

## Westminster Social Policy Forum & Policy Forum for Wales keynote seminar:

### Next steps for the Western Gateway

Timing: Morning, Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Next steps for development of the Western Gateway - partnerships, outreach and the roles of key stakeholders**  
**John Wilkinson**, Director, Western Gateway  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for attracting private investment and wider funding for the regional economy**  
*strategic options | moving forward ambitions in the Gateway's partnership with Bristol and Bath Regional Capital | findings from research on attracting investment for businesses, innovation and infrastructure | assessing place-based models and what has been learned so far for regional development | promoting the international profile of the Gateway | enabling economic growth across the region*  
**Paul Moorby**, Chair, Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership  
Senior representative, finance  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, trade  
Senior representative, business  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Infrastructure and regeneration in the Western Gateway**  
*key priorities and options for supporting local development, services and trade | improving cross-border connectivity | prioritising sustainable construction practice and implementation | key issues for environmental protection | assessing what can be learnt from regeneration projects across the region and more widely | support for inclusive cross-border renewal and development in the region's rural communities*  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, infrastructure  
Senior representative, transport  
Senior representative, environment  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 Break
- 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.20 **Sustainable development, net zero and potential for the region's leadership in areas such as hydrogen**  
*opportunities and strategic options | accessing support via government green policy plans | utilising the area's natural potential | priorities for decarbonising energy, transport and industry in the region | assessing the Hydrogen Gateway's potential in delivering sustainability targets, facilitating economic growth and growing partnerships with industry*  
**Councillor Annemieke Waite**, Executive Member for Climate, Waste and Sustainability, North Somerset Council  
Senior representative, renewable energy  
Senior representative, business  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Supporting future regional growth**  
*supporting career opportunities, employment and capabilities across the region | priorities for harnessing research and innovation strengths | examining plans for the UK's first pan-national Cyber Super Cluster | building upon the region's digital innovation strengths in AI, 5G, computing and robotics | establishing a coordinated approach and long-term funding for skills development | strengthening collaboration within the third sector*  
Senior representative, skills  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, university  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for the Western Gateway pan-regional partnership**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Social Policy Forum and Policy Forum for Wales