

Lancashire Built Environment Summit

#BES25

Today's speakers

Alan Cavill

Director of communications and regeneration,
Blackpool Council

Alan is responsible for regeneration, enterprise and employment, and business and visitor economy strategy. He has more than 30 years of experience working on projects in tourism and regeneration in the North West including Salford Quays, Preston Docks, and, of course, Blackpool. He is vice-chairman of British Destinations, a national body representing tourism destinations, holds a number of trustee positions on charitable bodies.



John Chesworth

Senior partner, Harrison Drury

John qualified as a solicitor in 1997 specialising in resolving property disputes. He joined Harrison Drury in 2007 and became managing partner within 12 months. Earlier this year, he became senior partner. He chairs the Preston Partnership, the Preston Towns Fund and the Lancashire branch of the Forum for the Built Environment. He is also a member of the Lancashire County Combined Authority Business Board.



Michael Conlon

Chairman, Conlon Construction

Michael Conlon is chairman of this award-winning construction group. The company has carried out a number of prestigious projects, including in recent years the refurbishment of Preston Bus Station and the School of Dentistry at University of Lancashire. A recent project was the 'Harris, Your Place' scheme at the Grade I listed Harris Museum and Art Gallery in Preston. Michael was appointed as a deputy lieutenant of Lancashire in 2024.



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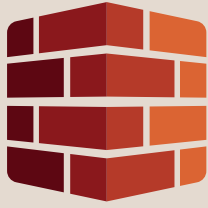
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Anne-Marie Francis

Vice-principal, Wigan and Leigh College

Wigan and Leigh College is one of just 10 colleges in the country to be named as college of technical excellence for construction. As vice-principal for curriculum Anne-Marie oversees the delivery of a broad and rich curriculum offer across the post-16 agenda and in the university centre. She is passionate about enhancing lives through education, committed to the skills agenda and firmly focused on each individual student's success and progress.



Sarah Hall

Director of B&FC for Business,
Blackpool and The Fylde College

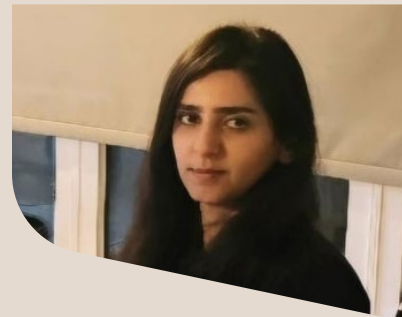
Sarah began her career leading the sales team for a regional newspaper and then successfully ran her own publishing business, further honing her entrepreneurial skills. Sarah moved into the education sector, where she now focuses on skills and apprenticeships. She collaborates with local and regional employers to support economic growth through skill development. She is passionate about supporting the skills agenda, enabling businesses and individuals to flourish.



Saira Hussain

Co-owner, HAD and Co

Saira co-founded the female-led architecture and planning practice HAD and Co based in Burnley, Blackburn and Manchester, which specialises in property development, investment advice, consultation, feasibility studies and planning applications. With a commitment to inclusivity and diversity in the workplace, Saira also serves as the Employment Policy Chair and on the UK Policy Committee for the Federation of Small Businesses. Her work has won more than 45 awards.



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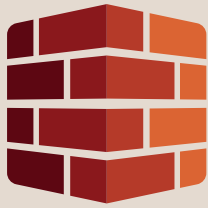
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Simon Lock

Sustainability consultant, Woohoo

From the racetrack to responsible spaces, Simon Lock's journey has been driven by performance. Starting in motorsport engineering – including spells in Formula 1 and Formula E – Simon now works as a sustainability consultant at Woohoo. He uses data and systems thinking to improve efficiency and sustainability in the built environment. Simon is passionate about making spaces perform better.



Neil McManus

Senior development executive,
Northern Trust

Neil has more than 25 years' experience in the commercial and residential property sectors, spanning strategic land, planning, housing delivery, and asset management. As part of Northern Trust's strategic land team, he is responsible for identifying, acquiring, and securing planning for new sites, while also leading front-end delivery. Neil plays a key role in delivering SME industrial schemes and managing aspects of Northern Trust's commercial portfolio.



Councillor Brian Moore

Cabinet member for economic development and growth,
Lancashire County Council

Brian has a wealth of experience from a diverse professional background. He worked as a property developer and served as director of business development for a national awarding body. Earlier in his career, Brian spent time as a project manager delivering economic development projects in the Lancaster and Morecambe district. He also has experience as a self-employed professional and began his career as a police officer.



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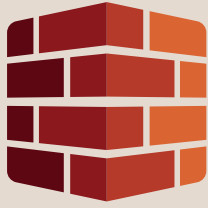


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Steve Skelton

Associate director of housing and planning,
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Steve is currently leading on the UK's only mayoral-led Spatial Development Strategy outside London, and strengthening efforts to drive up housing delivery across the city region. Steve's background is in public sector policy and programmes. He runs Question Factory, a strategy and innovation agency for ambitious councils and combined authorities.



Chris Speakman

Director, Speakman Contractors

Under the leadership of Chris, the company has specialised in integrated building services and redevelopment projects, earning a reputation for quality, reliability, and innovation. Passionate about the future of the trade, Chris is a strong advocate for apprenticeships and is deeply invested in exploring new technologies that shape the future of building and construction.



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