

**Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:
Next steps for devolved transport policy and regional connectivity in England**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 25th November 2025

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



**WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Alex Mayer MP
- 9.05 **Evolving policy and funding frameworks and opportunities for local transport and connectivity**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Assessing progress and next steps for local transport in England's combined authorities**
Vernon Everitt, Transport Commissioner, Transport for Greater Manchester
Mike Birch, Director, Mass Transit, West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- 9.50 **Priorities for funding, planning, and coordination in England's regions**
opportunities from the Transport for City Regions settlements and coordination with existing devolved transport strategies | aligning regional transport plans with local economic and environmental goals | assessing the merits of devolved authority ownership versus franchising models | cross-border coordination for improving connectivity | data requirements for supporting devolved investments | implications of the revival of the Northern Powerhouse Rail project for urban transport strategies | maintaining service reliability amidst changes in travel behaviour and environmental pressures | integrating public transport and active travel systems
Robin Hewings, Head, Policy, Transport Focus
Colin Knight, Director, Innovation, Coventry City Council
Senior representative, active travel
Senior representative, roads
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Future transport and connectivity priorities in the East of England**
Andrew Summers, CEO, Transport East
- 10.40 **Beyond mass transit - strategies for public transport and connectivity in towns and rural areas**
assessing implications of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill on service provision | assessing new powers for planning, coordination and infrastructure delivery | priorities for an Integrated National Transport Strategy | Bus Services Bill - assessing models of ownership and priorities for maintaining and improving bus services | addressing concerns of local authority capacity and funding, alongside the impact of reorganisation
Tim Bellamy, Assistant Director, Transport, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Senior representative, service provider
- 10.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
Alex Mayer MP
- 11.15 Break
- 11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**
Steff Aquarone MP
- 11.30 **Key issues for cross-regional connectivity**
Richard McGuckin, Executive Director, Place, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority; and Board Member, Urban Transport Group
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Priorities for infrastructure delivery across rail and road, and coordination with housing and growth objectives**
regulatory and operational challenges and costs | implications of updated guidance from the Light Rail Safety and Standards Board for facilitating mass transit systems and light rail | integrating environmental and sustainability standards | assessing reform to planning for major infrastructure | coordinating local innovation with national requirements | aligning transport systems with housing and infrastructure planning | supporting the next generation of new towns | lessons from past delivery of major projects | improving connectivity to growth clusters and Industrial Strategy Zones
Kathryn Firth, Director, Cities, Planning and Design, Arup
Ann Gordon, Country Market Director, Transport, UK & Ireland, Ramboll
Senior representative, finance
Senior representative, legal
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **Delivering sustainable, resilient, and inclusive transport systems**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Steff Aquarone MP
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum