

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for grid infrastructure in the UK

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 18th September 2024

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Blake of Leeds
- 9.05 **Key developments and progress in planning for the future of grid infrastructure**
Nick Winser, Commissioner, National Infrastructure Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Assessing government, regulator and industry priorities for grid development**
priorities for the National Energy System Operator, the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan and the Centralised Strategic Network Plan | role of traditional energy sources | progress on the Electricity Networks Transmission Acceleration Action Plan and Connections Action Plan | costs, finance, investor confidence in the Government's plans | ensuring supply keeps up with demand
Jack Presley Abbott, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Connections, Ofgem
Iain Smith, New Business and Strategy Director, Power Transmission and Distribution, Balfour Beatty
George Anstey, Senior Managing Director, NERA Economic Consulting
Jim Cardwell, Head, Distribution System Operation Policy, Northern Powergrid
Senior representative, finance
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Alternative approaches to policy and implementation**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Blake of Leeds
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Next steps for planning policy to enable a fit for purpose UK electricity network that can cope with net zero challenges**
Alice Etheridge, Head, Strategic Spatial Energy Planning, National Grid ESO
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Addressing key issues and assessing priorities for implementing reform**
community and environmental concerns | providing best value for consumers | assessing optimal and practical pace of change | policy priorities to enable delivery | increasing capacity | regional connectivity | planning reform | challenges for decarbonising the grid and enabling the integration of renewables and alternative energy sources | the move from a 'connect and build' to a 'build and manage' mentality
Frances Fernandes, Managing Director, Infrastructure Matters
Andy Manning, Head, Energy System Transformation, Citizens Advice
Senior representative, renewable energy
Senior representative, local authority
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 **Policy priorities for grid infrastructure**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment and Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum