

## Speaker Profiles

---



### **Mo Baines, Chief Executive, APSE**

Mo is Chief Executive of the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) and is responsible for the delivery of the Association's services to its UK-wide local authority networks, which support councils in the delivery of excellence in frontline services. APSE also delivers a research programme which seeks to apply theory into practice specifically on frontline services and issues of local democracy and governance.

Mo is a Visiting Professor at Staffordshire University and holds an MPA with distinction from the University of Liverpool and is author of 'Rebuilding Capacity: the case for insourcing public contracts' as well as a regular columnist for The MJ and local government press. Mo also serves as the lead Non-Executive Director in the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.



### **Bonni Jee, Principal Advisor, APSE**

Bonni is the Principal Advisor for APSE's Central Region, covering general membership engagement for the region, and oversees the portfolios of Waste and Recycling, Highways and Transport nationally. He has a passion for recycling and the environment, having been a waste consultant for the past two years prior to joining APSE, and started his career in local government on the frontline as a Recycling Advisor then Climate Change project officer at Kirklees Council in Yorkshire. Prior to this, he studied Natural Sciences at the University of Nottingham, where he was elected Environmental Officer for the Students' Union, then completed a master's in environmental policy at the University of Cambridge. He is also working towards chartership with the Chartered Institute of

Waste Management (CIWM) where he also sits on the Early Careers Ambassador team, aiming to encourage more young professionals to join the sector.



### **Cllr Simon Letts, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Southampton City Council**

A retired secondary school science teacher, he now works part time at the University of Southampton in learning support. Simon has lived in the city all his adult life with his partner, a physiotherapist, and their two nominally adult children. Outside of work and politics, he enjoys music, comedy, film, and pub quizzes — and proudly takes part in what he believes to be the longest continually running game of Dungeons & Dragons in the world. Simon has always believed in the basic decency of people and that, given a fair shake, most will work hard and contribute to society. He sees it as the duty of those privileged enough to be elected to public office to help make that possible. Everyone deserves a decent, warm home and a safe, welcoming

environment — with well-kept parks, good transport, and investment in local services. As Cabinet Member for Finance, Simon's role is to make sure the council has the money to deliver on those ambitions, meeting its duties to the most vulnerable while investing in the city's future. For the first time in over a decade — thanks to a new Labour government — the council is once again in a position to invest in Southampton's communities with hope and confidence.



**Cllr Juna Sathian, Cabinet Member for Climate and Transport, Newcastle City Council**

Cllr Dr Juna Sathian is the Cabinet Member for Climate and Transport at Newcastle City Council where she leads the city's efforts to deliver a sustainable movement strategy, improve public transport, and promote active travel. She is committed to reducing carbon emissions and enhancing urban mobility, working closely with communities, businesses, and industry partners to implement climate-conscious transport solutions. Her portfolio also focuses on climate resilience, ensuring that Newcastle's infrastructure and policies support the transition to a low-carbon future.



**Mike Hansford, Chief Executive, Road Surface Treatments Association**

Mike Hansford is the Chief Executive of the Road Surface Treatments Association (RSTA), having previously worked for 29 years in a local authority. Mike's background includes highways data and systems, streetworks, routine and structural maintenance and predominantly in a strategic highways asset management lead role within Dorset Council. Through the RSTA, Mike continues to promote best practice through industry collaboration, supporting the highways sector with training and sharing of information. Mike is a member of the UKRLG Asset Management Board, and Chair of NHSS13 and B/510/2 for Surface Treatments.



**Rob Baines, Derbyshire County Council**

Rob Baines – Electrical Asset Commissioner, Derbyshire County Council and ILP Local Authority Lighting Committee Chair. I am responsible for Street Lighting, Traffic Signals and ITS, On-street EV Charging and all other highway electrical assets at Derbyshire County Council. I have over 20 years' experience in the street lighting sector covering client duties, lighting design, and contracting. I sit on the BS5489 and EN13201 road lighting standards committees, represent the midlands at ADEPT as well as leading on research into electrical safety for on-street EV charging infrastructure



**Carl Gillyon, Head of Highways East Riding of Yorkshire Council**

Carl has worked in local government since 1990, beginning his career in the transport sector. He remains the Council's Principal Transport Manager and now serves as the Head of Highway Network Management, with responsibility for traffic management, civil parking enforcement, lighting, signals and CCTV, winter services, fleet services, street works and the wider highway network management function.



**Ben Towse, Senior Engineer, East Riding of Yorkshire Council**

Ben has worked for East Riding of Yorkshire Council for nearly 15 years and has extensive experience overseeing critical frontline and technical services across Streetscene Services. He currently leads the council's Winter Maintenance service, ensuring operational readiness, optimisation of routes and resources, and effective response in challenging conditions. His work in this area centres on reliability, continuous improvement, and integrating evolving technologies to support safer, more efficient networks



**Elaine Nicol, Road Maintenance Manager, North Lanarkshire Council**

Qualified in Civil Engineering, Elaine has over 33 years' experience in the industry with around 26 of those years working in local government. Predominately focused on road maintenance activities, including Winter Maintenance, Elaine has experience in running both client and contractor operations. In addition to this, Elaine has been North Lanarkshire Councils joint lead on the ADEPT LL2 project – The Centre of Excellence for Decarbonising Roads



**Andrew Curry, Universal Matter, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council**

Andrew Curry is a materials scientist with over 20 years' experience working in the development and commercialisation of performance materials for construction and infrastructure applications. He began his career in technical roles within the global coatings industry, including positions at Akzo Nobel in Felling and Esschem Europe, Seaham, where he specialised in protective coatings, polymers and applied surface technologies.

A Chemistry graduate from Newcastle University, Andrew has built his career in the North East of England and has extensive experience working with contractors, asset owners and engineering teams on large-scale industrial and civil projects. He combines a strong technical background with a practical understanding of how new materials can be implemented in real-world environments. Andrew now works as Business Development Manager at Universal Matter, a British-Canadian advanced materials company focused on graphene technologies. His current work centres on supporting the adoption of enhanced asphalt and concrete solutions that improve durability, reduce lifecycle costs and contribute to lower-carbon infrastructure delivery.

At APSE, Andrew will share insights from field trials and industry collaborations exploring the use of graphene-enhanced polymer modifiers in asphalt, and their potential role in helping local authorities deliver longer-lasting, more sustainable road networks.



**Jamie Crumlish, Managing Director, NY Highways Ltd**

Jamie Crumlish is an accomplished senior leader with 30 years of experience in the highways and civil engineering sector. His career spans major national infrastructure projects, specialist PPP and PFI contract management, large scale operational leadership, and the successful growth and transformation of complex service delivery organisations.

Jamie spent a decade with Carillion, working on National Highways (formerly the Highways Agency) PFI and ECI schemes in the early 2000s. In these roles, he supported contract compliance across DBFO and ECI projects, coordinating requirements between the Special Purpose Vehicle, design teams, construction delivery, and operations and maintenance. This deep technical and commercial grounding in PPP and PFI environments enabled a seamless transition into Carillion Building, where he worked on Renfrewshire's first PPP schools programme.

Progressing to Project Manager, Jamie led multiple design-and-build school projects across Renfrewshire, Ayrshire, and South Lanarkshire before joining the family civil engineering and highways maintenance business. As Managing Director, he grew the organisation to a £22m turnover, delivering more than 114,000 tonnes of surfacing works across Scotland each year.

Following the sale of the business to a major quarry group, Jamie joined NY Highways Ltd as Managing Director in late 2022. At that time, the organisation had recently transitioned from an outsourced provider to a council owned Teckal company, facing challenges around productivity, quality, and legacy systems inherited from the previous contractor.

Over the past three years, Jamie has led a comprehensive transformation of the business, doubling turnover from £40m to £80m and delivering significant efficiencies back to North Yorkshire Council. This has been achieved through the introduction of clear performance targets, robust financial and operational reporting, strengthened accountability within area teams, and a culture shift towards professionalism, ownership, and high-quality delivery



### **Martin Duffy**

45 years' experience in UK and international highways - 15 years working in local government and 30 years in the private sector. He holds an MSc in Highways and Transport, is a Fellow of CIHT and Member of ICW.

Martin is a regular presenter at numerous national conferences to discuss current trends in the highways sector where he remains a key influencer. He is exceptionally well connected with the market through service providers, clients and the Department for Transport. He held the position of Chief Executive in LCRIG from 2020 to 2024

He has intimate knowledge of local government operations along with strong relationships in the sector where he has provided support and advice on procurement models, contracting models and commercial strategies.

His main employment has been delivered through the following:

- 15 years local government
- 12 years as a Partner in an international design consultancy
- 3 years as a Director in Kier Highways
- 15 years as a Director in his own firm

He is currently the Chairman of NY Highways where he has played an active role since its formation in 2021. He is able to share his wider experience with NY Highways and other local highway authority clients through his advisory role addressing efficiency reviews, procurement strategies and transformation projects.



**John Mundell OBE, Experienced Local Authority Chief Executive and Highways Director, APSE Associate**

John Mundell OBE is a highly experienced Chief Executive and APSE Associate with nearly fifty-two years' experience in local government including many years managing highways. Renowned for successfully transforming organisational culture, improving governance, financial management and driving efficiency, John has been at the helm of three Scottish unitary Councils, delivered strategic reforms and improvements, whilst fostering positive relationships across communities, partnership organisations and governments. His empathetic leadership and ongoing commitment to mentoring, experience of re-organisation and dedication to public service, have earned him a highly respected reputation.



**Graeme Forward, Managing Director, KaarbonTech**

Graeme Forward is Chief Commercial Officer at KaarbonTech, where he leads the company's customer strategy and heads partnerships with over 70 UK local authorities. With a background in data-led insight, Graeme has been instrumental in developing smarter ways for councils to build resilience into their complex blue and green infrastructure networks.

His teams turn data into practical solutions; assisting local authorities to make informed decisions, improve efficiency, and build long-term resilience. His focus is on driving innovation and supporting authorities as they respond to the growing challenges of climate change and infrastructure management.



**Richard Hayes, APSE Associates**

Consultant to the IHE and IHE Past president

Richard was appointed as Chief Executive of IHE in June 2016 and has recently stepped down from role. He was previously President at the Institute from June 2012.to June 2014

Richard has returned to being a freelance Consultant practising in Highway and asset management. He also is a Trainer in these and other subjects and provides Professional Consultancy advice to IHE and others

Up to 2012 He was the Western Area Manager for Northumberland County Council's Local Service Department and was responsible for an area of 2468 square kms based around the town of Hexham. He is also responsible for the County's Construction Division which delivers capital works on highways structure and street lighting

He was with the County Council since 2003 and before moving to Northumberland, he worked for Stockton on Tees Borough Council for 25 years in highways maintenance.

Richard undertakes expert witness advice to legal Clients and technical advice to numerous private sector Clients

He continues to represent the Institute on several external bodies as well as being a member of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical education's Construction Route panel .



**Laura Morrison, Flood Risk Engineer, Wigan Council**

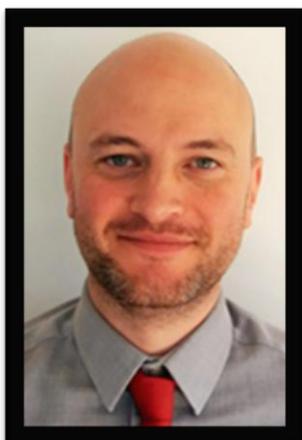
Laura currently serves as the Flood Risk Engineering Manager for Wigan Council, with primary responsibility for delivering the Council's statutory duties under the Flood and Water Management Act as the Lead Local Flood Authority. She has worked at the Council for over 15 years, gaining extensive experience across planning, highways, civil contingencies, and education in relation to her work in flood management.

Laura completed her undergraduate degree in River and Coastal Management at the University of the West of England, followed by a master's degree in Sustainable Water Management at Lancaster University. She also acts as a Green Careers Ambassador through the Believe in Your Future programme, delivering sessions to school-aged students across the Wigan Borough on topics including flood management, resilience, flood awareness, and career pathways in the environmental sector.



**Leanna Dinnegan, Senior Engineer, Islington Council**

Leanna started as an Apprentice Engineer at Islington in 2018 and has successfully risen the ranks to become a senior engineer last year. She is also studying towards a degree in Construction Management at London South Bank University. She won our Apprentice of the year award at last year's APSE Highways seminar in Glasgow and has also won an Inspiring the Future Competition award from LCRIG.



**Kris Westerby, Northumberland County Council** Kris is responsible for leading the delivery of Northumberland's highways service, including asset management, maintenance, capital programmes, and winter services across one of England's largest and most diverse counties. With extensive experience in local government and infrastructure operations, he works closely with partners, members, and communities to ensure safe, sustainable, and resilient transport networks. Kris is particularly focused on innovation in service delivery, decarbonisation of highways operations, and improving outcomes for residents and road users.