

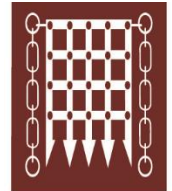
**Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for devolution and growth in Greater Manchester**

Timing: Morning, Friday 3rd July 2026

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Strategic priorities for Greater Manchester's next phase of devolution - governance, delivery and growth**
Caroline Simpson, Group Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Considerations for implementing devolution in public services - transport, health, skills and local delivery**
implementation of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 and expanded mayoral responsibilities | delivery of priorities in the Greater Manchester Strategy | Bee Network expansion and regional service coordination | Live Well rollout and alignment with the Neighbourhood Health Framework | Greater Manchester Baccalaureate and Local Skills Improvement Plan delivery | addressing NEET rates, skills shortages, attainment and structural barriers to employment | collaboration between local government, the NHS, education and civil society partners | the duty to collaborate to prevent homelessness | commissioning, accountability and partnership working under the renewed VCFSE Accord
Neal Symmons, Lean, Continuous Improvement and Innovation Technical Manager, North West, National Highways
Senior representative, public transport
Senior representative, education
Senior representative, skills
Senior representative, civil society
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Skills, employment and productivity - widening pathways into regional growth sectors**
Senior representative, business
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.10 **Use of new planning powers - approaches to strategic development and supporting local growth**
Senior representative, local authority
- 11.20 **Housing and commercial development - planning reform and ambitions in the Places for Everyone plan**
implementation of anticipated reform in the National Planning Policy Framework | operation and future direction of the Places for Everyone plan | impact of planning reform on project delivery and development capacity | land assembly, land value capture and neighbourhood-level regeneration | community engagement and nature protection | development corporations, Mayoral Development Orders and powers introduced through the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 | local plan development and alignment with the Spatial Development Strategy | Housing First objectives | implications of the Renter's Rights Act 2026 and Good Landlord Charter for landlord behaviour and housing supply
Senior representative, planning
Senior representative, developer
Senior representative, regeneration
- 11.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Good Growth Fund investment - regeneration, delivery and community benefit**
Senior representative, investment
- 12.05 **Innovation, investment and productivity - strengthening routes from research to growth**
Good Growth Fund deployment and collaboration with the National Wealth Fund | inward investment and Industrial Strategy Zone development | supporting productivity growth, regional employment and infrastructure delivery | routes from research to commercialisation | support for spin-outs, entrepreneurial firms and high-growth sectors including life sciences and digital | priorities for cross-regional partnerships and international collaboration | long-term investment planning and infrastructure pipelines | attracting investors, talent and growing enterprises across Greater Manchester
Senior representative, business
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, infrastructure
- 12.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Next steps for implementation of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 - powers, funding and local delivery**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Harry Nelson, Westminster Social Policy Forum



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