Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:
Next steps for onshore wind in England
Timing: Morning, Monday, 22nd February 2027
*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER ENERGY ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Whitehead

9.05 **Implementation of the *Onshore Wind Taskforce Strategy* - progress so far and next steps for onshore wind in England**
Matthieu Hue, CEO, EDF Energy; and Joint Chair, Onshore Wind Council
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Planning reform, consenting and progressing onshore wind projects**
revisions to the NPPF | suitable areas, local plan policies and development management processes | NSIP routes and consenting pathways | local authority capacity | emerging experience of applications and decisions | development costs and uncertainty | prospects for larger projects | aviation constraints and CAP 764
David Hardy, Partner, CMS
Robin Hutchison, Partner, CMS
Senior representative, planning
Senior representative, energy developer
Questions and comments from the floor

10.10 **Implementing connection reform - progress and priorities for the reformed queue**
Senior representative, operator

10.20 **Grid access for onshore wind - connection offers, network constraints and system costs**
NESO Gate 2 to Whole Queue reform | experience of revised connection offers and dates | CfD AR8 connection eligibility requirements | transmission constraints and distribution network capacity | project viability, financing and planning milestones | regional capacity allocation | network reinforcement and coordination with developers | constraint costs and network charges
Senior representative, grid
Senior representative, distribution network operator
Senior representative, onshore wind developer

10.35 Questions and comments from the floor

11.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Whitehead

11.00 Break

11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

11.15 **Industry priorities for onshore wind in England - project development, sector growth and *Clean Power 2030***
James Robottom, Head, Policy, RenewableUK

11.25 **Investment, supply chains and workforce capacity - commercial conditions, routes to market and existing wind farms**
CfD AR8 results and implications for investment | routes to market, corporate PPAs and project viability | Clean Industry Bonus for AR9 | turbine and electrical equipment supply | supply chain capability and UK manufacturing | repowering, refurbishment and life extension | engineering, planning and construction skills | recruitment, training and cross-sector mobility
Jason Welch, Regional Vice President and Managing Director, Nordex UK and Ireland
Robert Murphy, Consultant, Workforce Planning, Energy and Utility Sills
Senior representative, investment

11.40 Questions and comments from the floor

12.00 **Spatial planning, environmental impacts, community interests and engagement**
SSEP and local plans | landscape, visual and cumulative impacts | biodiversity and environmental assessment | local engagement and differing community views | Energy Independence Bill - mandatory community benefits for new onshore wind projects over 5MW | shared ownership and community energy models | landowner arrangements and rural land use | implications for the location of generation and electricity infrastructure
James Byrne, Head, Green Finance, The Wildlife Trusts
Paul Phare, Senior Development Manager, Energy 4 All
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor

12.45 **The role of onshore wind in renewable electricity strategy - priorities for policy**
Emma Roberts, Head, Onshore Wind, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Questions and comments from the floor

13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Baroness McIntosh of Pickering
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum