**Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar**
**The Midlands Engine - the refreshed strategy, and priorities for infrastructure and economic development**
*Timing: Morning, Thursday, 28th November 2019*
*Venue: The ICC Birmingham, 8 Centenary Square, Birmingham B1 2EA*

WESTMINSTER SOCIAL POLICY FORUM

*Draft agenda subject to change*

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
**Jeremy Lefroy**, lately Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the West Midlands

9.05 - 9.40 **The future of the Midlands Engine**
**Anthony May**, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council and Chair, Midlands Engine Operating Board
Questions and comments from the floor

9.40 - 10.30 **Developing and delivering infrastructure across the region to support economic growth**

*Meeting the transport challenges and improving connectivity across the region*
**Kate Emerson**, Director and Strategic Transport Modelling Lead, WSP

*Priorities for digital connectivity - realising the benefits of full fibre and 5G*
**Carl Arntzen**, Chief Executive Officer, Bosch Thermotechnology

*Ensuring the right type of housing is in the right place to support growth*
**James Stevens**, Director for Cities, Home Builders Federation

*Challenges for establishing the East Midlands Development Corporation*
**Robbie Owen**, Partner and Head, Infrastructure Planning and Government Affairs, Pinsent Masons

*'Transforming the region's rail network'*
**Billy Roden**, Senior Policy Lead, Midlands Connect Project Team

10.30 - 11.05 Questions and comments from the floor

11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
**Jeremy Lefroy**, lately Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the West Midlands

11.10 - 11.45 Coffee

11.45 - 12.00 **Chair's opening remarks & developing the skills needed to drive the Midlands Engine**
**Angela Joyce**, Chief Executive Officer, WCG and Midlands Engine Skills Board Chair

12.00 - 12.10 **Engaging with business and supporting the delivery of Local Industrial Strategies**
**Katie Trout**, Director, Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership

12.10 - 12.20 **'Supporting investment in the Midlands'**
**Grant Peggie,** Director, Venture Capital Solutions, British Business Bank

12.20 - 12.45 Questions and comments from the floor

12.45 - 12.55 **Concluding remarks**
**Anthony May**, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council and Chair, Midlands Engine Operating Board

12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
**Angela Joyce**, Chief Executive Officer, WCG and Midlands Engine Skills Board Chair
**Michael Ryan**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Social Policy Forum