

**Westminster Employment Forum policy conference:
Next steps for Local Skills Improvement Plans - implementation, regional priorities and
adapting to workforce needs**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 19th November 2026

Taking Place Online

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing regional skills needs - data, analysis and insight from Skills England and Local Skills Improvement Plans**
Nick Rashley, Deputy Director, Regions, Skills England
Dr Mel Collins, Head, Local Skills Improvement Plans and Head, Regions (South), Skills England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Practical considerations for design, funding and delivery of LSIPs**
insights from the first cycle of LSIPs and priorities for the second cycle | assessing skills needs following Skills England's Annual Skills Report | strategies for addressing skills shortages and alignment of provision with employer demand and learner pathways | priorities for building a flexible and responsive place-based skills system | sustainable funding and delivery stability | recent financial incentives, apprenticeship training support for smaller businesses and the Youth Jobs Grant | accountability, governance and co-ordination across employers, providers, local authorities and other stakeholder groups | impact of the Local Skills Improvement Fund | introduction of joint ownership arrangements | defining, measuring and maximising long-term benefits for learners, employers and local economies
Hannah Larsen, Policy Officer, British Chambers of Commerce
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, further education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Developing a responsive regional skills system - flexibility, partnership and local delivery**
Senior representative, chamber of commerce
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 **Frameworks for strengthening employer engagement with regional skills development**
Senior representative, employer
- 11.10 **Priorities for creating a joined-up skills system to meet local skills needs**
frameworks for effective regional partnerships | devolution and regional governance arrangements following passing of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act | Integrated Funding Settlements and joint working between Employer Representative Bodies and strategic authorities | improving employer engagement with domestic workforce upskilling | implications of the Post-16 Education and Skills White Paper and expansion of vocational training pathways | access to flexible funding, including the Growth and Skills Levy and Lifelong Learning Entitlement | alignment with Industrial Strategy priorities and the Clean Energy Jobs plan | participation and progression into priority sectors, including green energy and digital
Senior representative, Employer Representative Body
Senior representative, higher education
Senior representative, training
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Identifying future regional skills needs and developing strategies for workforce supply**
Senior representative, combined authority
- 12.00 **Strategies for regional growth and widening skills provision**
tackling youth economic inactivity and supporting participation in education, employment and training following publication of the Young People and Work Interim report | addressing place-based barriers and regional inequalities | improving social mobility, including provision of transport networks and digital infrastructure | priorities for strengthening educational attainment | expansion of Youth Guarantee provisions and delivery of the Jobs Guarantee | coordination across the Jobs and Careers Service, local careers guidance and employment support | priorities for delivering high-quality and sustainable employment opportunities | integrating physical and mental health support into local skills delivery | support for underrepresented groups | addressing economic barriers, including ill-health, caring responsibilities and lower skill levels | supporting progression into sustained employment
Senior representative, business
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, trade union
Senior commentator
- 12.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Next steps for regional skills devolution, strategic authorities and local economic growth**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Harry Nelson, Westminster Employment Forum



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