

**Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 11th February 2026

*****Taking place online*****



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Sean Woodcock MP, Member, Housing, Communities, and Local Government Select Committee
- 9.05 **Assessing key developments and next steps for the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor**
Senior academic
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Developing regional capacity and priorities for further devolved powers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the wider Growth Corridor**
Rob Bridge, Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- 9.35 **The strategic potential and restructuring practicalities of unitarisation**
Senior representative, local authority
- 9.45 **Priorities for governance, regional leadership, and meeting ambitions in the Growth Corridor plan**
assessing national and regional delivery frameworks / cross-regional collaboration and shared objectives / accountability and transparency in governance / priorities for devolution and local government reorganisation / implications of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill / environmental and community duties / addressing local skills gaps alongside regional objectives / tackling regional inequalities / inclusive growth, including rural areas / transport infrastructure priorities / next steps for devolution in Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire, and the wider region
Naomi Green, Managing Director, England's Economic Heartland
Robin Webber-Jones, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director, Curriculum, The Bedford College Group
Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive, Hertfordshire County Council
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Water infrastructure delivery and supporting regional development and environmental goals**
Senior representative, water
- 10.30 **Advancing community priorities, infrastructure and housing delivery, and environmental resilience across the Growth Corridor**
achieving Local Growth Plan targets / delivery and financial implications of Planning and Infrastructure Bill measures / assessing proposals for new towns / insights from Milton Keynes and Peterborough developments / assessing plans for water management and flood protection / infrastructure requirements for development / regional planning, social and economic infrastructure, and placemaking priorities / supporting nature recovery, stewardship, and safeguarding distinctive natural qualities / impact of development on rural communities and housing affordability / community participation, engagement, and buy-in
Dr Edel McGurk, Regional Director, South East, Natural England
Frazer Osmont, Director, LDA Design
Paul Thomas, Director, Planning and Placemaking, Milton Keynes City Council
Sarah Lou Hassenpflug, Manager, Central England Regional Energy Strategic Planning, National Energy System Operator
- 10.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
Sean Woodcock MP, Member, Housing, Communities, and Local Government Select Committee
- 11.15 Break
- 11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Lansley, Chair, Cambridgeshire Development Forum
- 11.30 **Strengthening research and innovation capacity and the role of place-based investment**
Senior representative, research
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Strategies for accelerating growth and frameworks for collaboration between local partners**
Senior representative, growth
- 12.00 **Positioning the Corridor as a global hub for science and technology**
developing investment and infrastructure pipelines / Industrial Strategy and the Industrial Strategy Zones Action Plan / key considerations for the Oxford Growth Commission and insights from the Cambridge model / innovation partnerships with other UK hubs / commercial space, laboratory capacity and utility infrastructure / connectivity priorities, including East West Rail and mass transit / support for business growth, trade, and place-based development / harnessing benefits of major transport infrastructure / developing the visitor economy
Alistair Lomax, Director, Arc Universities Group
Nicola McConville, Partner, Mishcon de Reya
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior representative, local authority
- 12.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Progress and next steps for Growth Corridor strategy implementation**
Senior speaker confirmed from **HM Treasury**
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Lord Lansley, Chair, Cambridgeshire Development Forum
Harry Nelson, Westminster Social Policy Forum