

**Westminster Employment Forum policy conference:
Next steps for local skills improvement plans and regional skills in England**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday 23rd January 2024

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



**WESTMINSTER
EMPLOYMENT
FORUM**

Draft agenda, subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Lessons from the first phase of the local skills improvement plans and priorities for creating pathways to high quality skills training throughout England**
Parminder Kohli, Commissioner, Social Mobility Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 Break
- 9.35 **Levelling up skills provision and removing place-based barriers - addressing regional inequalities, driving social mobility and educational attainment, and priorities for improving access to training in disadvantaged areas**
Jen Nelles, Senior Research Fellow, Oxford Brookes University
Emma Roberts, Director of Public Affairs, WorldSkills UK
Matt Pointon, Trades Union Congress and West Midlands Combined Authority Skills Partnership Lead, TUC
Senior representative, college
Senior representative, university
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Alternative approaches to policy on local skills improvement**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **Case study: putting in place and sustaining LSIPs that are agile and responsive to local needs**
Mark Hilton, Policy Delivery Director, BusinessLDN
Suzanne Caldwell, Managing Director, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce
- 11.30 **Developing skills for the future - addressing local skills gaps in green, digital and innovation sectors**
Catherine Langstreth, Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Stakeholder Engagement, Bolton College
Jodi Fair, Programme Manager, Solent Apprenticeship & Skills Hub, Directorate for Place, Southampton City Council
Andrew Eldred, Director of Workforce and Public Affairs, Electrical Contractors' Association
Dr Anna Valero, Policy Fellow and Director of Growth Programme, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics
Senior representative, digital
- 11.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.20 Break
- 12.25 **Priorities and next steps for implementing the local skills improvement fund**
Nick Rashley, Deputy Director, Developing Programmes and Localities, Regions and Providers Directorate, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Employment Forum