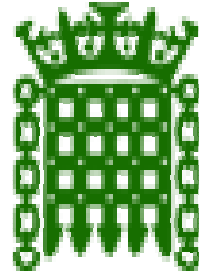




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House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA
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Westminster Social Policy Forum Keynote Seminar

Next steps for the Northern Powerhouse - investment, infrastructure and innovation

with

Tom Walker, Director, Cities & Local Growth Unit and
Jessica Bowles, Head of Policy, Partnerships and
Research, Growth and Neighbourhoods Directorate,
Manchester City Council

and

Professor Phil Diamond, SKA Organisation; **Nigel
Wilcock**, Institute for Economic Development and **Guy
Parker**, Confederation of British Industry

Chaired by:

Angela Rayner MP, Member of Parliament for Ashton-
under-Lyne

This event is **CPD certified**

Morning, Thursday, 14th April 2016
Central Manchester

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within the Light Rail industry and invited members of the Public will have
a chance to discuss debate and raise questions concerning Light Rail.

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Mr Jim Harkins FCILT

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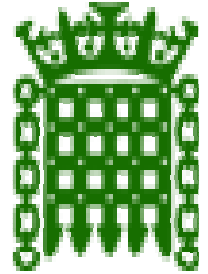
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Dear Mr Harkins

I am writing to give you advance notice of the above seminar. Please note there is a charge for most delegates, although concessionary and complimentary places are available (subject to terms and conditions - see below).

This timely seminar will assess policy priorities and key implementation issues for rebalancing the economy and strengthening regions across the UK, focusing on:

- Developing the necessary infrastructure, including issues around connectivity, collaboration and finance; and
- Attracting businesses and investment, and meeting skills needs.

I thought the subject matter would be of particular interest to you as delegates are expected to discuss **the role of transport** in delivering economic growth.

The agenda includes keynote contributions from **Tom Walker**, Director, Cities & Local Growth Unit and **Jessica Bowles**, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Research, Growth and Neighbourhoods Directorate, Manchester City Council.

Delegates will discuss the impact of new measures announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, including the £400 million [Northern Powerhouse investment fund](#) which has been created to help small businesses to grow, and the latest developments on the work that Transport for the North and the Department for Transport are doing on the [northern transport strategy](#).

Further sessions will look at wider issues in the context of the [Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill](#), including the policy landscape for devolution and the role of elected mayors, and how to encourage science-based and innovative companies to relocate to different regions across the country.

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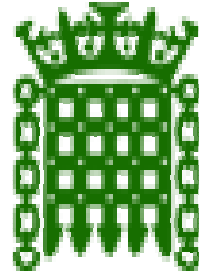
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Overall, areas for discussion include:

- Priorities for developing infrastructure and regional connectivity;
- Opportunities and challenges for LEPs and mayoralities in the regionally devolved context;
- The impact of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill;
- Science, innovation and regional growth;
- Key issues for meeting skills development needs; and
- Next steps for devolution and financing.

The draft agenda is copied below my signature, and a regularly updated version is available to download [here](#). The seminar is organised on the basis of strict impartiality by the Westminster Social Policy Forum.

Speakers

We are delighted to be able to include in this seminar keynote addresses from: **Jessica Bowles**, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Research, Growth and Neighbourhoods Directorate, Manchester City Council; **Professor Phil Diamond**, Director General, SKA Organisation; **Tom Walker**, Director, Cities & Local Growth Unit; **Nigel Wilcock**, Director, Institute for Economic Development and **Guy Parker**, Assistant Director, North West, Confederation of British Industry.

Angela Rayner MP, Member of Parliament for Ashton-under-Lyne has kindly agreed to chair part of this seminar.

Additional senior participants are being approached, but if you or a colleague would like to be considered as a speaker at this seminar, please contact us at speakeroffers@forumsupport.co.uk specifying the event and session where you would like to speak and we'll get back to you as soon as possible. If you are offering to speak yourself please don't fill in the booking form, as this will be taken as an order and you will be charged for a place subject to our T&Cs.

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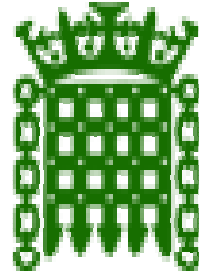
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Networking

Westminster Social Policy Forum seminars present an opportunity to engage with key policymakers and other interested parties, and are **CPD** certified ([more details](#)). Typically, attendees at our seminars are a senior and informed group numbering around 100, including Members of both Houses of Parliament, senior government officials involved in this area of social policy, representatives of citizen groups, local authorities, campaigning organisations, businesses and their advisors and social and academic commentators, together with reporters from the national and trade press.

Output and About Us

A key output of the seminar will be a transcript of the proceedings, sent out around 10 working days after the event to all attendees and a wider group of Ministers and officials at DCLG, DfT, HM Treasury and other government departments and agencies affected by the issues; and Parliamentarians with a special interest in these areas. It will also be made available more widely. This document will include transcripts of all speeches and questions and answers sessions from the day, along with access to PowerPoint presentations, speakers' biographies, an attendee list, an agenda, sponsor information, as well as any subsequent press coverage of the day and any articles or comment pieces submitted by delegates. It is made available subject to strict restrictions on public use, similar to those for Select Committee Uncorrected Evidence, and is intended to provide timely information for interested parties who are unable to attend on the day.

All delegates will receive complimentary PDF copies and are invited to contribute to the content.

The Westminster Social Policy Forum is strictly impartial and cross-party, and draws on the considerable support it receives from within Parliament and Government, and amongst the wider stakeholder community. The Forum has no policy agenda of its own. Forum events are frequently the platform for major policy statements from senior Ministers, regulators and other officials, opposition speakers and senior opinion-formers in industry and interest groups. Events regularly receive prominent coverage in the national and trade press.

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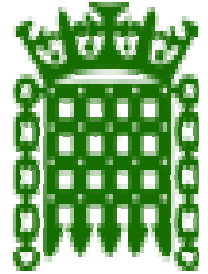
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Booking arrangements

To book places, please use our [online booking form](#).

Once submitted, this will be taken as a confirmed booking and will be subject to our terms and conditions below.

Please pay in advance by credit card on 01344 864796. If advance credit card payment is not possible, please let me know and we may be able to make other arrangements.

Options and charges are as follows:

- Places at *Next steps for the Northern Powerhouse - investment, infrastructure and innovation* (including refreshments and PDF copy of the transcripts) are **£210** plus VAT;
- Concessionary rate places for small charities, unfunded individuals and those in similar circumstances are **£80** plus VAT. Please be sure to apply for this at the time of booking.

For those who cannot attend:

- Copies of the [briefing document](#), including full transcripts of all speeches and the questions and comments sessions and further articles from interested parties, will be available approximately **10 days** after the event for **£95** plus VAT;
- Concessionary rate: **£50** plus VAT.

If you find the charge for places a barrier to attending, please let me know as concessionary and complimentary places are made available in certain circumstances (but do be advised that this typically applies to individual service users or carers or the like who are not supported by or part of an organisation, full-time students, people between jobs or who are fully retired with no paid work, and representatives of small charities - not businesses, individuals funded by an organisation, or larger charities/not-for-profit companies). Please note terms and conditions below (including **cancellation charges**).

I do hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be a most useful morning, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ryan

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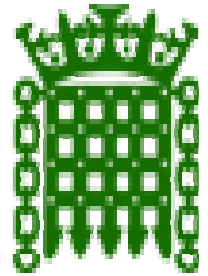
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Westminster Social Policy Forum Keynote Seminar:

Next steps for the Northern Powerhouse - investment, infrastructure and innovation

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 14th April 2016

Venue: Central Manchester

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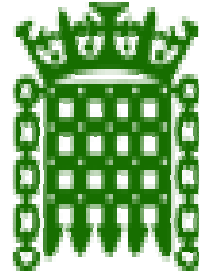
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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Angela Rayner MP, Member of Parliament for Ashton-under-Lyne
- 9.05 - 9.15 **The policy landscape for devolution and the role of cities**
Nigel Wilcock, Director, Institute for Economic Development
- 9.15 - 9.35 **Case study: economic development in Greater Manchester**
Jessica Bowles, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Research, Growth and Neighbourhoods Directorate,
Manchester City Council
Questions and comments from the floor with **Nigel Wilcock**, Director, Institute for Economic Development
- Priorities for infrastructure - connectivity, collaboration and finance**
- 9.35 - 9.45 Senior representative, finance
- 9.45 - 9.55 Senior representative, local authority
- 9.55 - 10.05 Senior representative, local enterprise
- 10.05 - 10.15 Senior representative, communications
- 10.15 - 10.25 Senior representative, infrastructure
- 10.25 - 10.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Angela Rayner MP, Member of Parliament for Ashton-under-Lyne
- 11.00 - 11.25 Coffee

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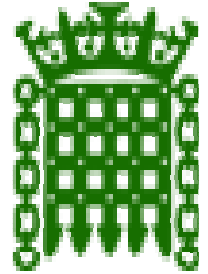
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11.25 - 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**

Senior Parliamentarian

Attracting businesses and investment - enterprise, skills and innovation

11.30 - 11.40 **Professor Phil Diamond**, Director General, SKA Organisation

11.40 - 11.50 Senior representative, technology centre

11.50 - 12.00 Senior representative, industry

12.00 - 12.10 **Guy Parker**, Assistant Director, North West, Confederation of British Industry

12.10 - 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 - 12.55 **Next steps for devolution and the Northern Powerhouse**

Tom Walker, Director, Cities & Local Growth Unit

Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**

Senior Parliamentarian

Michael Ryan, Deputy Editor, Westminster Social Policy Forum

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