

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for university estates in the UK

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 8th July 2026

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing strategic priorities for university estates in the UK**
Jane Harrison-White, Executive Director, Association of University Directors of Estates
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Key considerations for estates planning, financial sustainability and long-term investment**
aligning estates strategy with institutional missions under financial constraint | portfolio rationalisation and improving utilisation across teaching, research and residential space | utilising estates data and evidence to support long-term investment decisions | prioritising capital investment, backlog maintenance and compliance risk | integrating estates planning with place-based strategy, planning policy and regional growth | delivery models, procurement routes, phasing and risk management for large programmes | board-level governance and assurance for major estates decisions | planning reform and regional growth
Ann Allen, Director, Campus Innovation and Development, University of Leeds
Helen Clayton, Director, Sustainable Communities and Industries, Turner and Townsend
Senior representative, finance
Senior representative, construction
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Supporting renewable energy transitions and net zero delivery**
Senior representative, energy
- 10.25 **Strategies for supporting decarbonisation and improving climate resilience across university estates**
translating net zero commitments into deliverable estates programmes | balancing carbon ambitions with affordability and capital constraints | performance measurement, verification and closing the design-operate gap | integrating climate resilience and adaptation into decarbonisation plans | managing disruption, phasing works and maintaining service continuity on live campuses | building estates capability, skills and supply chain capacity to deliver at scale
Kelly Crews, Head, Decarbonisation, Willmott Dixon
Senior speaker confirmed from **Arcadis**
Senior speaker confirmed from **Local Partnerships**
Senior representative, university
- 10.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 Break
- 11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.30 **Strategic priorities for digital estates and internationalisation**
James Clay, Head, Higher Education and Student Experience, Jisc
- 11.40 **Developing digital estates and smart campuses**
estates data governance and integration across systems | interoperability and standards for joined-up planning | analytics, performance monitoring and closing the design-operate gap | linking estates, carbon and financial data to support investment decisions | cyber security, data protection and operational technology risk | capability-building, procurement and change management for digital estates delivery | supporting transnational provision through digital strategies
Angeline Chenu, Vertical Market Lead, Higher Education Sector, Siemens
Professor Victoria Nicholas, Professor, STEM Education and Associate Dean, Faculty and Strategy, The Open University
Senior commentator
- 11.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.20 **Supporting teaching quality, accessibility and student experience through the estate**
accessibility and inclusive design across the campus estate | learning spaces, pedagogy and teaching quality | widening participation, commuter students and cost-of-living pressures | digital and physical accessibility in blended and flexible learning environments | managing estate change while protecting continuity of student experience | civic responsibility, community access and shared use of university space | governance, transparency and accountability for student-focused estates decisions
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, students
Senior representative, local authority
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.05 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum