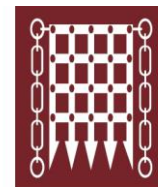


Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar
Next steps for economic growth and development in the Midlands

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 9th June 2021

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



**WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Darren Henry MP, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on the East Midlands
- 9.05 **Economic development needs for the Midlands and progress toward achieving goals of the Midlands Engine**
Nick Abell, Vice-Chair, Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership; and Chairman, Steering Group, Midlands Connect
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 Break
- 9.35 **Delivering a strategy for regional economic recovery - priorities for growth in key sectors, stakeholder collaboration, addressing needs of communities, and the policy agenda following the elections**
Professor Simon Collinson, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of International Business and Innovation, University of Birmingham
Chris Wright, Chief Executive Officer, Catch22
Trevor Ivory, UK Head of Planning and Birmingham Managing Partner, DLA Piper
Andrew Pritchard, Director, Policy & Infrastructure, East Midlands Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Investment and jobs growth in the Midlands - diversifying funding sources, targeting new government support, promoting business confidence, and matching careers and skills development programmes to future needs**
Ed Watson, CEO, Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP
Dr Clive Hickman, CEO, Manufacturing Technology Centre
Lee Barron, Midlands Regional Secretary, TUC
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Darren Henry MP, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on the East Midlands
- 11.10 Break
- 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Jack Dromey MP, Secretary, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the West Midlands
- 11.25 **Infrastructure priorities for the Midlands - transport, homes and digital connectivity**
A rail transport network that supports passenger and business needs - connectivity expansion, congestion reduction, and high-speed rail integration
Laura Shoaf, Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands
Housing rollout - cross-regional spatial plans, supporting delivery partners, and improving affordability
Chris Ashton, Executive Director, Housing, EMH Homes
Digital infrastructure, and regional readiness for full-fibre networks and 5G
Hamish MacLeod, Director, Mobile UK
- 11.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.10 Break
- 12.15 **Opportunities for Midlands leadership in emerging technologies and from the Government's Green Industrial Revolution aims - supporting the innovation base, research commercialisation, and preparing the region's route to net-zero**
Michael Gallagher, Regional Energy Projects Manager, Midlands Energy Hub
Dr Adel Aneiba, Associate Professor in IoT, Department of Networks and Cybersecurity, Birmingham City University
Anju Trevedi, Head of Regional Business Engagement, Leicester Innovation Hub, University of Leicester
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Jack Dromey MP, Secretary, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the West Midlands
Michael Ryan, Deputy Editor, Westminster Social Policy Forum