

Westminster Business Forum policy conference:

Next steps for the UK battery sector - industrial strategy, manufacturing capacity and investment priorities

Timing: Morning, Friday, 21st November 2025

Taking place online



Draft agenda, subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Policy priorities for the battery sector**
Raja Hanna, Head, Manufacturing Batteries, Finance and Innovative Technologies, Department for Business and Trade
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Implementation of the Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan for batteries - finance, commercialisation, gigafactory planning, investment and regulation**
coordination across public and private finance | role of the Growth Capital Fund and National Wealth Fund | supporting resilient supply chains and critical minerals security | commercialisation of research and access to pilot-scale production | IP protections and support for early-stage innovators | promoting investor confidence and infrastructure-readiness for strategic sites | planning and viability for gigafactory projects, with local authority involvement | addressing barriers to commercialisation and scale-up | assessing the regulatory framework and safety issues
Michelle Sacks, CEO, Huntingdonshire District Council
Senior representative, manufacturer
Senior representative, innovation
Senior representative, investment
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Scaling up gigafactory capacity - progress, priorities and investor confidence**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Development and commercialisation of battery technologies**
Dr Valentina Gentili, Battery Innovation Programme Director, Innovate UK
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Priorities for upskilling and talent pipelines for the UK battery sector**
Senior representative, skills
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **The role of regulation and standards in supporting competitiveness and market access**
Senior representative, standards
- 12.05 **Priorities for strengthening the battery supply chain and circular economy**
addressing vulnerabilities in the critical minerals supply chain | supporting raw manufacturing and commercial scale-up | aligning product standards and certification regimes | tackling energy prices, grid constraints and system flexibility for manufacturers | role of energy policy in supporting inward and domestic investment | positioning in global battery value chains | improving end-of-life battery handling, disposal and second-life use | sustainable approaches to recycling and recovery infrastructure
Senior representative, use case
Senior representative, circular economy
Senior representative, net zero
Senior representative, energy
- 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Business Forum