

**Westminster Business Forum policy conference**  
**Next steps for public procurement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland**  
*Timing: Morning, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025*  
**\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\***



*Draft 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**  
**Matthew Rees**, Director, National Audit Office
- 9.20 **Early indications and issues following legislation going live**  
*progress and remaining priorities for simplifying procurement processes | leveraging the Central Digital Platform | improving oversight mechanisms | 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 | fair payment practices | vulnerabilities to anti-competitive behaviour | role of the CMA and the Public Sector Fraud Authority | opportunities for AI and new technology in countering fraud | strategies for enhancing procurement capabilities | support from the Transforming Public Procurement programme | promoting best practice*  
**Lindsay Maguire**, Deputy Director for the Implementation of Procurement Reform, Cabinet Office  
**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  
Senior representative, business
- 9.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Options for developing procurement policy moving forward**  
Senior representative, think tank  
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**  
**Jo Platt MP**
- 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 **The way forward for procurement in the new policy landscape**  
*implementation challenges | procurement skills development across the system | promoting value for money and a fair market | 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 through technology*  
**Gareth Stace**, Director General, UK Steel  
**Ian Schollar**, Head, Teaching and Learning, Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply  
**Sarah Parker**, Director, Procurement Policy, Capability and Social Impact, NHS Shared Business Services  
Senior representative, consultancy  
Senior representative, SME  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for public procurement**  
**Lindsay Maguire**, Deputy Director for the Implementation of Procurement Reform, Cabinet Office  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**  
**Jo Platt MP**  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Business Forum