frameworks for collaboration with stakeholders**  
Senior representative, investment
- 10.15 **Priorities for supporting regional economic development and skills coordination**  
*expansion of local powers to deliver skills programmes | the Get Britain Working White Paper | growth opportunities and Investment Zones | delivering on local growth plans | role of devolved bodies in supporting the development of the Industrial Strategy | opportunities for inter-regional collaboration and working with arms-length bodies*  
**Nigel Wilcock**, Executive Director, Institute of Economic Development  
**Ginny Leonard**, Director, Work Winning, Balfour Beatty  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, education  
Senior representative, community
- 10.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Joe Robertson MP**
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **The local government Finance Settlement and strategic options for establishing financial sustainability for the long-term**  
**Vicky Davis**, Director, Local Government Value for Money, National Audit Office  
Senior representative, local authority  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Next steps in effective delivery of public services - priorities for local and inter-regional transport, housing, and infrastructure**  
*learning from the experience of established combined authorities | improving regional connectivity | assessing future design and operation of regional transport in England | options for increasing autonomy in local transport infrastructure decision-making | next steps for developing an integrated transport system | support to help meet housebuilding targets and assessing proposed powers for combined authorities | developing effective Spatial Development Plans | assessing proposed measures in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill to change the powers of planning officers and planning committees | impact of reducing powers for planning committees | supporting retrofit delivery under the Warm Homes Plan*  
**Chris Simms**, Partner and Head, Rail, Burges Salmon  
Senior representative, construction  
Senior representative, transport  
Senior representative, consultancy  
Senior representative, local authority  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 **Delivery of measures in the English Devolution White Paper, and establishing an effective relationship between local and national government**  
**Jim McMahon OBE MP**, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Social Policy Forum