

Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar

Next steps for the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor

Timing: Morning, Tuesday 17th June 2025

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Lansley
- 9.05 **Establishing a long-term strategy for the Oxford-Cambridge region and key lessons from previous approaches**
Senior academic
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.15 **Harnessing the region's research and educational capacities and driving innovation**
Professor Alistair Fitt, Vice Chancellor, Oxford Brookes University; and Chair, Arc Universities Group
- 9.25 **Key considerations for local authority coordination and achieving community buy-in**
Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council; and Lead Member for Skills, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- 9.35 **Realising the potential of the Oxford-Cambridge Supercluster - investment, infrastructure, skills and developing partnerships**
Matt Allen, Executive Director, Oxford-Cambridge Supercluster
- 9.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.10 **Assessing the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor plan and priorities for delivery of infrastructure, housing, and improving connectivity**
identification of housebuilding locations / key East West Railway developments / impact of planning system reform - project timelines, support for development, addressing environmental concerns / local authority capacity and role in supporting developments / impact on rural communities and housing affordability / delivery of planned road upgrades and improving connectivity / addressing water shortages and capacity of systems to meet increased demand
Dr Martin Reeves, Chief Executive, Oxfordshire County Council
Zoe Metcalfe, Client Director, Local and Central Government, Atkins Realis
John Torlesse, Deputy Director, West Anglia, Natural England
Senior representative, developer
Senior representative, utilities
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Lansley
- 11.05 Break
- 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Olly Glover MP
- 11.20 **Delivery of East West Rail - community engagement, optimising connectivity and supporting regional growth**
Martin Phillips, Strategy Director, East West Railway Company
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Establishing the region as a global technology and science hub**
supporting economic growth and leadership in innovation / strategic priorities for leveraging the region's skills and strengths in research and technology / investment priorities / attracting international capital and partnerships / utilising R&D funding to support innovation and growth / developing clusters and support for key growth sectors / priorities for skills development, and attracting and fostering talent / coordination of regional policy affecting the Corridor with the Government's wider Industrial Strategy / contributing to UK-wide economic and societal goals
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, skills
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor and its positioning as a global hub for innovation**
Cavendish Elithorn, Director, Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor, HM Treasury
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Olly Glover MP
Harry Nelson, Westminster Social Policy Forum