

Westminster Business Forum policy conference
Next steps for public procurement in England and Wales

Timing: Morning, Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Taking Place Online



**WESTMINSTER
BUSINESS
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Implementation of the Procurement Act 2023: lessons so far and key considerations for the future**
Matthew Rees, Director, National Audit Office
- 9.20 **Early indications and issues following legislation going live**
progress and remaining priorities for simplifying procurement processes | leveraging the Central Digital Platform | improving oversight mechanisms | role of the Office for Value for Money | addressing barriers for small businesses | growing procurement spend on SME goods and services | options for flexible tendering procedures | fair payment practices | vulnerabilities to anti-competitive behaviour | role of the CMA and the Public Sector Fraud Authority | opportunities for AI and new technology in countering fraud | strategies for enhancing procurement capabilities | support from the Transforming Public Procurement programme | promoting best practice
Lindsay Maguire, Deputy Director for the Implementation of Procurement Reform, Cabinet Office
James Langworth, Government Sector Lead, Cloud Gateway
Lee White, Head, Strategic Procurement, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Senior representative, business
Senior representative, public body
Senior representative, legal
- 9.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Options for developing procurement policy moving forward**
Senior representative, think tank
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 **Advancing the role of public procurement in unlocking social value across the supply chain and meeting national policy objectives**
Guy Battle, CEO, Social Value Portal
- 11.10 **Collaboration and best practice in public procurement**
strategies for enhancing procurement capabilities | assessing insourcing and outsourcing | lessons from prominent business collapses | impacts on public service delivery | partnerships between public bodies and suppliers
Peter Schofield, Head, Integrated Commissioning and Procurement, Manchester City Council
Katharine Sutton, Chief Executive, Aspire Community Works
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **The way forward for procurement in the new policy landscape**
implementation challenges | procurement skills development across the system | promoting value for money and a fair market | leveraging public procurement to support national policy objectives such as net zero and priority growth sectors | addressing procurement fraud and anti-competitive practices | enhancing transparency through technology
Gareth Stace, Director General, UK Steel
Ian Schollar, Head, Teaching and Learning, Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply
Sarah Parker, Director, Procurement Policy, Capability and Social Impact, NHS Shared Business Services
Senior representative, consultancy
Senior representative, SME
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for public procurement**
Lindsay Maguire, Deputy Director for the Implementation of Procurement Reform, Cabinet Office
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Business Forum