

**Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:  
Next steps for the planning system and delivering housebuilding in England**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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



**WESTMINSTER  
SOCIAL POLICY  
FORUM**

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Neville-Rolfe**, Shadow Treasury Minister; and former Chair, House of Lords Built Environment Committee
- 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, developer  
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**  
**Baroness Neville-Rolfe**, Shadow Treasury Minister; and former Chair, House of Lords Built Environment Committee
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle**
- 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*  
**Nick Duckworth**, Managing Director, Hallam Land  
**Jack Burnham**, Head, Affordable Housing, Octopus Capital  
**Ben Castell**, Director, Town Planning, AECOM  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, housing association
- 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**  
**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle**  
**Harry Nelson**, Westminster Social Policy Forum