

## Thursday 30 March (Day 1) – Session 3 – 11:40hrs

### **Regulatory Reform: What's Best for Bus Users?**

Across the UK, recent legislation has simplified or made possible introduction of franchising or municipal operation. Numerous authorities are considering these options as alternatives to partnerships. Join our panel of industry leaders as we discuss the only question which really matters: how best to deliver services that meet the needs and expectations of our customers?



#### **Speaker: Robert Jack, Chair, Managing Editor, Passenger Transport**

Robert Jack is a keen advocate of public transport and has worked as a journalist, editor and publisher in the passenger transport sector for 24 years. In 2011 he co-founded Passenger Transport, a highly respected journal covering all modes of public transport. He was named 'Journalist of the Year' at the National Transport Awards in 2019



#### **Speaker: David Astill, Managing Director, Nottingham City Transport**

David has accumulated considerable experience working in the commercial bus sector for the last 35 years. He initially worked for the MBO team at PMT Limited in the Potteries and subsequently for FirstGroup PLC, managing bus operations in the West Midlands, North Staffordshire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Merseyside.

David joined England's largest municipal operator, Nottingham City Transport 16 years ago, and was delighted to be promoted to the position of Managing Director with his home-town bus company in 2021.



**Speaker: David Sidebottom, Director, Transport Focus**

David Sidebottom started his current role as Transport Focus's Director in June 2011. He initially started working at Transport Focus in January 2006 as a Passenger Link Manager before being promoted to the post of Bus Passenger Director in January 2010. David was responsible for the planning and delivery of Transport Focus's then new bus, coach and tram passenger representation duties.

David is now responsible for Transport Focus's work for transport users across Northern England, Wales and Scotland.

**Speaker: Paul Lynch, Regional Director London & Wales, Stagecoach**



Paul Lynch is Stagecoach's Regional Director for London and Wales. He has worked in the bus industry for over 35 years in various UK locations and overseas, and in different regulatory environments. He joined Stagecoach in 1994 as a result of the privatisation of London Buses and has held MD or RD positions for over twenty years and was instrumental, amongst many other initiatives, in the then ground breaking partnership in Sheffield of 2011.

Paul has also recently been heavily involved in Stagecoach's bids in the current Manchester bus franchising competitions.



**Speaker: Tim Gaston, Director of Public Transport Services, National Transport Authority of Ireland**

Tim is the Director of Public Transport Services in the National Transport Authority of Ireland. In this role Tim's team has responsibility for managing the provision of all State subsidised bus, train and tram services in Ireland. Public transport services are provided through a number of differing mechanisms including tendering (light Rail and some bus services), direct award contracts (Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann, Irish Rail) and licencing private bus and coach operators.

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