

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference
The developing role of universities in regional economies - innovation and R&D, skills, partnerships, opportunities, and the impact of national policy

Timing: Morning, Friday, 3rd December 2021

*****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 **UK universities and their developing role in regional development**
Richard Brabner, Director, UPP Foundation and Member, Steering Group, Civic University Commission
- 9.15 **Maximising the contribution of the HE sector to post-pandemic economic and societal recovery**
Tom Richmond, Director, EDSK
- 9.25 **Key focus areas for unlocking the benefits of UK universities, and predicted contributions for 2021-2026**
Ceri Nursaw, Chief Executive, NCEE
- 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.55 **Spreading the benefits of the R&D and innovation system locally - supporting research clusters, harnessing business-led innovation, and implementation of the Innovation Strategy and the R&D Place Strategy**
Dr Joe Marshall, Chief Executive Officer, National Centre for Universities and Business
Matthew Guest, Policy Manager, Places, Skills and Knowledge Exchange, GuildHE
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, business
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 Break
- 10.40 **Assessing the role of HEIs in the wider skills development landscape - the FE Bill, opportunities for FE-HE collaboration, improving graduate outcomes, and supporting attainment and catch-up locally**
Jarmo Eskelinen, Executive Director, Data Driven Innovation Initiative
Senior representative, FE college
Senior representative, outreach
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.15 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.20 Break
- 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.35 **Measuring the contribution of HEIs to regional development - the use of HE frameworks, next steps for KEF and TEF, and assessing student outcomes regionally**
Senior commentator
- 11.45 **Case studies in developing HEI civic contribution**
Building local research and civic partnerships to tackle climate change and support decarbonisation
Senior representative, university
Culture and heritage - promoting creative industries, supporting town regeneration and sector recovery, and facilitating knowledge exchange
Senior representative, business
Supporting student entrepreneurship and start-ups, and the positive economic and social impact they can bring
Professor Jane Robinson, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Engagement and Place, Newcastle University
- 12.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **The way forward for developing the civic role of universities in local areas**
Lord Kerslake, Chair, Sheffield Hallam University and President, Local Government Association
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum