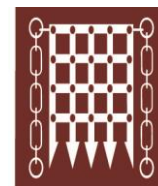


Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:

Next steps for devolution in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 6th May 2025

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Joe Robertson MP
- 9.05 **Proposed measures in the English Devolution White Paper, and looking ahead to the English Devolution Bill**
Professor Tony Travers, Professor in Practice; and Associate Dean, School of Public Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 9.15 **Lessons from implementing the mayoral combined county authority model**
Senior representative, combined authority
- 9.25 **Key considerations for delivering local government reorganisation**
Councillor Tim Oliver, Leader, Surrey County Council
- 9.35 **Implementing Trailblazer Deals - progress so far and next steps**
Senior representative, trailblazer combined authority
- 9.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 **Strategies for improving regional growth and frameworks for collaboration with stakeholders**
Senior representative, investment
- 10.15 **Priorities for supporting regional economic development and skills coordination**
expansion of local powers to deliver skills programmes | the Get Britain Working White Paper | growth opportunities and Investment Zones | delivering on local growth plans | role of devolved bodies in supporting the development of the Industrial Strategy | opportunities for inter-regional collaboration and working with arms-length bodies
Nigel Wilcock, Executive Director, Institute of Economic Development
Ginny Leonard, Director, Work Winning, Balfour Beatty
Michael Lemin, Head, Policy, NCFE
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, community
- 10.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Joe Robertson MP
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **The local government Finance Settlement and strategic options for establishing financial sustainability for the long-term**
Vicky Davis, Director, Local Government Value for Money, National Audit Office
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Next steps in effective delivery of public services - priorities for local and inter-regional transport, housing, and infrastructure**
learning from the experience of established combined authorities | improving regional connectivity | assessing future design and operation of regional transport in England | options for increasing autonomy in local transport infrastructure decision-making | next steps for developing an integrated transport system | support to help meet housebuilding targets and assessing proposed powers for combined authorities | developing effective Spatial Development Plans | assessing proposed measures in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill to change the powers of planning officers and planning committees | impact of reducing powers for planning committees | supporting retrofit delivery under the Warm Homes Plan
Chris Simms, Partner and Head, Rail, Burges Salmon
Senior representative, construction
Senior representative, transport
Senior representative, consultancy
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 **Delivery of measures in the English Devolution White Paper, and establishing an effective relationship between local and national government**
Jim McMahon OBE MP, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Social Policy Forum