

**Westminster Business Forum policy conference:
Next steps for public procurement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 23rd April 2025

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



**WESTMINSTER
BUSINESS
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted
- 9.05 **Implementation of the Procurement Act 2023: lessons so far and key considerations for the future**
Lindsay Maguire, Deputy Director for the Implementation of Procurement Reform, Cabinet Office
- 9.20 **Early indications and issues following legislation going live**
progress and remaining priorities for simplifying procurement processes | leveraging the Central Digital Platform | the Procurement Review Unit and assessing compliance via the Procurement Compliance Service (PCS) | role of the Office for Value for Money | addressing barriers for small businesses | growing procurement spend on SME goods and services | options for flexible tendering procedures | the Public Procurement Review Service and fair payment practices | vulnerabilities to anti-competitive behaviour | role of the CMA and the Public Sector Fraud Authority | strategies for enhancing procurement capabilities | support from the Transforming Public Procurement programme | promoting best practice
James Langworth, Government Sector Lead, Cloud Gateway
Lee White, Head, Strategic Procurement, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Gemma Payne, Head, Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium
Chris Murray, Partner, Eversheds Sutherland
Anna Lutterodt, Strategic Framework Manager, Willmott Dixon
- 9.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Options for developing procurement policy moving forward**
Jared Wright, Senior Analyst, Government Innovation, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Shadow Minister, HM Treasury
- 11.00 **Advancing the role of public procurement in unlocking social value across the supply chain and meeting national policy objectives**
Guy Battle, CEO, Social Value Portal
- 11.10 **Collaboration and best practice in public procurement**
strategies for enhancing procurement capabilities | assessing insourcing and outsourcing | lessons from prominent business collapses | impacts on public service delivery | partnerships between public bodies and suppliers
Peter Schofield, Head, Integrated Commissioning and Procurement, Manchester City Council
Katharine Sutton, Chief Executive, Aspire Community Works
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **'New competition grounds for exclusion and debarment - spotting and avoiding anti-competitive practices'**
Deborah Wilkie, Director, Competition Enforcement, Competition and Markets Authority
- 11.50 **The way forward for procurement in the new policy landscape**
implementation challenges | procurement skills development across the system | opportunities for innovation in delivering value for money | leveraging public procurement to support national policy objectives such as net zero and priority growth sectors | addressing procurement fraud and anti-competitive practices | enhancing transparency and market fairness | tackling modern slavery in supply chains | procuring AI-enabled services
Chrysa Glystra, Director, Trade and Economic Policy, UK Steel
Ian Schollar, Head, Teaching and Learning, Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply
Seb Barker, Co-Founder, Beam
Heidi Barnard, Head, Sustainability, NHS Supply Chain
Deborah Downey, Partner, Government and Infrastructure, Deloitte
- 12.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Next steps for public procurement**
Lindsay Maguire, Deputy Director for the Implementation of Procurement Reform, Cabinet Office
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**
Thomas Howard, Westminster Business Forum