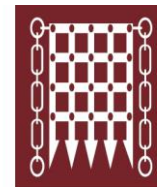


## Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar

### Next steps for the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor

Timing: Morning, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 **Establishing a long-term strategy for the Oxford-Cambridge region and key lessons from previous approaches**  
Senior representative, academic  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.15 **Harnessing the region's research and educational capacities and driving innovation**  
**Professor Alistair Fitt**, Vice Chancellor, Oxford Brookes University; and Chair, Arc Universities Group
- 9.25 **Key considerations for local authority coordination and achieving community buy-in**  
**Councillor Lucy Nethsingha**, Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council; and Lead Member for Skills, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- 9.35 **Realising the potential of the Oxford-Cambridge Supercluster - investment, infrastructure, skills and developing partnerships**  
**Matt Allen**, Executive Director, Oxford-Cambridge Supercluster
- 9.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.10 **Assessing the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor plan and priorities for delivery of infrastructure, housing, and improving connectivity**  
*identification of housebuilding locations | key East West Railway developments | impacts of reforms to the planning system - project timelines, support for development, addressing environmental concerns | local authority capacity for supporting developments | impacts on rural communities and housing affordability | delivery of planned road upgrades and improving connectivity | addressing water shortages and capacity of systems to meet increased demand*  
**Zoe Metcalfe**, Client Director, Local and Central Government, Atkins Realis  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, developer  
Senior representative, utilities  
Senior representative, environment  
Senior representative, planning and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 Break
- 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.20 **Delivery of East-West Rail - community engagement, optimising connectivity and supporting regional growth**  
**Martin Phillips**, Strategy Director, East West Railway Company  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Positioning the region as a global technology and science hub growth**  
*supporting Oxford-Cambridge region economic growth and leadership in innovation | strategic priorities for leveraging the region's skills, and strengths in research and technology | attracting investment | priorities for attracting international capital and partnerships | utilisation of R&D funding for supporting innovation and growth | developing clusters and support for key growth sectors | priorities for skills development and attracting talent | alignment and coordination of regional policy affecting the Corridor with the Government's wider industrial strategy | contributing to UK-wide economic and societal goals*  
Senior representative, investment  
Senior representative, industry  
Senior representative, skills  
Senior representative, local authority  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for Oxford-Cambridge Corridor and its positioning as a global hub for innovation**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Harry Nelson**, Westminster Social Policy Forum