

**Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for new towns in England**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 10th June 2025

Taking Place Online



**WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing the Government's vision for new towns in England and their role in meeting housebuilding targets**
Senior academic
- 9.15 **Key considerations for stakeholders in the planning and development of new towns**
looking ahead to the New Towns taskforce final report and key considerations | what is needed for development and rollout | challenges for infrastructure delivery, such as utilities and transport provision | the capacity of local authorities to deliver large scale projects | addressing environmental concerns and potential impact on existing communities | considerations for delivering affordable housing and the impact of new towns on meeting government housebuilding targets | meeting housing demand and developer standards | identifying potential sites for development | placemaking and ensuring new towns meet community needs | approaches for both urban extensions and standalone settlements | design quality and density | considerations for supporting public services provision | lessons from previous approaches
Robert Lloyd-Sweet, Head, Devolution and Local Government Policy, Historic England
Gary Soloman, Partner and Head, Planning and Compulsory Purchase, Burges Salmon
Paul Thomas, Director, Planning and Placemaking, Milton Keynes City Council
Senior speaker confirmed from **LDA Design**
Senior representative, charity
- 9.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 **Priorities for securing the release of land for new towns**
Senior representative, estate management
- 10.15 **Key environmental considerations and addressing concerns**
Clare Warburton, Deputy Director, Sustainable Development, Natural England
- 10.25 **Infrastructure needs and addressing strategic implementation challenges**
Senior representative, utilities
- 10.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **Creating partnerships, encouraging investment to accelerate delivery and the impact of wider planning policy**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Key considerations for developers and enhancing project engagement**
Senior representative, construction
- 11.50 **Practicalities for the delivery of new towns**
assessing delivery mechanisms | skills provision and addressing shortages | long-term infrastructure planning and transport connectivity | provision for social and affordable housing | design quality | managing public spaces in new towns | strategies for engagement with key stakeholders and developing effective collaboration | balancing commercial and community priorities
Maurice Lange, Analyst, Centre for Cities
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, skills
Senior representative, transport
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities and key considerations for stakeholders in the rollout of new towns**
Ellie de la Bedoyere, Deputy Director, New Towns, 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
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Social Policy Forum

This conference is supported by LDA Design

LD A DESIGN