

Windsor Debates, 23rd -24th September 2021

Building back better: Strengthening Digital and Physical Infrastructure



The theme of our September 2021 [Windsor Debate](#) reflected one of the key priorities in our [2021 Business Manifesto](#), namely to:

“promote the need for investment in a resilient infrastructure network for the Thames Valley, strengthening provision of physical and digital networks that will support the region’s future sustainable economic growth and innovation.” During this event, we continued to build on the sustainability discussion which was central to the [March 2021 Windsor Debate](#).

Outcomes of the debate were fed into Alok Sharma, President of COP26 and his wider team ahead of the UK-hosted [COP26](#) in November 2021.

	Time	Session Title	Speakers
1	14:00-15:30	<p>Introduction and Scene Setting</p> <p>Hugh will outline the underlying themes of this event and contextualise them providing a localised, UK wide and global perspective on the overall direction of action to address climate change and sustainability.</p>	<p>Iain Anderson, Facilitator Paul Britton, TVCC, Bill Gornall-King, TVCC & Miranda Barker, East Lands Chamber Hugh Milward, Microsoft James Pincus, Corporate Finance Partner, PwC James Pincus, Hugh Millward, Miranda Barker</p>
2	16:00-18:00	<p>Towards a stronger, more sustainable digital infrastructure</p> <p>During this session we will focus on digital infrastructure, applications for delivering sustainable development and ‘net zero’ ambitions, as well as the efficiency of technology and the various benefits of 5G. Simon and Martin will be discussing how businesses can build back better by having a ‘digital fabric’.</p>	<p>Simon Haston and Martin Tufft, BT Helen Moore, Valley Spark Marko Jovanovic, Ericsson</p>
3a	09:30-10:30	<p>Future resilience of the <u>built environment</u></p> <p>This session will focus on two areas: Part 1: Built environment and Part 2: Sustainable fuels. During this first part of the session we will discuss the importance of environmental planning as well as decarbonisation, battery technology, and multi-modal transport.</p>	<p>Lucy Wood Barton Willmore Planning Anita Kasseean, Blake Morgan Nia Watkins Network Rail.</p>
3b	10:30-11:30	<p>Future resilience of <u>physical infrastructure</u></p> <p>During this part of the session we will focus on future water planning and resources, as well as sustainable fuels and the electrification of the aviation industry.</p>	<p>Sarah Bentley, CEO, Thames Water Rachel Solomon Williams, Dept for Transport Matt Gorman, Heathrow Howard Dale, Kawasaki UK</p>
4	12:30-14:00	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Shevaun will be summarising the key takeaways from the two days of debate. As Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, she will also talk about how the network will advocate for agreed priorities. David will explain and outline the potential of multi-stakeholder partnerships, and methods to make progress. These are very different from conventional consultations but have demonstrated potential to overcome suspicions, hostility and to build common ground and trust. Relevant examples, including from our region, will illustrate the points.</p>	<p>Shevaun Haviland, Director General, BCC Prof David Simon, RHUL Paul Britton, TVCC Iain Anderson, Facilitator Bill Gornall-King, TVCC</p>