

Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for the planning system and delivering housebuilding in England
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 15th July 2025
*****Taking Place Online*****



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing key reform to the planning system - impact on housing and infrastructure delivery**
Senior academic
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Approaches to navigating the planning system and approaches to unlocking potential sites for development**
David Bainbridge, Planning Director, Savills
- 9.35 **Stakeholder perspectives on planning reform and streamlining the planning system**
implications for local authority planning committees and committee reform / ensuring community engagement / key considerations for land identification and release, and priorities for placemaking / utilising Spatial Development Strategies / Compulsory Purchase Order reform / strategies for ensuring active travel options in new developments / impact of green and grey belt reform / key transport considerations / ensuring design standards are met
Tony Mulhall, Senior Specialist, Land and Resources, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
Carl Bunnage, Head, Nature Policy, England, RSPB
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, active travel
Senior representative, architecture
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Supporting the delivery of housing - Strategic Development Strategies, land acquisition and stakeholder collaboration**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **'Regulatory reform to speed up nature recovery and housebuilding - opportunities through the Nature Restoration Fund'**
Mike Burke, Director, Sustainable Development, Natural England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Impact of planning reform on the housebuilding sector - priorities for expediting housing delivery**
Senior representative, construction
- 11.40 **Priorities for increasing the delivery of homes and meeting infrastructure requirements**
assessing feasibility of government targets / remaining barriers to housing delivery / issues for design and sustainability / supporting delivery of social and affordable housing / industry skills gaps and addressing shortages / meeting mandatory housing targets / implications of reform on the standard method of housing delivery / the role of nature recovery measures in supporting developers / delivery of required infrastructure to support new developments / ensuring access to community amenities
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, housing association
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior representative, investment
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Key policy and regulatory changes to the planning system - next steps for achieving the Government's housebuilding targets**
Will Burgon, Director of Planning, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Harry Nelson, Westminster Social Policy Forum