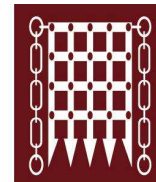


**Westminster Business Forum policy conference**  
**Key priorities for the UK retail sector and the future of the high street recovery from COVID-19**

*Timing: Morning, Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021*

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



**WESTMINSTER  
BUSINESS  
FORUM**

*Agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Matt Vickers MP**
- 9.05 **Key challenges for retailers - transition from the EU, sector recovery from COVID-19, and the evolution of consumer habits**  
**Stephen Bethel**, Corporate Affairs Director, British Retail Consortium  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Latest on supporting high streets and town centres and working with the sector to implement the COVID-19 Recovery Framework**  
**Mark Robinson**, Chair, High Streets Task Force  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.50 Break
- 9.55 **'Build back better - the future for UK high streets and town centres'**  
**Bill Grimsey**, Author, Grimsey Review
- 10.05 **The sector as it emerges from the pandemic - priorities for placemaking, the high street/online playing field, landlord - tenant relationships, and the future of business rates**  
**Andrew Goodacre**, Chief Executive, British Independent Retailers Association  
**Dan Simms**, Co-Head of Retail Agency, Colliers International  
**Councillor Sarah Merrill**, Council Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth, Royal Borough of Greenwich  
**Adrian Griffiths**, Group Board Director, Chapman Taylor  
**Owain Lloyd-James**, Head of Places Strategy, Historic England
- 10.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Matt Vickers MP**
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Leonie Cooper AM**, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth and Chair, Economy Committee, London Assembly
- 11.15 **Case study - recovering from the pandemic, the changing high street and Brexit**  
**David Butler**, CEO, Crew Clothing Company
- 11.25 **Where next for the retail sector and its workforce?**  
**Paddy Lillis**, General Secretary, Usdaw
- 11.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **The future retail workforce - new skills, changing shopping habits, and the impact of Brexit**  
**Nelson Blackley**, Independent Retail Analyst  
**James Lowman**, Chief Executive, Association of Convenience Stores  
**Bev White**, Chief Executive Officer, Harvey Nash Group
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **The way forward for policy to support local shops and high streets**  
**Craig Watson**, Deputy Director for Retail and Consumer Goods, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**  
**Leonie Cooper AM**, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth and Chair, Economy Committee, London Assembly  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Business Forum