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| **Programme****DCN Annual Conference 2025**De Vere Beaumont Estate WindsorThursday 13 – Friday 14 March 2025 **Day 1: Thursday 13 March** | **A purple text on a black background  Description automatically generated** |
| 11.30 | Registration opens |
| 11.45 | Lunch, networking and exhibition |
| 12.30 | **Conference open and welcome** **Trevor Holden,** Chair, DCN Chief Executive Group |
| 12.35 | **Opening address****Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen,** DCN Chair and Leader, Breckland Council  |
| 12.45 | **Keynote Speech: Devolution, Reorganisation and the future of local government****Jim McMahon OBE MP,** Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution***Chair: Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen,*** *DCN Chair* |
| 1.15 | **Keynote Speech: Making the most of devolution****Mayor Claire Ward,** Mayor of East Midlands Combined Authority***Chair: Kath Marriott,*** *Chief Executive, North Kesteven District Council* |
| 1.45 | **Reorganisation: maximizing the opportunity and navigating the challenges****Rachel Shimmin,** Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire Council**Jonathan Carr-West**, Chief Executive, Local Government Information Unit**Dr Simon Kaye,** Policy Director, Reform Think Tank**Dr Catherine Howe**, Chief Executive, Adur and Worthing Councils***Chair: Chris Naylor,*** *Managing Director, Inner Circle Consulting* |
| 2.40 | **Squaring the circle? Balancing housing and growth with environmental sustainability****Toby Perkins MP**, Chair, Environmental Audit Committee**Oliver Harmar**, Chief Operating Officer, Natural England**Phil Courtier**, Director of Place, South Norfolk and Broadland Councils***Chair: Rose Rouse,*** *Chief Executive, Pendle Borough Council* |
| 3.20 | Refreshments, networking and exhibition |
| 3.45 | **Breakout sessions****Session 1: Delivering housing in partnership****Session 2: Innovative approaches to ethical debt management****Session 3: Boosting your council’s cyber security defences** |
| 4.30 | **Tackling the housing crisis****Sarah Longlands**, Chief Executive, Centre for Local Economic Strategies**Gavin Smart,** Chief Executive, Chartered Institute Housing**Charlie Trew,** Director of Policy, Shelter***Chair: Dr Susan Priest,*** *Chief Executive, Folkestone & Hythe District Council* |
| 5.15 | Close of conference day one: exhibition, networking and free time |
| 7:15 | **Drinks reception** Sponsored by:**C:\Users\jonathan.werran\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\DI50RIYV\CCLA_Logo_Grey_CMYK.PNG** |
| 8.00 | **Conference dinner**Sponsored by: **After-dinner speaker: Reverend Richard Coles** |

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| **Programme****DCN Annual Conference 2025**De Vere Beaumont Estate WindsorThursday 13 – Friday 14 March 2025 **Day 2: Friday 14 March** | **A purple text on a black background  Description automatically generated** |
| 8.15 | Refreshments, networking and exhibition |
| 8.30 | **Closed political group meetings (for councillors only)**Conservative Group Independent Group Labour Group Liberal Democrat Group |
| 8.30 | **Closed chief executive session (for officers only)** |
| 9.15 | **The view from the opposition****Kevin Hollinrake MP,** Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government**Gideon Amos MP,** Liberal Democrat Housing and Planning Spokesperson**Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*****Chair: Cllr Hannah Dalton,*** *DCN Vice Chair* |
| 9.55 | **The view from the Government****Baroness Taylor of Stevenage OBE,** Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government***Chair: Cllr Bridget Smith,*** *DCN Vice Chair* |
| 10.25 | **LGA Chair’s address****Cllr Louise Gittins,** Chair,Local Government Association ***Chair: Cllr Susan Brown,*** *DCN Vice Chair* |
| 10.45 | Refreshments, networking and exhibition |
| 11.10 | **Breakout sessions****Session 1: Navigating the transition to unitary councils: lessons and top tips from recent history****Session 2: How to succeed in running Adult Social Care and Children’s Services in a new unitary council****Session 3: Double devolution: retaining a strong sense of place in new unitary councils** |
| 12.00 | **Inspiring and leading people in times of change****Pam Parkes**, President, Public Services People Management Association**Dawar Hashmi,** Director of Recruitment, Penna**Peter Brown,** Global Markets Leader, PwC People and Organisation***Chair: Maxine O’Mahony,*** *Chief Executive, Breckland Council* |
| 12.45 | **Perspectives on leadership****Deborah Cadman OBE,** Former Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council***Chair: Jon McGinty,*** *Managing Director, Gloucester City Council* |
| 1.15 | **Closing remarks****Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen***,* DCN Chair |
| 1.20 | Lunch, networking and close of conference |