Speaker and Chair Biographies

Kerry Booth, Chief Executive, Rural Services Network

Kerry Booth is the Chief Executive of the Rural Services Network. She has been working with the Rural Service Network for almost ten years, honing her skills at representing rural service providers at a strategic level. Kerry has a successful track record of working in a political environment and excellent understanding of the challenges facing organisations delivering services in rural communities. Prior to joining the RSN, Kerry worked for almost a decade in Local Government where she was part of the National Graduate Development Programme, completing her Post Graduate Diploma in Local Government Management at Warwick Business School. She then held a number of positions in a rural local authority with the last five years spent leading a joint Policy, Performance and Improvement Team across two shared rural local authorities.

Dr Igor Calzada, Principal Investigator and Research Fellow Ikerbasque, University of the Basque Country, and Cardiff University

Principal Investigator, Research Fellow and Associate Professor at Ikerbasque, University of the Basque Country, and Cardiff University. Books: *Emerging Digital Citizenship Regimes* and *Smart City Citizenship*. Senior Researcher, Scientist and Advisor in Digital Tranformations, Smart Cities, and Digital Rights at the University of Oxford (Future of Cities and Urban Transformations ESRC) (2012-21), European Commission H2020 and DG-JRC (2020-21), and United Nations – UN-Habitat (2021). Award: Fulbright Scholar 2022-2023 (US-UK Fulbright Commission) on Data Cooperatives, AI, and DAOs. 100 Most Influential Academics for Government by Apolitical and CCDR – Expert Group. Publications: smart cities, data and platform cooperatives. Most recent: G20 India and *Digital*.

Dr Henry Chan, Associate Director, Buro Happold

Dr Henry Chan is an Associate Director at Buro Happold, with over two decades of experience in infrastructure economics. He has advised on major global projects across the development cycle - from strategic planning to construction management. His expertise lies in using innovative schemes, such as public-private partnerships, to address funding gaps. Henry's recent projects include conducting a cost-benefit and funding analysis for a net-zero masterplan for the Scottish-English border area and estimating the economic benefits of comprehensive environmental sustainability measures for a city in the Middle East. He currently serves on the London Mayor Infrastructure Advisory Panel, where he assists Mayor Khan in delivering sustainable and equitable growth to the capital through infrastructure.

Holly Creek, Acting Director, Digital Infrastructure, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

Holly Creek is Acting Director for Digital Infrastructure in the UK Government's Department of Science, Innovation and Technology. She has over 20 years of experience working in a variety of roles in national Government and at regional level, managing policy and legislation across numerous sectors including digital infrastructure, media and the creative industries.

Stephen Douglas, Head of Market Strategy, Spirent Communications; and Working Group Advisory Member, UKTIN

Stephen heads Spirent's market strategy organization developing strategy, helping to define market positioning, future growth opportunities, new innovative solutions and market leading disruptive technologies. Stephen also leads Spirent's strategic initiatives for 5G and future networks and represents Spirent on a number of Industry and Government advisory boards. With over 24 years of experience in telecommunications Stephen has been at the cutting edge of next generation technologies and has worked across the industry with service providers, network equipment manufacturers and start-ups, helping them drive innovation and transformation. Stephen is an ardent believer in connected technology and strives to challenge, blur and break down the silos which prevent innovation and business success.

Sophie James, Head of Telecoms & Spectrum Policy, techUK

Sophie James is Head of Telecoms at techUK, and represents the most innovative and impactful companies in the UK's communications ecosystem, spearheading valuable policy work in telecoms security, statutory reform and wider market development. techUK is the trade association which brings together people, companies and organisations to realise the positive outcomes of what digital technology can achieve. We create a network for innovation and collaboration across business, government and stakeholders to provide a better future for people, society, the economy and the planet. Sophie also oversees the Spectrum Policy Forum, the UK's proactive industry-led sounding board on future policy and approaches on spectrum. The Forum is a cross-industry agent for promoting the role of spectrum in society and the maximisation of its economic and social value to the UK.

Stephen Jones, Director, Core Cities UK

Stephen Jones is the Director of Core Cities UK, bringing together the Councils of the 11 big cities outside of London. Prior to this role, Stephen spent two decades in Whitehall, most recently as the Director of the Cities and Local Growth Unit that spanned between the Department for Business and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Raj Mack, Head of Digital City and Innovation, Birmingham City Council

Raj has over 30 years of experience of working in the public and private sectors. He has worked in diverse roles, including finance and auditing, policy and strategy, business transformation and change and IT & Digital Services. For the last 19 years, he has been instrumental in developing the City's digital and smart cities agendas, bringing together city partner collaborations between public, private, academic and voluntary and community sector organisations at European, regional and local levels in order to deliver transformational digital programmes covering infrastructure, innovation, data and inclusion, enabling inclusive and sustainable economic development and positioning Birmingham as a leading international digital city.

Sam Markey, Ecosystems Director and Place Leadership, Connected Places Catapult

Sam Markey is Ecosystem Director for Place Leadership at Connected Places Catapult, overseeing strategic investments, partnerships and programmes with places which promote inclusive innovation-led levelling up across the UK. Most recently he launched the Innovation Procurement Empowerment Centre (IPEC) to support public authorities in leveraging their spending power to stimulate innovation and SME growth. Before joining Connected Places (then Future Cities) Catapult in 2016, Sam was a Senior Implementation Advisor in the Cabinet Office, focused on public service reform, policy innovation, and the application of emerging technologies to tackle policy challenges. Sam started his career in the London Borough of Barnet where he was responsible for creating the original and infamous 'Barnet Graph of Doom' which laid out the budget challenge facing local government from falling central grants and rising demand.

Jenny Millard, Associate Director, KPMG

Jenny is an Associate Director in KPMG's Future Mobility & Infrastructure Strategy Team with substantial experience across road and rail transport advisory and consultancy programmes including innovation, autonomous and connected vehicles, advanced air mobility, existing and future public transports opportunities, active travel and road safety. She brings an understanding of behavioural change and consumer responses to new mobility solutions, and in implementing new technologies into traditional transport solutions. She recently co-authored a report on the need and methods for inclusive and accessible transport (*Inclusive and accessible transport holds the key - KPMG United Kingdom*) and seeks to drive this change throughout her work.

Dr Michaela Nelson, Head of Future Telecoms and Digital Connectivity, Department for Transport

Michaela started her career in experimental physics at Culham Centre for Fusion Energy working on MAST, the Mega Amp Spherical Tokamak. Moving to Birmingham as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the university's experimental gravitational physics group, she worked on an experiment searching for violations of Newton's inverse square law, at small separations. She then worked in R&D in the private sector before joining DfT. As Head of Future Telecoms and Digital Connectivity in DfT's science, innovation and technology division she is helping DfT to grasp the transport risks and opportunities from evolving connectivity technologies.

Clare Sheffield, Director of Transport Planning, UKIMEA Cities Planning and Design, Arup

Clare Sheffield is a Transport Strategy Specialist, with a strong track record of delivering world-leading, innovative and relevant analysis, strategy and policy development in both the private and public sectors. She has pioneered creative research and modelling techniques in the transport industry, with a particular focus on understanding car ownership and use, and on developing evidence to support the delivery of effective behaviour change policy. She excels at 'bridging the gap' between policy-makers and technical specialists, solving problems together to deliver informative and influential analysis, and policy that is robust, effective and deliverable.

Dr Emma Stone, Director of Evidence and Engagement, Good Things Foundation

Dr Emma Stone is Director of Evidence and Engagement at Good Things Foundation - the UK's leading digital inclusion charity. Good Things runs the National Digital Inclusion Network, National Databank, National Device Bank, and Learn My Way - all of which are free resources for organisations working in communities to tackle digital exclusion. Emma is also a Founding Member of the Minimum Digital Living Standards project led by the University of Liverpool to develop a national benchmark for digital inclusion.

Cassie Sutherland, Managing Director, Climate Solutions and Networks, C40 Cities

Cassie is the Managing Director for the Climate Solutions and Networks team, leading the development and delivery of sector programmes and support to global cities to accelerate climate action in the areas of: energy and buildings, food and waste, transport, urban planning, air quality and climate resilience. C40 is a network of mayors of nearly 100 world-leading cities collaborating to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis. Prior to joining C40, Cassie was at the Greater London Authority (GLA) where she was the Project Manager for the London Environment Strategy and led the climate adaptation and sustainable development team, working to manage London's climate risks and impacts and improve quality of life. Cassie has a wide range of technical experience in buildings and energy including developing new carbon scoring tools for national energy efficiency schemes and assessing new energy efficiency measures while working at the UK energy regulator Ofgem. She has also developed national government policy on smart energy systems. Cassie graduated from Edinburgh University with a BSc in Environmental Geoscience and Newcastle University with an MSc in Clean Technology.

Nick Wiggin, Head of Partnerships, Freshwave

Nick leads Freshwave's relationships with regional and local authorities and engages with the mobile network operators on their public sector activities. He has decades of telecoms experience across both the public and private sector, most recently playing an instrumental role in the work of the Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Previously he headed up international partnerships and strategic alliances for Ericsson, and lead 5G partnerships for BT.