

Welcome to the CIHT Annual Luncheon 2018



Welcome to the 69th CIHT Annual Luncheon. Our Institution is the leading voice for highways and transportation professionals and a collaborative and inclusive organisation of which we can all be very proud.

We want to reflect the communities we serve and we are working hard to broaden our appeal. My CIHT Presidential theme this year is 'Delivering Better Services for People'. The aim is that transport infrastructure and services are driven by the needs of users - our customers - from Central Government, Local Authorities to communities and individuals.

We must ask what people actually want from transport and to engage, consult and communicate with them to get the best outcomes. Otherwise we risk designing infrastructure that is not fit for purpose.

We have seen a number of recent events that have led to an apparent loss of public confidence in the construction industry. The failure of the Morandi Bridge in Genoa, the catastrophe at Grenfell Tower and the liquidation of Carillion plc are examples that are at the forefront of people's minds.

At CIHT we expect all our members to adhere to our Code of Professional Conduct. This provides us as an Institution with the confidence to seek to influence policy and raise questions where we believe they need to be asked. For example, progress is needed on delivering major projects across the UK such as Heathrow's third runway, a Trans Pennine rail link, Crossrail 2 and the introduction of a clearer mechanism for managing the local highway network.

We must be open with the public about why works are necessary and be honest that not everything can be done at once. Transport authorities need to articulate the bigger picture and explain what they are planning.

However, the funding pressures around the demand led services of social care mean that the amount of revenue for highways maintenance is being drastically reduced. I would go so far as to say that the funding model for local roads is broken. Last winter's wet and cold weather has created a pothole epidemic that is the worst I have seen in my 40 year career. Filling potholes is not a good use of public money. We should be preventing them in the first place and for this we need a sustainable funding stream.

Working with members, we will be generating 'The CIHT Lugg Review' to address this. Roads are like public utilities and the user should pay. The user is already paying through tax duty on fuel. If that money

went directly into highway maintenance that would provide the sustainable funding stream required.

We need to be taking a proactive approach to highway infrastructure asset management including roads, pavements and lighting for universal use by vehicle users, cyclists and pedestrians. The local highway network is vital to our economy and wellbeing. We cannot afford not to look after our highways and invest in them for the future.

The good news is that Government understands the importance of infrastructure and are designing better certainty and clarity of funding to help us prepare and deliver projects.

CIHT will be championing career development and continue to push forward with our Diversity & Inclusion agenda to help the sector work closely towards our vision of world-class transportation infrastructure and services.

Ours is a great industry: where else can you be involved in something where you can leave a legacy and make a difference to society? It is an honour to be CIHT President and I hope you enjoy your time with us today.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew Lugg'.

Matthew Lugg,
CIHT President 2018 - 2019