

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*****



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Jonathan Ledger, Skills and Professional Bodies Specialist, Department for Business and Trade
- 9.05 **'The importance of developing skills and talent to address social mobility'**
Parminder Kohli, Commissioner, Social Mobility Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 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 External Affairs, WorldSkills UK
Matt Pointon, Lead, TUC and West Midlands Combined Authority Skills Partnership
Claire Paul, Assistant Director of Skills, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Charlotte Horobin, Chair of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LSIP; and Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Alternative approaches to policy on local skills improvement**
Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Jonathan Ledger, Skills and Professional Bodies Specialist, Department for Business and Trade
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Kendrea Lewis, Senior Route Manager, Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education
- 11.05 **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
- 11.25 **Developing skills for the future - addressing local skills gaps in green, digital and innovation sectors**
Jen Walker, Head of Apprenticeships and Business Development, Bolton College, Greater Manchester
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, Director of Growth Programme, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics
Rebecca Taylor, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Tech Returners
- 11.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 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**
Kendrea Lewis, Senior Route Manager, Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Employment Forum