

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for water infrastructure in England and Wales

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 18th November 2025

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness McIntosh of Pickering
- 9.05 **The future for water infrastructure in England and Wales - priorities for reform, regulation, coordination, and resilience**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Consumer and environmental protection - enhancing public trust**
Karen Gibbs, Senior Leader, Environment, Consumer Council for Water
- 9.45 **Assessing priorities for reform - regulation, governance, and resilience standards**
recommendations from the Independent Water Commission / reform of regulatory bodies and structures / supervisory approaches and transparency in performance reporting / achieving water company accountability / implementing national resilience standards / mandating for public health / rebuilding public trust / criteria and governance of a National Water Strategy / managing transition to a new regulator / strengthening coordination between Ofwat, the Environment Agency, and the Drinking Water Inspectorate / integrating improved asset health data into long-term planning
Giles Bristow, CEO, Surfers Against Sewage
Liz Sharp, Professor of Water and Planning, School of Geography and Planning, University of Sheffield
Toby Willison, Strategy Director, Wessex Water
Senior representative, infrastructure management
- 10.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Strategic considerations for planning, performance, and oversight**
Anita Shah, Regulation Director, National Audit Office
- 10.45 **Securing long-term investment and improving financial resilience in the water sector**
investment challenges and funding gaps / funding streams for Asset Management Period 8 / assessing proposals for Competition and Markets Authority redeterminations of Price Review 2024 / attracting private capital / leveraging the 10-Year Infrastructure Strategy and Spending Review commitments / Mansion House Accord and National Wealth Fund support / reporting, assurance and improving investor confidence / clarity in regulatory signals to support investment
Dr Lisa Gahan, Director of Economics, Pennon Group
Senior representative, financial consultancy
- 10.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness McIntosh of Pickering
- 11.25 Break
- 11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.40 **Sector priorities for water infrastructure planning, development, and renewal**
Senior representative, water sector
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 **Infrastructure delivery - major capital projects, asset management implementation, and managing risks**
deliverability, cost, and alignment with environmental and resilience standards / workforce capacity / supply chain requirements / supporting infrastructure ambitions amid heightened scrutiny and investor pressures / addressing gaps in condition monitoring and data sharing / utilising digital tools and predictive maintenance / supporting innovation in asset renewal and operations / incorporating climate risk and drought preparedness / implementation of regional planning bodies, and coordination between regional plans and national strategies / integrating supply infrastructure into housing and development policy / addressing deterioration of ageing infrastructure / aligning workforce skills development with delivery of Asset Management Period 8
Daniel Johns, Managing Director, Water Resources East
Steve Salvin, CEO, Aiimi
Louise Ellis, Associate Director, Arup
Senior representative, water sector
Senior representative, skills
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Adapting to a changing climate - water resource management, resilience, and future planning**
Richard Thompson, Deputy Director, Water Resources, Environment Agency
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.25 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum