

CIHT North East & Cumbria Future Transport Conference 2023: Planning for Net Zero – Keynote Speakers:

Neil Johnstone – CIHT President



Neil has over 40 years of experience having worked in contracting, local government and consultancy for Balfour Beatty, Lothian Region, Halcrow, Systra and CONSULT-NJ Ltd. He chaired CIHT's Scottish Policy Forum and became a trustee in 2018 as well as chairing the Appian Board and Learned Society/Technical Strategy Board. His career included design of Edinburgh City Bypass, road maintenance, traffic management and transport planning. Neil was an expert witness at the Edinburgh Congestion Charge Inquiry and carried out feasibility studies and appraisal of various modes including rail, road, busways, harbours and ferries.

Andrew Crudgington – Climate Change Associate, CIHT



Andrew has been CIHT Climate Change Associate since February 2021. A key focus of his work is helping members identify and access the knowledge and support they need to deliver transport decarbonisation through their job roles. He has over 20 years' experience in the infrastructure sector, and was previously Director of External Affairs and Strategy at the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Simon Pope – Technical Director, WSP



Simon Pope is a Technical Director and leader of WSP's Transport Net Zero Team which is currently authoring the Quantifiable Carbon Reduction Guidance on behalf of Government that is set to catalyse carbon reduction in local transport planning and funding. He has advised a broad range of authorities on the scale of the decarbonisation challenge and the package of policy measures needed to address it, and is working closely with the Sub-National Transport Bodies to develop supporting evidence to help shape the next generation of Local Transport Plans that respond to the Net Zero agenda.

Timothy Crawshaw MA MRTPI FRSA – 2022 RTPI President



Timothy Crawshaw MA MRTPI FRSA is the 2022 President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, working as an International Planning and Development Consultant in the areas of urban design, planning, green infrastructure, energy efficiency and sustainable transport. With experience in Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East, alongside an expanding UK practice, he has a specific interest in the role of the nature-based approaches to addressing the climate emergency, alongside improving health and wellbeing outcomes and tackling inequality. Timothy is an experienced lecturer, trainer and facilitator with a passion for community development, and he continues to champion the role of planning as a key part of the solution to the challenges of our times. Timothy is currently the Chair of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership.

Chris Beck – Group Director of Clean Growth and Innovation, Tees Valley Combined Authority Group



Chris leads on the clean growth, innovation, and inward investment agenda for the Tees Valley Combined Authority Group. He previously led the TWI research and training centre in Middlesbrough. Chris spent 10 years working as a technical consultant for the UK government, initially for DTI then UKTI focusing on innovation and research focused inward investment in the engineering and materials sectors. His role covered Canada, India, and the US. He has a background in opt electronic and materials manufacturing, having previously led development teams at GEC Marconi. Chris has a bachelor's degree and Ph.D. in Material Science from Leeds University.

Philip Meikle – Transport Strategy Director, Transport North East



Philip, in his role as Transport Strategy Director, ensures the delivery of impactful region-wide strategies and policies including the North East Transport Plan which was adopted in 2021. Philip is a huge advocate of the region's public transport network. He plays a key role in shaping the future direction of regional transport policy on behalf of the North East Joint Transport Committee which brings together the two Combined Authorities in North East England.

Michael Barry – Senior Manager Economy and Place, Cumbria County Council



Michael Barry is Senior Manager for Economy and Place at Cumbria County Council; he has a background in transport planning, economic development and town planning and is a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute. Michael is responsible for developing transport strategy which includes the 2022 Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan together with scheme initiation and development; he also leads engagement in local plan development and regeneration activity including the integration of transport improvements.

Pete Ramsey – Technical Director, WSP



Peter Ramsey is a Technical Director with a background in both transport planning and town planning and has wide ranging experience from 25 years in consultancy. Peter leads WSP's Future Mobility policy and strategy offer and specialises in providing advice to local, sub-national and national clients. His experience as a project leader covers all aspects of transport planning but he has turned his skills to face future mobility over the last few years and is now taking a particular interest in supporting greater mobility and accessibility within our rural communities.

Helen Matthews – Head of Corporate Planning, Nexus



Helen is Head of Corporate Planning for Nexus, the Passenger Transport Executive for Tyne and Wear and owner and operator of the Tyne and Wear Metro and Shields Ferry. Public Transport is part of the solution to the climate emergency and supporting the journey to net zero. Helen's role at Nexus includes the development of strategies and policies to inform the development of public transport services based on robust evidence. Nexus has recently published an Environment and Sustainability strategy and the principles are woven through Nexus' strategy suite and its Corporate Business Plan.

Paula McMahon – Regional Supervising Officer, Sir Robert McAlpine



Paula is a well-known multi award winning Civil Engineer who helps shapes our region and the whole industry through several roles. As well as being the Founding Chair of a collaborative engineering group, Engineering Together, she is an ICE Trustee and Head of ICE UK Regions. Her own social value work includes combining careers with climate education, promoting projects and climate action through international publications and supporting specific industry SDG initiatives. Paula is an advocate of a truly sustainable and equitable future and believes we can all make a real difference as transport professionals and as members of society.

Graham Grant – Director of Transport and Planning, Active Travel England



Graham is the Director of Planning and Development for Active Travel England having joined after almost 15 years in local and regional government. Formerly Assistant Director for Transport at Newcastle City Council, he led a team of more than 200 people and was responsible for all aspects of transport linked to a highway authority including development and design of both policy and projects; as well as overseeing teams who acted as statutory consultees in the planning process.

Carwyn Thomas – Colour Urban Design



Carwyn is a Senior Landscape Architect with over 15 years' experience. He's worked on a range of projects including those in the residential, healthcare, leisure, public realm and the education sectors. He has a strong desire to address local as well as global problems in the hopes that it will create healthier more resilient communities. Recently he envisioned a future for Gateshead Riverside Park. His bold vision transcends conventional design and brings together different sectors and techniques to transform the park and create a community resource which will make the local community healthier, wealthier and wiser while at the same time creating a unique waterfront destination which will be globally recognisable.

Clare Richardson – Project Manager, Gateshead Council



Clare Richardson is a Project Manager specialising in cultural and natural projects. She is an experienced conservation officer with over 20 years' experience of heritage led regeneration. Her strengths lie in partnership building and multi-disciplinary approaches to create innovative responses to improve place making and create environments which will enable their communities to grow. Most recently she has led the Gateshead Riverside Partnership to deliver a £550,000 Community Renewal Fun project to kick start and design the revitalisation of Gateshead Riverside Park and Dunston Staiths. She is a member of Sun City Triathlon club and regularly takes part in open water challenges.

Laura Martin – Head of Development, Engie / Equans



Laura Martin is Head of Development specialising in the delivery of housing for the Northeast and Cumbria. Laura has held numerous positions within Development Management Sections at leading Local Authorities. Her biggest claim to fame was working on the Daniel Libeskind Cosmology Centre in association with Durham University and Durham County Council. Laura then went on to lead the housing development function of DCC, having direct responsibility for the delivery of affordable housing development within the county. Having recently taken up the role Laura now heads the development function of Equans, pushing forward the delivery of housing across the northern region.

Adrian Kemp – Director, WSP



Adrian Kemp is a Director within WSPs Planning and Advisory business, responsible for strategic growth and discipline Head of the Local Government sector. He is a respected expert in the formulation of development strategy, business case development and has a proven track record in securing investment across the North of England and nationally. He has provided advisory support to Local Authorities, City Regions and Combined Authorities as well as delivering success to private sector development schemes and helping shape economic regeneration through public/private sector collaboration.