

Railfuture Limited - Election of Directors for 2024/25

The Board of Directors is legally liable for the running of the company. Railfuture Ltd must abide by the Companies Act, General Data Protection Regulation, Insurance Act, Health and Safety at Work Act, Lobbying Act and many other pieces of legislation. It also has a legal duty to act in the best interests of the members collectively, which primarily means ensuring that Railfuture is financially well-run, is not exposed to unnecessary risk, and satisfies our insurers and banks. Candidates must be committed to performing this role if elected. Primarily, of course, they must work constructively and harmoniously as part of a team. They receive no remuneration.

Although Railfuture exists to campaign for a bigger and better railway, the directors' responsibility is managerial and strategic. They manage the company to enable high-quality, modern, professional and effective campaigning work, where relevant to the company's aims, to be done by Railfuture volunteers, and to make available funds where beneficial to members, properly focused/managed, and value-for-money. It is not the immediate responsibility of the directors to campaign, although many do so within their branch activities, and it is not necessary for every director to have a deep understanding of the railway.

The board needs a variety of knowledge, understanding and skills amongst the directors that include company management, project management, finance/accountancy, corporate governance, data protection, legal, human resources, information technology (especially websites and databases), marketing (including exploiting social media) as well as railway matters, both as rail users and professionals working within the rail industry.

There are three vacancies for a full three-year term. These vacancies arise from the end of term for three directors (Ian Brown, Chris Page and Wendy Thorne). Wendy Thorne has decided not to stand again. With only two candidates for three places, there will be no election in 2024. However, in the interests of openness and providing members with information about the directors, their election statements are shown in full below.

The directors express their disappointment that no new candidate decided to stand, and that there is now a vacancy from July 2024, with co-option a possibility for a suitably qualified member. Please contact Chris Page, national chair, to find out more about taking part as a director.

Details of the election process can be read at www.railfuture.org.uk/Elections.

Candidates have an opportunity to an informal meeting with impartial representatives to discuss the role of director.

List of current directors (up to three-year terms with chair appointed from amongst the directors):

Chris Page – Chair *	Allison Cosgrove – Vice Chair and Passenger Director
Jerry Alderson – Finance & IT Director	Ian Brown CBE – Policy Director *
Roger Blake – (Rail) Infrastructure Director	Neil Middleton – Communications Director
Pete Myers – currently without portfolio	Owen O'Neill – Freight Director
Wendy Thorne – Membership Director **	

Allison Cosgrove has responsibility for supporting Railfuture's 14 branches, aiming to visit several each year. Those marked '*' have completed their term and seek re-election, '**' are not standing.

Candidate Details and Election Addresses

All candidates were asked to answer questions 1 to 7 and submit an election address of not more than 300 words.

- 1) Length of membership of Railfuture Ltd
- 2) Current and previous Railfuture Ltd branch membership and committee Service
- 3) Current and Previous Railfuture Ltd national group service
- 4) Relevant qualifications and work experience
- 5) Current and previous membership of other relevant organisations with details of positions held
- 6) Participation in other organisations as Railfuture Ltd representative
- 7) Nature and Duration of any association with a rail user group (whether or not affiliated to Railfuture Ltd)
- 8) Election address

IAN BROWN – Proposed by Chris Page (National chair); seconded by Roger Blake (Rail Infrastructure Director)

Personal Details

- Q1. Member for 10 years (VP since 2011)
- Q2. Branch Liaison Officer formerly West Midlands, currently Wales Branch. Attendance at Branch meetings as invited
- Q3. Director since 2014. National Group Service. Railfuture Board, Policy Director, Chair, European Passenger Group
- Q4. Career with British Railways (Operations management, Divisional Passenger Manager Birmingham, Service Group Manager West Coast Main Line, Midland Main Line, Cross Country, Chief Passenger Manager LMR, Chairman's Policy Unit, MD Railfreight Distribution and Freightliners Ltd) then CEO Docklands Light Railway, MD

- London Rail, (DLR,Tramlink, London Overground and Crossrail sponsor) at TfL. Following retirement, Board Member Crossrail, Abellio Board, Greater Anglia Board, Scotrail EGIP member
- Q5. Chartered Institution of Logistics and Transport (FCILT), Railway Study Association (former President), Chairman Bright Belle Trust, Board Member Railway Heritage Electric Trains Trust. Formerly member Science Museum Railway Heritage Designation Committee. National Rail Awards judge. Light Rail Awards judge. Not affiliated to any railway campaigning groups
- Q6. None
- Q7. Not a member of any Rail User Groups. Participation as a Railfuture VP as a Railfuture RUG Awards Judge..

Election Address

Railfuture's success as an effective campaigning group is country-wide coverage through the branches supported by a range of support skills at group level. My interest in supporting this as Policy Director is engagement with stakeholders, national and regional governments and industry players. The aim whilst preserving independence is to establish Railfuture's credibility with such players with a view to furthering our aims of achieving a bigger, better railway. Our voice is heard and expressed through formal and informal contacts established through a career in the rail industry. If elected, I will continue to do this, particularly at a time when the rail industry is lacking leadership, and the government (existing or future) has no coherent strategy to develop our railways. Hoping also to continue to discuss policy and investment issues regularly in Railwatch.

CHRIS PAGE – Proposed by Peter Hillier-Palmer, seconded by Robert Cheesman

Personal Details

- Q1. 13 years (joined 2010)
- Q2. Member of London and South East committee since 2011
Started L&SE Surrey Division in 2012
- Q3. National Chair since 2016, National Vice Chairman 2013 - 2016.
Director since 2012.
Member of Finance and Internal Affairs Committee 2012 - 2013
Member of Finance and Corporate Governance Group 2013 - 2016
Head of Marketing Media and Communication Group 2012 - 2016
Corresponding Member of Policy Group 2011 - 2013
- Q4. BSc (Hons) Physics
ACCA Certified Diploma in Accounting and Finance
2011-2012 IT Project Manager, Centrica Internet-based home security service.
1999-2010 IT Programme Manager, Dell Global Online store, with teams in US, Europe & Asia
1994-1999 Head of IT, Mid Kent Water Responsible to CEO for IT projects & systems
1992-1993 Project Manager, Kvaerner Asset Management System for Piccadilly Line fleet
1985-1992 Project Manager, Ferranti Computer systems for defence applications.
1972-1985 Technical Author, Ferranti
- Q5. None
- Q6. Observer on Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
Uckfield Transport Hub Working Group
- Q7. None.

Election Address

I want a successful rail industry which grows sustainably. I support initiatives which make rail more attractive for passengers and freight, including value fares, clear ticket choices, improved connectivity, better reliability, quicker journeys and efficient customer service. I engage with national politicians and campaign for changes which enable modal shift to sustainable rail transport, including electrification, improving competitiveness, identifying suppressed demand, and developing the network.

I joined Railfuture so that I could work with like-minded people to achieve these goals. In my branch area I engage with Transport for the South East, building relationships with politicians and stakeholders and engaging public support, with the aim of promoting economic growth and sustainable transport. I campaign for reopening Uckfield – Lewes,

I contribute to Railfuture responses to consultations and encourage members to write fresh website content to attract rail users and new members, thus promoting a professional appearance to the stakeholders we wish to influence.

I have represented Railfuture at meetings in Westminster and presented at industry conferences. During eight years as Chair, I have gained the respect of my fellow directors. Each director now has a specific role as part of our strategy to move Railfuture forward.

As Chair, it takes a lot of time and effort to reach consensus on key issues. I am happy to devote that time to include members in agreeing a realistic position on key issues, promote our position professionally, and improve our internal communication to make Railfuture more successful and encourage members and branches to work together.

If re-elected I can continue using skills which I gained as a senior programme manager to encourage the Board and members to work together to develop Railfuture as an effective campaigning organisation which is respected by governments, rail industry and public, so that it will survive and grow.



Railfuture – run by volunteers to benefit rail users – Campaigning for a bigger better railway in Britain

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