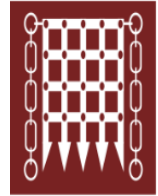


Westminster Social Policy Forum & Policy Forum for Wales keynote seminar:

Next steps for the Western Gateway

Timing: Morning, Friday, 21st June 2024

Taking Place Online



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Next steps for development of the Western Gateway - partnerships, outreach and the roles of key stakeholders**
John Wilkinson, Director, Western Gateway
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for attracting private investment and wider funding for the regional economy**
strategic options | moving forward ambitions in the Gateway's partnership with Bristol and Bath Regional Capital | findings from research on attracting investment for businesses, innovation and infrastructure | assessing place-based models and what has been learned so far for regional development | promoting the international profile of the Gateway | enabling economic growth across the region
Paul Moorby, Chair, Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Tony Miles, CEO, DST Innovations
Councillor Huw Thomas, Leader, Cardiff Council
Ed Rowberry, Chief Executive, Bristol and Bath Regional Capital
Senior representative, business
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Infrastructure and regeneration in the Western Gateway**
key priorities and options for supporting local development, services and trade | improving cross-border connectivity | prioritising sustainable construction practice and implementation | key issues for environmental protection | assessing what can be learnt from regeneration projects across the region and more widely | support for inclusive cross-border renewal and development in the region's rural communities
Rhianydd Griffith, Stakeholder Lead, West of England Industrial Cluster
Alasdair MacDonald, Regional Director, Balfour Beatty
Ben Pritchard, Cardiff Office Lead, Arup
Senior speaker confirmed from the **National Grid Electricity Distribution**
Questions 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 **Sustainable development, net zero and potential for the region's leadership in areas such as hydrogen**
opportunities and strategic options | accessing support via government green policy plans | utilising the area's natural potential | priorities for decarbonising energy, transport and industry in the region | assessing the Hydrogen Gateway's potential in delivering sustainability targets, facilitating economic growth and growing partnerships with industry
Councillor Annemieke Waite, Executive Member for Climate, Waste and Sustainability, North Somerset Council
Luciana Ciubotariu, CEO, Celtic Freeports
Steve Horrax, Head of Energy Transition UK, Ramboll
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Supporting future regional growth**
supporting career opportunities, employment and capabilities across the region | priorities for harnessing research and innovation strengths | examining plans for the UK's first pan-national Cyber Super Cluster | building upon the region's digital innovation strengths in AI, 5G, computing and robotics | establishing a coordinated approach and long-term funding for skills development | strengthening collaboration within the third sector
Joanna Jenkinson, Director, GW4 Alliance
David Bull, Director, MyWorld
Senior representative, skills
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for the Western Gateway pan-regional partnership**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Forum Projects