

pro-manchester



# REG CONNECTS

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

Latest agenda



# Bridgewater Hall | 2<sup>nd</sup> July

**08:30 — Doors open, registration and networking  
Refreshments and exhibitor marketplace**

**09:10 — Host welcome  
Setting the scene for the day**

**09:15 — Opening fireside: Manchester's mission for equity, inclusive growth and economic ambition  
Tom Stannard, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council**

**09:35 — Corporate insight and panel: Reframing racial equity as competitive advantage, beyond compliance  
Opening speech sparking interactive discussion with diverse experts on commercial accountability and impact**

**10:15 — Interactive roundtables  
Small-group discussions on careers, collaboration, business scaling, digital transformation, funding and regional models**

**11:00 — Coffee and networking  
Continue conversations and visit exhibition stands.**

**11:30 — Fireside chat: Leading through uncertainty - staying committed in a changing climate  
Senior leaders on sustaining EDI amid scrutiny, fatigue and political pressure.**

**11:50 — Insight and panel: Measuring what matters — beyond pledges to proof  
Speech sparking discussion on turning diversity commitments into measurable business impact**

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**12:30 — Keynote: Forged in Fire - community leadership, racial equity and business resilience**

**Professor Erinma Bell MBE, Community Peace Activist and COO,  
Carisma on resilience and legacy**

**12:40 — Panel: How business leaders are embedding racial equity across culture, talent and supply chains**

**Professor Erinma Bell MBE**

**Ifem Onuora (Head of Race Equity and Inclusion, FA Premier League)**

**Cordelle Ofori (Director of Public Health, Manchester City Council)**

**13:10 — Lunch and networking**

**Close of plenary sessions**

**Interactive Afternoon**

**14:00 — Main Stage: Dragons Den with EMBs**

**Ethnic minority businesses pitching to accelerators, investors and procurement leaders**

**14:00 — Round Tables**

**Continued facilitated discussions from morning topics**

**14:00 — Workshops**

**Workshop 1: Creating and embedding psychological safety**

**Martina Witter, Founder, Rapha Therapy Services**

**Workshop 2: Creating safer, more inclusive workplaces: Workshop leader TBC**

**15:30 — Conference close**