

**Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar**  
**Next steps for the Midlands Engine - priorities for growth, infrastructure and the refreshed strategy**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER  
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FORUM**

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Alex Norris MP**, Member of Parliament for Nottingham North
- 9.05 - 9.30 **The future of the Midlands Engine and the refreshed strategy**  
Senior speaker to be announced  
Questions and comments from the floor
- Creating optimum conditions for economic growth in the Midlands**
- 9.30 - 9.40 **Implementing local industrial strategies - raising productivity, utilising data and engaging effectively with business**  
**Sajeeda Rose**, Chief Executive Officer, D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership
- 9.40 - 9.50 **Attracting strategic partnerships, global trade and foreign direct investment**  
**Grant Peggie**, Director, Venture Capital Solutions, British Business Bank
- 9.50 - 10.00 **Strategies for creating a dynamic regional economy - achieving excellence in research and innovation**  
**Professor Alec Cameron**, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Aston University and Board Member, Midlands Innovation Board
- 10.00 - 10.10 **The Midlands Engine Skills Strategy - tackling low skills, growing sector strengths and investing in workforce**  
**Angela Joyce**, Chief Executive Officer, WCG and Midlands Engine Skills Board Chair
- 10.10 - 10.20 **Supporting manufacturing and high performing industries in the Engine**  
Senior representative, industry
- 10.20 - 10.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 - 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Alex Norris MP**, Member of Parliament for Nottingham North
- 10.45 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- Financing and developing infrastructure to support economic growth**
- 11.20 - 11.30 **Meeting local housing needs and supporting growth - increasing supply, improving affordability and making best use of land**  
**Christine Ashton**, Executive Director - Housing, emh group
- 11.30 - 11.40 **Priorities for regional connectivity and HS2 post Oakervee review**  
Senior representative, high speed rail
- 11.40 - 11.50 **The future for digital infrastructure in the Midlands - accessibility, full-fibre networks and 5G test beds**  
**Robert Franks**, Managing Director, WM5G
- 11.50 - 12.00 **Assessing strategies for decarbonisation, improving biodiversity net-gain and enhancing natural capital**  
**Ann Carruthers**, Director, Environment and Transport, Leicestershire County Council
- 12.00 - 12.10 **The future for project finance following the Infrastructure Finance Review**  
Senior representative, local authority
- 12.10 - 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Delivering the Refreshed Midlands Engine Strategy**  
**Anthony May**, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council and Chair, Midlands Engine Operating Board  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Michael Ryan**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Social Policy Forum