Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for regional spatial planning in England
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 28th January 2027
*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER SOCIAL POLICY FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Young of Old Scone

9.05 **Assessing key reform to planning policy in England and considerations for cross-boundary coordination**
Professor Cecilia Wong, Professor of Spatial Planning and Co-Director of Policy@Manchester, University of Manchester
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Priorities for Spatial Development Strategies - development, sector coordination, and supporting regional growth**
preparation, consultation and examination of SDSs | geographies, strategic planning boards and representation of constituent councils | governance and accountability at different stages of devolution | general conformity and transition for Local Plans, including site allocations and existing plans | apportioning housing need across authority boundaries | evidence on housing, employment land, infrastructure and environmental capacity | community and stakeholder engagement | capacity and resourcing, including parallel Local Plan work | the Land Use Framework and Local Nature Recovery Strategies
Robin Rogers, Director, Economy and Place, Oxfordshire County Council
Lisa Fairmaner, Associate Director and National Lead, Strategic Planning, Arup
Phil Jones, Growth Strategy Manager, Anglian Water
Matthew Jericho, Spatial Planning and Local Plan Manager, Essex County Council
Senior representative, housing
Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 **Developing the West Midlands Spatial Development Strategy - the approach and what has been learned**
Leo Pollak, Head, Policy, West Midlands Combined Authority
Questions and comments from the floor

10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Young of Old Scone

10.55 Break

11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.10 **Strategic spatial planning and infrastructure investment - priorities, coordination and implications for delivery**
Greg McClymont, Head, Infrastructure Spatial Planning, National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority
Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 **Delivering strategic growth - development powers, funding and implementation**
funding infrastructure and who bears cost and risk | Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy, developer contributions and public investment | viability and affordable housing | Mayoral Development Corporations, land assembly and regeneration | implementation of mayoral call-in and Mayoral Development Order powers, including relationships with local planning authorities | interaction with the 10 Year Infrastructure Strategy, NISTA priorities and NSIPs | sequencing infrastructure with development | long-term pipelines and certainty for developers, investors and infrastructure providers
Ben Standing, Partner, Browne Jacobson
James Shuttleworth, Head, Planning, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Jeffrey Ng, Primary Care Lead, Estates, NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior representative, regeneration
Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 **Implementing spatial planning reform - priorities for policy**
Kevin Reid, Head, Strategic Planning, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Harry Nelson, Westminster Social Policy Forum