**Commissioner biographies**

**Professor Ricky Burdett**

Ricky Burdett is Professor of Urban Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and director of LSE Cities and the urban age programme. His research interests focus on the interactions between the physical and social worlds in the contemporary city and how urbanisation affects social and environmental sustainability.

He is a Global Distinguished Professor at New York University, a member of Council of the Royal College of Art in London and of the Quality Review Panel for the London Legacy Development Corporation.

Burdett has been involved in regeneration projects across Europe and was Chief Adviser on Architecture and Urbanism for the London 2012 Olympics, and architectural adviser to the Mayor of London from 2001 to 2006.

He was a member of the Urban Task Force which produced a major report for the UK government on the future of English cities in 1999 entitled ‘Towards an Urban Renaissance’.

In addition to leading interdisciplinary research and teaching activities, he is a regular contributor to journals, books and media programmes on contemporary architecture and urbanism. He is co-editor of two books based on the urban age research project: The Endless City (2007) and Living in the Endless City (2011).

**Professor Dame Julia King CBE, DBE**

Following an academic career at Cambridge and Nottingham universities, Julia King held senior executive posts at Rolls-Royce plc, in both the aerospace and marine businesses, for 8 years. She returned to academia as Principal of the Engineering Faculty at Imperial College, London, before becoming Vice-Chancellor of Aston University.

Julia currently advises Government as a non-executive director of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, a member of the Committee on Climate Change, the UK’s Low Carbon Business Ambassador, through the ‘King Review’ (2008) on reducing vehicle emissions, and as a member of the ‘Browne Review’ (2011) on University funding.

She is a non-executive Director of Angel Trains and of the Green Investment Bank, sits on the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council, and is a member of the Board of Universities UK, chairing its Employability, Business and Industry Network. She was an inaugural member on the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation & Technology.

Julia’s work has been recognised by the Grunfeld, Bengough, Kelvin, John Collier and Lunar medals, and the President’s Prize of the Engineering Professors’ Council. She is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and was awarded a CBE in 1999 and a DBE in 2012.

**Vivienne Cox**

Vivienne Cox is a non-executive Director of Rio Tinto plc, BG Group, Pearson plc and Vallourec SA. She is the Lead Independent Director on the Board of the Department for International Development (DFiD). She is also on the Board of the INSEAD Business School and an adjunct Professor at Imperial College.

In 2009 she retired from BP after spending 28 years in the company. Her last full-time role was as the Executive Vice President of the Gas, Power and Renewables business. She was a member of the BP Chief Executive’s Committee.

A graduate of Oxford and INSEAD, in 2006 she was awarded the prestigious Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year Award.

**Sir John Armitt CBE**

John Armitt was appointed Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority on 1 September 2007. He joined John Laing as a civil engineer in 1966, and was Chairman of Laings International and Civil Engineering Divisions from 1987-1993.

In 1993 he was appointed Chief Executive of Union Railways, the company responsible for developing the high-speed Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL).

In 1997 he was appointed Chief Executive of Costain and in 2001 Chief Executive of Railtrack plc. A year later he was made Chief Executive of Network Rail - a position he held until 2007.

Sir John is currently Chairman of City and Guilds - appointed 25 October 2012, Deputy Chairman of Berkeley Group plc and is a non-executive Director of Transport for London.

He is also working on advising Ed Miliband, Labour Party Leader, and Ed Balls, Shadow......, on infrastructure.

**Geoff Muirhead CBE**

Geoff is a qualified civil and structural engineer who spent 22 years in the construction industry prior to joining Manchester Airport in 1988 as their Director of Development and Planning leading the delivery of Terminal 2. Geoff was subsequently promoted to Business Development Director in 1992 and to Chief Executive in 1994 during which he led the business through the acquisition of Humberside, East Midlands and Bournemouth Airports. Geoff was also responsible for leading the planning and delivery of Manchester Airport’s second runway. Geoff retired from the role in October 2010.

Geoff has been the Chairman of the North West CBI, a past President of Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a past Chairman of Airport Operators Association and a past President of Airports Council International - Europe.

Geoff is currently the Chairman of ASK Developments, the North West Rail Campaign, the IPPR (Institute for Public Policy Research) ‘Commission on Northern Economic Future’, and the Atlantic Gateway Programme.