

John Pope

Chairperson

John became involved with the London Stansted Airport Transport Forum whilst Head of Passenger Transport at Essex County Council from 2005 until 2018. During this time, he was Chairman of the Bus and Coach Working Group and a member of the Rail Working Group. In 2014 he was appointed Chairman of the Transport Forum and continues in this role.

Most of his career has been spent in the bus industry and he has worked in Kent, Oxfordshire, the West Midlands, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, South Yorkshire, Humberside, Norfolk and Suffolk. His career has included the post of Managing Director of Nottingham City Transport, of a First Group Company and Commercial Director of a Stagecoach Group company.

He worked with the Passenger Transport team at Thurrock Council from 2008 and was Senior Project Manager Public Transport from 2018 until 2023.

He is also Policy Advisor to the Public Transport Consortium of the Local Government Association which represents Shire and Unitary Authorities. He also is Advisor to London Southend Airport on surface access issues.



Chris Woodroffe

Managing Director, Manchester Airport

Chris was appointed Managing Director of Manchester Airport in June 2022, having previously served as Chief Operating Officer at London Gatwick Airport, where he led numerous successful people, process and system change programmes.

Since joining, Chris has led a period of continuous growth at Manchester Airport, the UK's largest airport outside of London, with passenger numbers having surpassed 30 million for the first time in its history. At the same time, Chris is also overseeing one of the region's largest private infrastructure investments, the £1.3 billion transformation of Terminal 2.

Chris' leadership extends beyond the Airport; he currently holds multiple board positions, including the Liverpool-Manchester Railway Board, contributing to the growth and connectivity of the North.

Chris is a chartered chemical engineer who holds a first-class master's degree from Imperial College London and an MBA with distinction from the University of Warwick.



Alistair Andrew

Strategic Planning Director, MAG

Alistair is a chartered Town Planner with over 20 years' experience in planning and infrastructure development, across public and private sectors, and joined MAG 10 years ago.

He leads MAG's Strategic Planning across all the group's airports, developing plans and requirements that support MAG's strategy and growth over the long-term, develops plans for short term infrastructure needs, as well as ensuring that new technologies and innovation are captured in MAG's future development.

Whilst at MAG, Alistair has been responsible for the delivery of several high-profile projects including major planning permissions, and developing Airport Sustainable Development Plans and masterplanning for Transformation Programmes.



Simon Elliott

Network Director for Rail, Transport for Greater Manchester

Simon heads up the Greater Manchester Rail Team for TfGM. A Programme Manager by training, his professional expertise is in new station construction and how to best deliver regeneration and station improvements to meet the needs of the travelling public, the communities they serve and making our stations accessible for all.

Simon has more than 17 years of rail experience working on the Birmingham Gateway Project, delivering two new stations on the East-West Rail Project and supporting the Network Rail Civils Assessment Framework. More recently, he has led Greater Manchester in securing a trailblazer deal with central government that will unlock the integration of rail into the Greater Manchester Bee Network.



Simon Taylor Principal Sponsor, Network Rail

Simon is the Principal Sponsor for Network Rail's Manchester Transformation Programme looking to delivery transformational change to Manchester's rail network and rail offer to passengers. Working closely with the DfT the programme aims to deliver a rolling programme of benefits aligning major programmes across the North. Simon has held various roles across Defence prior to joining the rail sector with a background in strategic development.



Simon Daly Senior Sponsor, Network Rail

Simon serves as a Senior Sponsor on Network Rail's Manchester and North-West Transformation Programme. This vital work centres on delivering key improvements to capacity, connectivity and reliability across the Manchester area and the wider North-West network. Since joining the team in 2019, Simon has led the successful delivery of the Configuration State 1 infrastructure, which enabled the December 2022 timetable change and resulted in improved rail performance across the North. More recently, Simon has been leading the crucial Manchester Airport Station Remodelling scheme and other priority projects within the programme.



Graham Meiklejohn Head of Regional Development, Stakeholders & Communities for TransPennine Express

Graham Meiklejohn is Head of Regional Development, Stakeholders & Communities for TransPennine Express. The team Graham leads is responsible for engagement with all stakeholders and community representatives across the North of England and into Scotland, and working with partners to develop stations and services.

Graham has more than 25 years of railway experience having joined Railtrack shortly after graduating from the University of Edinburgh. Since then, Graham has worked in the rail freight and passenger sectors of the rail industry, with roles at EWS/DB Schenker and First Great Western, as well as being part of franchise bid teams for First Group.



Nick Fairclough Interim Deputy Director of Bus at Transport for Greater Manchester

Nick Fairclough is Interim Deputy Director of Bus at Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), working to support development and delivery of the Bee Network, the city region's new integrated public transport system.

Nick led development of the city region's ambitious Bus Strategy, which set out how Greater Manchester intends to improve and grow its bus system using the powers afforded by bus franchising.



Rowan Wakeling Bus Team, Transport for Greater Manchester

Rowan has more than 10 years of experience in the bus world.

She is the Accessible Transport Manager for Transport for Greater Manchester and is responsible for developing and delivering the demand responsive transport strategy.



Oliver Baldwin

Associate Director, AECOM

Oliver Baldwin is an Associate Director within AECOM, based in AECOMs Manchester office. With over 20 years of experience in transport planning, Oliver specialises in aviation surface access. He has played a key role in a range of projects for airports across the UK and abroad, aimed at improving airport connectivity, with a strong focus on sustainable travel, integrated transport systems, and operational efficiency.

Oliver's expertise includes policy development, infrastructure planning, transport modelling, and stakeholder engagement. Oliver has supported Manchester Airport over several years, providing strategic transport planning advice, helping the airport to shape its future approaches to surface access and support long-term, sustainable growth.



Stephanie Meyers Associate Director ITP by Haskoning

Stephanie Meyers leads ITP by Haskoning's airport-focused travel planning programme, bringing over 15 years of experience in sustainable transport strategy and behaviour change. She oversees major commissions across UK airports, supporting surface access improvements and net zero goals. Her leadership ensures airport operators and occupiers have the evidence and tools to reduce commuting emissions and meet ambitious planning obligations.

