

**Westminster Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for school and college buildings in England**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 1st October 2026

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



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing key developments and priorities for renewal of school and college buildings**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Considerations for delivery of long-term renewal and capital investment**
implementation of the Education Estates Strategy / translating national priorities into delivery / prioritising long-term renewal alongside immediate maintenance and condition needs / targeting capital investment to areas of greatest need across schools and colleges / lessons learned from the School Rebuilding Programme and wider capital programmes / meeting the commitment to remove RAAC while strengthening estate resilience / developing estate management capability and long-term asset planning / improving collaboration between trusts, colleges, local authorities and government / planning, procurement and workforce capacity for major capital programmes / delivering value for money while minimising disruption to learners
Joanne Burton, Partner, VWV
Senior representative, school
Senior representative, college
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, construction
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Next steps for estate management - standards, data and digital systems**
embedding School Estate Management Standards across the sector / use of data and digital systems, including the Manage Your Education Estate platform, to strengthen estate planning and investment decisions / the transition towards common condition data standards, and priorities for improving data quality / interoperability with local planning and asset management systems / improving consistency, transparency and accountability across responsible bodies / practical implications for schools, colleges and local authorities in collecting, maintaining and using estate data
Lucy O'Brien, Legal Director, Public Law and Regulatory, Capital Law
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, school
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **Practical considerations for decarbonising schools and colleges in England**
Senior representative, energy
- 11.25 **Net zero considerations, climate resilience and energy efficiency across the education estate**
embedding energy efficiency and decarbonisation into capital investment and estate planning / priorities for retrofit, refurbishment and modernisation / building resilience to flooding, overheating and extreme weather / balancing environmental objectives with affordability and delivery / designing school and college buildings for long-term sustainability and flexibility / outdoor learning environments and green space within estate planning / integrating digital infrastructure and modern methods of construction / sharing effective practice in sustainable estate management
Tim Warneford, Partner, Warneford Consulting
Senior representative, school
Senior representative, college
Senior representative, retrofit
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.10 **Accessibility, inclusion and meeting changing learner needs**
developing estates that support inclusion, accessibility and pupil wellbeing / adapting mainstream settings to respond to rising SEND demand / designing specialist facilities and inclusion bases / alignment of capital investment with changing patterns of demand / strengthening place-based planning and community use of educational settings / ensuring estate design supports educational outcomes and long-term sustainability / practical considerations for community use, including operational requirements, security and funding
Senior representative, school
Senior representative, college
Senior representative, construction
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Policy priorities for school and college buildings and next steps for delivery**
Jane Balderstone, Director, Construction Delivery, Department for Education
Emma Hockley, Head, Estates Strategy, Strategy and Policy Unit, Education Estates Directorate, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.20 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Education Forum