

**Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:  
Next steps for UK universities within their local economies**

Timing: Morning, Morning, Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024

\*\*\*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 **National Civic Impact Accelerator: what has been learnt so far**  
**Adam Leach**, Programme Director, National Civic Impact Accelerator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Best practice for HEIs operating on a local level**  
*strategies for developing the civic roles of universities | key lessons from outcomes of established civic partnerships | enablers and strategies for successful partnerships | latest developments in university-industry collaboration | opportunities for rolling out effective, sustainable frameworks for joint working between HEIs, businesses and local government*  
**Matthew Guest**, Head of Local and Regional Business Engagement, Research and Enterprise Service, University of Central Lancashire  
Senior representative, business  
Senior representative, research institute  
Senior representative, local authority  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.25 Break
- 10.35 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.40 **Measuring the local impact of UK universities**  
*assessing findings from KEF3 | cost-benefit for universities | securing sources of revenue for long-term regional projects*  
**Joel Arber**, Group Managing Director, SUMS Consulting  
**Peter O'Brien**, Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities  
Senior representative, business  
Senior representative, research institute
- 11.00 **Alternative funding and approaches for HEIs to contribute within local economies**  
**Alice Frost**, Director of Knowledge Exchange, UKRI
- 11.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 **Innovation through civic partnerships**  
**Greg Wade**, Head of Innovation Policy, Universities UK
- 11.45 **Priority areas for providing place-based benefits and securing regional growth through local partnerships**  
*key areas for HEIs to contribute to their local economies | examining options for incentivising universities to boost local growth | reducing unnecessary administration and bureaucracy | widening participation | engaging creative industries | future role of HEIs in encouraging regional growth | HEI investment in regional workforce*  
**Professor Graeme Atherton**, Head of the Centre for Inequality and Levelling Up, University of West London  
**Professor Catherine Richardson**, Director, Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries, University of Kent  
Senior representative, local government  
Senior representative, business  
Senior representative, education
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **A vision for the future for university partnerships on a local level**  
Senior representative, think tank  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Higher Education Forum