

# DCN Annual Conference 2024

14 -15 March 2024

Sopwell House



## Day 1: Thursday 14 March

11.30am	<b>Registration opens</b>
11.45am	<b>Exhibition and lunch</b>
12.30pm	<b>Conference starts: Welcome</b> <b>Trevor Holden</b> , Chair of DCN Chief Executive Group and Managing Director, Broadland and South Norfolk Councils
12.35pm	<b>Opening address</b> <b>Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen</b> , DCN Chairman
12.45pm	<b>Panel discussion: Seizing the initiative on the environment</b> <b>Dr Lucy Hubble-Rose</b> , Deputy Director, UCL Climate Action Unit <b>Professor Adam Beaumont</b> , Environmentalist and entrepreneur <b>Cllr Andrew Mellen</b> , Leader, Mid Suffolk District Council <b>Chair: Adele Gritten</b> , Chief Executive, Local Partnerships
1.25pm	<b>Ministerial keynote speech</b> <b>Simon Hoare MP</b> , Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities <b>Chair: Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen</b> , DCN Chairman and Leader, Breckland Council
1.45pm	<b>Keynote speech: the Liberal Democrat view</b> <b>Helen Morgan MP</b> , Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Housing, Communities and Local Government <b>Chair: Cllr Bridget Smith</b> , DCN Vice Chair (Liberal Democrat) and Leader, South Cambridgeshire District Council
2.15pm	<b>Breakout sessions</b> <b>Session 1: Oflog and the future of sector-led improvement</b> (Princess Victoria) <b>Session 2: Mind the detection gap! How to avoid the cyber danger zone</b> (Mountbatten Suite) <b>Session 3: Districts driving the skills and employment agenda</b> (Princess Alice)

3.00pm	<b>Refreshments, networking and exhibition</b>
3.25pm	<p><b>Panel discussion: Investing in our places</b></p> <p><b>Lord Harrington of Watford</b>, Chair, Review of Foreign Direct Investment  <b>Sarah Longlands</b>, Chief Executive, Centre for Local Economic Strategies  <b>Chris Vann</b>, Chief Operating Officer, Autolus Technologies  <b>Andrew Taylor</b>, Group Planning Director, Vistry Group</p> <p><i>Chair: Rose Rouse, Vice Chair of DCN Chief Executive Group and Chief Executive, Pendle Borough Council</i></p>
4.15pm	<p><b>Keynote speech</b></p> <p><b>Chris Boardman</b>, National Active Travel Commissioner and Chair, Sport England</p> <p><i>Chair: Ian Fytche, Vice Chair of DCN Chief Executive Group and Chief Executive, North Kesteven District Council</i></p>
4.45pm	<p><b>Keynote speech: the Labour view</b></p> <p><b>Liz Twist MP</b>, Shadow Minister for Local Services and Communities</p> <p><i>Chair: Cllr Susan Brown, DCN Vice Chair (Labour) and Leader, Oxford City Council</i></p>
5:05pm	<p><b>Panel discussion: Supporting our communities in difficult times</b></p> <p><b>Dame Clare Moriarty</b>, Chief Executive, Citizens Advice  <b>Sumi Rabindrakumar</b>, Head of Policy and Research, Trussell Trust  <b>Dr Simon Kaye</b>, Director of Policy, Reform</p> <p><i>Chair: Cllr Hannah Dalton, Leader, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council</i></p>
5:45pm	<b>Close of day one: exhibition, networking and free time</b>
7.30pm	<p><b>Drinks reception</b></p> <p>Sponsored by:</p> 
8.15pm	<p><b>Conference gala dinner</b></p> <p>Sponsored by:</p>  <p><b>After dinner speaker: Steph McGovern, Journalist and TV Presenter</b></p>

# DCN Annual Conference 2024

14 -15 March 2024

Sopwell House



## Day 2: Friday 15 March

8.30am	<b>Refreshments and exhibition</b>
8.45am	<b>Closed political group meetings (for councillors only)</b> <b>Conservative Group</b> (Lord Mountbatten Room) <b>Independent Group</b> (Lady Patricia / Princess Alice Room) <b>Labour Group</b> (Prince Louis Room) <b>Liberal Democrat Group</b> (Princess Victoria Room)
8:45am	<b>Closed chief executive session (for officers only)</b> (St Albans Suite)
9.30am	<b>Keynote: the AI revolution</b> <b>Dr Chris Meah</b> , Chief Executive, School of Code and Chair, West Midlands AI Strategy Board <b>Chair: Dr Catherine Howe</b> , Chief Executive, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council
10.00am	<b>Panel discussion: Preventing future problems</b> <b>The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt</b> , Former Secretary of State for Health <b>Sarah Perman</b> , Director of Public Health, Hertfordshire County Council <b>Chair: Cllr Richard Wright</b> , Leader, North Kesteven District Council
10.45am	<b>LGA Chairman's address</b> <b>Cllr Shaun Davies</b> , Chairman, Local Government Association <b>Chair: Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen</b> , DCN Chairman and Leader, Breckland Council
11.05am	<b>Refreshments, networking and exhibition</b>

11.30am	<p><b>Breakout sessions</b></p> <p><b>Session 1: The next frontier in workforce transformation</b> (Princess Victoria)</p> <p><b>Session 2: Reimagining energy in our homes and communities</b> (Princess Alice)</p> <p><b>Session 3: Creating a high-performing culture in a political environment</b> (Mountbatten Suite)</p>
12:15pm	<p><b>Panel discussion: What voters think</b></p> <p><b>Gideon Skinner</b>, Head of Politics Research, Ipsos</p> <p><b>Professor Sir John Curtice</b>, Professor of Politics, Strathclyde University and Senior Research Fellow, National Centre for Social Research</p> <p><i>Chair: Laura Taylor, Chief Executive, Winchester City Council</i></p>
12.55pm	<p><b>Keynote: Embracing the challenge of leadership</b></p> <p><b>Luca Feser</b>, Trans-Pacific Rowing Team</p> <p><i>Chair: Trevor Holden, Chair of DCN Chief Executive Group and Managing Director, Broadland and South Norfolk Councils</i></p>
1.25pm	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen</b>, Chairman, District Councils' Network</p>
1.30pm	<p><b>Lunch and networking</b></p>
2.00pm	<p><b>Conference closes</b></p>

## DCN Conference 2024 Strategic Partners



## DCN Conference 2024 Exhibitor Partners

