

**Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for regional spatial planning in England**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 14th January 2026

*****Taking place online*****



**WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **Assessing new regional planning powers and priorities for effective implementation**
Professor Ben Clifford, Professor, Spatial Planning and Governance, University College London
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Places for Everyone - spatial plan implementation and next steps for delivery**
Mayor Paul Dennett, City Mayor, Salford; and Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder, Housing First, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- 9.35 **Implementing new powers and coordinating development across the planning system**
English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill considerations and next steps for regional leadership in planning | alignment of Spatial Development Strategies and Local Plans | priorities for increasing approvals and reducing timelines for decisions | impact on local engagement and accountability | impact of compulsory purchase reform | cross-boundary planning co-operation | next steps and priorities for the Land Use Framework | enforcement of new measures
Catriona Riddell, Director, Catriona Riddell and Associates
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, developer
Senior representative, legal
- 9.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Building sector capacity to support implementation of new planning powers and strategic development objectives**
Robbie Calvert, Head, Policy and Public Affairs, Royal Town Planning Institute
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.40 Break
- 10.50 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.55 **Supporting alignment with major projects and regional infrastructure opportunities**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 **London Plan - key lessons from implementation and delivery**
Lisa Fairmaner, Associate Director, Arup; and former Head, London Plan and Growth Strategies, Greater London Authority
- 11.30 **Delivering major regeneration - coordination and infrastructure alignment**
Senior representative, development corporation
- 11.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 **Key considerations for delivering regional plans - maximising growth, community and investment benefits**
delivery frameworks and new powers | supporting economic clusters and Industrial Strategy ambitions | alignment with NSIPs | adoption of NISTA tools | securing investment | ensuring the delivery of social infrastructure | Infrastructure Strategy | funding allocation | meeting affordable housing targets | green belt implications and nature protection | transport and utility infrastructure considerations
Scott Black, Group Chief Operating Officer, Places for People
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, nature
- 12.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Next steps for delivering spatial powers - expectations for streamlining housing and infrastructure delivery**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
Harry Nelson, Westminster Social Policy Forum