

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for knowledge exchange in higher education and research in England
Timing: Morning, Monday, 23rd November 2026
*****Taking Place Online*****



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe
- 9.05 **The current landscape for knowledge exchange and reflections on KEF5**
Dr Stuart Wilkinson, CEO, Knowledge Exchange UK
 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Implementing Higher Education Innovation Funding priorities, institutional capacity and knowledge exchange delivery**
HEIF Policies and Priorities 2025-2031 | priorities for investment in knowledge exchange capability and professional expertise | commercialisation, technology transfer and support for spin-outs and start-ups | accountability, funding and institutional sustainability | supporting diverse institutional missions and strengths | leadership, governance and capability | balancing commercial, civic and public benefit objectives | collaboration across the sector and partnership working | measuring economic, social and civic impact | supporting long-term innovation and economic growth
 Senior representative, university
 Senior representative, specialist university
 Senior representative, business
 Senior commentator
 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Assessing impact, accountability and the future of the Knowledge Exchange Framework**
 Senior representative, policy
 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
 Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 **Strengthening commercialisation, university-business collaboration, and innovation-led growth**
technology transfer and knowledge exchange processes | strengthening pathways from research to application and adoption | investor readiness and access to finance | scaling spin-outs and graduate start-ups | IP, contracting and commercialisation challenges | collaborative R&D partnerships | engagement with SMEs and access to university expertise | emerging technologies, innovation and productivity growth
Adrian Toutoungi, Partner, Winston Taylor
 Senior representative, university
 Senior representative, spin-out
 Senior representative, investment
 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Developing innovation clusters and place-based partnerships for long-term growth**
 Senior representative, innovation cluster
- 11.55 **Place-based innovation, skills and regional growth**
universities as anchor institutions | collaboration with combined authorities, employers, NHS organisations and local government | supporting local innovation ecosystems and innovation clusters | workforce development and addressing skills shortages | widening access to innovation opportunities and supporting inclusive growth | international engagement and partnership working | measuring economic, social and civic impact | contributions to health, wellbeing and public benefit
Stephanie Smith, Deputy Director, Policy, Russell Group
David Hollis, Knowledge Exchange Manager, University of Warwick
 Senior representative, combined authority
 Senior representative, employer
- 12.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 **Policy priorities for knowledge exchange, innovation and growth**
Dr Maggie McGowan, Deputy Director, Commercialisation, Government Office for Technology Transfer, Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade
 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