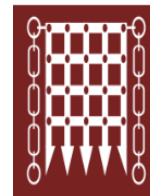


**Westminster Social Policy Forum & Policy Forum for Wales keynote seminar:
Priorities for economic development and investment in the South Wales and Western England region**

Timing: Morning, Friday, 21st June 2024

Taking Place Online



Agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**

Sean Cudmore, Westminster Forum Projects

9.05 **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

Tony Miles, CEO, DST Innovations

Richard Bonner, Market Director, Building and Places, AtkinsRéalis

Councillor Huw Thomas, Leader, Cardiff Council

Questions and comments from the floor

10.05 **Infrastructure and regeneration in the region**

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

Rhianydd Griffith, Stakeholder Lead, West of England Industrial Cluster

Alasdair MacDonald, Regional Director, Balfour Beatty

Phillipa Slater, Asset Management Director, National Grid Electricity Distribution

Andrew Jenkins, Director, Arup

Questions and comments from the floor

11.05 Break

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

Luciana Ciubotariu, CEO, Celtic Freeport

Steve Horrax, Head, Energy Transition UK, Ramboll

Questions and comments from the floor

12.10 **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

Joanna Jenkinson, Director, GW4 Alliance

David Bull, Director, MyWorld

Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**

Sean Cudmore, Westminster Forum Projects