

# Towards Connected Places: Insights into Actions

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Participant Biographies



### **Justin Anderson**

Justin is Director of the Digital Twin Hub, Connected Places Catapult. Formerly Global Head of Technology CoE, KPMG International.

Committed to advancing collaborative innovation with a focus on sustainable impact and economic expansion. A seasoned leader with an extensive 25-year track record, well-versed in navigating diverse sectors including technology, corporate, and government arenas. Responsible for securing in excess of £100 million in funding to accelerate the development of environmentally responsible and digital infrastructures in the UK, US, Middle East, Australia and India.

As Director of the Digital Twin Hub, Justin is establishing a worldwide community for the exchange of insights and setting the framework to empower others to design and build digital twins to create sustainable value.

Justin co-founded the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence which has informed parliamentarians on the impact of AI since 2017, helping establish UK as a thought leader in this domain.



### **Andrew Bailey**

Andrew is a Chartered Engineer with over 25 years of experience in helping CEOs and senior leaders develop strategies, improve performance, and grow their organisations within the private and public sector.

He is an expert in operations of complex organisations having spent his career in Defence, Formula One and FinTech/AI. He focuses on creating the perfect synergy of strategy, people, process, data and technology to build healthy and high performance teams.

Equally at home in finance, engineering and tech, he holds the CFAs Investment Management Certificate (IMC), is a Leadership Fellow at the Society of Leadership Fellows at St George's House, Windsor Castle, a Chartered Engineer, and an accredited Executive Coach.



### **William Barker**

Since 2023 William has been Socitm's Chief Strategy Officer and Digital Ethics lead. Prior to retiring from Whitehall in September 2019 William was Head of the National Cyber Security Programme-Local (2015/2019) leading a multi-million Think Cyber Think Resilience and Cyber Pathfinder initiatives working across the English Local Government and Local Resilience Community in association with the National Cyber Security Centre and Government Security Group.

He spent over 30 years working in a range senior policy and advisory roles across the Cabinet Office, Local Government and the Communities Department as well as the wider Local Government community. Previous posts have included senior secondments into local government and inter-agency initiatives working in the fields of e-democracy, e-government standards and wider public sector reform.

He is regularly consulted as contributory author/public speaker on a range of specialism including central/local relations, open policy making, constitutional and civil service reform, digital government and cyber security strategy.



### **Emma Bland**

Emma is a founding member of the European Centre for Environment and Human Health at the University of Exeter. Throughout her career, she has been interested in how people are impacted, and impact their environment, and associated issues of equity and wellbeing. Emma has considerable experience in building trans-disciplinary research projects across public, private, and not-for-profit sectors to explore the complex interplay between these areas.

Following degrees in environmental biology and soil conservation, Emma first worked in sustainable development before moving to the higher education sector. She joined the Medical School in 2004, since when she has built cross-sector strategic partnerships, helping to developing health and wellbeing research capacity to address 21st century challenges in housing, wellbeing and climate change.



### **Favour Borokini**

Favour is a Law PhD student with the Horizon Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) at the University of Nottingham, where she is researching afrofeminist legal and ethics considerations in the design and use of avatars.

Before Favour began her PhD, she worked with various organisations in Africa and has spoken on various panels on the impact of technology, especially AI, on women's rights and social justice. Her current research focuses on how AI and other technologies are used to create representational imagery and innovative regulatory approaches drawing from culture and media studies, history, philosophy and sociology.



### **Jos Creese**

Jos is an independent consultant and analyst, providing advice to public and private sectors. Since 2015 he has undertaken assignments for over 250 organisations, helping with digital planning, cyber and digital challenges, business growth and restructuring. Research work includes the annual Socitm 'Digital Trends' report, and current work on 'Connected Places'.

He is a past president of the British Computer Society, and also Socitm. For over a decade he was CIO and CDO for Hampshire County Council.

Jos is a past Chair of the OU School of Computing Industrial Advisory Board, non-Exec director for the Department of International Trade and is a non-Exec Director for Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust.



### **Deborah Evans**

Deborah was appointed in 2018 as the first Chief Executive of LLG. Having started her career in local government at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, she has since gone on to work in senior roles across the legal sector, including the in-house legal team of a major retailer; as a Practice Director of a law firm; in management at the Legal Aid Board; Chief Executive of the Legal Complaints Service, and the Chief Executive of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers. She has also been involved with digital claims resolution platforms such as Claims Portal and MedCo and has a strong interest in the support that technology & AI can offer in the delivery of legal services. Deborah provides consultancy to local authority legal directorates around structure, resources, process and leadership, and has a particular interest in developing client portals to deliver legal services in an easily accessible way at low cost, and harnessing technology and AI in order to give lawyers everything they need to do their jobs to the best of their ability.



### **Glyn Evans**

Glyn spent over thirty years in IT and business transformation roles in UK local government, his final role being that of Director of Business Change at Birmingham City Council, the largest UK municipality, leaving in 2012. He is vice president and development director of Major Cities of Europe IT Users Group (MCE), an independent network of innovative cities and regions. He is also an Associate Director of the Society for Innovation, Technology and Modernisation (Socitm). His passion is the transformation of the public sector by the application of digital technology in order to radically improve efficiency and effectiveness.



### **Martin Ferguson**

Martin leads Socitm Institute's policy advocacy and research programme. His particular passion lies in addressing the public policy impasse that prevents many of the complex socio-economic and environmental problems being faced by people, communities and places being confronted. Throughout a career spanning local government, academic research and teaching in the UK and abroad, his focus has been on harnessing technologies and data for the benefit of people and the wellbeing of communities. This interest underpins Socitm's current research, education and training in fields such as ethical, digital place-making and leadership, and his voluntary work as a Trustee of Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care.



### **Kurt Frary**

Kurt is the Head of IT / CTO at Norfolk County Council and also Vice President of Socitm. Kurt has over 34 years' experience working in ICT for both public and the private sector and his passion for digital innovation, change and technology is compelling. Kurt is responsible for the operational ICT service for over 8,500 staff at Norfolk County Council and for Norfolk Fire & Rescue service.

He is currently leading Norfolk's approach to Artificial Intelligence and chair's its AI Governance board as well as the delivery of the ground breaking innovation network which is the largest free to use public sector IoT Network in the UK.



### **Michael Green**

Michael is Chief Executive Officer of the Social Progress Imperative. An economist by training, he is co-author (with Matthew Bishop) of *Philanthrocapitalism: How Giving Can Save the World* and *The Road from Ruin: A New Capitalism for a Big Society*. Previously Michael served as a senior official in the U.K. Government's Department for International Development His TED Talks have been viewed six million times.



### **Yasmine Hajji**

Yasmine has recently joined Socitm Institute's policy and research programme as a Research Analyst. Yasmine was previously a Civil Servant for four years. She has worked in media and digital policy for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and at the Office for National Statistics she produced population estimates as a Research Officer and then became a Data Engineer. She has an MSc in Social Research Methods, with a research focus in community, place, identity and social mobility and inequalities. She has also worked with PR clients and journalists in the private sector as a researcher.





### **Shelley Heckman**

Shelley is the Partnership Director at iNetwork, a local public sector partnership that supports the sharing of innovation and best practice from learned experience. She has worked in the public sector for 20 years, of which 17 years has been with iNetwork.

Shelley wears many hats within iNetwork. She is currently the co-ordinator for the NW WARP, iNetwork's Effective Information Sharing & Security programme co-ordinator, and manages the iStandUK Programme. Her current work includes the project management of SAVVI, which is about developing data standards to help councils identify vulnerable households in order to co-ordinate and deliver effective support.

She won the Go ON NW Digital Leader Award in 2015 for her partnership work in supporting Digital Inclusion. Passionate about participatory group process, Shelley is a trained facilitator and trainer of participatory group facilitation with experience in community building in UK, USA and Tajikistan.



### **Johnny Hugill**

Johnny is Deputy Director at PUBLIC, a specialist digital transformation firm working with the UK public sector. Johnny has worked across a wide range of landmark digital programmes across the local council sector, including leading the independent evaluation of DLUHC's Local Digital programme, and the creation of LGA's Local Digitalisation Almanac. Johnny is an expert in public procurement, and supported the Cabinet Office on the design of the new UK Procurement Act, as well as working with multiple local councils to modernise their procurement functions.



### **Nadira Hussain**

An established ICT and change management leader, NED and coach with 25+ years' experience, Nadira has worked primarily in local government; leading the ICT and digital service, managing wider teams including business improvement, transformation and customer services. Nadira has implemented numerous complex change programmes across shared services to deliver new operating models, efficiencies and service improvement.

At Socitm, Nadira is keen to support members shape and deliver effective public services through improved use and adoption of technologies, data and digital solutions & practices. She continues to focus on the work she initiated as president of the society (15/16), building the leadership, skills and diversity of the sector's workforce. Her passion is to tackle inequality, promote professionalism, improve personal development opportunities and champion women role models.

Her wider responsibilities include director for Federation for Informatics Professionals (FEDIP) advisory board, board member for the Institute of Government and Public Policy (IGPP), board member for the Solace in Business (SiB) Board. Her voluntary and charitable work include; steering group member for the Shuri Network, the Solace EDI forum and Diversity in Local Government Leadership (DLGL) forum, co-founder and co-chair of the Socitm/UKAuthority Women in Local Government ICT network and non-executive director for the #techmums board and Executive Committee member of the Major Cities of Europe (MCE) forum.



### **Slava Jankin**

Slava Jankin is professor of data science and government in the School of Government and the School of Computer Science at the University of Birmingham. Slava is the Director of the Centre for AI in Government at the University of Birmingham. He is a fellow at the Interdisciplinary Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence and serves as the Academic Lead for the Alan Turing Institute at the University of Birmingham. Before joining the University of Birmingham, he was a founding director of the Hertie School of Governance Data Science Lab in Berlin - focusing on data science and artificial intelligence for public policy and government. He previously worked at the University of Essex, holding a joint appointment in the Institute for Analytics and Data Science and Department of Government. At Essex, he served as the Chief Scientific Adviser to Essex County Council, focusing on artificial intelligence and data science in public services. He has also held appointments at the University College London and the London School of Economics, working on quantitative methods and public policy. He received a PhD in Political Science from Trinity College Dublin and an undergraduate degree in Economics from Belarus State Economic University.



### **Rhiannon Jones**

Dr Rhiannon Jones (FRSA) is Associate Professor (Civic Practice), University of Derby. She leads the University Institutional Success Measure for Civic and runs CivicLAB an Institution-wide centre on participatory culture, creative dialogue, and civic practice. She chairs the International Contemporary Working Art Group for Cumulus, the only Global Association in Art and Design. She is a member of the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement and Trustee of New Art Exchange, a ground-breaking, Global Majority, NPO for Arts Council England and an award-winning and internationally recognised Gallery. She regularly works with Council for Higher Education in Art and Design, British Academy and Design Council UK. Her research into placemaking is a case study for the National Centre for Academic and Cultural Exchange and presented at the All-Party Parliamentary Design and Innovation Group. She is a published academic, most recently a chapter with Intellect Books (2024) and one with Council for Higher Education in Art and Design on Women in Leadership (2024). and frequently provides keynotes Nationally and Internationally within the Creative and Cultural Industry Sector. She judged the UKNA artists in 2024 and judged the Derbyshire Community Business Awards for East Midlands Chamber of Commerce in 2022-23. She co-founded InDialogue, curating international conferences and residencies, supporting over 600 artists from over 15 countries since its inception. She founded the company S.H.E.D, a pop-up public arts space. Accolades include: finalist for Universities Alliance Award (2022), Shed of the year finalist (2020), UK Green Gown Awards: Benefiting Community (2021). She has been selected as a social regenerative entrepreneur and is a Catalyst Grant holder from, the Royal Society of Arts (2023-4). She founded the CIC, Designing Dialogue(S.H.E.D) in 2019 a public arts, touring and innovation space which has received several national honours and funding from partners such as Design Council, UK, CHEAD, Arts Council England, RSA and local trusts and councils.



### **Bob Kamall**

For the last twenty-five years Bob has worked in various roles supporting public sector modernisation, reform & transformation agendas. He has often worked on cross-cutting programmes with central departments or agencies, devolved administrations, local government and wider public sector bodies.

Previous roles include supporting the creation of GDS & GOV.UK; channel shift, promoting digital inclusion & take-up of digital services; and the local cyber resilience programmes.

Bob's current role in the Central Digital & Data Office (within the Cabinet Office) supports the development of the Government Digital and Data service particularly in relation to developing digital capability & capacity.



### **Mark Lumley**

Mark is Director for Digital & IT at London Borough of Hounslow since September 2019. With 20+ years in local government, starting in 1999 at Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.

9 years working in shared services, first at Epsom & Ewell and Elmbridge and then the London Boroughs of Kingston and Sutton. Mark was elected as Vice President of Socitm in 2020 / Current President of Socitm and policy lead for the Responsible and secure use of technologies, AI and data.



### **Steven Mathieson**

Steven has written about technology and government for more than two decades. Since 2014, he has worked as a freelance journalist for publications including Computer Weekly, the Register, Civil Service World and PublicTechnology. He teaches data journalism at Oxford Brookes University and Bauer Academy and is the National Council for the Training of Journalists' chief examiner for this subject.

Steven has edited Socitm's In Our View magazine since 2016 and also works on reports and podcasts for the society.



## **Aidan Matthews**

Aidan, Learning Programme Manager at Socitm, boasts a rich tapestry of over 25 years in the learning and development domain. His extensive professional journey spans diverse sectors, including private enterprises, public service, and charitable organizations, both domestically and internationally.

Aidan is expert in designing, developing, and delivering transformative learning events tailored for managers, leaders, and teams. His expertise spans an array of crucial topics including communication skills, coaching, resilience, and emotional intelligence. Aidan's impact extends to institutions like the Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) and the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), where he has crafted and facilitated impactful programs.

What sets Aidan apart is his proficiency in psychometric tools. From Hogan assessments to PRISM Brain mapping, E.S.C.I (Emotional & Social Competency Inventory), and Belbin Team Roles, Aidan leverages these tools strategically in his coaching endeavors for both individual and team development.

Aidan's management journey traverses the diverse terrains of hospitality, music, and retail industries and in recent years working in the public sector. It is within these realms that he cultivated a passion for inspiring individuals to unlock their full potential through the transformative power of learning.

Motivated by a desire to facilitate personal and professional growth, Aidan is particularly dedicated to cultivating effective leaders and managers. His enthusiasm and genuine understanding of learners' needs make him a standout in his field. As a qualified coach, Aidan brings learning models to life with engaging facilitation, incorporating real-world examples that resonate with participants.

Aidan joined Socitm with a mission: to contribute to the organisation's ascent as the go-to destination for members seeking to nurture and grow their organisations' talent.

## **Pye Nyunt**



Pye has spent his career previously in direct delivery of public services in both policing and local government. His previous role was Head of Insight & Innovation at the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham where he led a team of data scientists, behavioural scientists, and service designers. Pye was voted as one of the UK's top influential practitioners of Data & Analytics in 2019 and his work in B&D won the council iESE's Most Intelligent Public Service award in 2019.

Now CEO of Impera Analytics, Pye and his team provide data services and solutions that close the distance between data and insight. Impera is a social purpose analytics company co-founded with the Social Progress Imperative, Socitm and Impact on Urban Health. It's mission is to build better societies one data point at a time.





### **Liam O'Brien**

Liam has had a varied career across the civil service, working in the Cabinet Office, Foreign Office, and Home Office. He is currently the head of Secure Connected Places team in DSIT. In this role he had led on the creation of the Secure Connected Places Playbook and assessing public perceptions of connected places. He is keen to extend central government's awareness of connected places projects across the UK both in local authorities, as well as other large organisations such as airports, train stations and universities.



### **David Ogden**

David is a senior marketing and communications professional with more than 25 years' experience in public and private sector. He started his career in local newspapers in 1997. After six years in print journalism, he joined the civil service within the MOD, as a communications officer for Royal Air Force recruitment. He an associate with the Chartered Institute of Marketing, gaining his diploma in September 2007, before taking the lead role as head of marketing for RAF recruitment.

After seven years in post, David left the civil service and joined local government, to lead communications for South Holland District Council in Spalding, Lincolnshire, before joining Socitm in May 2020.

Since then, David has gone on to develop the marketing and communications output for Socitm, with a focus on improving member engagement. It is in his current position as director engagement David drives forward a member led philosophy, to enhance and grow the society across the public sector.



### **Lindsey Phillips**

Lindsey is currently the CDO for Local Government having previously been the Head of Digital at the WLGA. Her role includes working with members and senior leaders in Wales to drive forward the digital agenda, and she also oversees the WLGA's Digital Team.

Lindsey has worked in the digital and IT arena for many years having previously worked as Technology and Innovation Manager at the former Welsh Development Agency, and as Development Manager for Qatar Science & Technology Park. Lindsey also has extensive public sector experience and previously coordinated a European funded collaborative digital project across nine local authorities in Wales. More recently, she has worked in the private sector and in local authority transformation, including developing new services for schools.



### **Freya Pierrepont**

Freya is a Policy Officer at the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (Solace) working on the Digital Leadership, Civil & Community Resilience and Elections & Democratic Renewal portfolio areas. In this role, she helps provide a voice for Solace's members in conversations with government and in partnerships with other relevant organisations and develops proactive and reactive policy activity on behalf of the Solace spokespeople for Digital Leadership. Prior to her role at Solace, Freya recently completed an undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Oxford.



### **Yogita Popat**

Yogita is Assistant Director for Sustainability at Barnet Council, London's second largest. I have an extensive background in digital and data, having previously headed up our Insight and Intelligence function within the council, and Improvement Team in Children's Services, I have a good knowledge of how different technologies can be used across the organisation. Having also been recently appointed as a Vice President of the SOCITM team, I am keen to explore and discuss how AI (and other technologies) can support the organisation and more importantly our journey to Net Zero, and what opportunities and threats this brings.



### **Owen Pritchard**

Owen leads the Local Government Association's Cyber, Digital and Technology programme; a central government funded programme focused on supporting the secure and inclusive use of digital technology by both councils and the communities they serve. Previously, he was the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance and Joint Deputy Leader of the London Borough of Merton Council, worked as Chief of Staff for a MP and Metro Mayor.



### **Diana Rebaza**

Diana a Senior Research Analyst at Socitm, She is passionate about delivering innovative and impactful research projects that support the digital transformation of local government and public services. She has over 15 years of experience in various roles related to digital transformation, service design and data analysis across both the public and private sectors.

She is currently working on the development of a collection of resources with a particular focus on how technology and data can be used to make more and better connections. Connected Places Collection.

The aim of this collection is to support and transform the resilience of people, communities, and places.



### **Dave Sanderson**

Throughout a distinguished career supporting public sector, Dave has worked within the ICT sector in a variety of high-level positions across local government and Health with 14 years of experience.

Renowned for his expertise in building relationships and collaboration, Dave has extensive experience of developing strategic relationships with senior leaders and influencers across the public sector. He has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the strategies, constraints and policies, and day to day challenges public sector face in today's environment. At Soctim, Dave continues to focus on collaboration as Director of member services - bringing together people and place, ensuring Soctim is a vital part in helping to achieve better outcomes for all.

Dave's wider responsibilities include Secretary for East & West Midlands regions, iStandUK Board member and Protocol Policy Systems Board member.



### **Maury Shenk**

Maury is an entrepreneur, investor and legal advisor, with expertise in artificial intelligence, education, IT, green business and China. He is Founder & CEO of LearnerShape, Founder of Saihub.info (the Safe and Responsible AI Information Hub), Company Secretary & Senior Legal Advisor of edtech scale-up PeopleCert and former managing partner of the London office of global law firm Steptoe. His work is international, and he speaks fluent French and Russian, business-level Greek, Mandarin and Spanish, and conversational German, Italian and Norwegian. In his spare time, he practices yoga, plays guitar and writes business thrillers under the pen name David Zen.



### **James Shraiky**

James is a Social Movements Builder, Global Prosperity Expert & Policy Consultant with an ambition to blur the lines between the community and policymakers, setting forth bottom-up strategies, in order to mobilize long-term thriving outcomes for people and societies. Combining unique experiences as a Former Professor and a Director of a Social Action Research Firm, focusing on real-life and complex policy issues worldwide, working with governments, the private sector, and people in need, as well leading, one of the top livelihood policies programs globally. Excited to continue working with IMPERA as an impact strategist, exploring policies impacting vulnerable populations livelihood.



### **Sam Smith**

Sam has recently taken up a position as Director of the newly launched Socitm Institute.

Previously, she led a shared IT service working across two Councils in the East of England. Managing shared services of different types and sizes has been a feature of her professional life. It has given Sam an incredibly rich view of local government in England and enabled her to share her learning with others who are embarking on the journey.

IT & Digital services are enablers for their organisations and as Service Director she was passionate about getting the best out of them for the benefit of the Councils that they support. She worked hard to make and retain relationships at all levels of the business and this gives her a comprehensive view of service needs which informs her strategic thinking and direction.

Throughout Sam's career she has been keen to share experiences and collaborate across the public sector. Socitm has given her the opportunity to do this at regional and national levels. She has been involved with Socitm since 2016, first through the regional committee, then as Vice President and most recently as President (2020-22). She leads their 'Regeneration, sustainability and connectivity' policy theme.



### **Geoffrey Stevens**

Geoffrey works to unlock challenge-driven innovation in places, developing technology demonstrators that scale new solutions, drive growth, spread prosperity and eliminate carbon. He develops programs to deploy innovative products and services that demonstrate how IoT and other technologies can address urban challenges. Working between people, place and technology he specialises in sustainability, integrated systems, buildings, digital twins and sensing. Before joining the Connected Places Catapult Geoffrey worked for the Energy Saving Trust leading on smart energy grids, digital consumer product development and new energy technologies.



### **Emily Sullivan**

Emily currently works for DLUHC in Local Digital on product strategy and development for the digital and cyber workstreams, focusing on accelerating digital transformation and sustaining cyber resilience in Local Government. She has a background in digital leadership in Local Government, having been Digital Lead for Children's services for a number of years, as well as holding other digital roles in Local Government throughout her career with a focus on strategy development, service design, system development and data collection and governance.





## **Eddy Van Der Stock**

Eddy plays a prominent role in the ICT world within local governments in Flanders, currently serving as the CEO and chairman of V-ICT-OR, the Flemish Organization for ICT Managers in Local Authorities. His career boasts a rich history, starting as the CIO for city administrations, the department of social security, and the local police of the city of Lokeren from 2001 to 2015. Before dedicating his efforts to local government, he contributed to education by working for ten years as a department coordinator at a second-chance school. Here, he reformed regular classes into a modular system inspired by the Bologna model (1999), with four different study directions: system engineers, network engineers, programmers, and multimedia.

His background as a former military instructor in Information, Transmissions, and Communications, where he spent 17 years working on new communication projects and technologies within the Belgian Ministry of Defense, laid a solid foundation for his later work. In 2008, he took the helm of V-ICT-OR and committed himself to bringing together different levels of government, giving him a key role in numerous think tanks and collaborative groups. His specialties include information security and data structures and models, and his position at the local level enabled him to bring various government administrations under one umbrella with a shared infrastructure (both human and ICT resources).

Van der Stock's involvement with the Linked Organisation for Local Authorities (LOLA) has not only increased the capacity for sharing knowledge and best practices in Europe but also worldwide. In 2012, he became the chairman of this global organization. That same year, he initiated the intergovernmental steering group for local authorities in the Flemish Region to involve politicians in solution-based projects. With a master's degree in public management and computer science, he is the ideal advocate for elevating ICT and information management to a management level and vice versa. He succeeds in bridging the gap between politicians, top management, and ICT, contributing to a better understanding and cooperation among these groups. His profile can be found on [LinkedIn](<https://be.linkedin.com/in/vanderstockeddy>).



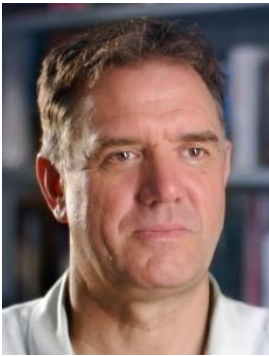
## **Rong Wei**

Rong is a doctoral candidate in the department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Birmingham. Her PhD focuses on the UK's foreign policy towards China from 1979 - 1997 and adopts a 'primacy of domestic politics' approach to explore how the UK's foreign policy could affect its domestic interests. Rong has MAs in Education, International Relations, and Social Research, has taught in China and the UK and is an Associate Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy. She also acted as an intern for the UN conducting research as part of an international team during the Covid crisis.



### **Carol Williams**

Carol has over 30 years' experience working in Local Government technology, change and transformation. She is currently Director of Transformation and Digital at Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council. Her area of interest is delivering excellent customer services using digital means and developing the Local Government workforce for the future, with a specialism around women in IT. Carol has been Vice President of Socitm for 2 years and will become President in June.



### **Paul Wilson**

Paul is Chief Business Officer, Connected Places Catapult, the UK's innovation accelerator for cities, transport, and place leadership; he is Chair Smart Cities World's Advisory Board; and Honorary Research Fellow, University of Bristol Smart Internet Lab.

Paul draws on more than 25 years' international leadership experience to deliver place-based innovation programmes in the UK and abroad. He has worked as CEO of WE-LEP, as CMO of \$5Bn US Fintech Company SunGard, and CMO global digital transformation association TM Forum. Paul founded Bristol Is Open, winning numerous international Smart City awards, and was a founder and Board member of UK5G.

Paul is a regular conference speaker, moderator, mentor and advisor. He combines an understanding of public policy vision with in-depth digital technology understanding. He has lived in London, Hong Kong and Geneva, and worked extensively in America. Today he lives with his family in Bristol, England.