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| **Programme**  **DCN Annual Conference 2025**  De Vere Beaumont Estate Windsor  Thursday 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 Windsor  Thursday 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 | |