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JONATHAN BRAY

PROFILE Led the UK's network of city region transport authorities – working with national Government, Mayors and international partners to shape urban transport policy and delivery.

Leading player, campaigner and writer on transport policy who continually pushes the boundaries of the policy debate in the direction of progressive change.

Builder of effective teams to crack difficult policy and delivery challenges (from managing the impact of COVID on urban transport networks to winning the powers for cities to control their own bus networks).

EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR

JONATHAN BRAY ADVISORY SERVICES

SINCE 2023

I provide freelance advisory services (www.jonathan-bray.com) including to those organisations set out below.

ADVISER

TO WELSH GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPORT FOR WALES ON RE-REGULATING ALL BUS SERVICES IN WALES

SINCE 2023

I provide strategic advice and support on the Welsh Government's bus reform programme which will bring all buses in Wales under public control in order to provide an integrated, accountable and planned bus network for the people of Wales. This involves regular liaison with, and advice for, the Minister, senior Welsh Government civil servants as well as the senior management team (and project teams) at Transport for Wales.

SENIOR VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW

INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT STUDIES, LEEDS UNIVERSITY

SINCE 2023

I have been appointed to this position at the country's largest academic institution on transport, for five years, to work with staff and students in support of research programmes.

MEMBER

NORTH EAST COMBINED AUTHORITY SOUNDING BOARD

SINCE 2023

Providing strategic advice to the emerging Mayoral Combined Authority on the future use of its transport powers

CONSULTANT

UITP

SINCE 2023

Providing consultancy support for UITP (The Union of International Public Transport) as required, as part of their wider training, peer review and policy support work for their members including taxi reform in Riyadh and transport governance reform in Albania.

NON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GOOD JOURNEY CIC

SINCE 2018

Board member of the Good Journey Community Interest Company which is working successfully with a growing number of organisations responsible for major visitor attractions in order to promote car free access to historical, natural and leisure destinations in the UK.

COLUMNIST

PASSENGER TRANSPORT

SINCE 2013

I write a regular feature column for the UK's leading public transport magazine, Passenger Transport.

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DIRECTOR

URBAN TRANSPORT GROUP

2008 - 2023

The [Urban Transport Group](#) (formerly PTEG) brings together public sector transport authorities which serve 24 million people in the largest urban areas in the UK.

Under my leadership UTG did three things:

- Provides thought leadership on urban transport – including joining the dots between where we are now and where we might now be in the future given the implications of transformative technological, environmental and social change.

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- Acts as a professional network so that staff can share experience, good practice and procure collectively.
 - Makes the case for urban transport – particularly for adequate funding and powers for its members.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Won the powers needed to bring buses outside London back under public control.
- Significantly expanded the membership of the network.
- Achieved approval ratings from stakeholders of 91%.
- Saved members millions through collaboration and joint procurement.
- Coordinated the response of the network to the COVID crisis, including getting the funding needed from Government to keep services running.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- The strategy, research programme direction and day-to-day management of the Urban Transport Group (six staff and budget of C£800,000).
- Lead transport advisor for the M10 group of city region Mayors.
- Devising and managing a wide range of major consultancy commissions on a broad range of issues including new mobility formats; transport and the economy; the links between transport and public health; and transport and opportunities for young people.
- Maintaining and developing the extensive network of UK and international contacts and stakeholders (including academic, media, trade association, urbanism, civil service, political and think tanks) which I have built up over the many years I have worked in this area.
- Representing UTG in the media. In this, and previous roles, I have briefed local, trade and national journalists; devised successful comms strategies; and have extensive interview experience including with Newsnight, the Today Programme, CNN and the main national news channels, as well as with all forms of local and trade media.
- Leading UTG's parliamentary work including briefing MPs (in relation to legislation more widely), running an all party parliamentary group, preparing and giving evidence to parliamentary select committees, organising fringe meetings and other events at party conferences, and devising and implementing strategy on relevant legislation.
- Representing UTG to Government Ministers and officials including at the Department of Transport, Number Ten, the Treasury and other Government departments, giving me both an extensive range of contacts and a thorough insight into how Whitehall operates.
- Leading on our European policy work including managing our representation in Brussels, briefing MEPs and EU officials and responding to European Commission consultations.
- Leading on our European and international work includes through UITP (the Union of International Public Transport) and other international networks and bodies which gives me good insight into relevant international good practice.
- Advising, administering and supporting the Board of Urban Transport Group which made up of Chief Execs or senior Directors of our member organisations.

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- Acting as the secretariat for, and liaising with, senior local politicians including via a series of regular networking meetings for lead politicians on transport from across areas.
 - Producing regular comment articles for the media

PTEG ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

2003-2008

As Assistant Director I took the lead on Public Affairs and Comms, as well as key policy areas including rail, light rail, European policy, the case for increased Government funding, sustainability and social inclusion.

- Responsible for all aspects of *pteg*'s public affairs, parliamentary, European and comms activities. Systematically established, or improved, relations with key stakeholders, decision makers and media contacts.
- Defined, clarified and justified *pteg*'s core messages, facts and arguments - through a series of published research reports and briefings.

JONATHAN BRAY ASSOCIATES

2002-2003

- Ran my own company providing campaign and policy services for a wide range of clients including the Countryside Agency, Campaign or Better Transport and delivering a major good practice project for the Strategic Rail Authority.

TRANSPORT 2000 – DIRECTOR OF PLATFORM CAMPAIGN

2000-2002

- Responsible for all aspects of Transport 2000's campaign work on rail, including establishing a new national network of NGOs, local authorities and rail user groups

SAVE OUR RAILWAYS – CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

1995-2000

- Responsible for strategy, development and management of this federation of local authorities, rail unions and rail user representatives.
- Built up media profile through well researched and presented press work and reports that turned the campaign into one of the most high profile in the country.

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- Defeated the Government in the Court of Appeal in a legal action in 1995.
 - Achieved a series of concessions from the Government on a range of issues including fares and service protection.

ALARM UK – JOINT FOUNDER AND COORDINATOR

1989-1995

- One of four founders of this network of community groups opposed to damaging road schemes. In the first five years I took responsibility for most of the research, briefing and publicity materials.
- Successfully campaigned against the national roads programme - reducing it from more than 500 schemes to around 150.
- ALARM UK won the International Goldman Award for grass-roots environmental campaigns: the first UK winner, and the first to win for a campaign on transport.

EDUCATION

1986

BA (HONS) GEOGRAPHY 2:2

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

RECENT AND CURRENT ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL AND GOVERNANCE POSITIONS

VISITING SENIOR FELLOW, LSE CITIES (2018-2022)

ACADEMICIAN AT THE ACADEMY OF URBANISM (SINCE 2019)

COMMISSIONER ON THE COMMISSION ON TRAVEL DEMAND (2019-2022)

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE TASKFORCE (2020-2023)

FELLOW OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR TRANSPORT (SINCE 2017)

BALTIC RAILWAYS CORRESPONDENT OF TODAY'S RAILWAYS EUROPE (SINCE 2023)

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- Travel (central and eastern Europe in particular) • photography • ferns (I have a modest fernery in my backyard) • art and culture • walking