

Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar
Next steps for high streets and town centres in England - renewal, adaptation, and levelling up

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 7th September 2022

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Valentine, Director of Place, Business in the Community
- 9.05 **Priorities for town centre spatial planning to encourage inclusivity, adaptation and economic growth**
Holly Lewis, Co-founding Partner, We Made That
- 9.15 **Innovating digital futures for town centres - learning from strategy implemented in the pandemic**
Dr Jo Morrison, Director of Digital Innovation and Research, Calvium
- 9.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 Break
- 9.50 **Increasing investment in town centres - local growth and economic strategy, improving resilience of independent and SME businesses, and implementing a working blueprint for high street investment**
Samantha Poole, CEO, Ask GoTo; and Senior Project Coordinator, Incubation Nation CIC, Milton Keynes
Helen Dewdney, Journalist & Author; and Founder, The Complaining Cow
Councillor Steve Siddons, Leader, Scarborough Borough Council
Lizzie Le Mare, Director, Tibbalds
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Policy priorities for the development of high streets and town centres in England**
Paul Scully MP, Minister of State for Local Government, Faith and Communities, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Valentine, Director of Place, Business in the Community
- 11.05 Break
- 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- Initiatives, strategies and case studies for restoring pride of place in high streets and town centres**
- 11.20 **The role of heritage in regeneration strategies, promoting community identity, and encouraging investment**
Councillor Julie Jones-Evans, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism, Isle of Wight Council
- 11.30 **Community, public ownership, and enabling engagement with residents as a model for enabling local growth**
Jo Platt, General Manager, Leigh Building Preservation Trust; and former MP for Leigh
- 11.40 **Promoting night-time economic strategy within plans for investment in town centres**
Michael Kill, Chief Executive, Night Time Industries Association
- 11.50 **Reviving the market town - establishing town centres as central hubs for community and tourist investment**
Richard Roe, Corporate Director for Place, Trafford Council
- 12.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **Challenges for town centre business - key issues for the future of the high street retail sector in England**
Helen Dickinson, Chief Executive, British Retail Consortium
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Peter van Gelder, Director, Westminster Social Policy Forum