Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for development of the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor
Timing: Afternoon, Wednesday, 16th December 2026
*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

12.30 Registration

13.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Lansley

13.05 **Assessing progress and considering next steps in developing the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor**
Professor Matthew Cook, Professor, Innovation, The Open University
Questions and comments from the floor

13.25 **Priorities for innovation and scaling key sectors across the corridor**
reducing barriers to business growth | Investment Prospectus and Supercluster Board vision | research commercialisation, university-industry collaboration and scaling spin-outs | later-stage finance, commercial space, laboratory capacity and R&D hubs | Culham AI Growth Zone and infrastructure for AI and data-intensive sectors | local skills gaps and employment pathways | connectivity between research and business centres | domestic and international investment | Local Innovation Partnership Fund | local supply chains and sharing employment benefits | visitor economy and opportunities associated with Universal Bedford
Professor Leon Terry, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation, Cranfield University
Dr Olga Kozlova, Director, Innovation and Engagement, University of Oxford; and CEO, Equinox
Jason Longhurst, Head, Sustainable Investment and Partnerships, Prologis UK; and Chair, South Midlands Region Business Board
Jo Stevens, Managing Director, Oxford Innovation Space
Questions and comments from the floor

14.15 **Supporting international investment into the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor**
Mike King, Head, Investment, South East of England, Office for Investment
Questions and comments from the floor

14.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Lansley

14.45 Break

14.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Daniel Zeichner MP

Devolution, governance and priorities for growth

15.00 *Implementing new powers and supporting inclusive economic development across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*
Judith Barker, Executive Director, Place and Economy, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

15.10 *Delivering housing, jobs and growth across Oxfordshire*
Dr Martin Reeves, Chief Executive, Oxfordshire County Council

15.20 Questions and comments from the floor

15.40 **Regulatory priorities for environmentally responsible and resilient growth and development**
Sarah Trouw, Programme Director, Oxford to Cambridge Team, Environment Agency
Questions and comments from the floor

16.05 **Delivering housing and infrastructure across the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor - planning, connectivity and major development**
proposed new towns at Tempsford and Milton Keynes and priorities for other strategic sites | draft New Towns Programme, New Towns Planning Policy and Strategic Environmental Assessment | NPPF reform, viability challenges and development certainty | applying the up to £800m for land acquisition and infrastructure | land release, CPOs, enabling works and infrastructure finance | East West Rail and wider transport priorities | electricity and grid capacity | data centres and NSIP regime | sequencing housing with transport, utilities and public services | water availability, wastewater capacity and Fens Reservoir | nature recovery and climate adaptation | rural communities, housing affordability and local participation | construction and supply chain capacity
Darryl Chen, Partner and Urban Design Lead, Hawkins\Brown
Will Gallagher, Chief Strategy and Development Officer, East West Rail
Councillor Adam Zerny, Leader, Central Bedfordshire Council
Andrew Roper, Distribution System Operations Director, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
Jim Stretton, Managing Director, Advanced Research Clusters and Harwell Science and Innovation Campus
Questions and comments from the floor

16.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Daniel Zeichner MP
Harry Nelson, Westminster Social Policy Forum