

Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:

Next steps for new towns in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 10th June 2025

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Dr Peter Swallow MP
- 9.05 **Assessing the Government's vision for new towns in England and their role in meeting housebuilding targets**
Professor Cecilia Wong, Professor, Spatial Planning, University of Manchester; and Director, Spatial Policy and Analysis Lab, Manchester Urban Institute
- 9.15 **Key considerations for stakeholders in the planning and development of new towns**
looking ahead to the New Towns taskforce final report and key considerations / what is needed for development and rollout / challenges for infrastructure delivery, such as utilities and transport provision / the capacity of local authorities to deliver large scale projects / addressing environmental concerns and potential impact on existing communities / considerations for delivering affordable housing and the impact of new towns on meeting government housebuilding targets / meeting housing demand and developer standards / identifying potential sites for development / placemaking and ensuring new towns meet community needs / approaches for both urban extensions and standalone settlements / design quality and density / considerations for supporting public services provision / lessons from previous approaches
Robert Lloyd-Sweet, Head, Devolution and Local Government Policy, Historic England
Gary Soloman, Partner and Head, Planning and Compulsory Purchase, Burges Salmon
Paul Thomas, Director, Planning and Placemaking, Milton Keynes City Council
Venus Galarza-Mullins, Policy Manager, Shelter
Frazer Osment, Chair, LDA Design
- 9.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 **'Landowners perspective on maximising social and financial capital from New Towns and communities'**
Ben Murphy, Strategic Land Advisor; and former Estates Director, Duchy of Cornwall
- 10.15 **Key environmental considerations and addressing concerns**
Clare Warburton, Deputy Director, Sustainable Development, Natural England
- 10.25 **Infrastructure needs and addressing strategic implementation challenges**
Senior representative, utilities
- 10.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Dr Peter Swallow MP
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Chris Vince MP
- 11.15 **Creating partnerships, encouraging investment to accelerate delivery and the impact of wider planning policy**
Senior representative, policy
- 11.25 **Key considerations for developers and enhancing project engagement**
Caroline Foster, Development Director, Urban & Civic
- 11.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Practicalities for the delivery of new towns**
assessing delivery mechanisms / skills provision and addressing shortages / long-term infrastructure planning and transport connectivity / provision for social and affordable housing / design quality / managing public spaces in new towns / strategies for engagement with key stakeholders and developing effective collaboration / balancing commercial and community priorities
Maurice Lange, Analyst, Centre for Cities
Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member, Planning Policy and Development Management, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Tim Balcon, Chief Executive, Construction Industry Training Board
Katie Hickman, Director, Regeneration and Connectivity, Nichols Group
Senior representative, transport
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Policy priorities and key considerations for stakeholders in the rollout of new towns**
Ellie de la Bedoyere, Deputy Director, New Towns, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Chris Vince MP
Harry Nelson, Westminster Social Policy Forum

This conference is supported by LDA Design

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