

**Westminster Business Forum and Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for growing investment for R&D in the UK and supporting scale-ups in key sectors**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 24th January 2024

*****Taking place online*****



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Positioning the UK as a global leader in finance for innovation**
Lord Holmes, Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee; and Vice Chair, APPG on FinTech
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 Break
- 9.35 **Priorities for unlocking public and private sector investment in R&D - government support, widening sources of funding, attracting foreign investment, tackling bureaucracy, and supporting investor confidence and expected returns**
Sami Moughrabie, Managing Partner, ATMOS Ventures
Professor Katy Shaw, Programme Director, Arts and Human Research Council, Creative Communities; and Director of University Cultural Partnerships, Northumbria University
Professor Dr Paul Beasley, Head of Research and Development UK, Siemens
Nicholas Hawker, Chief Executive and Co-Founder, First Light Fusion
Senior representative, local government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.40 Break
- 10.50 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 **Strategies for reducing bureaucracy for innovation funding in the UK**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 **Innovation, key sectors and levelling up - strategies for supporting unicorns and futurecorns, finance at a local level and increasing the impact of R&D and commercialisation across the UK**
Professor Dave Greenwood, Chief Executive, Warwick Manufacturing Group, University of Warwick
Steven Wilson, Head of Innovation, Freeport East
Dr Joe Marshall, Chief Executive, National Centre for Universities and Business
Eileen Modral, Ecosystem Innovation and Growth Specialist, Oxford Innovation Advice
Chris Rowell, Head of Net Zero, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.20 Break
- 12.25 **Next steps for UK growth funds**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Peter van Gelder, Director, Westminster Forum Projects