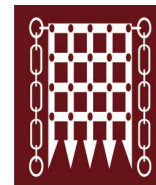


Westminster Business Forum policy conference

The UK retail sector and the future of the high street - costs and taxation, investment and planning, and policy priorities for the new parliament

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 27th February 2020

Venue: Royal Overseas League, Sea House, Park place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR



WESTMINSTER
BUSINESS
FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Melanie Williams, Partner, DWF Law
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Key challenges for retailers: responding to rising costs, technology and changing shopping habits**
Helen Dickinson, Chief Executive, British Retail Consortium
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.00 **Collaboration needed between councils, businesses and communities to develop places and turn high streets into community hubs**
Simon Quin, Executive Director, High Streets Task Force and Co-Chair, Institute of Place Management
Elizabeth Faulkner, Business Development Manager, BID Team, Altrincham Unlimited
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 - 10.45 **Attracting business to the high street - open door pilot, investment in historic buildings, and engagement with landlords**
Dr Cathy Hart, Senior Lecturer, Retailing and Operations Management, School of Business and Economics, Loughborough University
Mark Robinson, Property Director and Co-Founder, Ellandi and President, Revo
Richard McGuckin, Director of Economic Growth & Development, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Melanie Williams, Partner, DWF Law
Emily Berwyn, Executive Director, Meanwhile Space and Trustee, Meanwhile Foundation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Melanie Williams, Partner, DWF Law
- 10.50 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Damien Moore MP
- 11.20 - 11.50 **Where next for retail: improving productivity, competitiveness and the impact of Brexit**
Steve Murrells, Chief Executive Officer, The Co-Operative Group and Member, Consumer, Retail and Life Sciences Business Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 - 12.30 **High street and online retail at a time of rising costs and political uncertainty: digital services tax and business rates relief**
Michael Weedon, Chair, Retail & High Street Policy Unit, Federation of Small Businesses
George Turner, Director, Tax Watch
Mark Pilkington, Consulting Director, Bolt Partners
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Future policy for supporting local shops and high streets**
Carl Creswell, Director for Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate, BEIS
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**
Damien Moore MP
Helen Crocker, Forum Lead, Westminster Business Forum