



WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM

The Midlands Engine - the refreshed strategy, and priorities for infrastructure and economic development

28th November 2019

CONDITIONS FOR USE OF TRANSCRIPTS:

This document is intended to provide a timely reference for interested parties who are unable to attend the event to which it refers. Some portions are based on transcripts of proceedings and others consist of text submitted by speakers or authors, and are clearly marked as such. As such, apart from where it is indicated that the text was supplied by the speaker, it has not been possible for the transcript to be checked by speakers and so this portion of the document does not represent a formal record of proceedings. Despite best endeavours by Westminster Forum Projects and its suppliers to ensure accuracy, text based on transcription may contain errors which could alter the intended meaning of any portion of the reported content. Anyone who intends to publicly use or refer to any text based on the transcript should make clear that speakers have not had the opportunity for any corrections, or check first with the speaker in question. If in doubt please contact the forum first.

Contents

<u>About this Publication</u>	3
<u>Agenda</u>	4
<u>Session Chair's opening remarks</u>	
Jeremy Lefroy , lately Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the West Midlands (<i>transcript</i>)	6
<u>The future of the Midlands Engine</u>	
Anthony May , Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council and Chair, Midlands Engine Operating Board (<i>transcript</i>)	7
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	11
<u>Developing and delivering infrastructure across the region to support economic growth</u>	
<u>Meeting the transport challenges and improving connectivity across the region</u>	
Anna Wilson , Director of Transport, WSP (<i>transcript</i>)	17
<u>Priorities for digital connectivity - realising the benefits of full fibre and 5G</u>	
Carl Arntzen , Chief Executive Officer, Bosch Thermotechnology (<i>transcript</i>)	20
<u>Ensuring the right type of housing is in the right place to support growth</u>	
James Stevens , Director for Cities, Home Builders Federation (<i>transcript</i>)	23
<u>Challenges for establishing the East Midlands Development Corporation</u>	
Robbie Owen , Partner and Head, Infrastructure Planning and Government Affairs, Pinsent Masons (<i>transcript</i>)	26
<u>'Transforming the region's rail network'</u>	
Billy Roden , Senior Policy Lead, Midlands Connect Project Team (<i>transcript</i>)	29
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	33
<u>Session Chair's closing remarks</u>	
Jeremy Lefroy , lately Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the West Midlands (<i>transcript</i>)	39
<u>Session Chair's opening remarks & developing the skills needed to drive the Midlands Engine</u>	
Angela Joyce , Chief Executive Officer, WCG and Midlands Engine Skills Board Chair (<i>transcript</i>)	41
<u>Engaging with business and supporting the delivery of Local Industrial Strategies</u>	
Katie Trout , Director, Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (<i>transcript</i>)	45
<u>'Supporting investment in the Midlands'</u>	
Grant Pegg , Director, Venture Capital Solutions, British Business Bank (<i>transcript</i>)	49
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	53
<u>Concluding remarks</u>	
Anthony May , Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council and Chair, Midlands Engine Operating Board (<i>transcript</i>)	60
<u>Session Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks</u>	
Angela Joyce , Chief Executive Officer, WCG and Midlands Engine Skills Board Chair (<i>transcript</i>)	62
Michael Ryan , Deputy Editor, Westminster Social Policy Forum (<i>transcript</i>)	63
<u>Comments</u>	
Simon Neate , Director, WSP	64
Nick Corbett , Associate Director, WSP	65
<u>List of Delegates Registered for Seminar</u>	67
<u>Contributor Biographies</u>	71

Please be advised that speakers' PowerPoint presentations are included within the transcript itself, just beneath the relevant speaker's text. Please note that not all speakers are able to grant permission for us to include their slides.

About this Publication

This publication reflects proceedings at the Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar: The Midlands Engine - the refreshed strategy, and priorities for infrastructure and economic development held on 28th November 2019. The views expressed in the articles are those of the named authors, not those of the Forum or the sponsors, apart from their own articles.

Although Westminster Social Policy Forum is grateful to all sponsors for the funding on which we depend, participation in events and publications is never conditional on being a sponsor. As well as funding ongoing operations, sponsorship enables the Forum to distribute complimentary copies of publications, and offer complimentary tickets for events, to Government ministers, parliamentarians and officials most involved in policy.

This publication is copyright. Its copying, in whole or in part, is not permitted without the prior written consent of the publishers. However, extracts of the text may be reproduced for academic or review purposes, subject to the conditions of use outlined in the previous page, providing they are accurate, are not used in a misleading context and the author, their organisation and the Westminster Social Policy Forum are acknowledged. We would also appreciate being informed.

Westminster Social Policy Forum

UK Headquarters
4 Bracknell Beeches
Old Bracknell Lane West
Bracknell
Berkshire RG12 7BW

T: 01344 864796
F: 01344 420121
publications@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk

Directors

Peter van Gelder
Chris Whitehouse